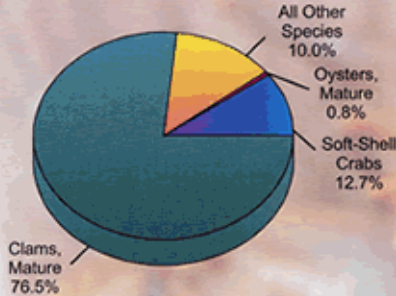


# Virginia Aquaculture Report

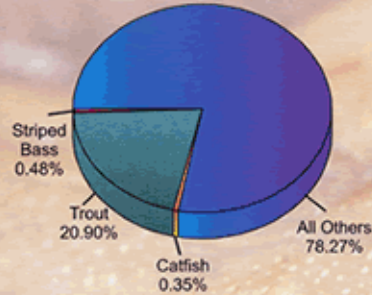
2003

# VIRGINIA HIGHLIGHTS

**Saltwater Species**  
Percent of Total Sales, 2003



**Freshwater Species**  
Percent of Total Sales, 2003



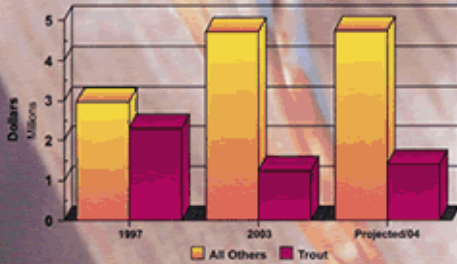
Virginia aquaculture producers grossed over \$32.5 million in sales in 2003. Saltwater species accounted for \$26.5 million dollars of the total aquaculture sales with clams supplying over \$20.3 million dollars in gross sales. Freshwater species brought in over \$6.0 million with trout sales accounting for nearly 21 percent of these freshwater receipts.

## FRESHWATER

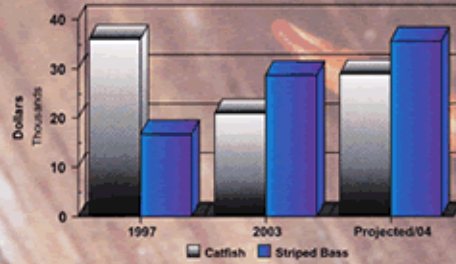
Species	Units	Production			Average Price (Dollars)			Gross Sales (Dollars)			Intentions for 2004 as % of 2003
		1995	1997	2003	1995	1997	2003	1995	1997	2003	
Trout, All 1/	Lbs.	1,230,580	1,120,389	670,000	1.91	2.05	1.88	2,350,412	2,301,200	1,256,466	112
Catfish 1/	Lbs.	15,695	19,503	17,721	2.10	1.85	1.19	33,035	36,173	21,087	138
Hybrid Striped Bass	Lbs.	11,750	5,128	---	3.57	3.27	---	41,986	16,782	28,761	124
All Other Species 2/								2,797,870	2,950,946	4,705,490	101
<b>Total Freshwater</b>								<b>5,223,303</b>	<b>5,305,101</b>	<b>6,011,804</b>	

Freshwater: 1/ Immature fish and eggs included in Trout and Catfish categories 2/ Includes tilapia, sport fish, ornamental, crayfish, all other immature fish and eggs, minnows, and aquatic plants

**Trout & All Other Species**



**Catfish & Striped Bass**



Trout production in the State decreased by 40 percent from 1997. Producers attribute the decline to new regulations and the drought conditions experienced within the Commonwealth in recent years. Production was right at 670,000 lbs. with gross sales over \$1.2 million, and is expected to increase by 12% in 2004.

Catfish and hybrid striped bass represented the smallest percentage of the freshwater industry combining for a 1 percent share of gross sales. Catfish production has declined slightly from 1997 while hybrid striped bass have increased their gross sales by 42 percent.

Sale of all other species grossed over \$4.7 million with tilapia sales being the largest influence in this category. Seventy-eight percent of freshwater sales were from the all other species category, and all other species are expected to increase by 1% in 2004.

