

# coldwater prawns (shrimp)

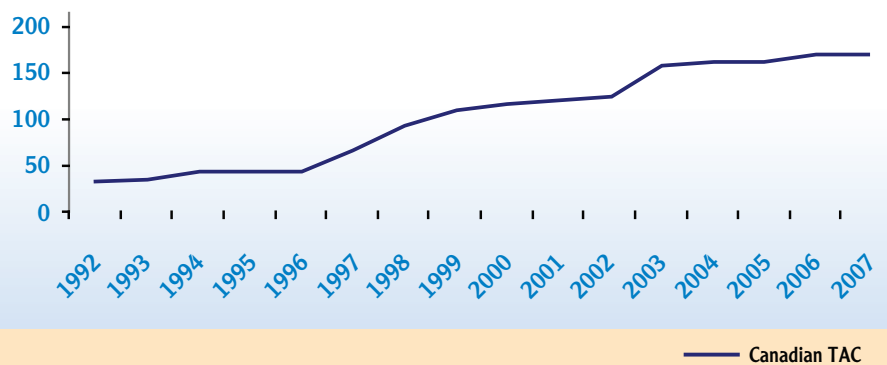


1000 metric tonnes

**Species Name:** *Pandalus borealis*

**Certification(s):** Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certification

**Harvest Area / Season:** The fishery takes place off the coast of Eastern Canada in FAO Area 21 (North West Atlantic) in 7 Shrimp Fishing Areas (SFAs) from the Grand Banks north to Davis Strait. The offshore fishery operates year-round.



**Quota System:** The northern shrimp fishery is managed by means of a total allowable catch (TAC) set for individual Shrimp Fishing Areas. The quota is allocated between the offshore fleet that operates under an ITQ (Individual Transferable Quota) system and the inshore, small boat fleet which operates under a fleet quota and has implemented trip limits.

The biomass of the northern shrimp resource has grown dramatically and quotas have increased steadily since the mid-1990s. The total quota available to be fished sustainably in Canada is currently 164,000 t and is likely to increase again in 2008.

**Biomass Assessment:** The status of this resource in each SFA is determined through a combination of biomass surveys and monitoring of fishery specific indices, such as distribution of fishing effort, and size/age/sex composition of shrimp catches.



This product comes from a fishery which has been certified to the Marine Stewardship Council's environmental standard for a well-managed and sustainable fishery. MML-C-1106  
[www.msc.org](http://www.msc.org)

Current high levels of shrimp abundance are unprecedented in the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore region. Scientists believe that there has been a decrease in predation mortality as well as a higher survivability of shrimp larvae due to a cold period documented in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The abundance, as well as the geographic range, of the species continues to increase.

**Participation in Research:** To help ensure that the level of scientific understanding is improved, Clearwater has contributed funds through the Northern Shrimp Research Foundation (NSRF) to support a multi-year research program. This research program is combining industry funding with DFO (Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans) scientific expertise to supplement the existing DFO surveys with more extensive surveys in the North.

**Conservation / Management Measures:** Significant effort has been taken by industry to protect cold water corals. In May of 2007 a partnership group made up of the Canadian Association of Prawn Producers (CAPP, representing the offshore fleet), the Groundfish Enterprise Allocation Council (GEAC) and the Northern Coalition (NC) announced the establishment of a 12,500 square kilometer Coral Protection Zone in the northern Labrador Sea. This closure, the largest of its kind in Canada and among the largest in the world, is part of an ongoing effort amongst industry leaders to protect sensitive habitat structures that support ocean ecosystems, and consequently, fish stocks.

In addition to this initiative, captains continue to report and share information on any other areas where high concentrations of coldwater corals are encountered. Results from these data are used in research surveys and supplemented with data collected by at-sea observers. Fishing vessels also comply strictly to additional DFO implemented coral closure areas.

**Catch Monitoring:** The offshore industry funds 100% observer coverage to monitor activity and conduct scientific sampling of catches. All offshore vessels must report their position and catch on a daily basis to their company; the company must then forward the report to DFO.

**Practices to Minimize Bycatch:** The distribution of northern shrimp overlaps with groundfish species and the industry voluntarily implemented a Nordmore grate in 1993 in order to mitigate groundfish bycatch. The Nordmore grate was so successful at limiting groundfish it is now a mandatory measure for all SFAs. A Nordmore grate allows shrimp to pass through into the net, but groundfish with swim bladders are directed upwards over the grate and are able to escape through a flap in the top panel of the fishing net. In addition, gear is rigged with bobbins (or rubber disks) and toggle chains that allow the net to 'fly' clear of the bottom, thus allowing flatfish that are disturbed by the gear to pass below the net entrance.

**Fishing Method:** Shrimp fishing takes place on muddy bottoms with an otter trawl fitted with a Nordmore grate.

**Traceability:** Clearwater uses a state of the art vessel to harvest, process and package Frozen at Sea cold water shrimp. Information on catch and processing are recorded on the Atlantic Enterprise as well as at Clearwater Fleet office in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. Shrimp can be traced to day and area of catch.

Clearwater purchases shrimp from both the inshore fleet, and raw industrial shrimp from offshore vessels for Cooked and Peeled production at our St. Anthony Seafoods plant. All product is traceable back to the individual vessel, landing date, catch per day and area of catch.

*Additional information regarding the measures taken to ensure sustainability of this fishery can be found at the MSC website (<http://www.msc.org/>), in the Certified Fisheries section, under Canadian Northern Prawn Trawl Fishery.*



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