

Catfish Imports: Food Safety Perspectives



Hogs over pangasius aquaculture, Philippines, FAO

www.foodandwaterwatch.org

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Washington, DC
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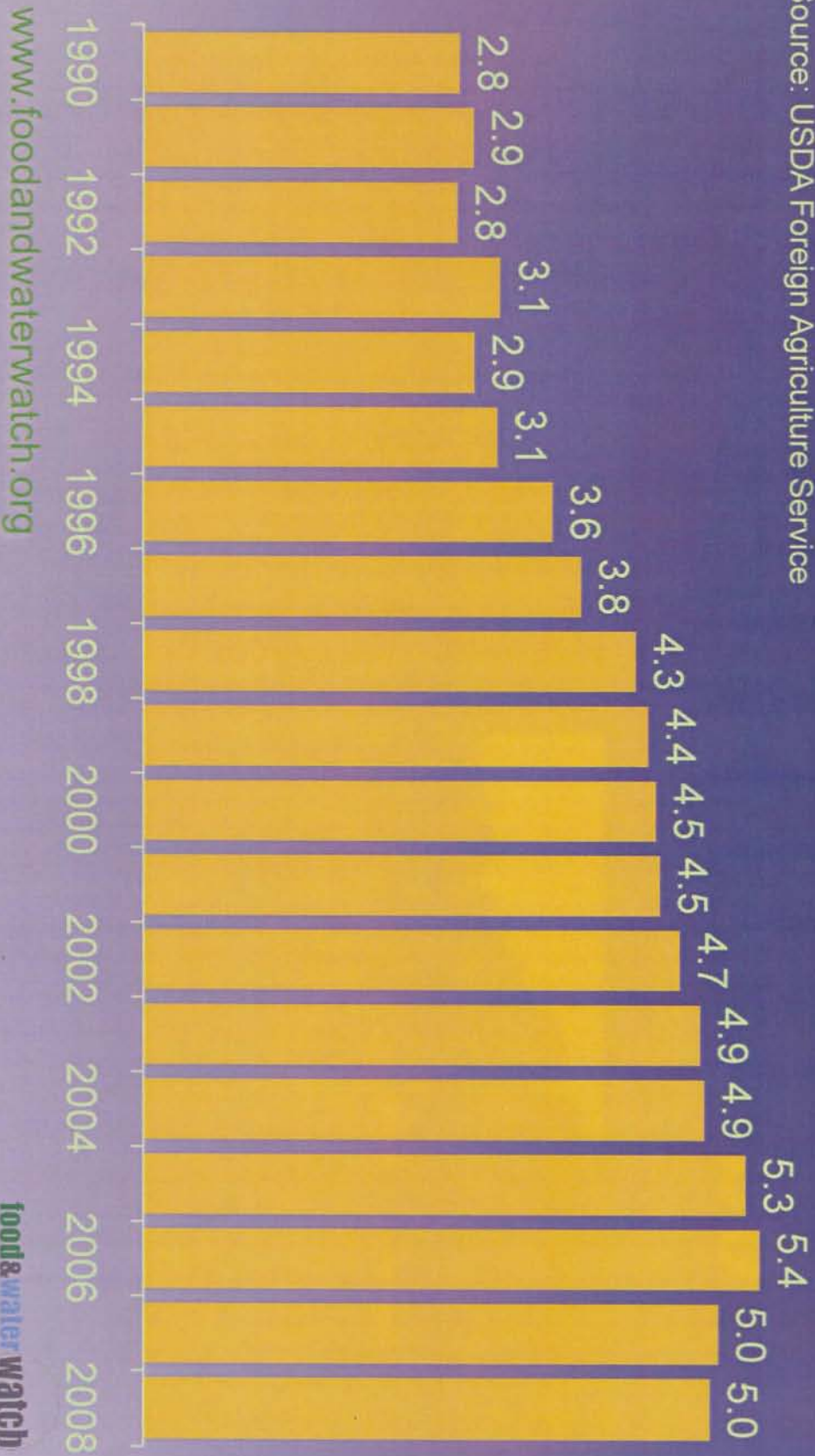
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Volume of Total Seafood Imports

(billions of pounds)

