OUR NEW AGE OF WATER

SHRIMP ON THE PRAIRIE

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YUM! SHRIMP ON THE BARBIE! PEOPLE EAT MORE TONS OF SHRIMP THAN ANY OTHER SEAFOOD. THE AVERAGE AMERICAN DOWNS OVER 4 POUNDS A YEAR!

IF POTTERY SHARDS IN THE RUINS OF POMPEII ARE AN INDICATION, HUMANS HAVE BEEN SCORING SHRIMP FOR AT LEAST 2000 YEARS. ASSUMING YOU AREN'T ALLERGIC, A SHRIMP-BASED MEAL IS EVEN GOOD FOR YOU! SHRIMP HAVE HIGH LEVELS OF HEART-HEALTHY OMEGA-3S AND LOW LEVELS OF MERCURY.

PEOPLE HAVE DEVISED MANY WAYS TO CATCH SHRIMP. SOME NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES FISHED FOR THEM WITH TRAPS MADE FROM BRANCHES AND MOSS. CAJUN FISHERMEN USE SEINES. SHRIMP TRAWLERS DRAG NETS ALONG THE SEAFLOOR.

BUT THERE'S ANOTHER WAY WE GET SHRIMP. SHRIMP AQUACULTURE HAS TAKEN OFF. FARMERS HARVEST FAR MORE SHRIMP THAN FISHERMEN DO! MOST "SHRIMP FARMS" ARE IN ASIA, BUT THEY HAVE ALSO POPPED UP IN THE U.S.

SHRIMP AND PRAWN ARE TERMS OF CONVENIENCE, NOT SCIENTIFIC NAMES. ANY SMALL CRUSTACEAN WHICH RESSEMBLES A SHRIMP TENDS TO BE CALLED ONE. FOR SHRIMP FARMERS, GIANT TIGER PRawns WERE EARLY FAVES. NOW WHITELEG SHRIMP ARE HIP. WHITELEG'S BREED WELL IN CAPTIVITY, GROW FAST AND REQUIRE RELATIVELY LITTLE PROTEIN.

AS WE GET BETTER AT SHRIMP FARMING, MAYBE WE'LL BREED OR ENGINEER OUT THE BITS THAT CAUSE ALLERGIC REACTIONS. SHRIMP COULD COME IN VARIETIES, SOME OF THEM GIANT. SOMEDAY, YOU MIGHT FIND YOURSELF REARING A COCKTAIL OF SHRIMP IN A BATHTUB ALONG WITH LETTUCE, SEA CUCUMBERS AND HYDROPONIC TOMATOES SO THAT YOU CAN MAKE A DELIGHTFUL HOME-GROWN SEAFOOD SALAD... EVEN IF YOU LIVE IN THE HEART OF THE PRAIRIE.

THE END...