

## Russian delegates assess Chilean sanitary fisheries export standards

A delegation of specialists from the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (Rosselkhozadzor) of Russia is visiting Chile to inspect the premises of various companies exporting fishery products to the Eurasian Customs Union (Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan).

The group was welcomed by professionals from the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Service (SERNAPESCA), including the national director of the agency, José Miguel Burgos; and the Deputy Director of Foreign Trade, Cecilia Solis.

The delegation was briefed on the Chilean legislation to ensure health safety of fishing-aquaculture products.

In addition, it is anticipated that the Russian delegates visit several laboratories in the Metropolitan area and salmon and mussel processing plants and farms in the Bío Bío and Los Lagos regions.

The head of the visiting delegation, Vasily Krasovsky, commented that "the Chilean fish is a very popular product for Russians, and in stores Chilean wine and fruit, which are widely accepted in the Community, are also sold."

Besides, he said that in Russia, the average seafood consumption is 22 kilograms per year, and the Ministry of Health is spearheading a campaign to increase consumption to 24 kg per capita.

"If we consider that the population of Russia, including Belarus and Kazakhstan, is around 120 million people, we realize that's a pretty big market," he added.

Meanwhile, Solis stressed that Russia is the sixth largest market receiving Chilean seafood products.

"This is the fourth time the Rosselkhozadzor visits us but it is the first time that they are received as Customs Union, that is to say, they not only represent the Russian Federation but also Belarus and Kazakhstan," he continued explaining.

According to SERNAPESCA, from the microbiological point of view, "the Russian requirements and restrictions are the most stringent of the markets to which the fishery products are exported, more than the European Union, the US or Japan."

Meanwhile, Burgos highlighted that the Russian Federation recognizes SERNAPESCA "as the issuing of certificates to guarantee the quality of the products that arrive in this demanding market."

SERNAPESCA signed an agreement with the Russian Federation in 2013, which recognizes it as a certifying agent, and recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chinese government on the same line.

Last September, several companies producing salmon from Chile announced that they expected to three-fold increase frozen product exports to Russia after the trade embargo imposed by this nation on some Western countries in response to the sanctions implemented against them due to events in Ukraine.

In Russia, about 20,000 tonnes of Atlantic salmon and trout are consumed per month, which are mostly from Norway and Scotland. This volume represents about 10 per cent of the global market of salmon.

Source : <http://www.thefishsite.com/fishnews/24583/russia-inspects-chiles-fish-export-facilities> (20/11/2014)