

## Russia requested to ease Vietnamese seafood exports

Vietnamese authorities have requested the Russian government to abolish restrictions limiting Vietnamese seafood exports to the Eurasian Economic Community. Currently, only the enterprises with existing export contracts are allowed to export their products to this market.

This request made to Russia by The National Agro-Forestry Fisheries Quality Assurance (Nafiqad) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to Russia, would mean that the 102 enterprises meeting food safety standards would be allowed to export to Russia. At present, only 64 of all these firms can do so, VNS reported.

Nafiqad also asked Russia's Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (FSVPS) to support it in popularising information on food safety regulations from the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia among food safety management agencies and seafood producers.

Vietnam, whose key seafood export products to Russia include tra fish, basa fish, shrimp and mackerel, only exported USD 61.3 million worth of seafood products to Russia in the first nine months of 2014, according to the General Department of Customs (GDC).

The modest figure is attributed to Russian's high food hygiene criteria, as well as the failure of some Vietnamese exporters to find importers willing to sign valid contracts.

To boost their exports to Russia, Vietnamese seafood enterprises need to overcome non-tariff barriers, including origin, quality standards, food hygiene and safety.

Meanwhile, Vietnamese exporters complain that the condition that seafood enterprises must secure contracts with Russian importers is a barrier for them and that Russian consumers are those who will suffer, reported The Saigon Times.

Due to the one-year trade ban that in August Russia imposed on seafood imports from the United States, the EU, Norway, Canada and Australia because of political issues related to Ukraine represented a good opportunity for Vietnam and other countries to boost seafood exports to Russia.

Source :

<http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&country=0&special=&monthyear=&day=&id=73031&ndb=1&df=0> (26/11/2014)