

Banana Prawns — *PACKED & FROZEN AT SEA*

Species Background Information

Common name:	Banana prawn
Scientific name:	<i>Penaeus merguensis</i>
Max size:	25 cm (75 grams).
Max reported age:	12 - 18 months.
Grading:	U10, U15, U20, U25
Packing:	3x3kg & 5kg
Climate:	Northern Australia
Biology:	



Body translucent grey or yellow, speckled with small dark spots. Sexually mature at about 6 months. Spawning occurs throughout all of the shallow coastal zone. Mating occurs during moulting. Adults are found over muddy or sandy bottoms forming large aggregations which in some areas become extremely dense and are known as ‘boils’. The preferred habitat is coastal waters from shallow estuaries to intertidal areas to a maximum depth of 45 m. Adults frequently occur in depths between 16 m and 25 m. Most fishing is done during the day and good catches are often linked with heavy rainfall. Adults are benthic feeders, eating great amounts of polychaete worms, bivalve molluscs and crustaceans. The flesh is sweet and moist, with a medium texture.

Fishing grounds:	Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF), FAO Area 71
Fishing method:	Demersal otter trawling
Seasonality:	April – May.