

ACH17-13/December 2019

U.S. aquaculture sales in 2018 amounted to \$1.5 billion. This was an increase of \$144.0 million or 10.5 percent from 2013, the last time the Census of Aquaculture was conducted. Five states accounted for 51 percent of aquaculture sales and 37 percent of aquaculture farms. Food fish and mollusks were the largest product categories, with catfish and oysters the top species in both sales and number of farms. Groundwater was the water source used by more farms than any other.

2,932 farms



\$1.5 billion sales



\$516,944 average sales per farm



Number and Location

In 2018, U.S. aquaculture sales were \$1.5 billion, up 10.5 percent from 2013. Aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms using interventions such as seeding, stocking, feeding, protection from predators, etc.

Food fish, which includes fish raised primarily for food as well as eggs from those fish, accounted for 47 percent of aquaculture sales in 2018. Sales of food fish totaled \$716.0 million, down 2 percent from 2013. Mississippi, first in total aquaculture sales, also led the country in food fish sales (\$214.9 million in 2018).

In all other aquaculture product categories, sales increased between 2013 and 2018. Mollusk sales in 2018 were \$441.8 million, up 34 percent from 2013. Crustacean sales totaled \$100.4 million, up 18 percent. Sport fish sales increased 65 percent between 2013 and 2018.

The eleven states with sales of \$50 million or more accounted for four-fifths of total U.S. aquaculture sales. The top five states accounted for more than half. The same five states accounted for 37 percent of aquaculture farms.

Aquaculture Sales by Product Type, 2013 and 2018

	2013	2018	% change
	(\$ million)		
Food fish	732.1	716.0	-2
Mollusks	328.6	441.8	+34
Crustaceans	84.9	100.4	+18
Ornamental fish	41.5	43.5	+5
Sport fish	23.8	39.4	+65
Baitfish	29.4	32.8	+12
Miscellaneous	131.4	141.9	+8
Total	1,371.7	1,515.7^a	+11

^a Does not add due to rounding.

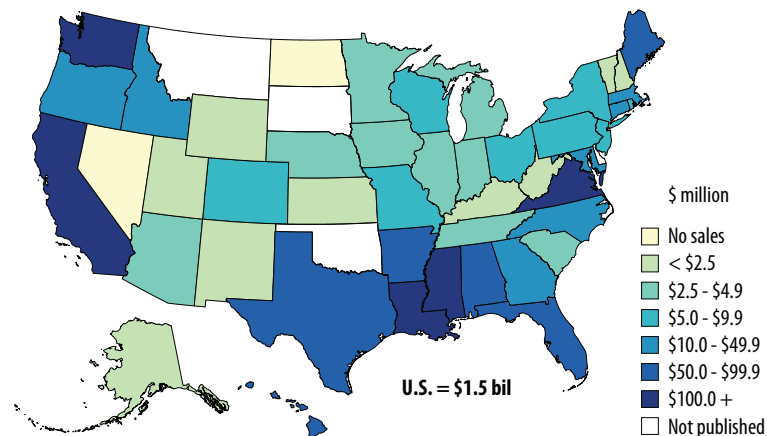
Top States

Aquaculture Sales, 2018 (\$ mil)

Mississippi	216
Washington	208
Louisiana	136
Virginia	113
California	106
Alabama	95
Hawaii	78
Maine	72
Florida	72
Arkansas	68
Texas	63

