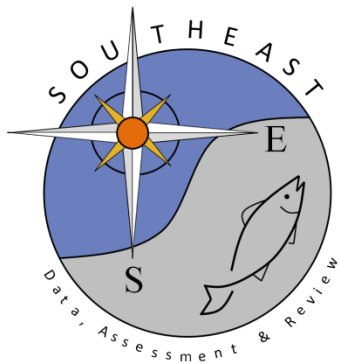


# South Carolina Commercial Shrimp Fishery Preliminary Data Summary: Commercial Trawl Ticket Program

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SEDAR-PW6-WP08

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South Carolina Commercial Shrimp Fishery  
Preliminary Data Summary  
Commercial Trawl Ticket Program

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Initial efforts to collect commercial landings data began in South Carolina in 1957 and were based on the monthly reporting system established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Wholesale seafood dealers would supply landings data in monthly totals by species to the agency. Beginning in 1975, more specific commercial shrimp data collections began. High volume shrimp dealers (typically handling more than 1,000 pounds per month) were selected to report trip-level data, and were supplied with trip-tickets to complete at/after each offload. Working in conjunction with commercial fishermen, dealers collected and provided information on the vessel (name and registration number), offload date, area fished, fishing effort in whole days, pounds of shrimp landed by grade, wholesale price, and any by-catch species landed. In September of 2003, SCDNR began trip-level data collections across all fisheries following the established protocols set forth by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP). Individual trip-ticket logbooks for specific fisheries were developed which collect detailed information on both catch and effort data on single commercial trip (See Figure 1 for an example of the trawl ticket). Data from 1980 to 2003 is available electronically in a monthly summary format and data from 2004 to the present is available electronically in a trip level format (see Figure 2 for a brief overview of the catch and effort).

Since 1975, port agents were assigned to each area of the state (south, central, and north) to serve as liaisons between the agency and the shrimping industry. Port agents serve as an integral part of the data collection system. Dock-side visitation allowed conversation with vessel captains to gain information normally not included on the trip-tickets, such water condition, quality of shrimp, and most importantly, shrimp composition by species. Species composition of the catch was determined by the port agents for as many grades and vessel trips as possible through a standard protocol (See figure 3 for an overview of the species composition). During this protocol, the port agent interviews the fisherman/dealer to collect the county landed, fisherman name, vessel information, offload data, area fished, distance from shore, head on/off, and packed grade. A three-pound sample is then collected, the shrimp are counted, and then separated by species (white, brown and pink) and recounted.



Figure 2. Annual commercial shrimp harvest and effort in South Carolina.

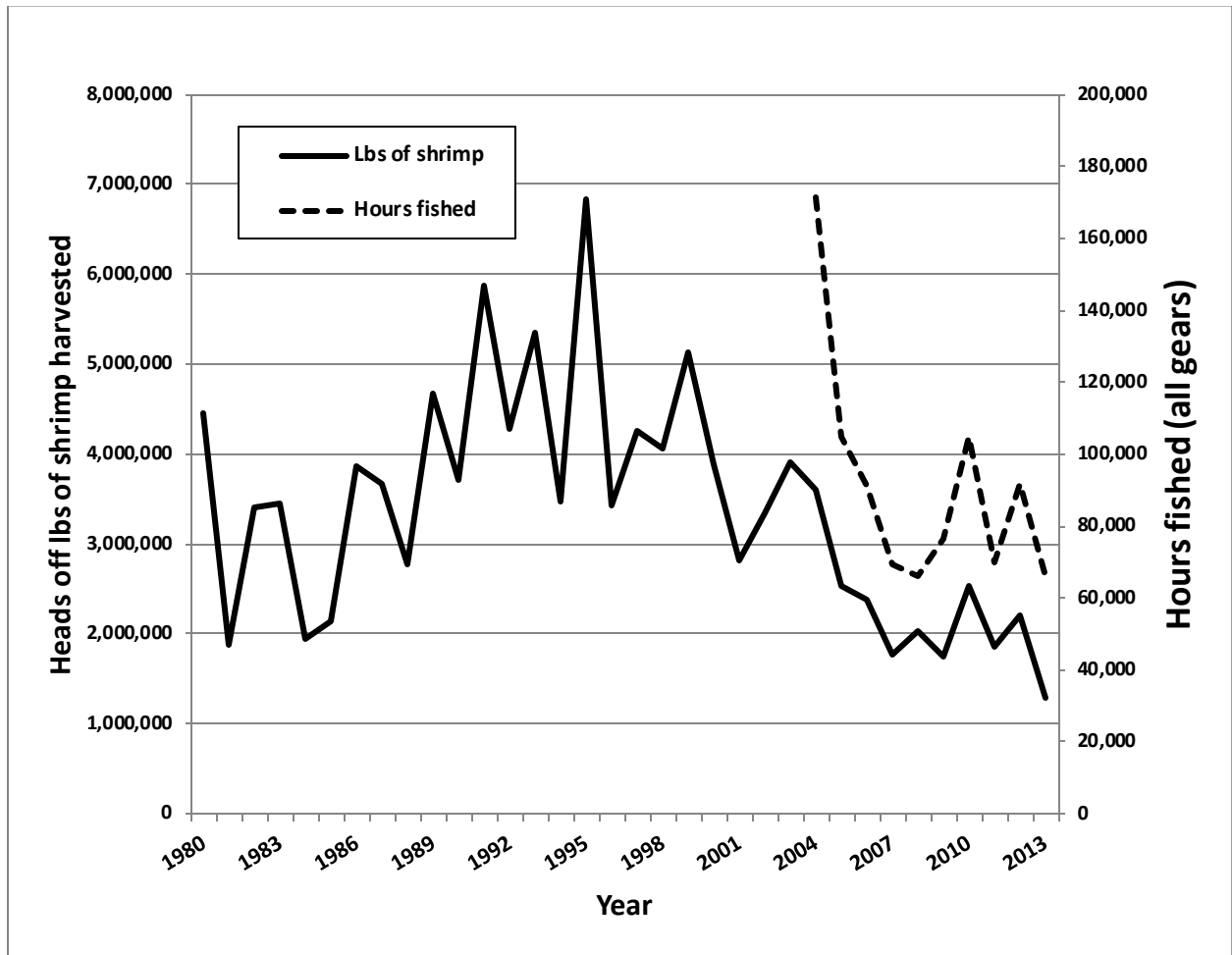


Figure 3. Species composition of the commercial shrimp harvest in South Carolina. Only brown (*Farfantepenaeus aztecus*) and white (*Litopenaeus setiferus*) shrimp were included do to the low percentages of other species. A majority of the catch is not reported on a species level so species composition is estimated using results from port sampling.

