

WECAF REPORTS No. 35

western central atlantic fishery commission

INTERREGIONAL FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME  
(WECAF Component)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE OFFSHORE SHRIMP FISHERY OF NORTHEASTERN SOUTH AMERICA



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



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Bibliography on the Offshore Shrimp Fishery of Northeastern South America

by

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The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

INTERREGIONAL FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The Interregional Fisheries Development and Management Programme began its activities on 1 January 1980. It has three components (Headquarters, CEECAF and WECAF) and the WECAF component is the successor of the Interregional Project for the Development of Fisheries in the Western Central Atlantic (WECAF) which was initiated in March 1975 and terminated its second phase on 31 December 1979. Its objectives are to assist developing coastal countries in assessing development opportunities offered by their available fishery resources and to formulate appropriate actions, to promote the rational utilization of fishery resources, to promote the development of technical and economic cooperation among countries of the region and to assist in the upgrading of their human resources. Its activities are coordinated by the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAF) established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 1973. The Project is supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and FAO as the Executing Agency.

As with the previous project, two series of documents will be prepared to provide information on activities and/or studies carried out. This document is the thirty fifth of the series WECAF Reports. The other series of documents is entitled WECAF Studies.

D.A. Lintern  
Acting Project Director

## Introduction

In this report, we list references of the offshore shrimp fishery off Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, part of Venezuela, and northern Brazil. Commonly known as the Guianas-Brazil shrimp fishery, the fishing grounds extend from eastern Venezuela to a few degrees south of the mouth of the Amazon River (Figure 1). Large aggregations of shrimp were first observed in this area during fishery surveys in the forties and fifties (Whiteleather and Brown, 1944; Commercial Fisheries Review, 1953, 1954; Bullis and Thompson, 1959). The commercial exploitation of the offshore shrimp resource began in the late fifties and sixties by fleets of the U.S.A., Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados. Japanese, Korean, Venezuelan and Cuban fleets joined the fishery in the sixties and seventies. The commercial catch is made up of four shrimp species: brown, Penaeus subtilis; pink-spotted or hopper, P. brasiliensis; pink, P. notialis; and white, P. schmitti. Most of the catch is exported to the U.S.A., Japan and Korea, but some goes to Europe or to local markets.

This fishery represents a tremendous economic asset to participating countries, when one considers the annual shrimp catch, the investments in the shrimp flotilla, processing plants, and associated industries. The total annual shrimp harvest alone in recent years has been valued at about US\$ 100 million (ex-vessel value). Because of the growing economic importance and increased interest in the Guianas-Brazil shrimp fishery, we assembled these references for use by the fishing industry, fishery scientists and research organizations and other interested parties.

Most references are from published fishery and scientific literature, however some unpublished reports are included. Abbreviations for journals are as found in "Biosis 1973 List of Serials"<sup>1/</sup> when possible. Many references with information on ecology, climate, hydrology, geological oceanography, and fauna other than shrimp were included in our list. These references will be of value to scientists and other interested parties concerned with the ecology of the shrimp fishery grounds of northeastern South America.

Until the late fifties, the Guianas-Brazil shrimp fishery consisted of inshore artisanal fisheries for sea bob, Xiphopenaeus kroyeri, and white-belly, Palaemon schmitti, shrimps. Thus some of the references listed here deal with these small shrimp which are primarily found in the shallow coastal waters and in the brackish waters of estuaries. General references on the biology and taxonomy of penaeid shrimp are not included but can be found in Chin and Allen (1959) and Allen and Costello (1969).

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<sup>1/</sup> Biosciences Information Services of Biological Abstracts, 2100 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 10103

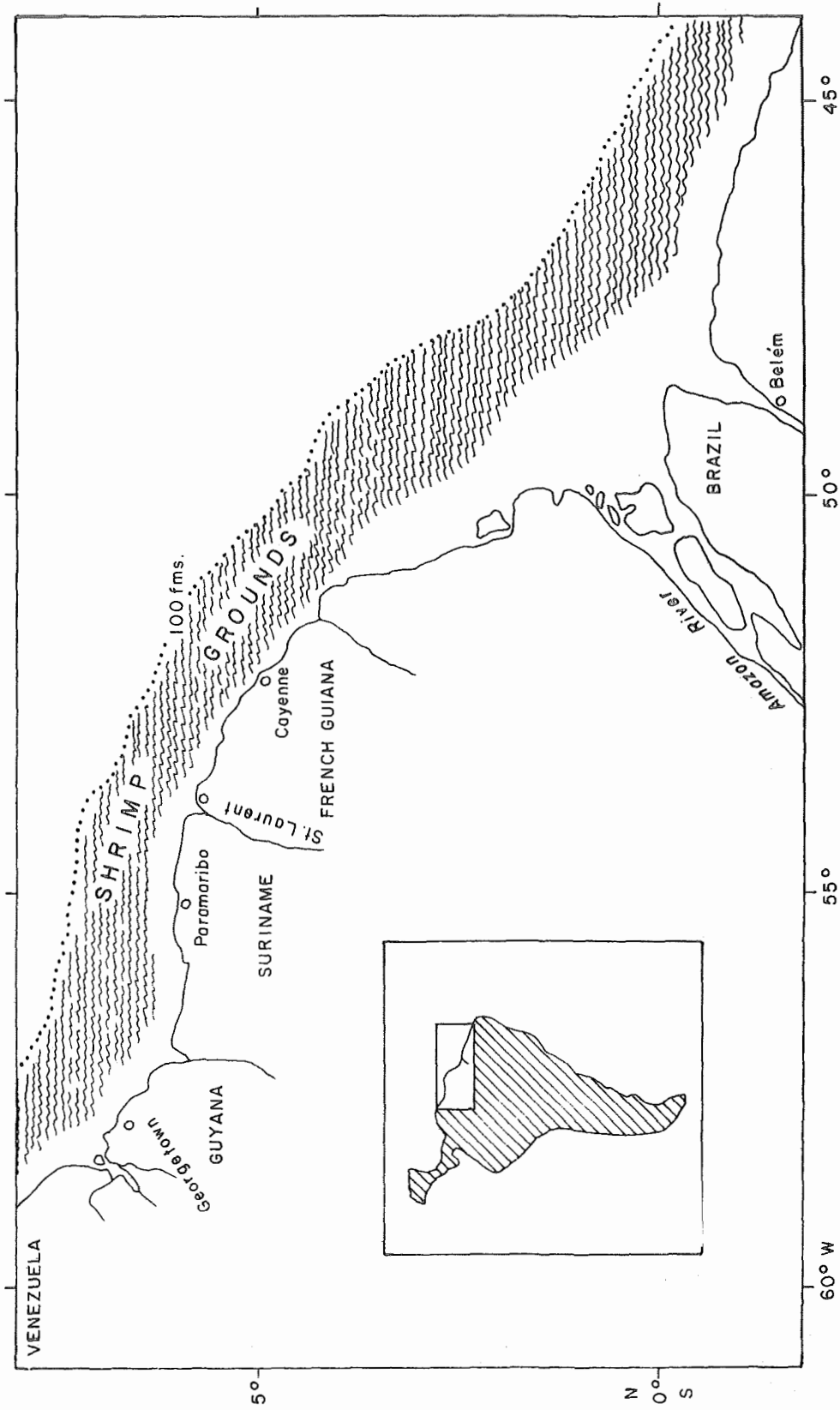


Figure 1.- Offshore shrimp fishery grounds of northeastern South America

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