51 The percent of U.S. aquaculture sales by the top five states, each with 2018 sales of \$100 million or more.

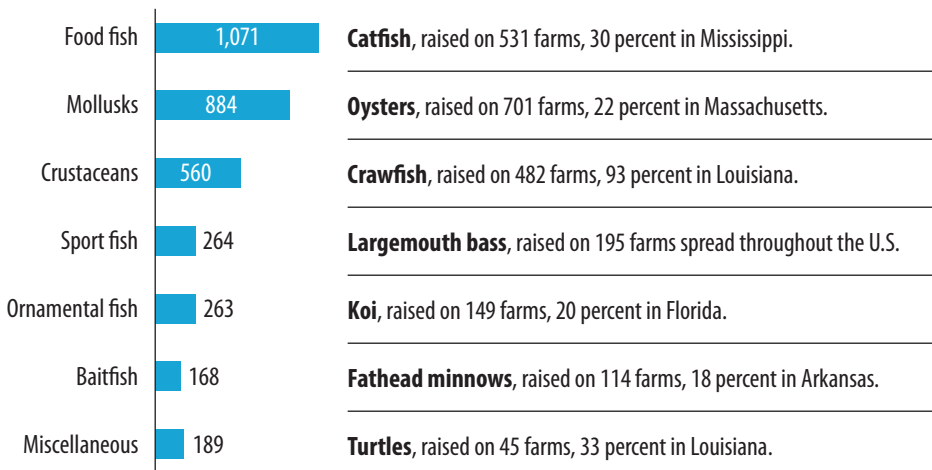
Aquaculture Sales by State, 2018



Aquaculture Farms

In 2018, the United States had 2,932 aquaculture farms with sales, down 5 percent from 2013. Farms may produce more than one type of product, so the sum of the number of farms shown exceeds the total number of farms.

Number of Farms and Top Species by Product Type, 2018



Top Species

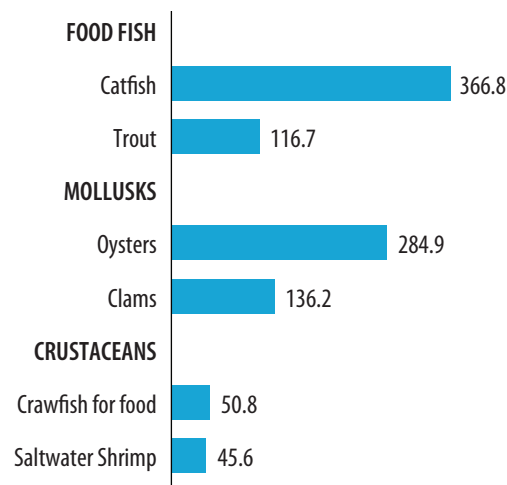
In each product type, a couple of species account for the majority of sales.

Catfish sales, valued at \$366.8 million in 2018, accounted for 51 percent of all food fish sales. Trout accounted for 16 percent.

Oysters, valued at \$284.9 million, accounted for 64 percent of mollusk sales. Clams accounted 31 percent.

Crawfish raised for food accounted for just over half of 2018 crustacean sales. Saltwater shrimp accounted for 45 percent.

Sales of Top Species, 2018 (\$ million)



About the Census of Aquaculture

The 2018 Census of Aquaculture was a follow-on to the 2017 Census of Agriculture that collected detailed information related to production methods, surface water acres and sources, production, sales, point of first sale, and distributed aquaculture. To learn more about the 2018 Census of Aquaculture, the 2017 Census of Agriculture, and how to access census data, go to:

www.agcensus.usda.gov

Distributed Aquaculture

In addition to aquaculture products produced and sold, some are distributed for conservation, recreation, enhancement, or restoration purposes.

In 2018, for example, 325 farms distributed 146.9 million trout of various sizes, with a live weight of 33 million pounds.

The total number of farms that either sold aquaculture products or distributed them for conservation, recreation, enhancement, or restoration purposes was 3,456.

Water Sources

Farms producing aquaculture had 228,599 freshwater acres and 230,251 saltwater acres in 2018. They utilized four sources of water. Because some farms utilize more than one source, the sum of the individual sources exceeds the total number of farms.

	no. of farms
Groundwater	1,263
On-farm surface water	910
Off-farm surface water	161
Saltwater	997

1,194

The number of farms that used ponds as a method of production, more than any other method.

Miscellaneous Products

Alligators accounted for \$77.4 million in sales, 55 percent of total miscellaneous aquaculture sales. Their hides accounted for most of the sales.

Miscellaneous products include algae, alligators, caviar, eels, frogs, snails, tadpoles, turtles, and other items.

The number of U.S. farms producing algae. **17**

First Point of Sale

Based on the first point at which money was exchanged, 69 percent of food fish sales went to processors and 10 percent went to live haulers and brokers.

	percent
Processors	69
Live haulers/brokers	10
Wholesale to other producers	8
Retail outlets	6
Recreational stocking	4
Direct to consumers	2
Other	1

28

The percent of sport fish sold directly for recreational stocking.