

Fresh mussel volume with DOP certification doubled in 2016

The DOP Mexillón de Galicia reached a spectacular record in 2016 in terms of fresh certified product volume, which increased by 112 per cent over the previous year.

The Regulatory Council of Galician Mussel reported that in 2016 a total of 6,194,216 kilos of mussels were certified compared to 2,921,996 kilos in 2015.

As for the processing industry, in 2016 it captured 32.5 million kilos of mussel with DOP, compared to just over 39 million the year before. Although this figure is lower, it must be taken into account that more than five million kilos of mussels could not receive the quality certificate because, despite their good yields, the number of pieces per kilo exceeded 40, which is the limit set at the present time to be considered Mexillon de Galicia.

According to the Regulatory Council, in recent years there has been a very important improvement in the average mussel yield, which did not fall by 20 per cent. This is attributed to two factors: the amount of food available in the estuaries as well as the constant improvements in the practices of producers.

The increase in fresh sales during 2016 resulted in a notable increase in the controls performed by the DOP technicians at the unloading points. Of the 11,461 interventions in 2015, the figure was 13,960 last year, out of it, 5,740 responded to the criteria established by the PDO.

This supervision is complemented by the actions carried out by the Bureau Veritas, in charge of auditing companies and mussel rafts certified by the DOP.

As of December 31, 2016, Mexillón de Galicia products were marketed by 57 companies. In addition, five other companies interested in obtaining the certification were undergoing an initial audit so that in a short term, there could be 62 registered companies operating with Mexillón de Galicia.

Also dated December 31 there were 48 food operators enrolled in the DOP, 27 of which are canning-cooking plants (three in the phase of certification) and 21 cleansing companies (two pending certification). To these 14 non-registered companies commissioning their product processing to companies registered in the PDO must be added.

The Regulatory Council noted that the regularization process carried out allowed the reinforcement of the supply chain, which will have 2,091 containers to supply certified products to the market.

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