

Portugal, sardine fishing ban until March

Fishing for sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) will be banned for two months, until 29 February, as part of the biological rest period of this species.

As detailed in a decree published in *Diario de la Republica*, the objective of this measure, which took effect on 1 January, is to ensure the protection of juveniles and breeding adults.

The fishing ban affects the purse seine fleet fishing in the waters of the continental coast of Portugal.

Fishermen and shipowners affected by the fishery closure received EUR 2.71 million in compensation until 31 December 2015, *Lusa* agency reported.

Portugal and Spain are still negotiating the sardine quota for 2016, but the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) recommended that the quota should not exceed 1,600 tonnes, which implies in practice the suspension of the purse seine fleet.

In 2015, the Iberian sardine quota was set at 19,000 tonnes, of which Portugal was assigned around 13,000 tonnes and the rest to Spain.

Source : <http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?!=e&ndb=1&id=81442>