

Portugal, Sardine fishing to continue until end of year

Sardine fishery will remain open up to 31 December, until it reaches the catch limit of 9,000 tonnes, according to an order published Monday in the *Official Gazette*.

The Ministry of Marine Affairs explained that while the quota that had been set amounting to 13,000 tonnes of the sardine allocated to Portuguese fishermen for 2015 is nearly depleted, there are still several fisheries organizations that still have remaining few tonnes to capture, *Lusa* agency reported.

The ministerial order also increases the daily landing limits, which are now 2.5 tonnes for vessels with a length not exceeding nine metres; 4.5 tonnes for vessels of more than 9 metres and less than 16; and 6 tonnes for vessels over 16 metres.

The catch limit of sardines with purse seine in the Portuguese coast was set at 13,000 tonnes for 2015: 4,000 tonnes until the end of May and further 9,000 tonnes for the period from June to October.

In August the Government decided to reduce the maximum amount to be landed to prevent premature exhaustion of the quotas allocated to fishermen's organizations.

Sardine fishing will remain banned in several regions of the country where the available quotas have been exhausted, such as Peniche, Nazare and Algarve.

Sardine quota for 2016 has still not been set, but the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) recommends that the total allowable catch (TAC) in Iberian waters must be 1,587 tonnes, about one-tenth of the amount authorized for this year.

Source : [http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&ndb=1&id=80144\(28/10/15\)](http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&ndb=1&id=80144(28/10/15))