

The Leading Edge



Fathead minnow *Pimephales promelas*

Richard T. Bryant and Wayne C. Starnes *The fishes of Tennessee*

Common name: Fathead minnow

Scientific name: *Pimephales promelas*

Production potential: Easy

Marketing potential: Potential: High
Size: 1-3 inches
Market: Bait

Temperature Requirements: Growing: 70°F
Spawning: 65°F
Lethal: NA

Feed requirements: Protein: 30-38%
Fat: 3-8%

Spawning requirements: Spawns during cool periods in summer and sometimes fall, eggs hatch in 5-6 days. Females lay from 200-500 eggs per spawn, spawn repeatedly during spawning season. Two methods are used to produce fry. The first is the wild or free-spawning method which 500-2,000 broodstock are stocked into ponds. Egg hatching and growing of young to marketable size occur in the same pond. The second method is the fry transfer method. In this method, 20,000-25,000 broodstock are stocked into ponds in a ratio of five females per male. Fry produced in either method are trapped and counted then transferred to rearing ponds. In either method, rocks, tile, bricks, or boards are placed into ponds to provide spawning sites.

Most common production systems: Ponds. Fry are stocked at a rate of 50,000-300,000 per acre.

September 13, 1996

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Publication No. IL-IN-SG-96-21

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