

Capture of 23,000 tonnes of octopus forecast for this season

Octopus fishing in the Yucatan Peninsula is showing very good results this year and forecasts indicate that catches could exceed 23,000 tonnes if fishers are allowed to operate until December 15.

According to the Undersecretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) delegate Ernesto Martinez Ordaz, the current octopus season was very good, with good prices and "an economic benefit in virtually all ports." The national fisheries authority allocates a catch quota for the Mexican four-eyed octopus (*Octopus maya*), while for the common octopus (*Octopus vulgaris*) there is no limit. The total octopus catches tend to average 20,000 tonnes.

The official said that octopus catches have quickly reached the fishing limits recommended for fishing, and that it has requested the extension of the capture margins for the season to reach its conclusion on December 15, as it has naturally occurred for several years.

At this time, the catch rates point to a total of fishing above 20,000 tonnes of the cephalopod, just over a month after the end of the fishery.

Therefore, it is estimated that if the National Fisheries Institute (INAPESCA) authorizes the extension of the catch limit, this season could end with a record number for the state of Yucatan.

The good catches obtained are added to the high prices paid by the mollusk throughout this season thanks to the high demand of the octopus from Yucatan in the European and Asian markets. Martinez Ordaz highlighted that the state of Yucatan is the main producer of octopus in Mexico and ranks third in the world in this fishery.

The octopus that is caught in this Mexican region is strongly sought in the markets of Spain, Italy, Korea and Japan, among others.

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