






ACH22-21/December 2024

U.S. aquaculture sales in 2023 amounted to \$1.9 billion. This was an increase of \$392 million or 26% from 2018, the last time the Census of Aquaculture was conducted. Five states accounted for 55% of aquaculture sales and 49% of aquaculture farms. Food fish and mollusks were the largest product categories for sales, with catfish and oysters the top species in sales. Groundwater was the top water source, used by more farms than any other source.

**3,453** farms with sales 

**\$1.9 billion** sales 

**\$552,569** average sales per farm 

## Number and Location

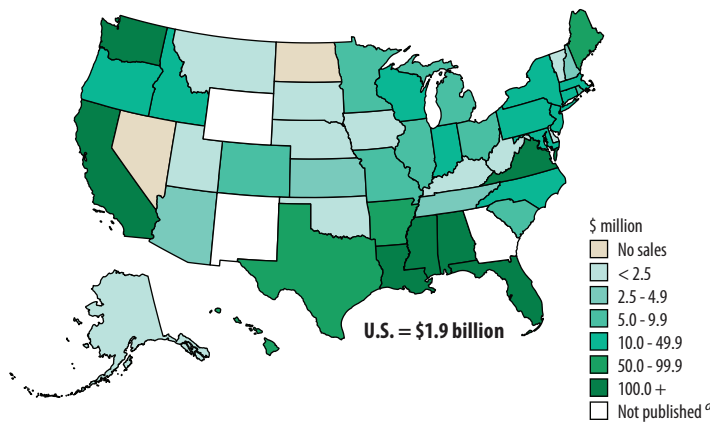
Aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms by providing inputs such as seed, stock, feed and/or protection from predators to add weight or change the form of aquatic animals.

Sales increased in all aquaculture product categories between 2018 and 2023. Food fish, which includes fish raised primarily for food as well as eggs from those fish, accounted for 43% of aquaculture sales in 2023. Sales of food fish totaled \$819.6 million, up 14% from 2018.

Sales of mollusks, the second-largest product category, totaled \$575.5 million, up 30% from 2018, and accounted for 30% of aquaculture sales. Crustacean sales totaled \$175.7 million, up 75% from 2018. Ornamental fish sales increased 77% between 2018 and 2023.

Mississippi (\$276,950,000) and Washington (\$276,890,000) lead the nation in aquaculture sales. The 11 states with sales of \$50 million or more accounted for over four-fifths of total U.S. aquaculture sales. The top five states accounted for more than half of all aquaculture sales. The same five states accounted for 49% of aquaculture farms.

Aquaculture Sales by State, 2023



Top States <sup>b</sup>	(\$ mil)
Mississippi	277
Washington	277
Louisiana	195
Florida	166
Alabama	132
California	119
Virginia	104
Arkansas	84
Maine	71
Hawaii	65

<sup>a</sup> Not published to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>b</sup> Includes published states only

**55** The top five states accounted for 55% of aquaculture sales, each with 2023 sales of \$130 million or more.

Aquaculture Sales by Product Type, 2018 and 2023

	2018	2023	% change
	(\$ million)		
Food fish	716.0	819.6	+14
Mollusks	441.8	575.5	+30
Crustaceans	100.4	175.7	+75
Ornamental fish	43.5	77.1	+77
Sport fish	39.4	54.4	+38
Baitfish	32.8	48.1	+47
Miscellaneous	141.9	157.7	+11
<b>Total<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>1,515.7</b>	<b>1,908.0</b>	<b>+26</b>

