



# COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW



A review of developments and news of the fishery industries  
prepared in the BRANCH OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

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Mailed free to members of the fishery and allied industries. Address correspondence and requests to the: Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C.

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COVER: Great Lakes gill net and gill-net tug used in setting the net. This is most common type of fishing by United States fishermen on the Great Lakes--more than 500 of these vessels operate on the Lakes. In 1952 United States fishermen operating gill-nets on the Great Lakes caught 40 percent of the total landings at Lake ports, or 33 million pounds of fish, valued at \$12 million ex-vessel. After the nets are set, the vessel returns at intervals of one to six days to lift the nets, depending on water temperatures and weather conditions. Generally, the catch is landed the same day the nets are lifted.

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CAST-NET FISHING IN FLORIDA

Cast nets (throw nets) are used by both commercial and amateur fishermen in Florida to catch shrimp, mullet, and many other types of inshore fish. Shrimping with a cast net is done at night, using gas lantern, chum (ground bait), and a small-meshed (1-1½") cast net. Positions are staked out along a sea wall and the chum (crushed oysters, barnacles, or fish) is scattered around the area. The positions are then fished in succession allowing a few minutes for the shrimp to collect around the chum. Mullet are taken by night or by day using a longer net with a larger mesh (2-3¼"). No special method is used to attract the fish, since they school naturally. The nets can be bought at most stores carrying fishing supplies, although the majority of cast netters make their own nets from either cotton or nylon thread, knitting increasingly larger rows of diamond shaped meshes from top to the bottom of the net.

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