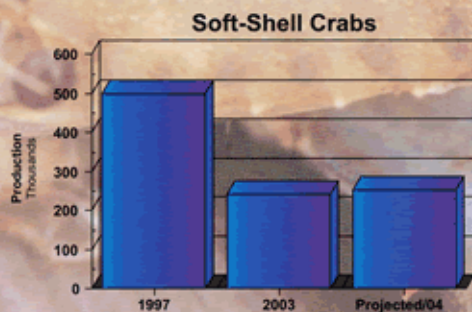
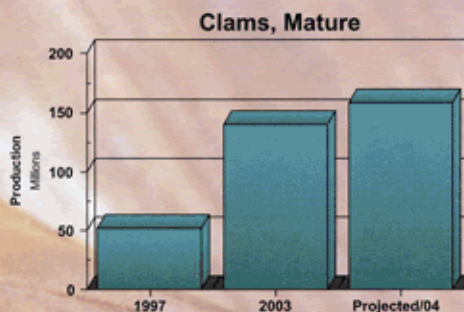


## SALTWATER

Species	Units	Production			Average Price (Dollars)			Gross Sales (Dollars)			Intentions for 2004 as % of 2003
		1995	1997	2003	1995	1997	2003	1995	1997	2003	
Clams, Mature	Each	43,710,000	52,426,931	139,832,637	0.16	0.17	0.15	6,993,600	9,012,948	20,327,255	113
Soft-Shell Crabs	Dozen	417,705	499,651	241,442	11.59	14.18	13.95	4,840,142	7,083,347	3,368,739	105
Oysters, Mature	Each	259,000	308,411	859,209	0.24	0.28	0.25	62,160	85,832	212,721	301
Other Species <sup>1/</sup>								1,159,000	1,176,176	2,646,934	96
Total Saltwater								13,054,902	17,358,303	26,555,649	

Footnote: 1/ Includes scallops and seed/juveniles for all species

Clam production is up 167 percent from 1997. Over 139.8 million mature clams were produced in 2003, representing the largest percent of saltwater gross sales at 76.5%. This large increase in production can be attributed to more producers in the clam industry, new techniques and products, and a higher demand for clams from the eastern shore. Clam production is expected to increase by 13% in 2004.



Soft-shell crab production is down 52 percent from 1997. Over 241 thousand dozen soft-shell crabs were produced in 2003 accounting for over 3.3 million in gross sales. Hurricane Isabel played a large role in the decrease of soft-shell crab production in 2003. The hurricane forced watermen to pull their traps to depress landings and destroyed numerous crabbing wharves. Many of the crabbers' shanties were damaged to the point they could not work, and thousands of crab traps washed away. The weather along with the cyclical patterns of the blue crab industry were the main reasons production was down from 1997. In spite of the hurricane damage soft-shell crab production is expected to increase by 5% in 2004.

Oyster production is up 179 percent from 1997. Over 859 thousand mature oysters were produced in 2003, accounting for over \$212 thousand in gross sales. The increase is not surprising because oyster growers have learned new techniques of growing that enables them to grow oysters at a faster pace opposed to wild oysters. There has been substantial growth within this part of the aquaculture industry and production is expected to increase by an astonishing 201% in 2004.

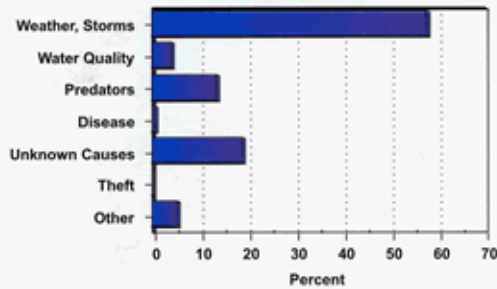


## LOSSES

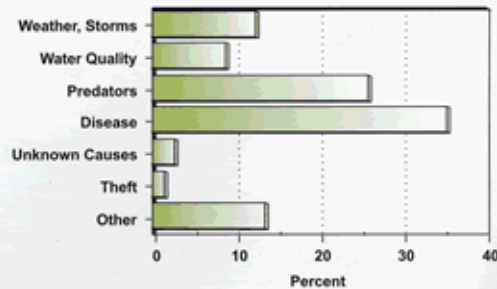
Of the total saltwater losses, nearly 58% were due to weather and storms, which is not surprising considering the eastern shore suffered considerable damage from Hurricane Isabel during the 2003 season. The majority of the freshwater losses were a result of disease and predation. Disease represented 35% of the reported losses while predators accounted for 26%.



### Saltwater Losses



### Freshwater Losses



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