

State-Federal Approach to Management of Penaeid Shrimp on Regional Basis

EDWIN B. JOSEPH

*South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department
Charleston, S.C.*

Abstract

Most fishery scientists and managers generally will concede that their efforts to manage mobile estuarine and marine fishery stocks are far from adequate. Traditionally, we have maintained that our lack of success was due to lack of knowledge of the biology of the species. More recently we have had to face the facts that social, economic, and institutional arrangements may be greater deterrents than our lack of biological knowledge. One of the most serious problems of the state fishery administrator is the jurisdictional limit of his responsibility which almost never coincides with the geographic limits of the stocks.

The South Atlantic Technical Committee for Shrimp Management was established in 1973, to examine the feasibility of jointly managing the shrimp fisheries of North and South Carolina, Georgia, and the east coast of Florida within the concept of a state-federal partnership.

Today, the first phase of a two-part study or management planning profile of the shrimp industry is introduced. This document provides a baseline upon which regional plans are currently being developed. It attempts to review most pertinent aspects of the resource and the industry. Against this background, the report seeks to identify the most important problems facing the resource, the industry and the resource manager and to focus on those that could be helped by a regional management approach.