Pond Bank Prices for Farmed-Raised Catfish

Farm-raised catfish processed during February 2011 totaled 27.8 million pounds round weight, down 32 percent from February 2010. The average price paid to producers was $1.00 per pound for February 2011, up 7.2 cents from last month and 23.8 cents above a year ago.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during February 2011 totaled 15.6 million pounds, down 31 percent from the comparable month in 2010. Sales of fresh fish, at 5.23 million pounds, were down 36 percent from February 2010 and represented 34 percent of total sales. Frozen fish sales, at 10.3 million pounds, were down 29 percent from a year ago and accounted for the remaining 66 percent of total fish sales. Sales of whole fish represented 18 percent of the total fish sold, fillets accounted for 61 percent, and the remaining 21 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products. The total end of the month inventory decreased 19 percent from last month and was down 23 percent from a year ago.

The total fresh and frozen average price for February 2011 was $3.03, up 55 cents from a year ago. The February 2011 average price received by processors for total fresh fish was $2.91 per pound, up 57 cents from last year. Prices for fresh whole fish were $2.06 per pound, up 57 cents from February 2010. Prices for fresh fillets were up 65 cents from a year ago at $3.75 per pound. Total frozen fish averaged $3.09 per pound, up 53 cents from February 2010. Prices for frozen whole dressed fish were up 39 cents at $2.59 and frozen fillets at $3.56 per pound were up 64 cents from a year ago.