Description

Range: The rock shrimp, a decapod crustacean of the family Sicyoniidae, is found along the northwest Atlantic coast from Virginia to Florida, and along the Gulf of Mexico to Cabo Catoche, Mexico.

Habitat: This benthic invertebrate is primarily found on hard sand/shell substrates and occasionally on mud, at depths ranging from a few meters to 80 meters. Largest concentrations are found between 25 and 65 meters. This species is not known to enter estuaries.

Feeding and Behavior: This omnivorous species feeds on detritus and algae, benthic polychaetes, molluscs, crustaceans and other invertebrates, and small fish. The species feeds at night. This species occasionally aggregates in dense schools.

Reproduction: Spawning grounds occur throughout the range. Peak season is October to February but spawning may occur year-round with females reproducing three or more times per season.

Movement: Movements of adult rock shrimp have not been recorded. Juveniles move into deeper waters as they mature.

Fisheries: Rock shrimp are present in the shrimp catches off northeast Florida where a small directed commercial fishery for this species exists. The harvest season extends from fall through spring. There is also an incidental fishery from Appalachian Bay to the Mississippi Delta and the Dry Tortugas Islands. Rock shrimp are marketed fresh or frozen.

References: