

Commercial Fisheries – Sidestripe Shrimp

description

The Pacific coast shrimp fishery developed in earnest in British Columbia in the 1960s with the use of trawl bottom gear. Prior to the 1990s, the fishery was open year round and few management and assessment programs were in place. In the mid 1990s a rapid increase in effort and landings in the shrimp trawl fishery was the result of a number of coinciding factors: changes in the management of groundfish fisheries, poor salmon returns and retirement of salmon licences, a peak abundance of offshore shrimp, and high shrimp prices. In addition, shrimp landings increased significantly in 1996 as fishermen expanded their fishing areas to include previously unexploited areas, including the offshore areas of the central coast. Significant changes in management strategies were implemented in 1997 with the establishment of a total allowable catch (TAC) for most areas, the development of industry-funded programs to monitor catches and a stock assessment program.

Sidestripe (or giant) shrimp (*Pandalopsis dispar*) are the second largest shrimp species, with females reaching 20 centimetres in length. The distinguishing characteristics of this species are the long antennules and striped abdomen. The sidestripe shrimp is generally found on muddy bottoms, at depths of 90 to 201 metres. Sidestripe shrimp are protandrous hermaphrodites and sex change occurs in the third year, with relatively few females appearing to survive into the fourth year. Please see the atlas page “Commercial Fisheries – Shrimp/Trawl” for additional information about species of shrimp, harvesting methods, and management and assessment in the shrimp fishery.

The total estimated catch (pounds) for the sidestripe shrimp fishery was assembled by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) into 10 kilometre x 10 kilometre grid cells directly from the Shellfish Stock Assessment harvest log database located at the Pacific Biological Station (PBS) and provided as individual datasets by year for the 1997-2004 fishing seasons. All fishing locations were derived from coordinates provided by fishermen. The percentage of data with latitude and longitude coordinates varied by year and ranged between 87.1% to 98.0% from 1997 to 2004. BC Marine Conservation Analysis (BCMCA) merged the eight datasets together and summed values across years to produce aggregate catch values. Information provided by DFO was modified to meet confidentiality requirements.

The data are displayed using equal interval categories, meaning that the data are divided into 5 equally spaced classes where each class may contain a different number of grid cells. The percent of grid cells that fall in a given category is shown in the legend.

Permanent, year-round closures for the sidestripe shrimp fishery were compiled based on the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) for Shrimp Trawl dated April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009 and 2008 Fisheries Notices (up to Oct. 2, 2008). Areas identified as closures may also include areas not licensed for this fishery. (Please read caveats of use for more information on closures.)

data sources

- Fishery data: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Shellfish Stock Assessment Harvest Log Database, Pacific Biological Station
- Year-round commercial fishing closures: Living Oceans Society (see Robb *et al.*, 2010)

data resolution

- 10 kilometre by 10 kilometre grid cells

date compiled

- Fishery data: 1997-2004
- Year-round commercial fishing closures: 2008

reviewers

- Commercial fishing industry representatives (who may or may not be experts for this specific fishery), assembled with the support of the commercial fisheries representatives on the BC Marine Conservation Analysis Human Use Data Working Group.
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada data providers.

reviewer comments

- Generally reviewers wanted to see catch for longer time periods and closures that matched the time periods shown for the fishery.

caveats of use

- In the case of discrepancies, catch information from DFO takes precedence over commercial fisheries information portrayed by BCMCA.
- This map should be interpreted as showing only where fishing has taken place; it does not represent economic valuations or biological trends. Neither should it be inferred that species are more abundant where fished and less abundant in areas closed to commercial harvest.
- Data displayed should not be assumed to match current or future conditions due to ongoing changes in the environment and management.
- Data on this fishery have been screened to meet confidentiality requirements. The count of commercial fishing vessels for each spatial unit the data are provided in must be greater than 2 for information to be made public. This screen was set for each year before data were binned across years. The percentage of data held by DFO that met confidentiality requirements varied by year and ranged between 93.7% to 96.5% from 1997 to 2004.
- The effort expended to capture targeted species differs among fisheries. Therefore it is difficult to compare weight caught for a low volume fishery versus a high volume fishery.
- Closures illustrated are permanent, year-round closures. Seasonal, temporary and voluntary closures were not included, all of which may impact catch. Areas identified as closures may also include areas not licensed for this fishery.
- Due to a lack of available spatial data regarding fisheries closures, the time period for closures does not match the time period for catch illustrated on the map. Many of the closures were implemented after the period for which catch is shown. As a result, the map may show harvesting in the closed areas, while in reality they did not overlap in time. Because the closure data are compiled in irregular polygons, closures may overlap the square grid cells delineating areas of commercial harvesting. Harvesting does not occur consistently throughout each grid cell and may not have occurred within the closure.
- Recommended date of expiry for use of these data in a marine planning context: None provided.

map, feature data and metadata access

- Visit wwwbcmca.ca/data for more information.

references

- BC Marine Conservation Analysis. *Workshop Report on Commercial Fisheries Data Review*. March 2010. wwwbcmca.ca/document-library
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada. *Annual Integrated Fisheries Management Plans*. wwwops2pacdfo-mpo.gc.ca/xnet/content/MPLANS/MPlans.htm?&lang=en
- Robb C.K., K.M. Bodker, K. Wright and J. Lash. “Commercial fisheries closures in marine protected areas on Canada’s Pacific coast: The exception, not the rule.” *Marine Policy* (2010), doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2010.10.010

