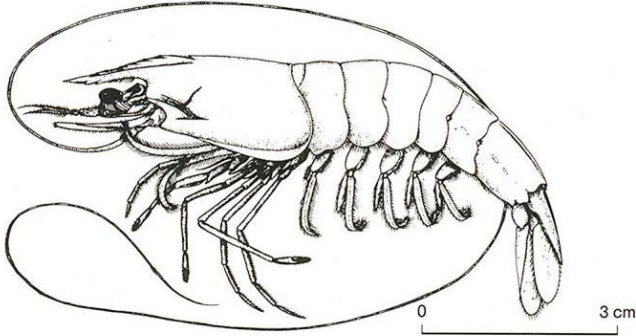




White shrimp

Penaeus setiferus
Camaron blanco norteño



Description

Range: The white shrimp, a decapod crustacean of the family Penaeidae, is found along the western north Atlantic from New York to St. Lucie Inlet, Florida, and in the Gulf from Apalachee Bay, Florida to northeast Campeche Bay, Mexico.

Habitat: This benthic invertebrate inhabits coastal waters from the shore to 40 meters and is most abundant in depths less than 30 meters. The largest concentrations are found in inland brackish-water areas with mud or clay bottoms that are connected by passes to shallow offshore areas of high salinity. Juveniles occupy estuaries and prefer mud or peat bottoms with abundant vegetation and organic material.

Feeding and Behavior: This omnivorous species feeds on detritus and algae, benthic polychaetes, molluscs, crustaceans and other invertebrates, and zooplankton. Feeding usually occurs during the day; however, successful catches made at night indicate that feeding also occurs at night. This invertebrate is a food source of many species.

Reproduction: Spawning occurs throughout the range in offshore waters deeper than 8 meters. The spawning season extends from March to October, with June and July reported as peak months. Juveniles remain year-round in estuarine nurseries. As they mature, they gradually move into deeper waters.

Movement: White shrimp display seasonal inshore-offshore movements, a movement from estuaries to deeper waters as they mature, and a southerly movement along the Texas-Mexico coast in the fall.

Fisheries: Commercial fishing is active in the northern Gulf of Mexico during the spring, summer and fall seasons, and off the northeast Florida coast during fall and winter months. Shrimp are marketed frozen, fresh, or canned. Juveniles are used as bait.

References: Christmas, J.Y., and D.J. Etzold, 1977b; Darnell, P.M., R.E. Defenbaugh, and D. Moore, 1983; Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 1980d; Lindner, M.J., and H.L. Cook, 1970; Perez Farfante, I., 1969.

- Adult Area (Year-round)
- Major Adult Area (Year-round)
- Major Adult Concentration (Year-round)
- Spawning Area (March to October)
- Nursery Area (Year-round)
- Commercial Fishing Ground (Fall, Winter)
- Commercial Fishing Ground (Spring, Summer, Fall)

In western and southern Gulf, spawning occurs throughout adult areas from March to October.

References

Darnell, R.M., R.E. Defenbaugh, and D. Moore, 1983; Guthertz, E.J., pers. comm.; Hildebrand, H.H., pers. comm.; Osborn, K.W., et al., 1969; US DOC, NOAA, 1980.

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