Source: USDA Foreign Agriculture Service



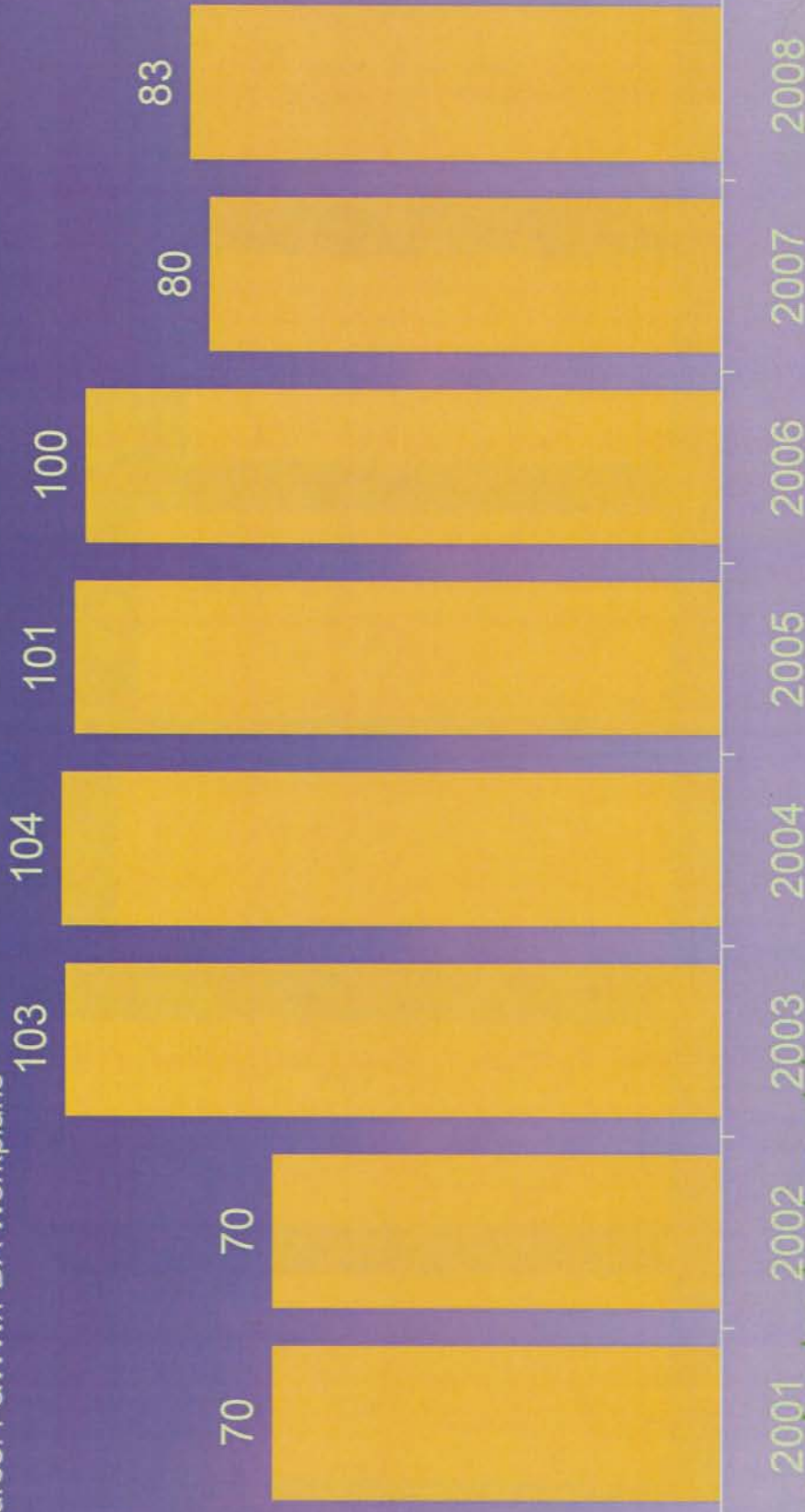
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FDA Seafood Border Inspectors

(Full-time equivalent)

Source: F&WW/FDA Workplans



2001 2002 2003
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Annual Fish Examined Per Inspector

(millions of pounds)

Source: USDA FAS; F&WW/FDA Workplans



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FDA Seafood Inspection & Laboratory Sample Rate

(Percentage of shipments)

