

July Catfish Production Survey Survey Information Sheet

Purpose:

The purpose of the Catfish Survey is to provide reliable data for the industry to use in making informed production and marketing decisions. Inventory and size data provide indications of future marketing. Water area figures indicate the area being used and the future potential. Aquaculture may be included in government legislation, so government and industry leaders need independent and unbiased information to accurately assess the industry's needs. Consumers, the media, and academics are also interested in aquaculture data. Leaders of the catfish industry have requested the surveys and have assisted in structuring its scope.

Overview:

- The survey reference date for the survey is the 1st of the month for inventory questions.
- The identification section is used to determine if the operation has the item of interest, or if they screen out of the survey.
- The catfish operation may also produce other fish species. We are only looking for the catfish operation ONLY. If the respondent is unable to separate the species, obtain an estimate of what percent of the total fish on the operation are catfish.
- **Section 2 Water Area:**
 - If they report having catfish inventory, then they must have water acreage.
 - Acres being/to be renovated, if the acreage will be out of production for the entire 6 month reference period, the acreage should only be included in water area taken out of production.
 - Acres used for broodfish/foodsize production may have both fish in the same acres, if both types are kept in the same pond, acreage should be prorated for each type.
 - Acres for fingerlings should only have fingerlings and no other size of fish, even fry, should be in the ponds for the acreage to be included in this category.
 - Water area of new facilities are acres that will come into production during the next 6 months. Acreage that will not be in production during the next 6 months should be excluded.
 - Acres out of production is acreage that was taken out during the last 6 months and are not expected to be brought back into production during the next 6 months. Acreage that will be brought back into production during the next 6 month should be reported in the total water area used and to be used to produce catfish for commercial production.
 - Verify that acres "taken out of production" are actually out of production and not just empty.
- **Section 3 Inventory:**
 - Two of the three reporting units must be present for each inventory category present on the operation.

Things to Remember:

- Be aware of the difference between numbers of fish versus pounds of fish.
- We are looking for ALL acres that are being used or will be used for catfish, regardless of ownership.

July Catfish Production Survey
Survey Information Sheet

- There are some places that have hybrids between blue and channel catfish that allows for more densely populated ponds, so there is the potential that some operations may have higher stocking rates than normal. If they mention having any hybrids please leave a note with the information.
- If the operation had any fish during any part of the year at all, complete the survey.
- Operation that catch wild fish do not qualify for the survey.
- Fish raised on contract for someone else: document how much they produce for their own operation as well as how much they raise on a production contract.
- Include total numbers produced for their operation and total numbers raised for the contractor.
- Include total pounds produced for their operation and the total pounds for the contractor.
- Include total sales for how much the operation sold their fish and how much he received for the fish he raised on contract.