

million dollars to the fishermen. This fishery was developed during the years when the inshore fleet was beginning to feel the effects of the dwindling whitening resource.

For several years in the middle 1960's, some boats used propane gas cookers to cook the shrimp at sea. After a few years, this practice was abandoned. Boats that were landing the raw product were making more than the boats cooking. It was not profitable to buy

cookers, tanks of propane gas, lose about 20 percent in weight from cooking, buy salt, and put on an extra man to cook the shrimp.

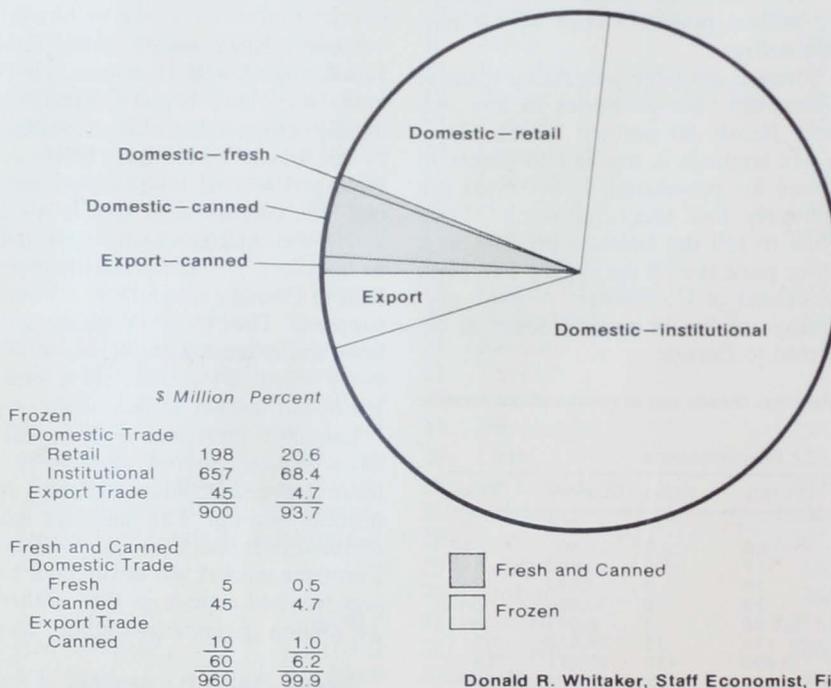
The two major ports for landings are Portland and Boothbay Harbor. The first peeling machine was installed at the Marine Biological Supply Corp. in East Harpswell and the second machine at the Central Wharf Fish Plant in Portland. These companies exported some of their finished product to England

as prawn. The foreign market was developed with the assistance of the Market Research and Services Division, NMFS. These plants were also the first to establish an IQF line for freezing shrimp. Automatic peelers were necessary because of the small size of the shrimp and a shortage of help.

The grounds principally fished are located between Jeffreys Ledge off of New Hampshire to Mt. Desert Island off of Bar Harbor, Maine.

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The Shrimp Dollar, 1972



The U.S. shrimp industry is fast approaching the billion dollar mark in sales. The dollar value of final sales in 1972 is estimated at \$960 million. Frozen shrimp dominates sales. Most frozen shrimp goes to the institutional market (restaurants and other food service outlets). As the frozen shrimp market has expanded, fresh shrimp sales have accounted for a smaller share of the total market. Most canned shrimp is sold at retail, and sales have increased in recent years because of rising production in Alaska. The export trade in shrimp is significant and accounts for 45 to 50 percent of the total value of edible seafood exports exported by the United States.

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