

Life of Shrimp Vocabulary

- **Adult Stage:** the last stage of growth in the shrimp cycle; shrimp are largest at this stage
- **Bacteria:** members of the domain of prokaryotic (unicellular) microorganisms that do not have organelles or an organized nucleus
- **Bayou:** a body of water (i.e., creek or stream) that moves slowly through swamps and wetlands before joining a larger body of water (i.e., the Mississippi River)
- **Bottom-Dwelling Organism:** an organism that lives and feeds on the muddy, bottom sediments of bodies of water
- **Brackish:** a mixture of saltwater and freshwater; estuaries have brackish water
- **Bycatch:** unwanted (or non-target) marine species caught in nets while fishing for other species
- **Copepod:** a small crustacean found in fresh and saltwater.
- **Crustacean:** a class in the phylum Arthropoda; contains lobsters, shrimp, crabs, barnacles, and copepods
- **Detritus:** loose fragments of plants, animals, or rocks that have been worn away by disintegration
- **Estuary:** a body of water partly surrounded by land; the area where fresh river water mixes with salty ocean water, creating an area of great biological productivity
- **Exoskeleton:** the external skeleton that supports and protects an animal's body.
- **Fertilization (of shrimp eggs):** during mating, the male shrimp deposits a packet of sperm to the female shrimp's exoskeleton when it is soft after molting; after spawning occurs, shrimp eggs are fertilized when they are ejected.
- **Filter Feeder:** an aquatic organism (i.e., clams, crustaceans, sponges, some fishes) that feeds on small particles of plants and animals extracted when water passes through the organism's filtering system
- **Flood Tide:** the incoming or rising tide that occurs between the time when the tide is the lowest and when the tide is the highest
- **Forage:** to search for food
- **Juvenile:** the life cycle stage at which shrimp have not yet reached their adult form or sexual maturity
- **Larvae:** the immature free-living form of marine invertebrates; crustaceans have several larval forms
- **Marsh:** the area of coastal land with wet soil between dry uplands and sandy beaches; marshes exist in estuaries
- **Microalgae:** microscopic algae that are found in freshwater and marine aquatic environments; microalgae typically start the aquatic food chain; phytoplankton is an example
- **Postlarvae:** the stage of the shrimp life cycle where the organism begins to look like a shrimp; post larval shrimp are anywhere from 4-12 mm in length
- **Spawning:** the release of eggs by shrimp or fish
- **Subadult Shrimp:** stage between juvenile and adult shrimp; at this time, shrimp are growing in the estuary and moving closer to the Gulf of Mexico
- **System Interdependence:** a relationship in which each member is dependent on the others

- Trawl: a large, strong fishing net shaped like a cone that gets towed behind a boat and dragged along the water bottom
- Turbidity: muddiness or cloudiness in water generated by stirring up and suspension of muddy sediment particles
- Water Column: in any body of water, the column of water that begins at the surface of the water and reaches down to the surface of the bottom sediments
- Wind-Driven Current: a current at the top of the water column that is generated by the movement of air over the surface of the water