



July Catfish Production Survey Training Materials

Below you will find links to a video, PowerPoint presentation, survey information sheet, and practice interviews for NASS's July Catfish Production Survey. The practice interviews can be used to enter data into the data collection instrument to get familiar with the survey.

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Strategic Planning and Business Services Division
Strategic Planning Branch
Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section

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Survey Training

Catfish Production Survey - July 1



**United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service**



Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section



Who uses the Data?

- **Government agencies:**
- **Growers:**
- **Businesses/Suppliers:**
- **Extension/University:**



General Survey Information



- Project Code: **170** - Aquaculture Survey
- States:
 - AL, AR, MS
- Questionnaires:
 - Mail out June 11th
- Release:
 - *Catfish Production*, July 15 at 3PM EST

Interviewer's Manual

- Chapter 1 – General Information
- Chapter 2 – Terms and Definitions
- Chapter 3 – Survey Procedures
- Chapter 4 – Screening
- Chapter 5 – Completing the Questionnaire
 - Some good clarifying information for questions
- Appendix 1 – Catfish Length/Weight Table



Terminology



- **Broodfish:** Fish kept for egg production (also includes males), typically above 3 pounds.
- **Foodsize:** Fish weighing over $\frac{3}{4}$ pound (excluding broodfish).
- **Stocker:** Fish over 6 inches in length weighing 60-750 pounds per 1,000 fish.
- **Fingerling:** Fish 2-6 inches in length weighing 2-60 pounds per 1,000 fish.
- **Fry:** Fish under 2 inches in length weighing less than 2 pounds per 1,000 fish.

Survey Questions: Identification

- Any water area used to produce catfish?
 - YES: Survey
 - NO: next screening/identification question
- Any hatchery or foodsize production inventory on the operation?
 - YES: Survey
 - NO: next screening/identification question
- Any catfish sold?
 - YES: Survey
 - NO: next screening/identification question
- Any catfish on the operation in the future?
 - Has operation been sold, rented or turned over to someone else?
 - Leave notes on what happened/status of operation

Survey Questions: Water Area

- Total water area used and to be used during period of July 1 – December 31?
- Of that:
 - How many acres renovated?
 - How many acres used for broodfish?
 - How many acres used for foodsize?
 - How many acres used exclusively for fingerlings?
- Water area of **new facilities** during period of July 1 – December 31?
- Water area **taken out of production** during period of January 1 – June 30?



Recording Quantity and Weight Inventory

- Catfish Inventory - size by category:
- Broodfish, Large/Med/Small Foodsize:
 - Report in Total Number and Average lb/fish **OR**
 - Report in Total Pounds and Average lb/fish
- Large/Small Stockers, Fingerlings, Fry:
 - Report in Total Number and Average lb/1,000 fish **OR**
 - Report in Total Pounds and Average lb/1,000 fish



Survey Questions: Inventory

- **Broodfish:**
 - Typically above 3 pounds
- **Foodsize:**
 - Large (over 3 lbs.)
 - Medium (over 1½ - 3 lbs.)
 - Small (over ¾ lbs. – 1½ lbs.)
- **Stockers:**
 - Large (180-750 lbs. per 1,000 fish)
 - Small (60-180 lbs. per 1,000 fish)
- **Fingerlings:**
 - 2-6 inches or 2-60 lbs. per 1,000 fish
- **Fry:**
 - Under 2 inches or less than 2 lbs per 1,000 fish



Things to Watch Out For

- Acres for broodfish, foodsize, and/or fingerlings is greater than total water area acres
- High or low inventory weight.
- Significant change in total water acres.
 - Verify that acres “taken out of production” are actually out of production and not just empty.
- Pounds per fish
 - See the Interviewer’s Manual for weights

What About Those Water Acres

- Watch for 'out of production' vs 'renovated acres'.
- Total water acres do not have to match total acres reported in use.



