
Introduction

The 2013 Census of Aquaculture expanded the aquaculture data collected from the 2012 Census of Agriculture and provides a current and comprehensive picture of the aquaculture sector at the state and national level. The aquaculture census collects detailed information relating to production methods, surface water acres and sources, production, sales, point of first sale outlets, and aquaculture distributed for restoration, conservation, enhancement, or recreational purposes.

HISTORY

The 2013 Census of Aquaculture is the third national census conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), to collect data about the industry. The first aquaculture census was conducted in 1998, in response to the intense need for an accurate measure of the aquaculture sector. The second aquaculture census was conducted in 2005. The census of agriculture has collected limited aquaculture data since 1974. NASS also publishes semi-annual catfish production, and annual trout surveys.

USES OF CENSUS OF AQUACULTURE DATA

The census of aquaculture data are used by all those involved in the aquaculture sector – Federal, State and local governments, agribusinesses, trade associations, producers, and many others. Uses of the data include:

- Legislators use census data to shape policies and programs, and to evaluate and determine government funding and resources.
- Aquaculture businesses and suppliers use the data to determine the locations of facilities that

will serve producers and plan for the production and marketing of new products.

- Extension and university representatives use the data to determine research needs and to justify research funding for programs to develop new and improved methods of aquaculture production and profitability.
- Growers use census data to make informed decisions for their operations.
- Evaluating historical agricultural trends to formulate farm and rural policies and develop programs that help agricultural producers.
- Allocating local and national funds for farm programs, e.g. extension service projects, agricultural research, soil conservation programs, and land-grant colleges and universities.
- Identifying the assets needed to support agricultural production such as land, buildings, machinery, and other equipment.
- Creating an extensive database of information on uncommon crops and livestock and the value of those commodities for assessing the need to develop policies and programs to support those commodities.
- Providing geographic data on production so agribusinesses will locate near major production areas for efficiencies for both producers and agribusinesses.
- Measuring the usage of modern technologies such as conservation practices, organic production, renewable energy systems, internet access, and specialized marketing strategies.

- Developing new and improved methods to increase agricultural production and profitability.

AUTHORITY

The census of agriculture is required by law under the "Census of Agriculture Act of 1997," Public Law 105-113 (Title 7, United States Code, Section 2204g). The law authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct surveys deemed necessary to furnish annual or other data on the subjects covered by the census. The 2013 Census of Aquaculture was conducted under the provisions of this section.

FARM DEFINITION

Aquaculture is defined as the farming of aquatic organisms, including: baitfish, crustaceans, food fish, mollusks, ornamental fish, sport or game fish, and other aquaculture products. Farming involves some form of intervention in the rearing process, such as seeding, stocking, feeding, protection from predators, etc. Farming also implies individual or corporate ownership of the stock being cultivated, in a controlled environment at least part of the time. Fish, shellfish, and other aquatic products which are caught or harvested by the public from non-controlled waters or beds are considered wild caught and are NOT included as aquaculture farms. In addition, aquatic plants, except algae and sea vegetables, are not considered as aquaculture for the 2013 Census of Aquaculture. For the 2013 Census of Aquaculture, an aquaculture farm is defined as any place from which \$1,000 or more of aquaculture products were produced and sold or distributed for conservation, enhancement, or recreation during the census year.

TABLES AND APPENDICES

Tables. Table 1 shows the number of farms and the market value of aquaculture products sold for the U.S. and each State. Tables 2, 3, 6 and 7 provide summaries of aquaculture products sold by species and size category at the U.S. level. Tables 4, 5, and 8 provide summaries of aquaculture products sold by species at the U.S. level. Table 9 provides a summary by value of aquaculture products sold at the U.S. level. Tables 10 – 21 and Table 24 present selected data items for operations with sales of aquaculture products at the U.S. and State level.

Tables 22 and 23 provide information at the U.S. and State level by species for operations that distributed aquaculture products for conservation, restoration, enhancement, or recreational purposes. Table 24 provides data for acres used for hybrid catfish production at the U.S. and State level. Throughout the publication average weight and average price data are published. These values are based on the number of fish sold, pounds sold, and total sales at the U.S. and State level. Average weight and average price data may vary considerably among farms due to different size, use, or marketing channels.

Appendix A. Provides information about the statistical methodology, including data collection and data processing activities, used in conducting and evaluating the census.

Appendix B. Includes definitions of terms used in this publication, including items in the publication tables that carry the note "see text." It also provides facsimiles of the report form and instruction sheet used to collect data.

RESPONDENT CONFIDENTIALITY

In keeping with the provisions of Title 7 of the United States Code, no data are published that would disclose information about the operations of an individual farm unless there is specific written permission. All tabulated data are subjected to an extensive disclosure review prior to publication. Any tabulated item that identifies data reported by a respondent or allows a respondent's data to be accurately estimated or derived, was suppressed and coded with a 'D'. However, the number of farms reporting an item is not considered confidential information and is provided even though other information is withheld.

SPECIAL STUDIES AND CUSTOM TABULATIONS

Special studies such as the 2013 Census of Aquaculture and the 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey are part of the census program and provide supplemental information to the 2012 Census of Agriculture in the respective subject area. Results are published on the internet.

VI INTRODUCTION

Custom-designed tabulations may be developed when data are not published elsewhere. These tabulations are developed to individual user specifications on a cost-reimbursable basis and shared with the public. Quick Stats, NASS's online database that allows data users to build customized queries, should be investigated before requesting a custom tabulation.

All special studies and custom tabulations are subject to a thorough disclosure review prior to release to prevent the disclosure of any individual respondent data. Requests for custom tabulations can be submitted via the internet from the NASS home page, by mail, or by e-mail to:

Data Lab
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Room 6436A, Stop 2054
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-2054
or
Datalab@nass.usda.gov

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

The following abbreviations and symbols are used throughout the tables:

- (-) Represents zero.
- (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.
- (H) Coefficient of variation is greater than or equal to 99.95 percent or the standard error is greater than or equal to 99.95 percent of mean.
- (L) Coefficient of variation is less than 0.05 percent or the standard error is less than 0.05 percent of the mean.
- (NA) Not available.
- (X) Not applicable.
- (Z) Less than half the unit shown.

