

Shrimp export revenues double in January

In January this year, Ecuador exported 20,000 tonnes of shrimp (more than 40 million pounds), 29.7 per cent more than in the same month in 2013, when 15,000 tonnes were exported, according to a report by the Central Bank of Ecuador (BCE).

This increase was due to increased demand for Ecuadorian shrimp by France and the strengthening of new markets such as China and South Korea.

According to the bank, income from exports totalled USD 186.1 million, 97.6 per cent more than in 2013 (USD 94.2 million).

President of the National Aquaculture Chamber (CNA) José Antonio Camposano thinks this increase in sales was marked by an increase in shrimp prices worldwide, the newspaper *El Universo* reported.

The leader explained that some major shrimp exporting nations, such as Thailand and Indonesia, are being affected by a condition known as early mortality syndrome (EMS). And because of this health issue, shrimp prices have increased considerably.

According to statistics from the CNA, in January 2014 Ecuador exported 41.4 million pounds of shrimp for USD 157.2 million while in January last year 31.1 million pounds had been sent abroad for USD 81.9 million.

Moreover, in mid- December, the Ministry of Foreign Trade announced that the full European Parliament (EP) had renewed the System of Preferences (GSP Plus) for several Ecuadorian products.

This decision will allow certain domestic fishery products, particularly the shrimp and tuna sectors, to be able to continue entering the EU market duty free until December 2014.

Source : <http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&ndb=1&id=67154> (14/03/2014)