



AG ECONOMIC SERIES

# TIMELY INFORMATION

## Agriculture & Natural Resources

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### **2006 ALABAMA AQUACULTURE FACTSHEET**

#### **PRODUCTION**

- √ There are over **25,000** water acres of fish farms in Alabama and approximately **250** producers, with **200** considered as “**large-scale**”.
- √ All Alabama counties are engaged in commercial aquaculture.
- √ Alabama commercially produces approximately **20** aquatic species.
- √ Over **131** million pounds of catfish were produced in 2006.
- √ Overall, the last twenty-four (24) years, the industry has grown by a **13x** factor.
- √ Alabama catfish production is **second** only to Mississippi with **Hale** county ranked **6<sup>th</sup>** nationally.
- √ Alabama has the land/water resources to support a traditional pond industry **10 times** its current size.

#### **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

- √ Alabama aquaculture is worth **\$115 million** to producers.
- √ **Catfish** farming alone is worth over **\$105+ million** to Alabama producers.
- √ Approximately **2,700** (jobs) Alabamians are directly engaged in catfish production/processing.
- √ Alabama large-scale **processors** sell approximately **\$200 million** of catfish products in all 50 states and internationally.
- √ Annual sales to catfish farmers by **allied support industries** is valued at approximately **\$90 million** for feed, utilities, equipment, services, etc.

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