

CHILI: Sardine and anchovy biological ban set

The [Fisheries and Aquaculture Undersecretariat](#) (SUBPESCA) set a biological ban for two pelagic species: sardine and anchovy.

The measure will be effective from today for 15 days throughout the Bío Bío Region.

The decision was made after releasing a report issued by [Instituto de Fomento Pesquero](#) (IFOP), which indicates that 88.7 per cent of the specimens landed at the beginning of the season are less than or equal to 8.5 centimetres.

The authority specified that during the closure capture, transport, marketing, processing, preparation and storage of sardine and anchovy have been banned throughout the area mentioned.

According to SUBPESCA head, Raul Súnico, "we have the responsibility to stop fishing operations in the Bío Bío Region as the data provided by IFOP are conclusive and show a large percentage of so-called juvenile specimens".

During the 15 days the ban is effective, a number of studies has been scheduled to monitor these resources that are so important to thousands of families in the Bío Bío Region, who depend on their capture," added the official.

He continued, "In that sense, these choices allow us to protect biological processes and offer sustainability to the activity that has a huge impact on the economies of communities such as Talcahuano and Coronel".

SUBPESCA stressed in a statement that after 15 days' closure, fishermen from nontechnical vessels may resume capturing both pelagic resources for five days exclusively.

And then higher-scale and industrial vessels will be able to start their fishing activities.

In Bío Bío, the artisanal and industrial fleets are allowed to catch 197,500 tonnes of sardines and 20,782 tonnes of anchovy.

Furthermore, studies conducted by the [Institute for Fisheries Research](#) (INPESCA) indicate that sardine has not yet reached a size that is suitable for capture, so its capture will remain banned in the Bío Bío region in order to preserve the species.

In a statement, INPESCA noted that "although an extensive period of recruitment ban has been maintained to protect juvenile sardine development," the sampling carried out in the region "shows a high proportion of specimens being less than 8,5 cm in total length, a figure that is higher than the 32 per cent set by the Technical Scientific Committee of this fishery".