

# 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

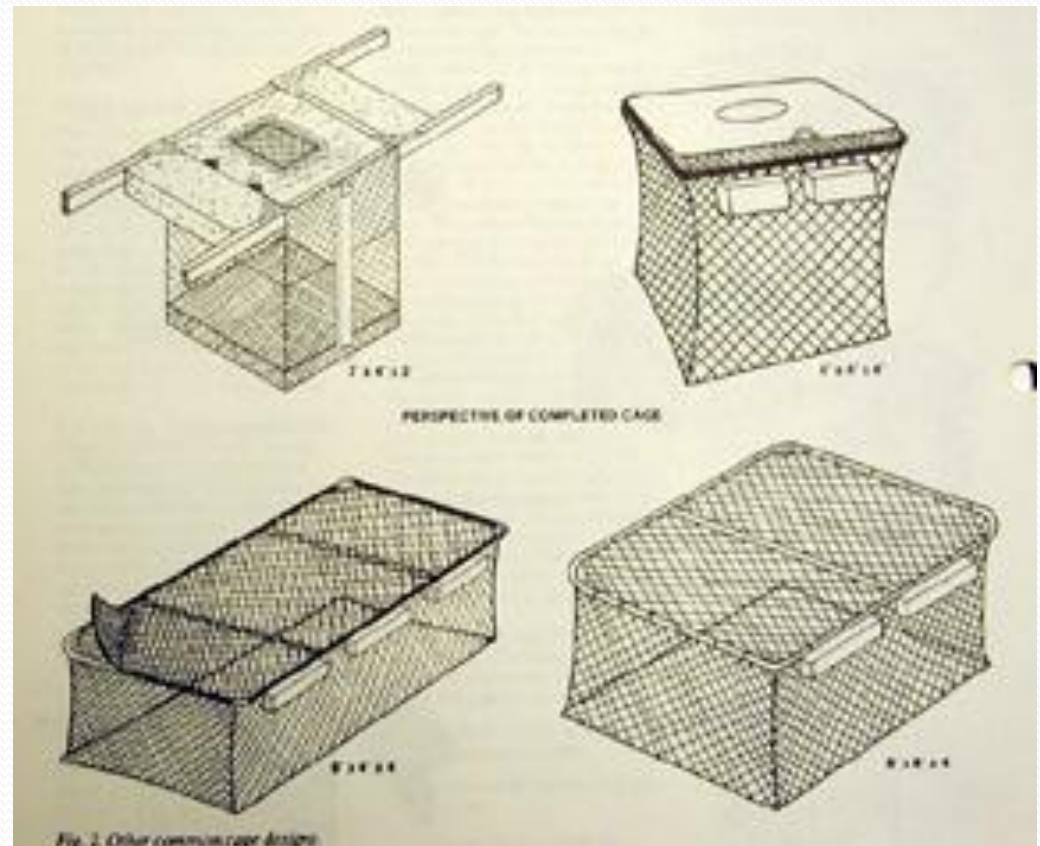
- Many potential resources
- Relatively small investment
- Easy to feed, sample and harvest
- Pond still has multi-use capability

# Disadvantages of Cage Culture

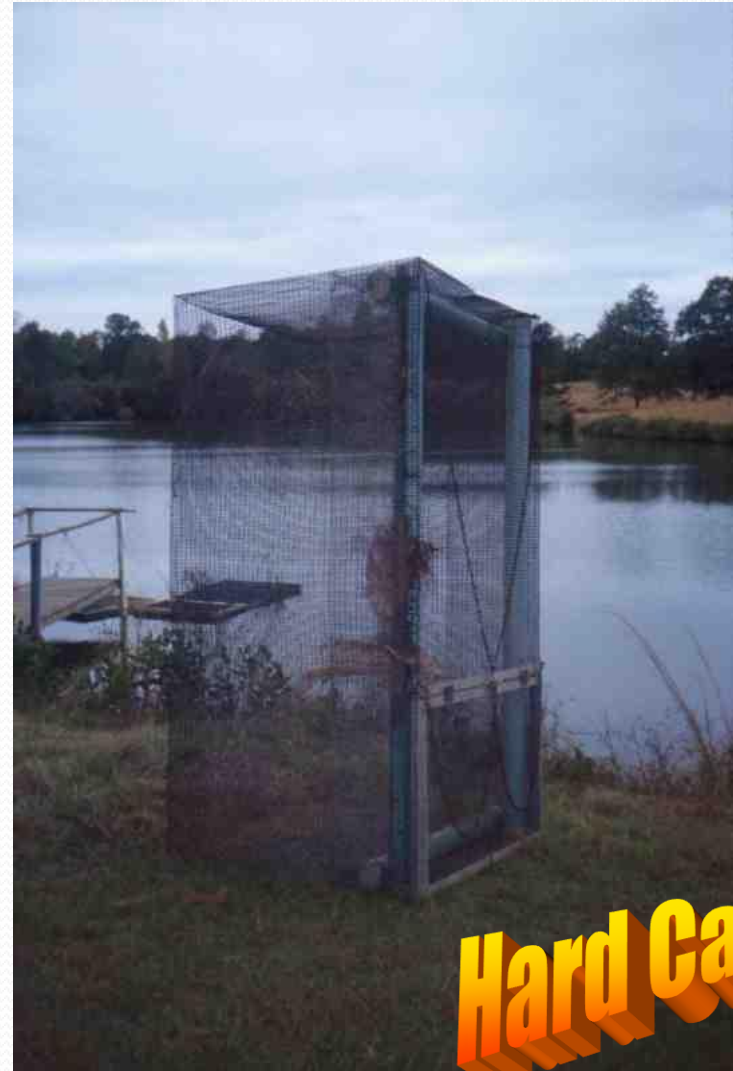
- Disease Potential
- Potential localized water quality problems
- Must use a nutritionally complete feed
- Cages attractive to predators, vandals and poachers

