

Shrimp output can double in 15 years, according to FAO

World shrimp production, which currently sits between 7 and 8 million tonnes, could achieve a level reaching between 11 and 18 million tonnes in 2030, according to projections by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

During the World Shrimp Congress held on Monday in Vigo, Galicia, the FAO head of the subdivision of Trade and Fishery Products, Audun Lem, said that producing countries of this resource bet for a "steady growth" with greater quality and quantity.

But he said that the production increase will be determined by factors such as the economic development, energy prices or the growth of China.

In addition, Lem predicted that shrimp prices could fall in the future, depending on the increase in demand.

For his part, Fisheries Secretary General Andres Hermida noted that although the Spanish production does not exceed 4,500 tonnes, the shrimp is a resource of great commercial importance.

Currently, more than half of the value of Spanish seafood imports comes from the frozen shrimp, with the processing industry of Vigo and southern Galicia as a reference centre, the newspaper *Faro de Vigo* informed.

Hermida also admitted that there are still "administrative difficulties" to create a new plant by the aquaculture sector, a situation that "discourages entrepreneurs from investing."

Meanwhile, Paloma Rueda, director of **Technology Centre of the Sea** (CETMAR) showed that from Europe, Spain is the first shrimp importer: put of the 150,000 tonnes entering the European market each year, 35 per cent is destined to Spain.

The World Shrimp Congress was organized by the FAO and the **Spanish Association of Wholesalers, Importers, Manufacturers and Exporters of Fisheries and Aquaculture Products** (CONXEMAR), and preceded the opening of the International Fair of the Frozen Seafood Products.

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