

exploitation by reason of processing, not necessarily by breadding. A few attempts have been made successfully on a local retail basis of smoking mullet, spanish mackerel and shrimp. There is room for putting up a smoked fillet of mullet and spanish mackerel for a selected trade over the country but for the present the shortage of cellophane and other packaging materials prevents that opportunity. In time this can run up into a fair volume, since the fish can be processed from a frozen state in the round. It could be a tremendous stabilizing factor market-wise on our two most important seafood catches. It would be interesting to see how much of the salmon trade Florida mullet could be a substitute for after proper exploitation.

Summarizing the outlook as a whole, we have not touched the barest possibilities open to us in Florida by reason of processing our marine resources. A reasonable approach, taking into consideration the limitations outlined here, can be made on a profitable basis by anyone who has the basic equipment required, access to some capital and a willingness to experiment over a period of time.

The Outlook For Shrimp Production

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Abstract

IT IS REPORTED from the various sources in the shrimp producing areas that there is over fifteen million pounds of frozen shrimp in the freezers now—more than there was last year at this same time. It appears that the catches of shrimp have been considerably heavier all along the various production points. The results is that the prices in the past two months have taken a sharp decline anywhere from 10 to 15c a pound on all the different varieties of shrimp caught, such as the pink, the brown and the white varieties.

It appears that a lot of these shrimp buyers, who have formerly bought freely are somewhat holding back on account of this inventory. At the present prevailing market prices on the various shrimp, the prices are lower now than they have been in the past four years. This condition will probably exist at least until the Florida shrimp season closes, which is sometime during the end of February.

It is also probable that by that time the market should get better and the price will improve considerably.

It is known that there is a much greater shrimp fleet working the various shrimp grounds throughout the Gulf as well as the South Atlantic including Dry Tortugas which may possibly maintain a steady flow during the closed season. Last season it was estimated that the Tortugas area alone produced seven million pounds of shrimp during the closed season. With this production in view, it is possible we will not have any skyrocketing prices in shrimp for sometime to come.

However, if the general food commodities like meats, poultry, lamb and other varieties of similar type will increase, it is possible that the shrimp will follow.

As long as it is possible to maintain moderate prices on shrimp to be sold to the various consumers, a high demand for shrimp will prevail.

Today shrimp is considered one of the most outstanding commodities in the seafood industry.