

## Brazil, Aquaculture and fisheries prove a path for growth

A worldwide business that produces over USD 600 billion per year, with USD 136 million in exports. These figures represent seven times the beef business and nine times the chicken business and are a proof that fisheries and aquaculture are a way towards Brazil's growth.

According to the [Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture](#) (MPA), since its creation an increase in fish consumption and production has been observed in Brazil. However, it is still far from its potential and that of other countries.

China (which leads the ranking) for example, produces around 57 million tonnes, followed by Indonesia with 9 million tonnes. In Latin America, Brazil is behind Chile, despite having one of the major reserves of freshwater, a coastline having over 8,000 kilometres and lands to develop the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

However, this situation is being reversed. In the last 13 years, despite the Brazilian capture fisheries production remains stable, at around 765,000, aquaculture has taken a big leap: production increased from 278,000 tonnes to 707,000 tonnes. However, the MPA has more ambitious goals: it wants to reach a capture fishing production of around 1 million tonnes and 2 million tonnes from aquaculture by the year 2020.

To this end, in addition to other actions, the MPA has designed the Development Plan of the Brazilian Aquaculture (PDA 2015-2020) and Zafra Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture (PSPA 2015/2016). The first one, the PDA, was developed in a participatory manner based on a working group studying the issue and regular meetings of the [National Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture](#) (CONAPE) performed in recent years.

The MPA hopes that by 2020, the aquaculture production supply chains include 1.75 million tonnes of fish, 200,000 tonnes of shrimp, 40,000 tonnes of mussels and 10,000 tonnes of oysters.

To achieve this goal, the MPA will develop support measures to the sector, such as training for producers, technicians and workers on good management practices and biosecurity measures, work with financial institutions to facilitate access to credit as well as State governments in order to streamline and simplify environmental licensing granting process for aquaculture, among other facts.

To capture fisheries, the objective is to increase production by decreasing waste, which now reaches about 2 per cent due to bad product handling practices, and with the renewal of the fishing fleet, which is already 40 years old.

Under the 2015/2016 PSPA, the MPA plans to provide USD 2 billion in loans with subsidized interest rates for the supply chain as well as farmed fish capture.

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