

**AQUACULTURE SURVEYS**

OMB No. 0535-0150

**A. JUSTIFICATION**

This is a request for approval of this information collection for 3 additional years.

- 1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.**

The National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) primary function is to prepare and issue State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, disposition, and prices, as well as specialty agricultural and environmental statistics. The Aquaculture Surveys described in this docket collects information on trout and catfish inventory, acreage, and sales as well as catfish processed and feed deliveries for catfish in the major producing States. Additionally, some Field Offices will conduct State specific aquaculture surveys for specialty commodities in their State.

Congress has mandated the collection of basic data for aquaculture and provides funding for these surveys. Public Law 96-362, the National Aquaculture Act was passed to increase the overall effectiveness and productivity of Federal aquaculture programs by improving coordination and communication among Federal agencies involved in those programs. Congressional hearings on the National Aquaculture Act established:

- Harvest of marine fish exceeds natural propagation, thereby making it difficult to meet the increasing demand for aquatic food,
- That to supply the domestic market for aquatic food the United States imports much of its fish and shellfish and this dependence contributes to the uncertainty of supplies,
- Domestic aquacultural production has the potential for growth,
- Many areas of the United States are suitable for aquaculture but are subject to land-use or water-use management policies that do not adequately consider the potential for aquaculture. Information is needed to measure the growth and importance of domestic aquaculture.

NASS conducted the first Census of Aquaculture in January 1999 and the second in January 2005. These censuses were conducted to supplement the aquaculture data collected from the full Census of Agriculture, conducted every 5 years. The full Census of *Agriculture* collection includes aquaculture information on the number of farms producing aquaculture products, quantity sold, and value of sales for catfish, trout, bass, other fish, crawfish, and other aquaculture products. The 2005 Census of *Aquaculture*

provided detailed information relating to on-farm aquaculture practices, including statistics on size of operation, inventory, method of production, point of first sale, cooperative agreements and contracts, sources of water, aquaculture distribution for restoration or conservation purposes, and production and sales. Due to budget cutbacks, there are no plans to conduct another Census of Aquaculture in the near future. As a result, the importance of the annual aquaculture surveys is greatly increased.

General authority for these data collection activities is granted under U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2204. This statute specifies that "The Secretary of Agriculture shall procure and preserve all information concerning agriculture which he can obtain ... by the collection of statistics ... and shall distribute them among agriculturists."

**2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.**

Trout and catfish grower surveys provide inventory numbers, sales, losses (trout only), and other information needed to accurately evaluate the aquaculture industry. Survey results are used by government agencies in planning farm programs. Data compiled from aquaculture surveys are used by Federal and State government agencies in making important aquaculture policy decisions, thereby reducing dependency on government programs.

The Foreign Agricultural Service uses aquaculture data to evaluate the potential to establish funding requests for Targeted Export Assistance Programs.

Survey results are used by Cooperative Extension Service and Sea Grant College extension professionals who work with aquaculture clientele. The information is extremely useful in analyzing changing trends in the number of commercial operations and production levels by State. The information is used to demonstrate the growing importance of aquaculture to officials of Federal and State government agencies who manage and direct policy for programs in agriculture and natural resources. Extension specialists use the data to demonstrate the impact of educational programs and other Land-Grant University efforts that are directed to assisting and developing economically viable aquaculture operations. The type of information collected and reported provides extension educators and research scientists with data that indicates important areas that require special educational and/or research efforts, such as causes for losses of fish and pond inventories of fish of various sizes.

Monthly information for pounds of catfish processed, prices, and end-of-month inventories is collected by the Farm Raised Catfish Processed survey. This information is used as the basis for future contract negotiations between industry growers and processors. The Arizona Game and Fish Department uses the published grower price as a basis for establishing contract levels for the purchase of catfish for their Urban Fishing program. Growers and processors use this same information as a marketing guide. Financial institutions use this report to evaluate prospective loans to growers and processors. The processor report is used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), in conjunction with its Federal Food and Nutrition Programs.

Catfish feed delivery surveys provide data on feed delivered for food-size, fingerling, and brood fish. Survey results will be used by growers and industry to forecast future marketing's of catfish, based on the relationship of feed consumption to weight gain.

Information on prices received for catfish, feed consumption, and processing volume by month is used to analyze trends that impact supply and demand and timing of market decisions. The information is used by aquaculture extension specialists to assist potential investors who are seeking such information for decision-making purposes.

