



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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Shrimp production for the month of June increased sharply over May yields at most points along the Gulf coast, helping bring up the yearly production which is still 28 percent below the first six months of 1943, the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries reported today.

Total production of shrimp for all purposes was 21,420 barrels in June, a 50 percent increase over the 14,167 barrels produced in May. Partly because of price disagreements which tied up Biloxi fishermen early in the year, and also because of a subsequent scarcity of shrimp on the fishing grounds, production for the first six months of the year totalled 73,340 barrels, compared with 101,738 barrels during the same period last year.

In contrast to shrimp, hard crabs showed a strong increase in total production for the year as well as in the June fishery. Gulf coast fishermen had caught 5,098,928 pounds of hard crabs by the end of June, compared with 3,780,915 pounds by that date last year.

Because of the shortage of shrimp during the spring season, many shrimp canners turned to crab meat, canning this product for the first time, the Coordinator's Office reported. As a result, June was a record month for the canning of crab meat in this area, with 107,510 pounds processed in addition to 73,360 pounds sold fresh and frozen.

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