



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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INCREASE IN SHRIMP SUPPLY FAVORS CONSUMERS

The abundance, variety and availability of shrimp are three highlights of the changing shrimp fishery, the Fish and Wildlife Service has reported to Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman. This change is making available this nutritious, colorful and appetizing seafood to the tables of millions of new consumers.

Increased activity in the shrimp fishery was first sparked by the advent of improved freezing techniques and rapid transportation, which made possible the shipping of this much-desired delicacy from South Atlantic and Gulf ports to the great inland cities of the continent. The present-day change in the fishery is no less revolutionary; exploratory fishing, and the discovery of large new beds of "pinks" and "brownies," is greatly increasing shrimp landings. In addition to this, imports of shrimp from Mexico—where the fishery is also expanding—are at a record high. The trend of holdings of frozen shrimp is also upward, assuring an abundance of the attractive seafood available to consumers.

Once white shrimp were the shrimp of the Gulf and South Atlantic; now two new Gulf varieties have been added; the Brazilian or "brown" shrimp so common in the Gulf from Alabama to Texas, and the recently discovered "pink" or "coral" variety near Key West and (more recently) off the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. Today, these various shrimp sell under colorful trade names, such as "Golden Brazilians," "Louisiana Whites," and "Yucatan Pinks."

Exploratory fishing—some of it done by the Fish and Wildlife Service vessel M/V Oregon—indicates large, new resources of shrimp in the Gulf. A heavy concentration of brownies has been indicated off Alabama, and a recent find of pinks near Yucatan brought a fleet of large, powerful trawlers which now operate out of Brownsville, Texas. Scientists aboard the Oregon have made progress in correlating water temperatures with the presence of shrimp, and various depths with the different species available. An interesting fact is that while the white shrimp are caught only during the daytime, the pinks and brownies are caught mainly at night.

In the first nine months of the 1950 season, Alabama shrimp production is up 60 percent, Mississippi is up 65 percent, and Louisiana production is up 17 percent, but shrimp production in Texas has climbed 100 percent. In Key West, after the discovery of the pinks, production climbed in six months from 0 to 15,000,000 pounds. Imports from Mexico are up 8,000,000 pounds, and Panama has increased her shipments to the United States. In addition, a token shipment was recently received of a cherry red shrimp from Greenland.

Production and imports of shrimp during the current season are at an all time high. Most of the increased supplies are going directly into consumption, since millions of people are developing the shrimp-buying habit.

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