

Ka ‘Oihana Mahi‘ai

Market Analysis and News Branch

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In Cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pacific Region

Statistics on Aquaculture Farms and Products Sold State of Hawai‘i, 2013, 2018, and 2023

Since 2013, the USDA NASS has conducted a nationwide aquaculture census every five years, gathering essential industry data. This survey tracks total sales of aquaculture product and the number of aquaculture farms cultivating various aquatic products, including food fish, mollusks, crustaceans, algae and ornamental fish. In Hawai‘i, aquaculture sales increased significantly, rising by 33.7% from \$58.6 million in 2013 to \$78.4 million in 2018, before decreasing to \$65.2 million in 2023. Despite these fluctuations in sales, the number of aquaculture farms in Hawai‘i has remained relatively steady, fluctuating between 45 and 49 over the past decade.

Hawai‘i aquaculture industry remains relatively small, as reflected in the limited number of operations. Due to federal confidentiality restrictions, most sales data is not publicly disclosed. However, some species-specific sales figures have been released. In 2023, prawns and shrimp generated \$23 million in sales. The food-fish segment, which includes catfish and tilapia, reported \$9.2 million in sales. Mollusk aquaculture, particularly Pacific oysters farming, contributed \$2.2 million in sales.

Tilapia led Hawai‘i aquaculture industry in 2023, with 16 farms in operation. Food-size catfish followed, cultivated by 9 farms, while shrimp was raised on 7 farms. Oysters farming took place on 5 farms, and prawns production on 4 farms. Additionally, 3 farms each specialized in koi, goldfish, live bearers, and clams.

Table 1: Aquaculture Sales and Operations, Hawai‘i, 2013, 2018, and 2023

Commodity Group	Sales (\$1,000)			Operation with Sales (Units)		
	2013	2018	2023	2013	2018	2023
<i>Food Fish</i>						
Catfish	24	158	163	6	9	9
Broodstock	-	-	7	-	-	3
Fingerlings & Fry	(D)	15	18	2	3	3
Food-size	(D)	143	138	2	6	9
Stockers	(D)	-	(D)	2	-	3
Other Species	(D)	(D)	(D)	4	4	5
Sturgeon	(D)	13	-	1	3	-
Tilapia	272	280	(D)	16	12	16
Trout, Food-size	-	7	-	-	3	-
Food Fish, Total	(D)	(D)	9,207	23	26	25
<i>Mollusks</i>						
Abalone	(D)	(D)	(D)	1	1	1
Clams	(D)	(D)	(D)	2	3	5
Hard	-	-	1	-	-	3
Manila	(D)	(D)	(D)	1	2	2

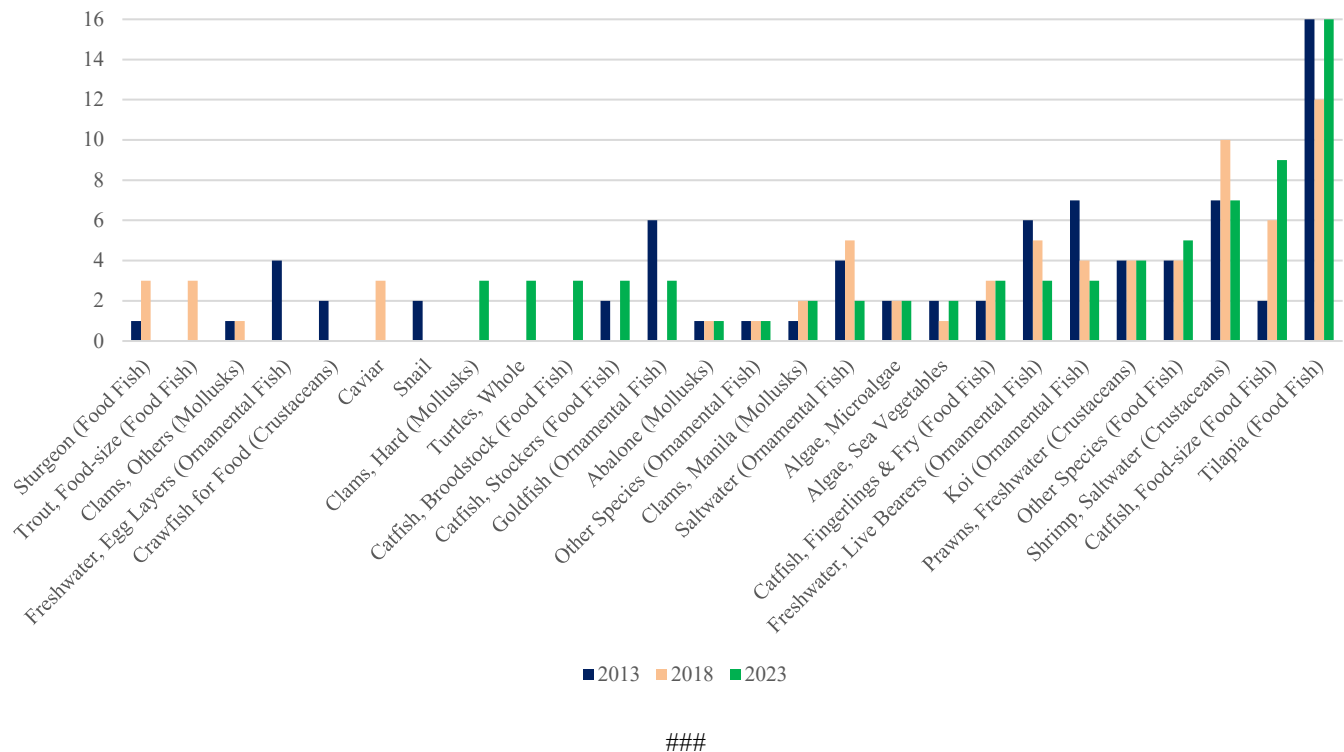
Others	(D)	(D)	-	1	1	-
Other Species	-	(D)	(D)	-	1	1
Oysters, Pacific	-	(D)	2,200	-	4	5
Mollusks, Total	(D)	6,576	(D)	3	6	9
<i>Ornamental Fish</i>						
Freshwater, Live Bearers	19	30	20	6	5	3
Freshwater, Egg Layers	2	-	-	4	-	-
Goldfish	3	-	2	6	-	3
Koi	(D)	(D)	(D)	7	4	3
Other Species	(D)	(D)	(D)	1	1	1
Saltwater	32	166	(D)	4	5	2
Ornamental Fish, Total	(D)	(D)	(D)	14	15	12
<i>Crustaceans</i>						
Prawns, Freshwater	(D)	(D)	(D)	4	4	4
Shrimp, Saltwater	15,012	(D)	(D)	7	10	7
Crawfish for Food	(D)	-	-	2	-	-
Crustaceans, Total	15,876	24,957	23,011	12	12	11
<i>Others</i>						
Algae	(D)	(D)	(D)	4	3	3
Microalgae	28,738	(D)	(D)	2	2	2
Sea Vegetables	(D)	(D)	(D)	2	1	2
Caviar	-	79	-	-	3	-
Snail	(D)	-	-	2	-	-
Turtles, Whole		-	3		-	3
Others, Total	29,123	(D)	(D)	6	6	6
Aquaculture, Total	58,665	78,429	65,189	45¹	49¹	47¹

Sources: USDA NASS Census of Aquaculture, 2013, 2018, and 2023.

(D) means the information is withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.

¹ The number of operations with sales does not add to the total, due to operations overlapping across different species.

Chart 1: Number of Aquaculture Farms by Species, Hawai‘i, 2013, 2018, and 2023



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