

Vietnamese pangasius exports to US show falling trend

Through May 2014, Vietnamese pangasius exports to the United States declined 26 per cent year on year, amounting to USD 126.6 million, according to statistics of Vietnam Customs.

Meanwhile, exports to European Union made up 20.7 percent of Vietnam's total fish exports, surpassing those to the US and becoming the largest market of catfish, Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters & Producers (VASEP) informed.

In the fifth month this year, exported pangasius brought back to the country USD 682 million, down 3.8 percent year on year.

Pangasius exports to 8 Vietnam's leading importing markets (EU, the US, The Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN], Brazil, Mexico, China and Hong Kong, Colombia, Saudi Arabia) reported decline while exports to the rest marked positive growth.

During that month, the US Department of Commerce (DOC) informed some changes in its final results of Period of Review 9 (POR9) due to some errors in calculations. Accordingly, the anti-dumping tax imposed to Vinh Hoan Corporation – one of the two mandatory respondents – was reduced from USD 0.03 per kilogram to zero.

Besides, the anti-dumping tax on pangasius products of Hung Vuong Corporation -- another mandatory respondent -- is still kept at USD 1.20 per kilogram. Vietnam-wide rate is USD 2.11 per kilogram.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) informed that, through April 2014, Vietnam sold 35,966 MT of pangasius to the US with the average export price of USD 2.96 per kilogram.

On the other hand, through May 2014, European imports of Vietnamese pangasius were worth USD 141 million, representing the year-on-year decline of 11 percent. However, the EU kept its position as the main destination for this product.

EUFOMA's latest report details that fish stick consumption in EU saw a slight rise partly thanks to oversupply of Alaska pollock in the market.

According to the *New York Times*, Vietnam and other nine countries pointed to the catfish regime in the US as an example of the sort of the country's protectionism that could scupper any agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

In response to complaints about safety, Vietnam's government put into effect a rule to raise quality and safety standards for locally raised catfish. Exporters now have to register their contracts with the Vietnam Pangasius Association, and according to the state-run Vietnamese media, many are not happy with the idea of telling regulators about their business.

Source : <http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&ndb=1&id=69620> (02/07/2014)