

Spanish Group negotiates Ecuadorian tuna import

Representatives of Spanish company Verdifresh are visiting the country this week to negotiate the purchase of Ecuadorian tuna to be sold in the European market.

The trade mission was arranged by Pro Ecuador Trade Office in Madrid with Grupo Alimentario Citrus through Verdifresh, an intersupplier of Mercadona, one of the largest chains in Spain.

The Spanish company plans to sell Ecuadorian tuna in pouches, so the delegation will visit tuna plants in the cities of Guayaquil and Manta, in order to do business with the local tuna industry.

Tuna is one of the four main export products of Ecuador. Moreover, according to statistics from the National Chamber of Fisheries (CNP), 58 per cent of Ecuadorian tuna exports go to the European Union (EU).

According to the Ecuadorian Chamber of Manufacturers and Tuna Processors (CEIPA), in 2013 the national tuna fleet captured 230,700 tonnes.

The tuna industry in the country is concentrated in the provinces of Guayas and Manabi.

Salica plant is in Guayas, while Nirsa is in Posorja. Starkist is located in Guayaquil and Manabi has 16 plants distributed in the cities of Manta, Montecristi and Jaramillo, *La Nacion* informed.

The regulation allowing the extension until 2016 of tariff preferences granted to Ecuador to trade with the EU came into force on 30 December 2014.

This regulation, which will benefit the shrimp and tuna industry, among others, had been approved by the European Parliament (EP) in early December 2014.

Source : [http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&ndb=1&id=73859\(14/01/15\)](http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&ndb=1&id=73859(14/01/15))