State specific surveys, such as the Annual Aquaculture Survey being conducted in Hawaii are very important to both State producers and State legislators. Hawaii's tropical climate, provides them with the ideal conditions to produce many unique and diverse items. In Hawaii alone, this is a growing multi-million dollar a year industry.

- 3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.**

Web-based data reporting is available for most of the NASS information collections (a small number will be impractical or otherwise unsuitable). A Questionnaire Repository System exists to enable simultaneous creation of paper and Web survey instruments for each survey.

Electronic Data Reporting (EDR), allows respondents to choose between paper and web-based reporting. The response to Web-based aquaculture surveys was 6 percent for 2009.

- 4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.**

The National Agricultural Statistics Service cooperates with State departments of agriculture and land grant universities to conduct agricultural surveys. They meet both State and Federal needs, thus eliminating duplication and minimizing reporting burden on the agricultural industry. These aquaculture surveys are the only timely and reliable source of information on the aquaculture industry; data collected on this survey are not available from any other source.

- 5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities (Item 5 of OMB Form 83-I), describe any methods used to minimize burden.**

Responses to the grower, processor, and feed delivery questionnaires can be answered from normal operating records with a minimum of difficulty. Data from catfish processors are collected only from firms with the capacity to handle at least 2,000 pounds live weight in an 8 hour shift.

**6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.**

Collecting data less frequently than annually for the trout and Hawaiian Aquaculture survey, semi-annually for the catfish grower survey, and monthly for the catfish processor and feed deliveries surveys, would not appreciably reduce respondent burden since normal operating records are kept on a weekly or monthly basis. In addition, less frequent reporting would significantly reduce the value of the information.

**7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the general information guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5.**

There are no special circumstances associated with this information collection.

**8. Provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8 (d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments.**

The Notice soliciting comments was published in the Federal Register on June 21, 2010 on pages 34971- 34972. No public comments were received for this data collection docket.

**Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and record-keeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.**

State Directors in all NASS State Field Offices (FO's) maintain industry contacts within the respective States. Government agencies contacted are the Department of Commerce, Foreign Agricultural Service, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, and the Agricultural Marketing Service. Other groups contacted to keep a well-rounded perspective of the aquaculture industry are the Catfish Farmers of America, the Catfish Institute, the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture, the National Aquaculture Association, and the U.S. Trout Farmers Association. This Subcommittee was created in response to P.L. 96-362, the National Aquaculture Act to increase the overall effectiveness and productivity of Federal aquaculture programs by improving coordination and communication among Federal agencies involved in those programs. This Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture is made up of representatives of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Interior, Department of Energy, Department of

Health and Human Services, Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers, Small Business Administration, the Farm Credit Administration, and the Department of State.

**9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents.**

There are no payments or gifts to respondents.

**10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.**

Questionnaires include a statement that individual reports are confidential. U.S. Code Title 18, Section 1905 and Title 7, Section 2276 provide for confidentiality of reported information. All employees of NASS and all enumerators hired and supervised under a cooperative agreement with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) must read the regulations and sign a statement of compliance.

Additionally, NASS and NASS contractors comply with OMB Implementation Guidance, "Implementation Guidance for Title V of the E-Government Act, Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA), (Public Law 107-347). CIPSEA supports NASS' pledge of confidentiality to all respondents and facilitates the agency's efforts to reduce burden by supporting statistical activities of collaborative agencies through designation of NASS agents; subject to the limitations and penalties described in CIPSEA.

**11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature.**

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

**12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens in Item 13 of OMB Form 83-I. Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories.**

Cost to the public of completing the questionnaire is assumed to be comparable to the hourly rate of those requesting the data. Reporting time of 961 hours is multiplied by \$24 per hour for a total cost to the public of \$23,064.