Source: F&WW



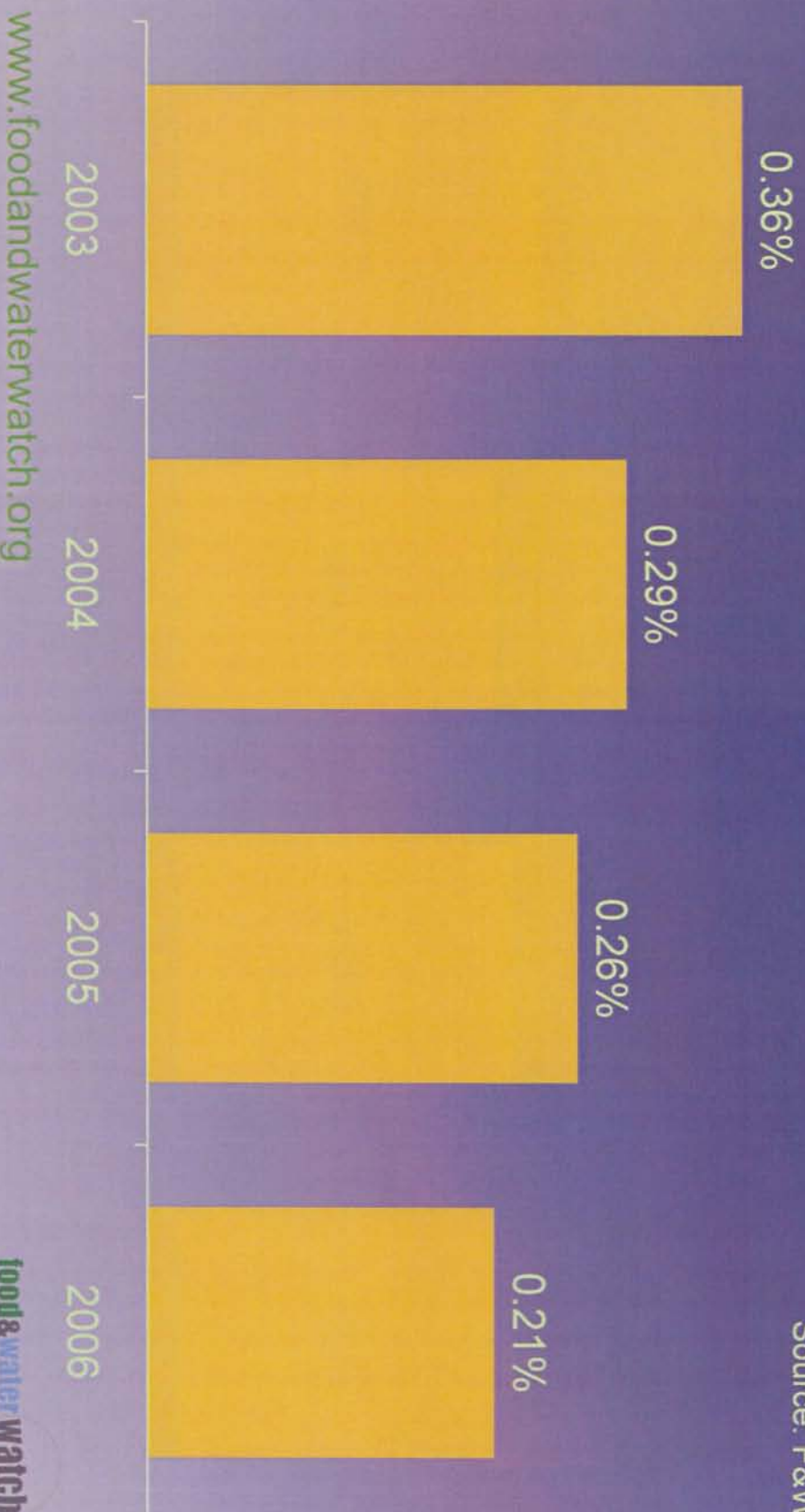
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FDA Imported Seafood Refusal Rate

(percentage of shipments)

Source: F&WW



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Share of U.S. Seafood Consumption

Source: Congressional Research Service; NOAA



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Imported Aquaculture Uses Illegal Veterinary Medicines/Antifungals

- 🌿 Density of fish – crowding leads to disease
- 🌿 Quality of water
- 🌿 Weak environmental enforcement
- 🌿 Lower or unenforced rules on antibiotics/antifungals
- 🌿 Majority of production small scale, rural, apply chemicals without knowledge, training

