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## MEDIA FACT SHEET

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

### AQUACULTURE IN CHINA\*\* AND ASIA\*

#### Global aquaculture production

Global aquaculture production of fish, crustaceans and molluscs has continued to show strong growth, increasing from 40 389 000 tonnes in 2002 to 48 150 000 tonnes in 2005. And with the inclusion of aquatic plants and pearl production, global aquaculture production increases to 51 966 000 tonnes in 2002 and to 62 959 000 tonnes in 2005.

#### Top producers

**China** generates 67% of world aquaculture production of fish, crustaceans and molluscs (32 414 000 tonnes in 2005). Other countries with aquaculture production of more than 1 000 000 tonnes in 2005 were **India** (2 838 000 tonnes), **Viet Nam** (1 437 000 tonnes), **Indonesia** (1 197 000 tonnes) and **Thailand** (1 144 000 tonnes).

#### Aquaculture in Asia

The **Asia** region produced 57 972 000 tonnes of aquaculture products including aquatic plant, or 92% of all world aquaculture production.

#### Value of production

Aquaculture production including aquatic plant in **China** 2005 was worth US\$ 39.8 billion. The value of all aquaculture production for **the Asia region** was US\$ 63.1 billion, while **world-wide** aquaculture production was worth US\$78.4 billion.

#### Top 10 species grown in China

Japanese kelp: 4 314 000 tonnes	Common carp: 2 475 000 t
Grass carp: 3 857 000 t	Wakame: 2 395 000 t
Pacific cupped oyster: 3 826 000 t	Bighead carp: 2 182 000 t
Silver carp: 3 525 000 t	Crucian carp: 2 083 000 t
Japanese carpet shell: 2 857 000 t	Yesso scallop: 1 036 000 t

#### Employment

In 2005, the total number of fish farmers **world-wide** was about 12 million. That year, **China** reported 4.5 million people employed full time in aquaculture.

#### Consumption

In 2003, **global** per capita consumption of fish was estimated at 16.5/kg, with fish accounting for 15.5% of the global population's intake of animal proteins and 6.0% of all proteins consumed. Estimates for 2005 indicate an increase of the per capita food fish supply to 16.7/kg. In the last few years, major increases in the quantity of fish consumed originated from aquaculture, which in 2005 was estimated to have contributed 45% of the total amount of fish available for human consumption.

In 2003, consumption of fish in **Asia** was about 18.1/kg, with fish having a share of about 22% of total animal proteins and 7% of total proteins.

In the same year, **Chinese** consumption of fish was about 25.8 kg, with fish representing a share of 18.9% in animal proteins and 7.4% in total proteins.

#### Fish trade

In 2005, **Asian exports** of fish and fishery products including aquatic plant were valued at US\$26.0 billion, representing a share of 33.2% of world exports. Imports were US\$27.6 billion (33.9% of all world imports). Including aquatic plants, Asian exports increased to US\$26.4 billion (33.4% of world exports) and imports to US\$28.0 billion (34% of world imports).

**China** has been the world largest exporter of fish and fishery products since 2002. In 2005, Chinese exports were valued at US\$7.5 billion (US\$7.7 billion including aquatic plants), with Japan, the United States and the Republic of Korea as main markets. In 2005, China was also the world's sixth largest importer of fish and fishery products, with imports worth US\$4.0 billion (same figure including aquatic plants). China has increased its fishery trade remarkably since the early 1990s and annual growth rate during 2000 and 2005 was 15.7% for exports and 17.2% for imports.

\*\* Figures do not include those from Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR and Taiwan Province of China.

\* Figures are for 2005 unless otherwise noted.