

Shrimp exports record strong growth

Argentina exported 116,738 tonnes of seafood between January and April 2014, a figure which shows an increase of 2.9 per cent over the same period in 2013, when 113,419 tonnes were shipped abroad. The strong growth experienced by the shrimp shipments helped offset the lower volumes of fish.

According to statistics from the National Health and Food Quality Service (SENASA) in the first four months of this year 65,078 tonnes of fish were exported, representing 8.9 per cent less than in the same period in 2013 (71,374 tonnes).

Besides, 51,660 tonnes of seafood were exported, 22.8 per cent more than in the same period last year were, when 42,045 tonnes were sold overseas.

The largest export records were those of hake (*Merluccius hubbsi*), with 32,572 tonnes, which represents a 2.6 per cent decrease compared to 33,425 tonnes in the first four months of 2013.

It was followed by exports of squid (*Illex argentinus*), with 27,171 tonnes, 3.1 per cent less than during the first four months of last year (28,013 tonnes), and shrimp (*Pleoticus muelleri*), with 20,482 tonnes, 88.3 per cent more than during the same period last year (10,877 tonnes).

Among the resources that increased their shipments abroad is the Patagonian scallop (*Zygochlamys patagonica*), where sales rose 7.2 per cent, from 2,264 tonnes between January and April 2013 to 2,429 tonnes in the same period of 2014.

Patagonian anchovy (*Engraulis anchoita*) exports registered a minor increase, changing from 4,563 tonnes to 4,610 tonnes (1 per cent); and fin rays (*Potamotrygon brachyura*) rose from 1,254 tonnes to 1,889 tonnes (50.6 per cent).

The species that recorded declines when comparing the first four months of 2014 to the same period last year were:

- Whitemouth coraker (*Micropogonias furnieri*): 17 per cent (from 7,155 to 5,941 tonnes);
- Hoki (*Macruronus magellanicus*): 43.5 per cent (from 4,885 to 2,762 tonnes);
- Weakfish (*Cynoscion striatus*): 30.2 per cent (from 3,760 to 2,625 tonnes);
- Kingklip (*Genypterus blacodes*): 22.9 per cent (from 913 to 704 tonnes).

Source : <http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&ndb=1&id=68694> (23/05/2014)