

Anchovy biomass in waters of Buenos Aires researched

By late 2013, a team of scientists at the National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (Inidep) conducted a research cruise of anchovy (*Engraulis anchovy*) from Buenos Aires and estimated its biomass.

According to the report 'Evaluation of the anchovy stock from Buenos Aires in the spring of 2013,' issued by the Inidep, the biomass of the resource exceeds 700,000 tonnes.

"The estimate of the anchovy biomass from Buenos Aires carried out through hydroacoustic methods totalled, in strata one and two, 731,481 tonnes, with a confidence interval of 95 per cent calculated by resampling between 364,000 and 1.1 million around the mean," the document reads, *Pescare* informed.

Despite having some technical problems, the researchers devoted themselves to the study of the stock located at approximately between latitudes 34° 00' and 37° 18' south latitude.

"1,233 mn of the acoustic tour, by which about 17,600 nm² (the entire stratum 1 and partly 2 and 3) were covered, from about latitude 34° 00' S and 37° 18' S. The acoustic tour was extended from 12 mn of the Uruguayan coast to approximately 100 metres of depth," Inidep report adds.

That is to say, 18 out of the planned 43 tran-sections, with very minor cuts in just two. The anchovy is characterized by having a relatively short individual fast life and growth cycles.

Moreover, its abundance heavily relies on the success of recruits.

Meanwhile, the Federal Fisheries Council (CFP) is responsible for defining the maximum annual catches (MACs) of the resource.

The authority placed the MAC at 120,000 tonnes for the resource from Buenos Aires, a volume that greatly exceeds the demand in ports.

According to the the data provided by the Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Nation, between January and December 2013 a total of 18,053.6 tonnes of anchovy were landed in Argentinean ports.

As from 1 January to 31 December 2012, a total of 15,433.8 tonnes of the resource were unloaded.

Source : <http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&ndb=1&id=67065> (12/03/2014)