

Brown Shrimp: *Farfantepenaeus aztecus*

White Shrimp: *Litopenaeus setiferus*

Two species of saltwater shrimp are harvested in waters off the coast of Louisiana. The Brown Shrimp are abundant in the spring and early summer and the White Shrimp are predominant towards the end of summer until late December. Brown Shrimp are usually harvested at a smaller size than White Shrimp with Brown Shrimp having an average count of 70-80 shrimp per pound as opposed to 30-40 White Shrimp per pound.

Both species of shrimp reproduce in the offshore waters of the Gulf of Mexico. When the fertilized shrimp eggs hatch, the larvae, known as nauplius, grow into the second larval stage, called protozoa, and begin to develop a more shrimp-like appearance. In the third larval stage, called mysis, the larvae now look even more like tiny shrimp and are carried by current into the near shore waters. Next, the postlarvae are pushed into the inland coastal wetlands, an important nursery for these juvenile shrimp to feed as they grow toward adulthood. Young shrimp spend several months feeding and growing in the wetlands before they begin their journey back to the Gulf of Mexico to spawn.



Brown Shrimp



White Shrimp