

## Spain proves seafood leading exporter

Spain is in the first positions in the ranking of countries exporting canned and prepared seafood, both at Community level and globally, being Galicia the main Spanish community exporting seafood.

In a press conference this week, Secretary General of the [National Association of Canned Fish and Shellfish](#) (ANFACO-CECOPESCA), Juan Manuel Vieites Baptista de Sousa noted that exports of prepared and preserved seafood reached volume of 157,365 tonnes in 2014, valued at more than EUR 685.8 million.

This association, which currently has 226 member companies belonging to all stages of sea-industry complex, forming a true cluster in the marine, food processing field, informed the turnover of the cluster enterprises amounts annually to EUR 6,500 million, employing more than 25,000 workers directly, of which more than 60 per cent work in Galicia, which exports more than 30 per cent of the total volume.

According to the association, the high penetration in foreign markets due to the great efforts that have developed businesses to promote their external dimension and internationalization has generated exports of prepared and preserved fish and shellfish in 2014 representing 46 per cent of the sector production.

In addition, it was indicated that the main product of prepared and preserved seafood exported by Spain remains the canned tuna accounting for 67 per cent of the volume and 74 per cent in value, followed by canned squid and cuttlefish (10 per cent of the volume and 5 per cent in value) and third is the group of other canned and prepared fish (6 per cent of the volume and 5 per cent in value).

Regarding the destination of these exports, it was mentioned that the Spanish sector of prepared and preserved fish and seafood exports products to 117 countries and is present on the five continents and characterizes for offering a wide range of products and preparations of high quality, being the first country in the world as to the variety of products and preparations.

Moreover, it was stressed that these are basically concentrated in the market of countries of the European Union, which represent 87 per cent of total volume and 85 per cent in value, and Italy's the main importer, followed by France, Portugal, Germany and the UK. From outside the European Union, the United States, along with Algeria, Morocco and Chile are the main destination for these products.

Finally, it was stressed that the new Advanced Technology Research Centre for Marine and Food Industry will help ensure the present and future survival of the Spanish food industry, enhancing its competitiveness through the transfer of knowledge and technology.

In this area, ANFACO-CECOPESCA highlights its contribution to the promotion of quality and food security and to improving the competitiveness of enterprises in the fishery and aquaculture product processing sector through the generation of scientific knowledge to develop fundamental or industrial research projects, technological development and innovation, and providing analytical services, technical assistance, training, consulting and technological advice.