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Chemicals Tested for by FDA

Chemical	Year FDA Started Testing	Human Health Hazards	Common Aquaculture Fish
Chloramphenicol (AB)	2002	Aplastic anemia, potential carcinogen, antibiotic resistance	Shrimp, crab, crayfish
Nitrofurans (AB)	2004	Potential carcinogen, antibiotic resistance	Shrimp
Quinolones (AB)	2003/2004	Antibiotic resistance	Catfish, salmon, shrimp, tilapia
Malachite Green (AF)	2005	Potential carcinogen	Catfish, eel, salmon
Gentian Violet (AF)	2006	Potential carcinogen	Catfish, eel, salmon

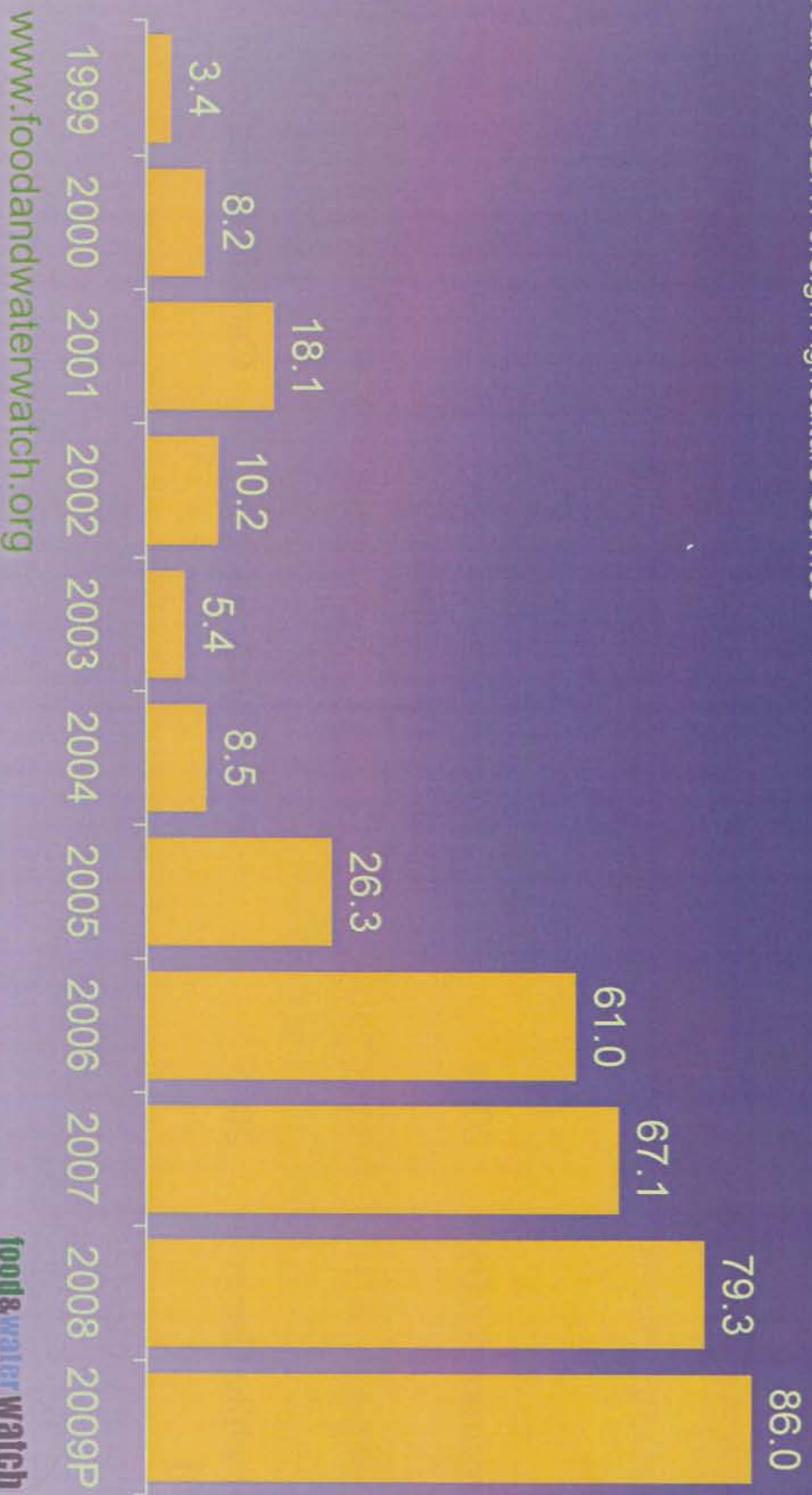
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Volume of Asian Catfish Imports

