

Seabass aquaculture production grew, but the seabream one dropped

The Spanish Aquaculture Business Association (APROMAR) has presented the 2017 edition of its annual report on the evolution of the aquaculture sector in Spain, which estimates that Spanish production in 2016 is at 292,689 tonnes. This represents a slight increase, of 1 per cent over the previous year, when harvests totalled 289,821 tonnes, with a first-sale value of EUR 407.2 million.

Among the main findings of the new report, Apromar highlights the following:

In 2015, the main species produced was mussel (225,307 t), followed by seabass (21,324 t), seabream (16,231 t) and rainbow trout (16,179 t).

The number of annual work units (AWU) in aquaculture in Spain was 6,813 in 2015. This figure was distributed among 18,076 people.

In 2015, a total of 5,129 aquaculture establishments were operating and producing in Spain. Of these, 4,818 were mollusks in marine aquaculture, 187 fish aquaculture farms in freshwater, 77 coastal farms, beaches, intertidal zones and estuaries, and 47 were nurseries (cages) in the sea.

In 2016, 121,000 tonnes of aquaculture feed were used in Spain. This amount is 2.1 per cent higher than that of 2015. A total of 83.1 per cent of it was administered to marine fish and the remaining 16.9 per cent to continental species.

Farmed seabream harvest in Spain in 2016 was 13,740 tonnes, representing 15.3 per cent less than the previous year. The Valencian Community led production with 5,619 tonnes, followed by Murcia (3,368 t), Canary Islands (2,492 t), Andalusia (1,605 t) and Catalonia (730.0 t).

Aquaculture seabass harvest in Spain in 2016 was 23,445 tonnes, 9.9 per cent more than in 2015. The Region of Murcia led production with 8,164 tonnes, followed by Andalusia (6,081 t), the Canary Islands (5,507 t), Valencian Community (3,457 t) and Catalonia (236 t).

Aquaculture turbot harvest in Spain in 2016 reached 7,396 tonnes, 4.1 per cent less than in the previous year. Galicia was by far the main producing autonomous community (99 per cent).

The report also points out that Spain was the EU Member State with the largest aquaculture harvest (289,821 t) in 2015, followed by the United Kingdom (206,834 t) and France (206,800 t).

The main aquaculture species produced in the EU in 2015 were mussel (492,572 t), Atlantic salmon (185,995 t) and rainbow trout (185,889 t).

Total aquaculture production in Europe and the rest of the Mediterranean in 2016 is estimated at 195,853 tonnes, 5.3 per cent more than in 2015 and an additional growth of 5.3 per cent, to 206,000 tonnes for 2017.

As for the total aquaculture production of seabass in Europe and the rest of the Mediterranean arc, this was 176,956 tonnes in 2016, which is 0.1 per cent higher than that of the previous year. For 2017, an additional growth of 4.5 per cent is estimated, reaching 190,000 tonnes.

Total aquaculture turbot production in Europe in 2016 is estimated at 10,007 tonnes, which is 12.0 per cent less than in the previous year. For 2017, a slight increase in global production of this species is expected by 1.9 per cent, to 10,200 tonnes.

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