



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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INTERIOR ISSUES REPORTS ON WORLD SHRIMP FISHERIES

Two reports on the shrimp fisheries of foreign countries have recently been issued by the Department of the Interior.

These reports are a Survey of the Shrimp Fisheries of Central and South America, and Foreign Shrimp Fisheries other than Central and South America.

Both of these reports have been prepared by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to meet a growing demand for more detailed information about sources of shrimp supplies. Shrimp is America's No. 1 fishery in terms of payment to men at the boats. The annual domestic catch varies from 200 to 225 million pounds a year. The boatside value ranges upwards from) million dollars a year. The first report was made after Bureau personnel had made an on-the-spot check. The second is a compilation of Foreign Service dispatches, supplemented by FAO data and information from other sources.

Little is known about the potential production of many regions of the world because of the lack of systematic exploration. However, in some places where sizable resources are known to exist, lack of proper techniques and equipment, poor transportation and insufficient storage and handling facilities discourage the establishment of shrimp fisheries.

The largest shrimp fisheries in the world are in Asia, where millions of fishermen harvest shrimp and other varieties of fish and shellfish. The individual catches of shrimp are small but the total catch is high. A modest start on modernizing shrimp fishing and processing has been made in some of the countries of the far East, especially India and Pakistan.

Practically every European country which has a coastline has a well established shrimp fishery. Some of the production enters into international trade but for the most part the shrimp are consumed in the country in which they are produced. Most of the European shrimp are used for human food but in some places very small species are processed into poultry feed.

Africa is not an important shrimp producer. Along the Mediterranean shores-- Morocco, Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia--some shrimp are taken. Australia has a well established shrimp fishery and while shrimp abound in quantities in many parts of Oceania difficulties in harvesting them have been so great that little effort is being made to develop the resource.

India is second only to the United States in shrimp production and, from available estimates, may have exceeded on two occasions American production in recent years. Japan also has an important shrimp fishery, with those of West Germany and Mexico next in importance. Brazil, the largest shrimp producer in Central or South America is behind Korea, Spain, Netherlands and Pakistan in production.

Mexico leads the world in exporting shrimp to the United States. In 1956 that nation exported to the United States 53.7 million pounds, approximately one-fourth as much as our domestic shrimp fleet harvested. Panama in 1957 sent more than eight million pounds to the United States and Ecuador sent nearly four million pounds. India, however, with its huge production exported only one million pounds to the United States. Japan sent more than two and a half million pounds to the United States in 1956 from a total production of 110 million pounds.

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