

Larvae of the Pink Shrimp (*Penaeus duorarum*)

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THIS RESEARCH was performed under contract with the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. The results will be published by this agency.

Behavior of Shrimp Trawls

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THIS PRESENTATION was a verbal commentary on a moving picture. The 16 mm. underwater color film may be obtained on loan from the Pascagoula Fishery Laboratory, P.O. Box 630, Pascagoula, Mississippi.

The Shrimp Fishery of Panama

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THE FISHERY is located on the Pacific coast of Panama and is mainly exercised within the Gulf of Panama. It started around 1950 with about eight ships and increased rapidly until about 200 vessels were fishing in 1958.

The shrimp landings have risen quickly, together with the rise in number of boats. Because nearly all shrimp are exported, Table 1, giving the exports, demonstrates the development of the fishery. This table suggests a favorable growth but the fishery has become less profitable, especially in the last few years.

The white shrimp has always been the most important type of shrimp in our fishery. However, the big increase in the exports in recent years has been mainly due to *Xiphopenaeus riveti*, the seabob, a much less valuable species. Red shrimp, also occurring in this region, have until very recently only been fished in the dry season, mainly in February and March, in greatly varying quantities. The red shrimp have been partly responsible for the high exports in 1957.

Because white shrimp always have been of preponderant importance, and the landings of this type of shrimp have not increased proportionally with the increase of the fleet, the Panamanian research activities have been concentrated on this group of species. M. D. Burkenroad in 1954 initiated, and during a number of years guided, the collection of information on various aspects of the fishery and biology of white shrimp.

A detailed analysis of the statistical information has been started this year, but has not yet reached its final stage.

For the purpose of this meeting, preliminary estimates of some main statistical data have been made. It should be stressed that these estimates are not