

Argentina, lower landings and fisheries exports

Fish landings totalled 752,359.1 tonnes in 2015, a figure that indicates a decrease of 4.2 per cent over the previous year, according to statistics from the National Undersecretariat of Fisheries.

Among the main species of commercial importance, Illex squid (*Illex argentinus*) led the decline with a drop of 25 per cent yoy, with landings amounting 126,531.4 tonnes until 30 December 2015.

Hake (*Merluccius hubbsi*) discharges experienced a slight decrease of only 1.5 per cent to 263,015.8 tonnes.

However, shrimp (*Pleoticus muelleri*) maintained its upward trend: its landings totalled 140,600.1 tonnes, 10.5 per cent more than in the previous year.

Landings of Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*) totalled 3406.4 tonnes, down 12.6 per cent yoy, and hoki (*Macruronus magellanicus*) fell by 17.3 per cent, to 48,294.2 tonnes.

Other resources that recorded marked falls were the whitemouth croaker (*Micropogonias furnieri*), whose landings decreased by 28.3 per cent to 27,662.3 tonnes, and sole (*Paralichthys patagonicus*), whose discharges fell by 13.3 per cent to 5,055.3 tonnes.

Mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*) was the species that showed the largest increase in landings, 136.8 per cent, with 17,971.5 tonnes landed, compared to only 7,589.3 tonnes in 2014.

Landings of European anchovy (*Engraulis anchovy*), meanwhile, rose 3.3 per cent, to 14,410.7 tonnes.

With regard to exports, the latest situation report issued by the Undersecretariat of Fisheries includes data until November 2015, so it is not possible to know the final figures of last year.

The report said that between January and November 2015, Argentine fish exports fell by 7 per cent in volume and 6.8 per cent in value, with 436,897 tonnes sent abroad for nearly USD 1.39 billion.

Exports of fresh or chilled fish, excluding fillets, plummeted by 51.3 per cent in volume and 51.1 per cent in value.

Sales of molluscs decreased 20.1 per cent in volume and 31.3 per cent in value, while fillets and other meat went down by 16.9 per cent and 14.3 per cent respectively.

Fishmeal, fish powder and pellets unfit for human consumption, however, grew 2.8 per cent in volume and 12.3 per cent in value.

Regarding hake (*hubbsi*), 89,211 tonnes were exported to November 2015, for USD 220.97 million, down by 17.4 per cent in volume and 17.5 per cent in value, comparing with the same period of 2014.

Some 115,266 tonnes of shrimp were sold for USD 731 million, an increase of 13.9 per cent in volume but only 1.8 per cent in value, as its price fell by 10.7 per cent yoy.

With respect to Illex squid, 94, 709 tonnes were exported to November, worth USD 104.25 million, figures that represent declines of 20.5 per cent and 36.3 per cent respectively over the same period of 2014.

Source : <http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&ndb=1&id=82006>