

## Scottish salmon exports maintain record growth

Scottish salmon exports have experienced continued record growth so far this year, registering a 56 per cent increase over the first nine months, to GBP 483 million, according to the latest figures released by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

In the past three months alone, Scotland exported 21,000 tonnes of fresh salmon worth GBP 136 million, up 29 per cent in value and 25 per cent in volume over the same period last year.

France overtook the United States as the largest market with sales worth nearly GBP 45 million. This year, Scottish salmon celebrated the 25th anniversary of being awarded the French Government's prestigious Label Rouge for taste and quality.

The US was pipped to the post for top export market, it still recorded sales of just over GBP 37 million. China was worth GBP 14 million. East Asian markets continue to grow with Taiwan making it into the top five markets with sales of GBP 6.5 million.

"The demand for Scottish salmon continues to grow in recognition of its taste, quality and provenance. It is evident that the production standards and commitment to quality are fully recognised around the world, and no more so than in France," pointed out Scott Landsburgh, Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) chief executive.

In his view, the continuing export success of Scottish salmon is a trail-blazer for other Scottish food overseas and a major contributor to rural Scotland, adding that this achievement means that young people, communities and local suppliers all benefit from the economic success.

For his part, Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing stressed that Scottish salmon is an iconic product and these latest export figures reflect the strength of the industry and the potential it has to grow further.

"The EU remains the biggest single regional market for salmon, importing salmon worth GBP 215 million in the first nine months of 2017," Minister Ewing stressed.

He also stated their intention to continue to work with industry to develop new and existing markets and in line with Scotland's Food and Drink 2030 ambition, focus on key markets, boost innovation, focus on skills and support local producers to realise their ambitious plans.

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