

Exports

Shrimp's have become one of the most promising export items. In 1988, 9,553 million baht worth of tiger prawns were exported and 1989's target is 13,500 million baht. Black tiger prawns are the predominant species produced.

Table 22

Exports of Black Tiger Prawns in Thailand 1981-1989

	Value (m. baht)	Quantity (tons)
1981	2,136	18,761
1982	2,764	22,647
1983	3,164	20,150
1984	2,799	19,428
1985	3,439	24,541
1986	4,391	28,717
1987	5,750	33,911
1988	9,553(e)	40,000(e)
1989	13,500(t)	100,000(t)

Source: Customs Department
(e) estimate for 1988
(t) target for 1989

Current Situation

By the first quarter of 1989, two events slowed down development in the prawn industry: prawn production outpaced demand, and Japan, the largest market for black tiger prawns, cut purchases. This stalled exports of thousands of black tiger prawns sending domestic prices from 220 baht a kilo to about 120 baht a kilo.

Constraints

1. Fish catch is decreasing because the natural rate of reproduction cannot keep pace with the rate of depletion.
2. The production of freshwater fishing sources is slow and are in limited number. Poor maintenance, deterioration and pollution are concerns.
3. Domestic shortage of prawn feed caused by high prawn production.