# Cage Design

- Frame
- Netting
- Floatation
- Feed Ring
- Cover
- Four feet deep



# Cage Construction Materials



# 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



**Size grading**

# Stocking Tips

- Stock catfish below 60° F
- Stock uniform, size graded, healthy fish
- Acclimate fish
- Handle in batches of 10 lbs. or less
- Add non-iodized salt at .15 lb/ft<sup>3</sup> to reduce stress (2400ppm)

# Stocking Recommendations

- One 6x12x4ft cage per acre
- 1500 fish per cage
- 5 to 7 fish/ft<sup>3</sup>

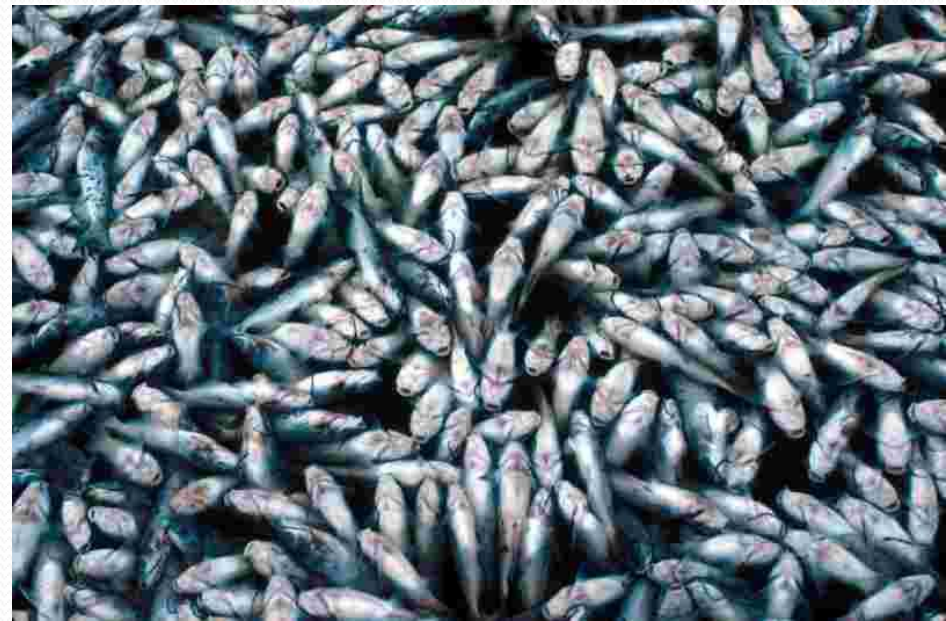
# Feeding Caged Fish

- 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

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Year 1</b>		<b>Year 2</b>	
Cage	\$325		\$0	
Fingerlings (@\$.25)	\$375		\$375	
Feed FCR 1.8 @\$14/50lb To raise 2000 lbs	\$1008		\$1008	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1708</b>		<b>\$1383</b>	
<b>Income</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Profit</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Profit</b>
2000 lb @ \$0.80	\$1600	(\$108)	\$1600	\$217
2000 lb @ \$1.00	\$2000	\$292	\$2000	\$617
2000 lb @ \$1.25	\$2500	\$792	\$2500	\$1117

# Resources

- Southern Regional Aquaculture Center (SRAC) publications.
- <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)