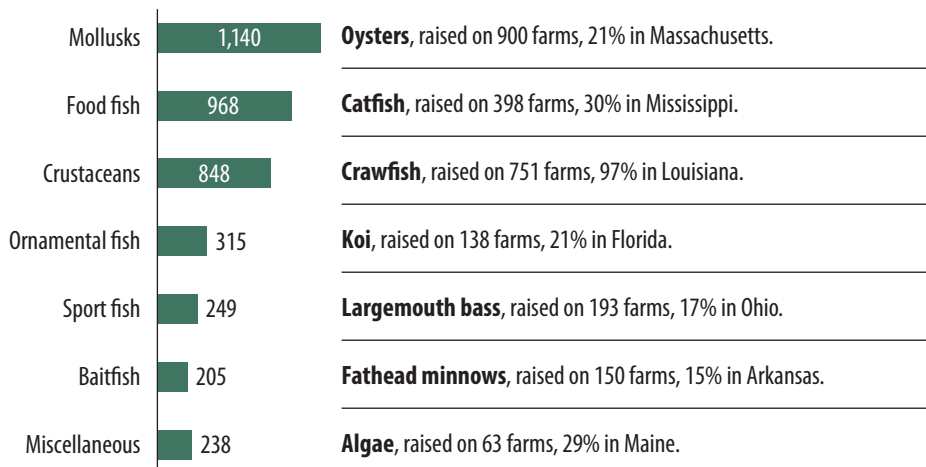
<sup>c</sup> Does not add due to rounding.

Sales increased in all aquaculture product categories between 2018 and 2023. Food fish accounted for 43% of aquaculture sales in 2023. Sales of food fish totaled \$819.6 million, up 14% from 2018, while mollusk sales totaled \$575.5 million, up 30% from 2018.

## Aquaculture Farms

In 2023, the United States had 3,453 aquaculture farms with sales, up 18% from 2018. Farms may produce more than one type of product, so the sum of the number of farms exceeds the total number of farms.

### Number of Farms and Top Species by Product Type, 2023



## Top Species

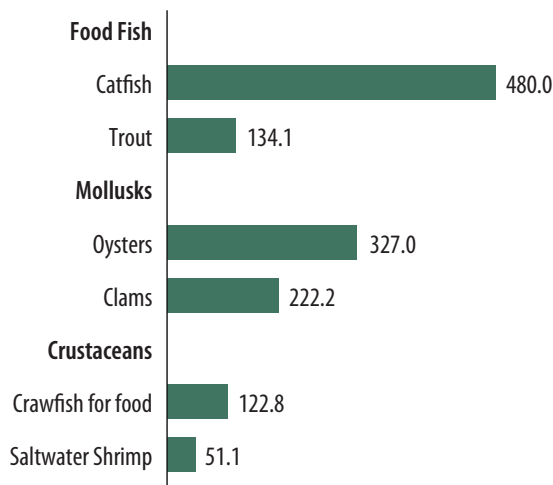
In each product type, a couple of species accounted for the majority of sales.

Catfish sales, valued at \$480 million in 2023, accounted for 59% of all food fish sales. Trout accounted for 16%.

Oysters, valued at \$327 million, accounted for 57% of mollusk sales. Clams accounted for 39%.

Crawfish raised for food at \$122.8 million accounted for 70% of 2023 crustacean sales. Saltwater shrimp accounted for 29%.

### Sales of Top Species, 2023 (\$ million)



## About the Census of Aquaculture

The 2023 Census of Aquaculture was a follow-on to the 2022 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 2023 Census of Aquaculture, the 2022 Census of Agriculture, and how to access census data, go to:

[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://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 2023, for example, 380 farms distributed 134.7 million trout of various sizes, with a live weight of 33 million pounds.

There were 4,052 farms that either sold aquaculture products or distributed them for conservation, recreation, enhancement, or restoration purposes.

## Water Sources

Farms producing aquaculture had 391,851 freshwater acres and 149,310 saltwater acres in 2023. They utilized four sources of water. Because some farms utilized more than one source, the sum of the individual sources exceeds the total number of farms.

	no. of farms
Groundwater	1,915
On-farm surface water	1,338
Off-farm surface water	276
Saltwater	1,282

# 1,779

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

## Miscellaneous Products

Alligators accounted for \$95 million in sales, 60% of total miscellaneous aquaculture sales in 2023. 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. **63**

## First Point of Sale

Based on the first point at which money was exchanged, 69% of food fish sales went to processors and 9% went to wholesale to other producers.

	percent
Processors	69
Wholesale to other producers	9
Retail outlets	8
Live haulers/brokers	6
Recreational stocking	4
Direct to consumers	2
Other	2

# 38

The percent of sport fish sold directly to live haulers/brokers.