

## Argentina, shrimp export growth lessens and hake and squid ones fall

In the first nine months of this year, Argentina exported a total of 354,021 tonnes of seafood for USD 1,078.7 million, figures that represent year-on-year fall of 6.8 per cent and 4.8 per cent, respectively.

As detailed in the latest *Situation Report* of the Undersecretariat of Fisheries of the Nation, hake (*Merluccius hubbsi*) exports decreased by 21.9 per cent in volume and 23.8 per cent in value in September, and 7,491 tonnes have been shipped for USD 18.6 million.

With the outcome of the ninth month of 2015, this year's hake exports accumulated a year-on-year drop of 17.1 per cent in volume (70,473 tonnes were exported) and 16.1 per cent in value (USD 176.8 million was obtained).

A total of 40,095 tonnes of frozen hake fillets were sold abroad in the first nine months of this year, for USD 126.8 million, figures representing declines of 22.9 per cent in volume and 18.7 per cent in value.

The exported whole frozen hake exported reached 24,328 tonnes, 12.1 per cent less than in the same period in 2014, generating USD 38.4 million, 12.8 per cent less than a year before.

With regard to shrimp (*Pleoticus muelleri*), exports fell 8 per cent in volume and 17.6 per cent in value in September, to 12,861 tonnes and nearly USD 82 million.

However, shrimp sales abroad accumulated until September recorded increases of 17.6 per cent year on year in volume and 6.3 per cent in value, totalling 80,191 tonnes and USD 511.9 million.

In the case of squid (*Illex argentinus*), exports also fell in September, 20.1 per cent in volume to 1,737 tonnes and 27.6 per cent in value to USD 2 million.

The cumulative figures to September maintain a negative trend, recording a drop of 19.7 per cent in volume and 35.7 per cent in value, to 88,656 tonnes worth USD 98.6 million.

Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*) exports through September reached 2,349 tonnes worth USD 45.6 million, representing 5.3 per cent more in volume and 20.1 per cent growth in value, compared to the same period of 2014.

In addition, 3,604 tonnes of Patagonian scallops (*Zygochlamys patagonica*) were exported in the first nine months of this year for USD 40.5 million, which is 1.2 per cent less in volume and 4.8 per cent less in value, compared to last year.

Spain was the main market for Argentine fishery products: in the first nine months of 2015 it bought 69,551 tonnes worth USD 286.9 million. China ranked second with 59,585 tonnes valued at USD 134.7 million, followed by the United States with 19,993 tonnes worth USD 77.9 million.

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