



Seafood exports grow by 14.5pc in fiscal year 2017/18

Pakistani seafood and fish preparation exports surged by 14.57 per cent during the fiscal year 2017-18 as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

During the analysed period (July 1, 2017/June 30, 2018), these sales abroad generated USD 451.026 million in revenues, compared with USD 393.66 million in the previous financial year, according to latest data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

In terms of volume, seafood exports increased 27.94 per cent, to 198,420 metric tons.

"Healthy landing of shrimp and fish species helped post the record seafood export," Sindh Trawlers Owners and Fishermen Association (STOFA) President Habibullah Khan Niazi.

He further added: "The two-month ban on fisheries hunt is crucial to let the seafood export grow in years to come, which should continue for the fisheries sector growth as well."

However, on year-on-year basis, fish exports in June declined by 7.31 per cent, to USD 27.047 million, despite the fact that the exported volume grew by 2 per cent, to 11,975 tonnes.

"Around 17 different creeks in Sindh's seawaters pose a perilous threat to the growth of shrimp and fish species from use of banned nets that ravage the breeding and reproduction of the species, resultantly the species population is reducing every year," Habib Niazi said, asking the government to undertake a clampdown to get rid of the worst fishing practices.

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