

Aquaculture sector increases sales and employment

The marine aquaculture sector reported a turnover of EUR 292 million in 2015, 10.8 per cent more than the previous year. Its employment increased by 1.9 per cent, up to 1,900 jobs, according to data from the [Business Association of Marine Aquaculture Producers](#) (APROMAR).

Aquaculture production reached 48,065 tonnes at sea, an increase of 10.2 per cent annually in volume, according to figures from APROMAR, which exclude the mussel.

The main species produced were: sea bass (21,324 tonnes, worth EUR 120.3 million); bream (16,231 tonnes for EUR 94.8 million), turbot (7,715 tonnes worth EUR 56.8 million); corvina (1,642 tonnes for EUR 8.8 million), sole (664 tonnes worth EUR 6.8 million) and eel (380 tonnes for EUR 3.6 million).

The Fisheries Secretary General in office, Andres Hermida, celebrated the contribution from Spanish aquaculture to "innovation" and encouraged the sector to take advantage of "the opportunity to grow" that are offered thanks to the aid from the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

Hermida and APROMAR president, Jose Carlos Rendon, have highlighted as a priority 2014-2020 Spanish aquaculture strategic plan, which have implemented the central government and the autonomous regions and whose objectives have been collected by the EMFF.

Moreover, Hermida has confirmed that the Secretariat and APROMAR have begun work with the certifier agency AENOR to have a standard to certify fish capture and slaughter, meeting the criteria of animal welfare.

Source: *Efeagro*

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