

DOMESTIC FISHERY

Bahrain

The fishing industry in Bahrain was badly affected by the pollution from the Gulf War, and it is likely to be several years before it fully recovers. Prior to the Gulf War, the annual shrimp catch landed by the Bahrain fishing industry exceeded 6,000 metric tonnes. The Bahrain government has strongly encouraged the fishing industry's revival and has outlined plans for modernising the industry, providing training and developing deep-water fishing.

Kuwait

As one of the few industries native to Kuwait {together with pearling}, prior to the Gulf War fishing met approximately 60 percent of local demand for fish, with an annual catch estimated at about 4,000 metric tonnes. There had been rapid growth in the Kuwait shrimping industry prior to the war, but catches have since declined as a result of the oil-related pollution in coastal waters. Evidence from the coastal fishery in Saudi Arabia suggests that the Kuwaiti shrimp fishery has been permanently destroyed as a result of the Gulf War.

Oman

Fishing is a traditional industry of great importance along the whole of Oman's 1,700 kilometre coastline. In recent years, improved roads and freedom of travel in the peninsula have stimulated private enterprise to export increasing quantities of fish to the United Arab Emirates and beyond. These fishermen, and fish traders, have been aided by government financed ice factories and marine workshops and by financial assistance to purchase better boats, engines and equipment. In 1988, the Oman Fishing Company was created, with the dominant shareholder being the government. Fish landings in Oman totalled 117,765 metric tonnes in 1991, 103,536 tonnes caught by the traditional fleet, and 14,229 tonnes landed by the industrial fleet.

Qatar

Total fish production by the Qatar National Fishing Company rose by an average of 32 percent between 1987 and 1991, reaching over 8,000 metric tonnes {QR \$47,260,000} at the end of the period. The Qatar National Fishing Company opened a processing plant in 1985 which can handle seven tonnes of shrimp per day. However, it is unclear as yet how serious has been the damage done to shrimp and other fish stocks by the pollution arising from the Gulf War.

United Arab Emirates

Because of the length of its coastline and its long fishing tradition {centered chiefly on Ajman and Umm al-Qaiwain}, the United Arab Emirates has access to fairly extensive fisheries resources. The federal fisheries ministry has pledged not to fully exploit its fish resources, preferring to conserve fish stocks and protect the livelihoods of local fishermen. The annual fish catch in the United Arab Emirates has grown to 90,000 tonnes per year, some 20,000 tonnes per year in excess of domestic consumption.