

## Port from Gran Canaria again receives Mauritanian pelagic catch

This week a shipment of fish caught in the waters of Mauritania entered the port of La Luz and of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, which has not happened since 2012, when the new fisheries agreement between this country and the European Union (EU) entered into force.

And the operators of that port expect to receive 10 per cent of the catches made in this African fishery, a shared desire by the regional government, the Confederation of Entrepreneurs from Canarias and MEPs from Canarias.

According to the agency *EFE*, on Thursday 350,000 boxes of sardines, horse mackerel and mackerel from Mauritania were landed in the port in Gran Canaria.

Bernardino Santana, director of Mauritania Canarias Pelagic (Macapel), welcomed the fact that La Luz again received pelagic landing from Mauritania.

This Spanish port has not received Mauritanian pelagic resources since August 2012. It is expected that the bilateral protocol is renewed in December 2014.

Santana stressed that the seven tonnes that are now kept in cold storage facilities of [Spanish Pelagic](#) represent a "targeted challenge, which has been failed."

Therefore, he considers it is necessary for Paulino Rivero, President of the Executive of Canarias, to travel to Mauritania to consolidate the aspirations of the port terminal operators of La Luz and Las Palmas.

The absence of a fisheries agreement between the EU and Mauritania proved to be "a catastrophe" for La Luz, bearing in mind that some 3,000 direct jobs and around EUR 150 million for sales per year were lost.

This was added to the stoppage or the return of administrative concessions to the Port Authority of Las Palmas for investments valued at EUR 50 million, added Santana.

In addition, a 20 per cent reduction in the activity of longshoremen was seen, Miguel Rodriguez, coordinator of the group in the Canary Islands, explained.

If the landing of 10 per cent of the fisheries that is captured in Mauritanian waters is achieved, La Luz will receive about 100,000 tonnes of pelagic fishing.

To the Secretary of Macapel, Mauritania "has behaved exemplarily with Canarias," but he warned that "an unbalanced agreement is not good for either party."

Finally, the longshoremen noted that by unloading seven tonnes from the Dutch ship Annelis Illena "the platform has gathered the strength to continue struggling as it has done so far, constantly and accurately, to achieve the ultimate goal, which is vital for the economy of Canarias: resuming the landing of the pelagic fleet to the Port of La Luz," the agency *Europa Press* reported.

Source : <http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&ndb=1&id=67653> (04/04/2014)