(millions of pounds)

Source: USDA Foreign Agriculture Service



Asian Catfish Imports by Country

(millions of pounds)

Source: USDA Foreign Agriculture Service



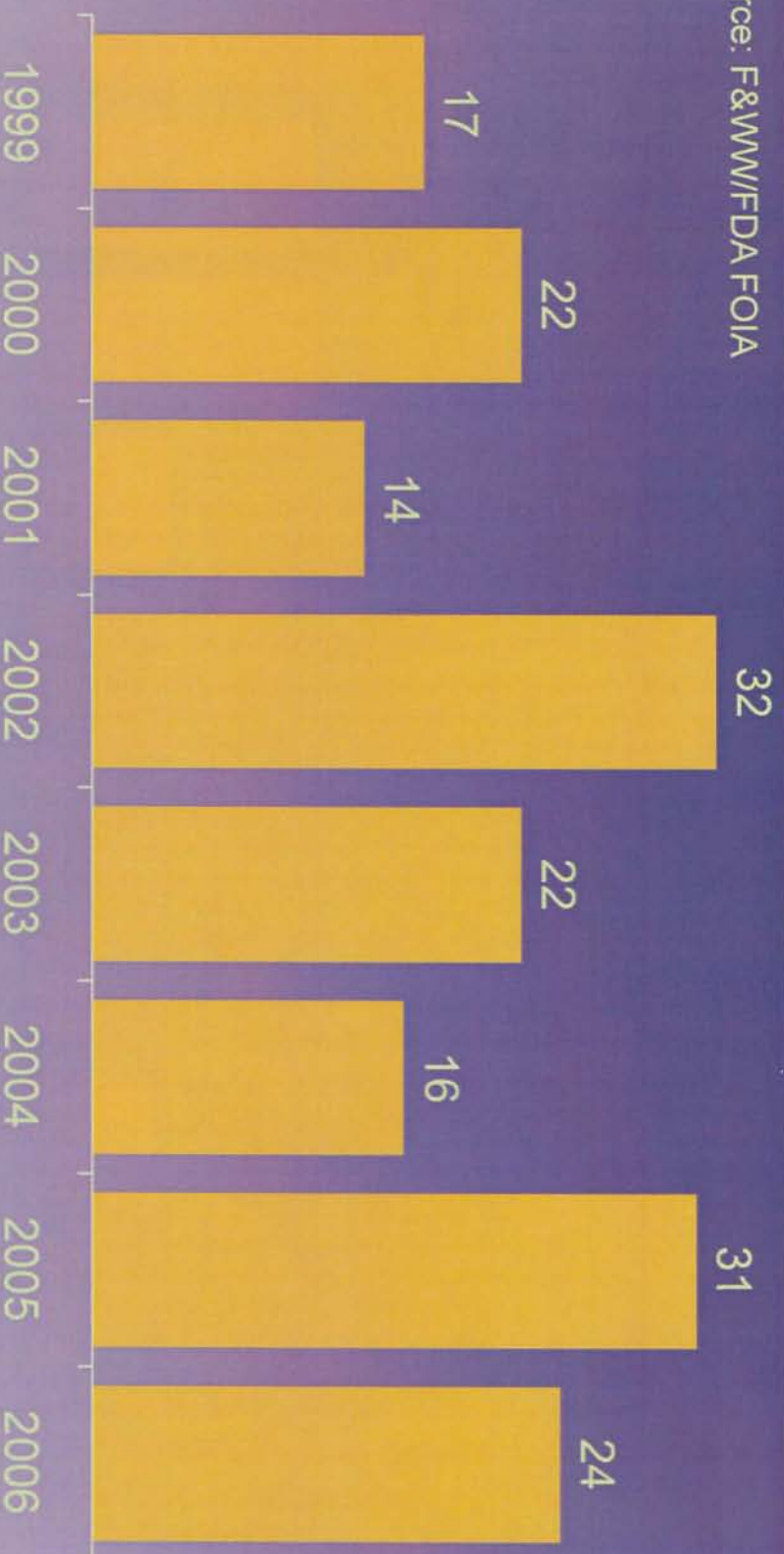
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FDA Catfish Border Refusals

