



Shrimp aquaculture in Honduras began in the early 1970s and continued in the 1980s in the hands of both national and international enterprises.  
Credit: Topfoto



# Coastal Areas

## Gulf of Fonseca, Honduras

Honduras is second only to Ecuador in the production and export of cultured shrimp from Latin America. Vast areas of the delta have been converted into farms for the cultivation of shrimp. The rapid growth of shrimp aquaculture in Honduras has caused both environmental and social problems. Shrimp farmers are depriving fishers, farmers and others of access to mangroves, estuaries and seasonal lagoons; destroying mangrove ecosystems, altering the hydrology of the region, destroying the habitats of other flora and fauna and precipitating declines in biodiversity; contributing to

degraded water quality; and exacerbating the decline in Gulf fisheries through the indiscriminate capture of other species caught with the shrimp post larvae that are used to stock ponds. These two images provide a visual comparison of the increase in coverage by shrimp farms in the Gulf of Fonseca over time. It is evident from the images that between 1987 and 1999, a period of about 12 years, the total area under shrimp farming has increased tremendously.