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Shrimp farming, the production of marine shrimp in impoundments, ponds, raceways and tanks, got rolling in the early 1970s, and, today, over fifty countries export farmed shrimp. In Ecuador and Brazil, the leading producers in the Western Hemisphere, export revenues surpass \$200 million a year. In Thailand, the leader in the Eastern Hemisphere, they have passed the billion dollar mark, and probably would have hit the two billion dollar mark this year—if prices had not tanked. India, Indonesia, China, Malaysia, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, The Philippines, Vietnam, Australia and Myanmar (Burma) have shrimp farms, and there are shrimp farms throughout Central and South America. Honduras, Panama, Belize and Mexico have big industries, while smaller industries exist in Colombia, Guatemala, Venezuela, Nicaragua and Peru.

The shrimp importing nations—the United States, Western Europe and Japan—specialize in high-tech "intensive" (more below) shrimp farming, but, thus far, their production has been insignificant. Many countries in the Middle East have shrimp farms, with Iran apparently the leading producer in the region.

Shrimp farms use a one-phase or two-phase production cycle. with the two-phase cycle, they stock juvenile shrimp in nursery ponds and then, several weeks later, transfer them to growout ponds. with the one-phase cycle, the nursery ponds are eliminated, and the shrimp are stocked directly into growout ponds, after having spent a short period in an acclimation tank (more below). Farms usually produce two crops a year, although farms within 10 degrees of the equator sometimes get 3 crops a year.