Source: F&MW/FDA FOIA



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Asian Catfish Imports by Country

(millions of pounds)

Source: USDA Foreign Agriculture Service



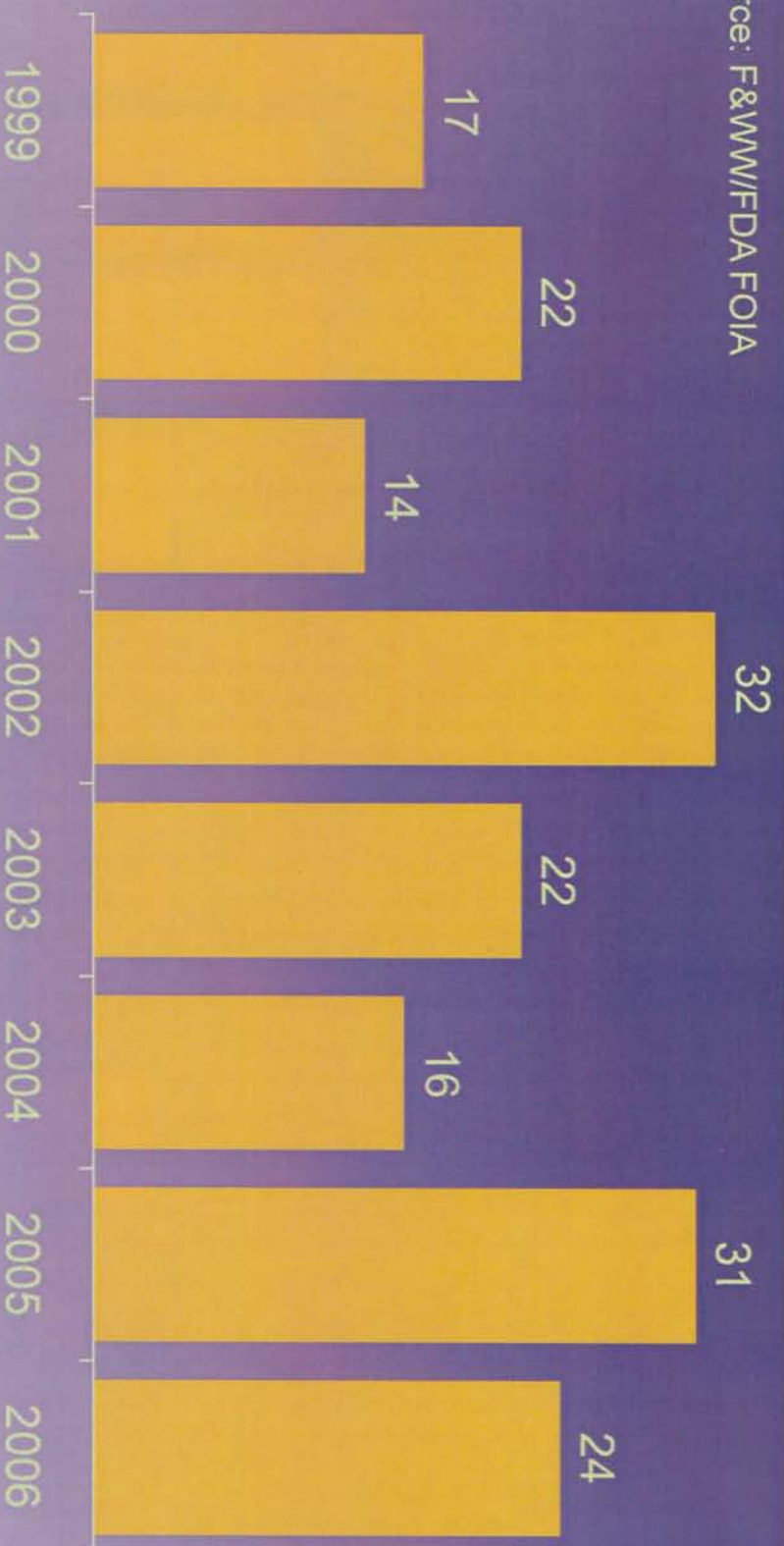
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FDA Catfish Border Refusals

Source: F&WW/FDA FOIA



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Catfish Imports for Every FDA Refusal (pounds)

