

## Mexico, fisheries-aquaculture production exceeds one million tonnes in nine months

The total production of all seafood in Mexico reached 1,075,000 tonnes in the first nine months of 2015, according to revised statistics from the National Commission of Aquaculture and Fisheries (Conapesca).

Of that total, 880,000 tonnes (82 per cent) were captured and 195,000 tonnes (18 per cent) come from aquaculture.

As of September 2015, total production value was around MXN 15,800 million (USD 880.6 million), of which MXN 10,000 million (USD 557.4 million) (63 per cent) come from fishing and MXN 5,800 million (USD 323.3 million) (37 per cent) from aquaculture.

Mexico's fisheries and aquaculture national production increased 32.5 per cent in volume and 21 per cent in value between 2013 and 2014.

The main fishing and aquaculture species produced in the country, by volume and value, are sardines, tuna, shrimp, tilapia, carp, shark, octopus, crab, squid, clams and oysters, among others.

In Mexico, there are more than 300,000 workers in the fishing and aquaculture sector, mostly from states and municipalities with coastline on the Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean, which contributes to provide a healthy diet for Mexicans.

Conapesca said has greatly improved the production of fisheries information, as the national statistical methodology was standardized with international protocols, thereby improving data capture from fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Last year the Online Registration System of Fisheries and Aquaculture Production (online Sipesca) was launched. Producers can easily and smoothly fill notices of arrival, harvest or production forms through it, eliminating movement expenses and simplifying the process by being available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

In addition, Conapesca notes that during the administration of President Enrique Peña Nieto public policies and actions have been implemented to trigger the sustainable development of national fishing to produce food with high protein value, easily accessible to the population, and to boost dynamic growth of the economy.

The growth of the fish production sector has been based on five strategic areas of aquaculture and fisheries policy: Comprehensive planning, Regulation compliance and observance, Promotion of fisheries and aquaculture capitalization, Strategic development of aquaculture, and Promotion of seafood consumption.

The riches of Mexican marine and aquaculture resources occurs along 11,592 km of coastline on the Pacific, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, and 12,500 square kilometres of coastal and marine systems.

In addition, 6,500 square kilometres of inland waters (lakes, ponds, dams and rivers) and an exclusive economic zone of patrimonial sea of 3,149 square kilometres.