Projected 2011 - 2013 Aquaculture Response Burden Hours											
Survey	Sample Size	Freq	Responses				Non-response				Total Burden Hours
			Resp. Count*	Freq x Count	Min/ Resp.	Burden Hours	Nonresp Count	Freq. x Count	Min/ Nonr.	Burden Hours	
Trout Production Survey	800	1	704	704	15	176	96	96	2	3	179
Catfish Production Survey - January	1,100	1	968	968	15	242	132	132	2	4	246
Catfish Production Survey - July **	600	1	528	528	15	132	72	72	2	2	134
Catfish Processing Report	25	12	22	264	10	44	3	36	2	1	45
Catfish Feed Deliveries Report	20	12	18	211	10	35	2	29	2	1	36
Aquaculture Survey Annual - Hawaii	110	1	97	97	15	24	13	13	2	1	25
Aquaculture Loss Survey (NEW) ***	300	1	264	264	15	66	36	36	2	1	67
Publicity Materials ***	2,955	1	2,600	2,600	5	217	355	355	2	12	229
<b>Total****</b>	2,055		1,809	3,036		936	246	414		25	961
* Response counts are based on recent rates which are nearing 88% good reports.											
** Three States only, sub-sample of January survey.											
*** New in 2011 - In the event of a disaster or loss, some operators may need to be recontacted to adjust estimates.											
**** Totals may not add due to rounding.											

**13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection of information.**

There are no capital/start-up or ongoing operation/maintenance costs associated with this information collection.

**14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government; provide a description of the method used to estimate cost which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses, and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.**

Total annual cost to the Federal government for the grower and processor surveys is \$500,000; these surveys are funded by Congressional appropriation in the NASS budget. Most of the funds are for data collection and analysis personnel, with the remainder going to printing, data processing, postage, and travel.

**15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB Form 83-I (reasons for changes in burden).**

In the previous submission, the annual aquaculture survey that was conducted in Hawaii was accidentally omitted from the counts. In the current submission we are including counts for the Hawaii survey along with an allowance for a pre-survey letter and a potential new survey (Aquaculture Loss Survey). The loss survey is being added to the docket in anticipation of re-contacting growers to measure any losses to their farms due to any sort of natural or man-made disaster(s). These changes will result in an increase in burden hours of 321 for program changes. The changes in sample sizes for the catfish and trout surveys, along with an adjustment to minutes it takes to complete the Feed Delivery Survey, will result in a reduction in burden of 100 hours due to an adjustment in the agency estimate. The net change in burden hours is an increase of 221 hours.

Program Change Due to Agency Discretion		Change in Burden Hours
	Inclusion of Hawaii Annual Survey	25
	Creation of New Loss Survey	67
	Inclusion of Publicity Materials	229
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>321</b>
Change Due to Adjustment in Agency Estimate		Change in Burden Hours
	Reduction in Sample Sizes	-114
	Adjustment to Minutes to Complete Catfish Feed Deliveries Survey	14
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>-100</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>221</b>

16. **For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.**

The January Trout Production survey is mailed to producers about the 30<sup>th</sup> of December each year. Survey results are summarized and published in late February in the *Trout Production* report.

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1172>

The January Catfish Production survey is also mailed about the 30<sup>th</sup> of December in the 11 participating States. Production and inventory results are summarized and published in early February in the *Catfish Production* report. The July catfish grower survey is mailed about the 30<sup>th</sup> of June in the 4 major producing States and an abridged version of *Catfish Production* is released in late July.

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1016>

Monthly Farm Raised Catfish Processed questionnaires are mailed from Washington, D.C. about the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Also, respondents are mailed an instruction sheet for accessing the Web-survey instrument. To account for all firms, telephone follow-ups are made to respondents beginning about the 12<sup>th</sup> of the following month. The survey is summarized and published by the 18<sup>th</sup> of the following month in the *Catfish Processing* report.

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1015>

Monthly Catfish Feed Deliveries questionnaires are faxed to respondents each month from the Mississippi Field Office (MS FO) located in Jackson, MS. To account for all mills, telephone follow-ups are made to respondents who do not return a mail questionnaire within a week of receipt. The survey is summarized and published at the same time as the *Catfish Processing* report. The report, *Catfish Feed Deliveries*, is released through the NASS Agricultural Statistics Board.

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1592>

The Annual Aquaculture Survey conducted in Hawaii is directed at all commercial growers of aquatic plants and animals. The publication is released in August for the previous year's data.

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Hawaii/Publications/Miscellaneous/aqua.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Hawaii/Publications/Miscellaneous/aqua.pdf)

Release dates for all surveys are published on the NASS Home Page, [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). Publications are available on-line immediately after release at [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_Subject/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_Subject/index.asp). Select letter "T" for *Trout*



*Production* report or “C” for *Catfish Production, Catfish Processing, or Catfish Feed Deliveries* reports.

- 17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.**

There is no request for approval of non-display of the expiration date.

- 18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19, “Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions” of OMB Form 83-I.**

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

August 2010