Source: USDA FAS; F&WW/FDA FOIA



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Pounds of Imported Fish for Each FDA Laboratory Test

Source: F&WW



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All Fish Catfish

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Annual Change in Catfish Imports and FDA Laboratory Sampling

Source: F&WW



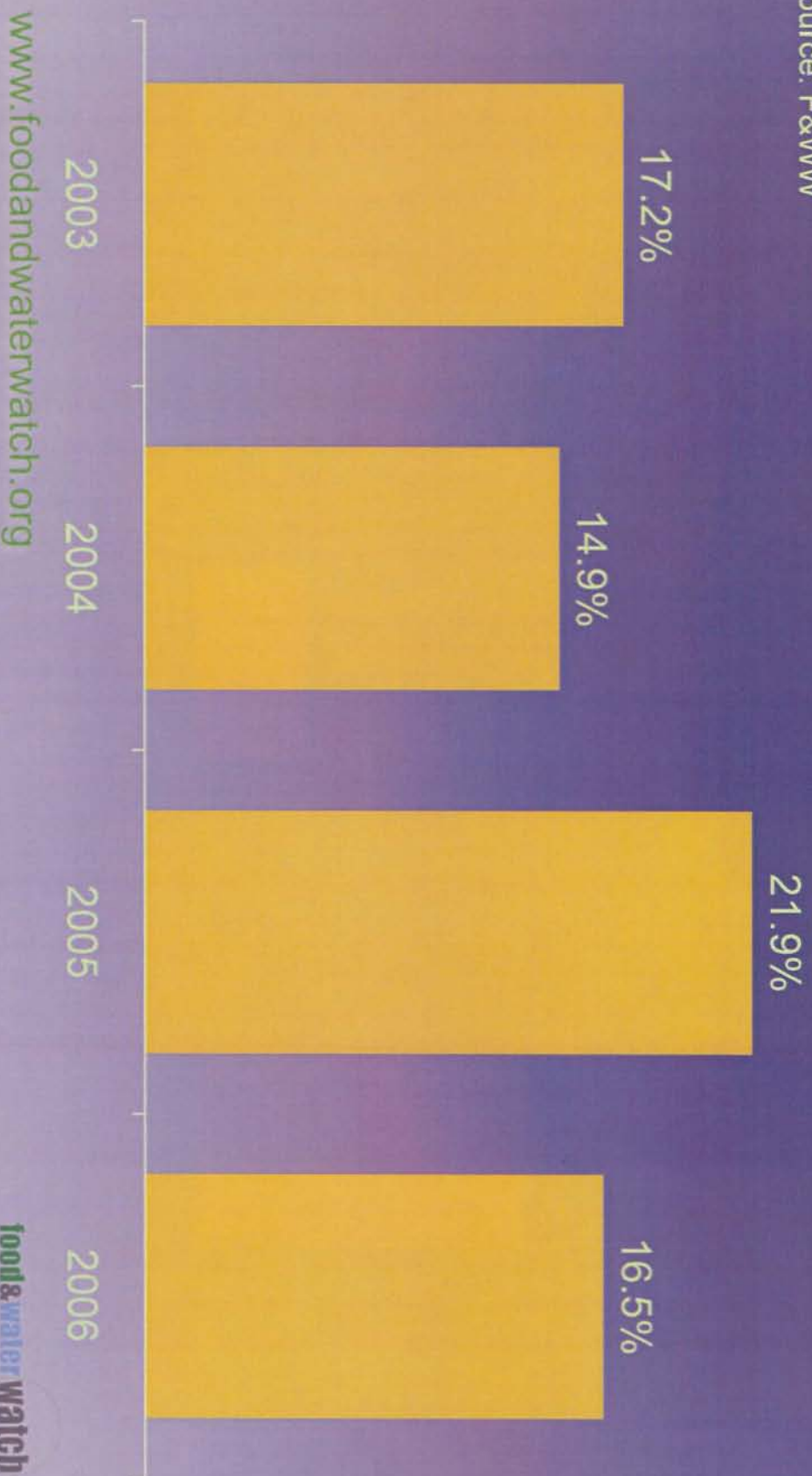
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Imports Lab Samples

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Imported Catfish Lab Test Failure Rate

Source: F&WW



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Import Alert 2007
Laboratory Error 2008

available at
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