

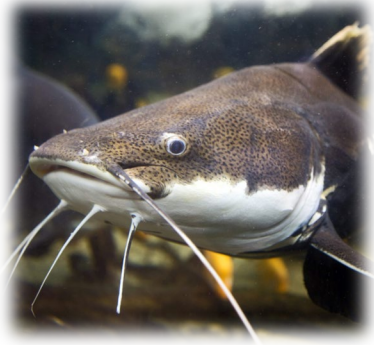
**Farm Service Agency  
Overview of Disaster  
Assistance Program  
Improvements  
(ELAP)**

WI/MN - March 22, 2024



# Farm-Raised Fish - ELAP

- Effective with the 2021 program year, the Deputy Administrator determined to expand the coverage of losses for farm-raised fish from game and bait fish to include additional farm-raised fish for food, raised in a controlled environment as approved by FSA.
- In May of 2021, FSA rolled out the policy to implement coverage of Farm Raised Fish, including Finfish and Mollusks. Reptiles are still not covered under ELAP.





# Farm-Raised Fish - ELAP

FSA State Committees were tasked with finding out as much information as possible about the producers that raised farm raised fish in their states. They were obligated to determine the following information:

- Average Fair Market Values for all eligible farm raised eligible aquaculture in their state
- Establish a Normal Mortality for all eligible farm raised eligible aquaculture in their state





# Farm-Raised Fish - ELAP

FSA State Committees and the National Office worked with countless Universities, Aquaculture Experts, Aquaculture and Shellfish Associations, Fish and Wildlife Service Experts, NOAA and any other experts that FSA could find, nationally and state by state.

These resources helped establish Average Fair Market Values, and helped update the NAP program pricing as well as the normal morality values that NAP uses





# Farm-Raised Fish - ELAP



At a National Level, FSA Continues to work with NAA to improve the ELAP program. Those meetings have yielded the following progress:



- A combination meeting with Catfish Farmers of America, reaching out to our FSA county offices, with training by catfish experts, and FSA to help both parties learn more about the ELAP process



- Working with NAA to produce acceptable prices for Redfish



# Farm-Raised Fish - ELAP

At a National Level, FSA Continues to work with NAA to improve the ELAP program. Those meetings have yielded the following progress (Cont.):

- Working to produce a more complete marketing size list for prices for shellfish and finfish
- Helping FSA with outreach to attend events such as this.
- Introducing FSA to the different working groups of aquaculture and establishing relationships with specific species groups





# Farm-Raised Fish - ELAP

At a National Level, FSA Continues to work with NAA to improve the ELAP program. Those meetings have yielded the following progress (Cont.):

- Continuing to build understanding of causes of loss to help work with Congress to updates to the ELAP program and inquiries
- Giving examples of understanding when it comes to marketing species and the life cycles to get to a marketable product
- Working with NAA to communicate the importance of supplying acceptable inventory reporting to maximize ELAP benefits





# Farm-Raised Fish - ELAP

NAP and ELAP continue to work hand in hand.

- Rates for Average Fair Market Values are set using an Olympic Average, when there is enough data to sustain a 5-year period, otherwise a simple average may be used.
- Producers may earn a payment from NAP and ELAP for the same losses in the same year, as ELAP and NAP are exempt under the Multiple Benefit Exclusion at this time set under Congress.



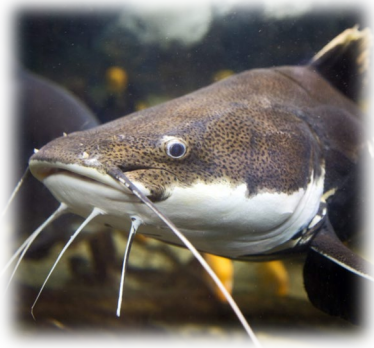




# Farm-Raised Fish - ELAP

Farm Raised Fish Payouts under ELAP since 2021:

- dollars for the 2021 Program Year - *\$111,221,342*
- dollars for the 2022 Program Year - *\$67,175,605*
- dollars so far, for the 2023 Program Year - *\$25,644,120*





# **ELAP Farm-Raised Fish Eligibility**



# Farm-Raised Fish - ELAP

Eligible Losses for Aquaculture are:

- *Eligible Farm Raised Fish Physical Losses*
- *Eligible Farm Raised Fish Feed Losses*





# Farm-Raised Fish - ELAP

Eligible Loss Conditions Include, but are not limited to:

- earthquakes
- excessive heat
- excessive wind
- floods
- hurricane
- tidal surge
- tornados
- volcanic eruption
- freeze
- eligible adverse weather





# Farm-Raised Fish - ELAP


STC must establish normal mortality rates and average fair market values for all eligible farm-raised fish in their State:

- State Offices will establish average fair market values for the different types and sizes of eligible farm-raised fish produced in the State, with the exception of ornamental fish.
- ELAP compensates eligible farm-raised fish producers for eligible farm-raised fish death losses that occur in excess of normal mortality because of an eligible loss condition during the program year.
- If the State has established NAP mortality rates for the applicable farm-raised fish, the NAP normal mortality rate must be used for ELAP.






# Farm-Raised Fish - ELAP



Payment for a specific kind/type of farm-raised fish will be based on the number or pounds or pieces, depending on the STO submission, of fish lost by subtracting the ending inventory from the beginning inventory of the specific kind/type of fish just before the loss condition, and after ensuring normal mortality has been reduced from the number or pounds of fish lost.



Normal Mortality for Farm Raised Fish is not required to be applied under ELAP, if a producer is able to provide a recent Beginning Inventory, that would be considered acceptable by the County Committee.

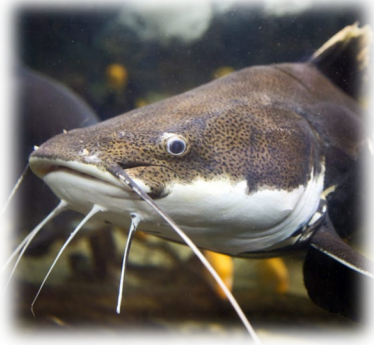




# Farm-Raised Fish - ELAP



A producer may certify their inventory losses, if other producers in the area suffered the same losses. However, if they are unable to support that inventory with some type of acceptable documentation, then a normal mortality rate should be applied.



Producers should work with county offices to provide inventory records, and work to develop a plan for each individual producer of how/when to provide those records to the county office





# Farm-Raised Fish - ELAP

Required Documentation to be eligible for ELAP Farm Raised Fish Losses include:

- Acreage Report (surface acres of water, or if that is not available, a geo data location of the Farm Raised Fish)
- Verifiable or Reliable Documentation of Farm Raised Fish
  - Death Loss
  - Beginning Inventory, the Day Prior to the Loss
  - Ending Inventory
- Any documentation requested by the County Committee to determine if an aquaculture facility or environment is eligible.







# Farm-Raised Fish - ELAP

National Payment Factors for Farm Raised Fish under ELAP are:

- *75 percent of the calculated payment, or*
- *90 percent of the calculated payment, if a producer certifies to being the definition of a beginning farmer or rancher, limited resource producer, or a qualifying veteran producer*

