

# Jumbo Shrimp

## OXYMORON OR...??



In our fourteen years in the seafood business, many people tell us that “jumbo shrimp” is a funny oxymoron. We got to thinking, is this really an oxymoron or is it just another twisted version of two words, as sometimes happens in our beloved English language.

A little web surfing and lo and behold our suspicions were correct. The term shrimp originated around the 14th century with the Middle English word Shrimpe meaning: to contract or wrinkle and the Old Norse word Skorpna meaning: to shrivel up. WOW both of these things happen when shrimp are cooked. Okay, that takes care of the word shrimp, but what about the word jumbo? More investigating brought us to the origin. In 1883 P.T. Barnum (remember “a sucker born every minute”?) acquired a larger than normal African bush elephant for his famous circus and this was the name he gave to him. Coincidentally, Jumbo has long been the official mascot of Tufts University near Boston (Spooky HUH!!). So it would appear that

### HERE ARE SOME POPULAR JUMBO SHRIMP SIZES:

Trade Name	Shrimp ct/pound	Avg/pound
Extra Colossal	U/10	5
Colossal	U/12	9
Colossal	U/15	14
Extra Jumbo	16/20	18*
Jumbo	21/25	23

\*(The size used in most of our dishes)

Jumbo Shrimp without a shadow of a doubt not an oxymoron and that’s “the long and short of it,” or at least some mumbo jumbo!

Next issue: Shrimp Scampi—repetitive or the same old same old?