

# 2023 January Trout Production Survey Information Sheet

## Overview:

- Trout is a cold water fish species, and are usually grown in mountainous regions. Preferred water temperatures for trout production range from 55 – 65 degrees F. The water needs to be very clean and well oxygenated. Some producers have oxygen tanks to supplement the oxygen level in the water. Trout producers typically use flow through concrete (some are hard plastic) raceways to raise trout, but a producer may also use ponds. Food size trout are usually harvested around 1 – 1.5 pounds per fish.
- The purpose of the survey is to provide reliable data for the industry to use in making informed production and marketing decisions.

## Summary:

- When talking with trout production operations, if they have any other type of fish production on the operation, make a note of the amount and type of other fish.
- We are asking about water acres for trout and trout egg production, fish production, sales, losses, and fish distributions.
- If an operator cannot give all the items in a sections, please ask them if they can give averages.
- Section 1 Screening Questions:
  - Verify if the operation has the items of interest or if they have the intent to produce trout eggs or trout.
- Section 2 Sales:
  - Report total number sold, total pounds of live weight sold, and total dollars received.
    - Report trout distributed (not sold) in section 4.
    - Broken out as:
      - 12 inches or longer, 6-12 inches long, 1-6 inches long, trout eggs
        - If reporting trout eggs only report total number sold and total dollars received.
  - Report percent of the total value for point of first sale.
    - Broken out into 9 categories.
    - If they report other, specify the “other” outlet
    - Percent totals MUST equal 100%
- Section 3 Trout Losses:
  - Report for all lengths and sizes.
    - Report total number and total pounds lost
    - Broken out into 7 categories
    - If they report other, specify the “other” loss

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- Section 4 Trout Distributed:
  - Report total amount of fish and eggs produced for restoration, conservation, or recreational purposes.
    - Exclude trout/trout eggs transferred to another operation for final distribution.
    - Report in total number distributed, total live weight pounds, and estimated value of product.
    - Broken out as:
      - 12 inches or longer, 6-12 inches long, 1-6 inches long, trout eggs
      - If reporting trout eggs only report total number distributed.

## Other Information:

- Operations that report low prices per pound and large amounts of fish sold are often large commercial fish operations that usually sell their fish to processing companies or they process their own fish. IF this is the case please make a note explaining the situation.
- Operations that report high prices and smaller amounts of fish sold are usually a “pay lake” operation. If it is a pay lake operation, verify that the “target” operation is growing out the fish prior to selling. IF this is the case please make a note explaining the situation.
- Large fish producers usually have the lowest live weight price per pound. They typically sell their fish in bulk to a processor.
- Smaller operations will normally have the higher live weight prices. The smaller operations with high prices may be selling their raised fish in their own pay lakes or they may be selling fish to pay lake operations or other producers.

## Terms:

**12” or Longer Fish** – grown commercially for food, usually weighing from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  pounds.

**6” to 12” Fish** – usually stockers and usually weighing less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a pound.

**Fingerlings** – fish usually from 1 inch to less than 6 inches long.

**Eggs Harvested** – trout eggs that are taken from female trout for production purposes.

**Direct to Consumers** – fish sold directly to the consumer for human consumption.

**Export** – fish moved outside of US borders.

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**Government Agencies** – sales to Federal, State, or local government hatcheries or other groups involved in purchasing fish used to stock Federal, publicly owned, or regulated waters and recreational areas.

**Live Hauler/Broker** – individual or company that generally purchases live fish from a producer and transports them in an oxygenated tank truck to other outlets, including processing plants, pay lakes, recreational lakes, or retail outlets.

**Point of First Sales Outlet** – the first point at which money changes hands.

**Processors** – fish that the operator sells/delivers directly to a plant for processing. Usually, the purchasing plant has no ties to the producer.

**Recreational Stocking** – fish sold to individuals or private enterprises for the sole purpose of stocking recreational waters.

**Retail Outlets** – individuals, grocers, restaurants, or companies who buy fish to re-sell to consumers.

**Value of Sales** – gross value of live weight sales. What the producer actually received before marketing and production costs are deducted.

**Wholesale to Other Producers** – other farmers who buy live fish to raise for future sales.

**Chemical Contamination** – losses from pesticide or herbicide poisoning.

**Disease** – losses from both parasitic and bacterial caused sickness.

**Droughts** – losses from lack of water causing oxygen depletion.

**Floods** – losses from too much water washing the fish away.

**Predators** – losses from mink, otters, birds, and other animals.

**Theft or Vandalism** – the unauthorized removal of fish and/or destruction of property causing a loss of fish by intentional acts of persons known or unknown.