Caged Fish Production
In Alabama

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A Little History
Potential Cage Opportunities
Basic Requirements

- Market
- Pond .5 acres or larger
- Cage
- Feed
- Time for management
Advantages of Cage Culture

- Many potential resources
- Relatively small investment
- Easy to feed, sample and harvest
- Pond still has multi-use capability
Disadvantages of Cage Culture

- Disease Potential
- Potential localized water quality problems
- Must use a nutritionally complete feed
- Cages attractive to predators, vandals and poachers
Cage Design

- Frame
- Netting
- Floatation
- Feed Ring
- Cover
- Four feet deep
Cage Construction Materials

- Soft Cage
- Hard Cage
Cage Placement

- Place 10 feet apart
- Perpendicular to prevailing wind
- Ensure adequate circulation
Species Selection

- Catfish
- Trout
- Tilapia
- Hybrid Striped Bass
- Carp
Stocking and Handling Fish
Stocking Tips

- Stock catfish below 60º F
- Stock uniform, size graded, healthy fish
- Acclimate fish
- Handle in batches of 10 lbs. or less
- Add non-iodized salt at .15 lb/ft³ to reduce stress (2400ppm)
Stocking Recommendations

- One 6x12x4ft cage per acre
- 1500 fish per cage
- 5 to 7 fish/ft³
Feeding Caged Fish

- Nutritionally complete
- 32-45% protein
- Fresh feed
- Never use moldy feed
- Store feed in cool dry place
Potential Problems

- Disease
- Parasites
- Water quality problems
  - cloudy weather
  - pond turnover
  - plankton die-off
  - biofouling
Harvesting
# Economics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cage</td>
<td>$325</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fingerlings (@$.25)</td>
<td>$375</td>
<td>$375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed FCR 1.8 @$14/50lb To raise 2000 lbs</td>
<td>$1008</td>
<td>$1008</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$1708</td>
<td>$1383</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Profit</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Profit</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000 lb @ $0.80</td>
<td>$1600</td>
<td>($108)</td>
<td>$1600</td>
<td>$217</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000 lb @ $1.00</td>
<td>$2000</td>
<td>$292</td>
<td>$2000</td>
<td>$617</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000 lb @ $1.25</td>
<td>$2500</td>
<td>$792</td>
<td>$2500</td>
<td>$1117</td>
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</table>
Resources

- Southern Regional Aquaculture Center (SRAC) publications.
- [https://srac.tamu.edu/](https://srac.tamu.edu/)
- Caged Fish Production in Alabama (ANR-0957)
  - Just Google it – and look for the printable pdf
- [www.alearn.info](http://www.alearn.info) (over 1300 pages of aquaculture info)