

Crustacean trawl fisheries in NW Africa.

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Abstract: The deep-water rose shrimp, *Parapenaeus longirostris*, (Lucas, 1846) is a decapod crustacean belonging to the family Penaeidae (Figure 1.1). It is one of the three species included in this genus inhabiting the Atlantic Ocean (Perez-farfante and Keusley, 1997). The species shows a wide geographic distribution, from the eastern Atlantic in the north of Spain (Olaso, 1990) to the southern waters of Angola (Crosnier et al., 1968), as well as in the Mediterranean and its adjacent seas (Thyrranian, Adriatic, Aegean and the Sea of Marmara) (Karlovac, 1949; Maurin, 1960; Massuti, 1963, Audouin, 1965, Holthuis, 1980).

The development of this fishery in the Atlantic side (off the Gulf of Cadiz) began during the mid eighteenth century. Martínez de Mora (1977) cites the presence of 4 trawlers in 1743, the so called "BOUS", while Sañez Reguart (1791) cites the presence in the gulf of Cadiz in 1755 and locating its origin in the Mediterranean Spanish-French coasts.

In the beginning, this fishing activity was mainly centred in the coastal zone. The first references of shrimp catch by this fleet in the Gulf of Cadiz (Machado, 1847) correspond to the mid-nineteenth century. The expansion of the fleet during the end of nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth century led to the development of the fishery off the northern coasts of Morocco, as indicated by Sancha (1975). All the technological advances, from the propulsion viewpoint (sails, steam and explosion engines) to fishing gear development and to conservation methods (freezing), have shown their effects on the expansion of the fishery to the actual state (Morocco; Mauritania; Senegal; Bissau Gabon and Angola).

In this paper we present the evolution of Crustacean Trawls Fisheries in west central atlantic coast (Morocco; Mauritania; Senelas and Bissau)