

promoting the aquaculture industry of the state. As in the United States generally, aquaculture is the fastest growing Agri-business in South Carolina. Currently, aquaculture is a \$4.5 million dollar industry and expected to create 2100 new jobs and generate \$40 million dollars in revenue by 1995. In South Carolina catfish farming is by far the largest aquacultural enterprise. Annual production from 1000 acres of ponds yields over 1 million pounds of product and approximately \$7 million dollars in revenue.

Crawfish farming follows catfish with annual production of this species reaching 475,000 pounds. Farmed crawfish are sold live; directly to restaurants, fish markets, festivals and shipped outstate; very little is exported.

New aquacultural industries to the state include 1) Pacific white shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*) raised on 12 farms ranging in size from 3-140 acres and yielding 2,500-10,000 pounds per acre and 2) Sunshine Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass, a cross between the male Striped Bass (saltwater) and the female White Bass (freshwater). The first commercial harvest of the Bass will take place this fall from 8 farms producing a total of 150,000 pounds of product.

South Carolina's wild fish catch has been declining rapidly. The state's participation at Sea Fare indicates the importance the