

favorable. On the other hand, the direct tie of a very high proportion of the operating costs to the price levels, and to the volume of landings as well, makes it difficult to attain a level of landings that will produce a profit. It is to be noted also that even during the period of favorable prices the profits were modest as a result of the high overhead expenses.

An examination of the individual items of overhead expense indicates that these were quite variable depending upon the insurance coverage, method of writing off depreciation, the interest cost on mortgage indebtedness, and the expenditures for repairs during the accounting period. If an accurate evaluation is to be made of the operating costs of shrimp vessels, cost data should be obtained on individual vessels over a number of years in order to develop information on cost experience. The cost structures of the group of vessels showing a higher proportion of receipts going to operating expenses are to a considerable extent a result of the crew share arrangements existing in the Central Gulf area. These higher returns to the crew in this region are not necessarily a reflection of higher wage rates because it was found that there was a high incidence of vessels that were operated by owner-captains or of vessels that are operated as family operations.

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## **The Mechanical Performance of Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Trawls**

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### **Abstract**

THIS THIRTY MINUTE FILM described the three basic Gulf of Mexico shrimp trawl designs: the flat, the four seam, semi-balloon, and the two seam balloon trawls. The configuration and dimensions of these trawls under various physical conditions was shown. The effect of variables such as flotation, towing speed, door size, and footrope weight was depicted. Also the performance of accessory equipment such as tickler chains and mud rollers was shown.

This 16mm color film may be obtained on loan from the Pascagoula Fishery Laboratory, P.O. Box 630, Pascagoula, Mississippi.