





Northern white shrimp Northern Gulf of Mexico

 Fishery:  Northern Gulf of Mexico  Louisiana  United States  Pushed skimmer nets

IDENTIFICATION

SCIENTIFIC NAME

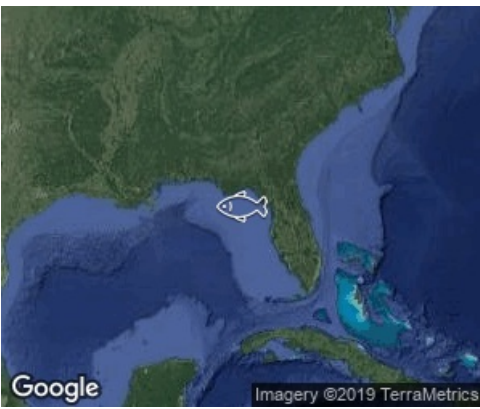
Penaeus setiferus

SPECIES NAME(S)

Northern white shrimp

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

Considering samples from North Carolina (USA) to Campeche (Mexico) there is some evidence of genetic separation of a population of northern white shrimp on NW Atlantic (U.S. Atlantic coast) from a population in the Gulf of Mexico (Ball & Chapman, 2003). US stocks are assessed at federal level and management measures can be defined at federal and/or stadual levels: Northern Gulf of Mexico and [NW Atlantic](#). A distinct assessment unit exists in [Campeche Bank](#) (Ramos-Miranda et al, 2009).



RELATED LINKS:

- [Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries \(LDWF\)](#)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

Once an overcapitalized fishery, shrimp fishing effort in the US Gulf of Mexico has considerably declined since the early 2000s. Current fishing mortality estimates are far below the overfishing limit; spawning biomass is at high levels and well above the limit that defines an overfished condition. Measures to reduce the bycatch of juvenile red snapper led to the mandated use of better performing bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) in federal waters. NOAA has implemented a fleet-wide turtle excluder device (TED) performance standards that requires an 88% TED effectiveness rate, which is monitored through tri-annual reviews of inspection records. The US shrimp fleet has improved TED compliance, meeting this performance standard during every 4-month monitoring period since mid-2014. In addition, Louisiana has repealed the law specifically banning state law enforcement officers from enforcing federal turtle excluder device regulations.

Louisiana has repealed the law that prohibited fishery managers from requiring BRDs in state waters. Skimmer trawls have much lower rates of bycatch than otter trawls.

Weaknesses

The current observer coverage in the fishery is not sufficient to adequately quantify and characterize bycatch across the entire fishery. Even with better performing bycatch reduction devices in place, there are 2.5 pounds discards for every 1 pound of harvested shrimp (a vast improvement from the baseline, but still high). There are limited data on the benthic impacts of shrimp trawling in the Gulf of Mexico (though most of the trawling does take place over resilient muddy and sandy bottoms).

Despite the mandatory use of BRDs in Federal waters, BRDs are not required in Louisiana state waters. While this is a lower bycatch ratio than most shrimp fisheries, it could be reduced further through the use of bycatch reduction devices (BRDs). Little onboard monitoring occurs and more data on bycatch rates and composition is needed. In skimmer trawls, two-thirds of a pound of bycatch is caught for every one pound of shrimp. There is substantial non-compliance with tow time limits designed to protect endangered sea turtles.

SCORES

Management Quality:

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
≥ 8	≥ 8	< 6 to ≥ 8

Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
≥ 8	≥ 8

FIPS

- US Louisiana shrimp - otter/skimmer trawl:

Stage 5 , Progress Rating A , Type: Fip , Evaluation Start Date: 1 Feb 2013

MSC

No related MSC fisheries

RECOMMENDATIONS

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN

- Contact the NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center and ask them to perform an evaluation of the Gulf of Mexico shrimp observer program to determine statistically robust coverage levels to understand bycatch quantities and patterns by species.
- Ask skimmer, butterfly and pusher head trawl vessel captains to display "Tow the Time" decals (available from the Audubon Nature Institute's G.U.L.F. program) on their vessel and demonstrate compliance with tow time limits.
- Seek to have BRD usage made mandatory in state waters, or provide evidence that BRDs are not needed.