



## A Graph is Worth a Thousand Words: Shrimp: An Important Fishery

Shrimp are an extremely important fishery in Louisiana. More shrimp are caught in Louisiana's estuaries than anywhere else in the country. Most of this shrimp harvest comes from the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary. In Louisiana, two species of shrimp, the brown and the white, are commercially harvested.



Harvest data for all fisheries are reported as **landings** by weight and by value. This is strictly how much a fisherman has caught. Below is a table of landing data for brown and white shrimp from 1981 to 2001 in Louisiana. At the bottom of the table the total landings for the period for the whole United States is given.

Shrimp Landings in Louisiana			
Year	White Shrimp (pounds)	Brown Shrimp (pounds)	Total
1981	48,546,99	57,392,972	57,441,519
1982	36,101,722	50,718,109	86,819,831
1983	3,300,783	39,925,384	43,226,167
1984	45,874,767	54,337,801	100,212,568
1985	53,829,621	55,948,367	109,777,988
1986	71,540,547	62,760,689	134,301,236
1987	53,011,888	58,296,288	111,308,176
1988	45,624,881	52,467,622	98,092,503
1989	40,181,325	55,181,298	95,362,623
1990	44,692,880	71,622,853	116,315,733
1991	46,346,466	43,942,110	90,288,576
1992	46,827,690	40,251,413	87,079,103
1993	37,444,989	40,603,130	78,048,119
1994	46,755,726	35,562,377	82,318,103
1995	50,752,795	45,023,758	95,776,553
1996	29,368,900	51,420,060	80,788,960
1997	36,249,347	43,137,080	79,386,427
1998	52,922,374	50,140,696	103,063,070
1999	55,236,737	58,506,585	113,743,322
2000	75,864,291	62,115,420	137,979,711
2001	53,648,584	63,302,987	116,951,571
<b>LA Total</b>	<b>1,003,823,307</b>	<b>1,226,551,321</b>	<b>2,230,374,628</b>
<b>US Total 1981-2001</b>	<b>1,998,506,713</b>	<b>2,957,830,765</b>	<b>4,956,337,478</b>

Data from National Marine Fisheries Service website.

- Graph the Louisiana landings for each shrimp species.
- Based on your graphs, what can you say about the shrimp fisheries in the state? Is there a pattern in the catch? When were the higher catches? The lowest?
- Which species is the most important fishery?
- How did you make this determination?
- Determine what percentage of the United State's harvest is from Louisiana by using the LA Total Shrimp Harvest and the US Total Shrimp Harvest from 1981-2001 at the bottom of the chart.
- If 50% of Louisiana's shrimp harvest comes from Barataria-Terrebonne estuaries, how much total shrimp (in pounds) has been harvested from the estuary over the 20-year period?
- If shrimp average \$4.00 per pound in the grocery store, how much is the total catch worth? Does the shrimp harvest represent an important part of the Barataria-Terrebonne economy?