Things to Remember

- May be in the rebuilding/renovating phase
- Operators can have different classifying methods or say their catfish could fall in 2 categories
- Probe for as much information as possible with weight/numbers



In Conclusion

- Leave comments for any unusual circumstances
- Comments, Concerns, Questions?
- Practice before interviewing
- Have a good survey!



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July Catfish Production Survey

Extra Information

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.

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.
- 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.

Practice Interviews

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Below is a scenario that you can use for practice before you start enumerating the July Catfish Production Survey. Keep in mind, this practice has data in most questions, and the answers are generally made to work out nicely. In live enumeration you should expect many different situations. Know what to expect, and be prepared to make adjustments as needed. After trying the given scenario, practice others that you may encounter, such as:

Out of business operations.

Refusals

Operations that aren't out of business but that don't have catfish.

Operations with only one or two inventory items.

Operations that had catfish previously in the year, but none on the reference date

Practice Interview 1:

Who is responding? **Operator**

Let me verify the name, address, and phone number that I have for this operation. Is this information correct? **Yes**



Has or will there be any water area used on this operation to produce catfish at any time during 20XX? **Yes**

What is the total water area used and to be used by this operation to produce catfish during the period of July 1 – December 31, 20XX? **80**

How many of the 80 total acres are currently being or will be renovated during the period of July 1 – December 31, 20XX? **15**

How many of the 80 total acres are used for broodfish production? **15**

How many of the 80 total acres are used for foodsize production? **35**

How many of the 80 total acres are used exclusively for fingerlings? **10**

What is the water area of new facilities under construction or to be constructed for use during the period of July 1 – December 31, 20XX? **5**

What was the water area of facilities taken out of production during the period of January 1 – June 30, 20XX that were previously used to produce catfish? **10**

On July 1, 20XX, what was the total number of broodfish, in your catfish inventory? **56,000**

On July 1, 20XX, what was the total weight, in pounds, of broodfish, in your catfish inventory? **Leave Blank**

On July 1, 20XX, what was the estimated average pounds per fish for the broodfish? **5.6**



On July 1, 20XX, what was the total number of large foodsize catfish, in your catfish inventory? **Leave Blank**

On July 1, 20XX, what was the total weight, in pounds, of large foodsize catfish, in your catfish inventory? **95,200**

On July 1, 20XX, what was the estimated average pounds per fish for the large foodsize catfish? **3.4**

On July 1, 20XX, what was the total number of medium foodsize catfish, in your catfish inventory? **79,000**

On July 1, 20XX, what was the total weight, in pounds, of medium foodsize catfish, in your catfish inventory? **142,200**

On July 1, 20XX, what was the total number of small foodsize catfish, in your catfish inventory? **Leave Blank**

On July 1, 20XX, what was the total weight, in pounds, of small foodsize catfish, in your catfish inventory? **135,000**

On July 1, 20XX, what was the estimated average pounds per fish for the small foodsize catfish? **0.9**



On July 1, 20XX, what was the total number of large stockers, in your catfish inventory? **280,000**

On July 1, 20XX, what was the total weight, in pounds, of large stockers, in your catfish inventory?

Leave Blank

On July 1, 20XX, what was the estimated average pounds per 1,000 fish for the large stockers?

480

On July 1, 20XX, what was the total number of small stockers, in your catfish inventory? **Leave**

Blank

On July 1, 20XX, what was the total weight, in pounds, of small stockers, in your catfish inventory?

61,750

On July 1, 20XX, what was the estimated average pounds per 1,000 fish for the small stockers?

130

On July 1, 20XX, what was the total number of fingerlings, in your catfish inventory? **775,500**

On July 1, 20XX, what was the total weight, in pounds, of fingerlings, in your catfish inventory?

7,755

On July 1, 20XX, what was the total number of fry, in your catfish inventory? **Leave Blank**

On July 1, 20XX, what was the total weight, in pounds, of fry, in your catfish inventory? **1,052**

On July 1, 20XX, what was the estimated average pounds per 1,000 fish for the fry? **0.3**

Do you make any day-to-day decisions for another catfish farm or ranch? **No**

Would you rather have a brief summary emailed to you at a later date? **No**

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