THE GOLD HASN'T RUN OUT. THE WAY OF LIFE JUST MIGHT.

DOCUMENTING A DISAPPEARING COMMERCIAL FISHERY

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Outline

• The Pink Shrimp Industry
• Making a Documentary
• Successes
• Next Steps

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Pink Shrimp: A boom and bust Industry

• 1949: Pink gold discovered
• 1970s: Hundreds of vessels
• Today: fewer than 40 operate out of San Carlos Island
  – Increased regulations
  – Increased fuel prices
  – Increased competition

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Pink Shrimp Catches

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Telling a Story

• One hour documentary aired on WGCU
• Multiple screenings/panels
• Companion website and Facebook page
Making Connections: An industry and an environment

Life History
• 300,000 eggs per spawn
• Post larval shrimp migrate to estuaries
• Sub-adults move offshore to mature, and spawn
• Annual cycle

Commercial Importance:
• The warm-water shrimp fishery spanning the Gulf and South Atlantic states was, historically, America’s most valuable fishery.

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The Human Side: A way of life

- Shrimpers provided open access to tell their story
  - Prepping the boat
  - An evening shrimping
  - Offloading at the dock
  - Telling their story
Making an Impact

• Highest sustained rating for a local show
• 37 stations nationwide
• Winner Regional Edward R. Murrow Award for News Documentary
• Winner People’s Choice Award, Fort Myers Beach Film Festival
• Winner of two Silver Addy Awards
Sustainable Seafood Series

- Mullet
- Stone or blue crab (?)
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THANK YOU