

Table 20

**ANNUAL CATCHES OF FRESH WATER FISHES: Quantity and Value
1984-1986**

Quantity: tons
Value: millions of baht

Species	1984		1985		1986	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Snake Head Fish	20,394	682	21,842	726	23,542	796
Catfish (Pla-duk)	14,864	439	17,973	553	18,851	426
Perch	9,159	119	9,635	212	7,896	157
Local Carp	20,108	386	16,048	302	21,750	386
Tilapia	21,441	312	15,367	272	23,287	279
Common Carp	4,632	129	3,578	98	4,044	103
Sepat Siam Catfish	18,846	229	23,056	290	23,022	347
(Pla-Swai)	11,320	243	18,194	236	15,796	155
Swamp eel	2,483	61	2,553	79	1,596	44
Other Food Fishes	26,938	448	24,112	406	35,482	532
Macrobracium	4,734	522	7,158	725	6,405	608
Shrimps	2,680	10	3,130	15	2,094	10
Other	4,220	208	4,807	216	3,998	156
Total	161,819	3,795	167,453	4,134	187,763	4,004

Source: Department of Fisheries

Prawn Farming Industry

Thailand's prawn farming industry is contributing to sharp growths in exports. In 1980, more than 3,500 farmers were engaged in prawn farming on more than 167,000 rai of land capable of producing 8,000 tons. The industry has expanded rapidly in the last few years, especially in 1988 when prices rose in response to higher demand. In 1989, black tiger prawn production is expected to jump sharply by 150% to 100,000 tons.

Prawn farming can be divided into three categories:

1. **Natural Method:** Farmers either draw sea water with fry into the fields or release the fry in the pens for one to two months to let them feed on natural food. This method yields about 40-70 kilos per rai per year.