



Seafood exports grew 9 per cent through May

Between January and May of this year 206,169 tonnes of products of marine origin were exported for a total of USD 781.4 million, figures representing 3.1 per cent more in volume and 9.2 per cent more in value compared to the same period of 2017, according to the latest Conjuncture Report published by the Ministry of Agribusiness of the Nation.

The largest volume exported corresponds to molluscs (squid), with 84,996 tonnes that generated USD 225.2 million, an interannual increase of 15 per cent in volume and 7.6 per cent in foreign currency.

Shrimp (*Pleoticus muelleri*) contributed 48,478 tonnes, which generated USD 338.6 million, up 10.3 per cent in volume and 20.9 per cent more in value compared to the first five months of last year.

Sales of hake (*Merluccius* spp. and *Urophycis* spp.) abroad fell by 13.2 per cent in volume to 28,835 tonnes, and their value decreased by 9.3 per cent to USD 75.7 million.

Of frozen fish (except fillets), 33,935 tonnes were exported for USD 90.5 million, figures that represent a fall of 13.5 per cent in volume and 2.6 per cent in value.

The volume of sales abroad of fillets and other fish meats decreased by 13.1 per cent to 27,157 tonnes, and its value was reduced by 7 per cent to USD 88.7 million.

In the first five months of this year, China was the main destination for Argentine fishing exports: it bought 54,021 tonnes worth USD 183.7 million.

Spain was in second place, with 29,558 tonnes valued at USD 134.3 million.

The US was the third market in terms of value: it bought products for USD 57.9 million, despite having imported only 7,373 tonnes.

Brazil ranked third in terms of volume, with 13,378 tonnes, but in the fourth position considering the value of exports, when importing Argentine products for a total of USD 39.8 million.

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