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MEDIA FACT SHEET

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

AQUACULTURE IN CHILE & Latin AMERICA*

Global aquaculture production

Global aquaculture production of fish, crustaceans and molluscs has continued to show strong growth, increasing from 45.9 million tonnes in 2004 to 51.7 million tonnes in 2006. Including aquatic plants, global aquaculture production increases from 59.9 million tonnes in 2004 to 66.7 million tonnes in 2006.

Top producers

China generates 67% of world aquaculture production of fish, crustaceans and molluscs (34.4 million tonnes in 2006). Other countries producing over 1 000 000 tonnes a year are **India** (3 123 000 t), **Viet Nam** (1 658 000 t), **Thailand** (1 386 000 t) and **Indonesia** (1 293 000 t). Top Latin American producers include **Chile** (802 000 t), **Brazil** (272 000 t) and **Mexico** (159 000 t).

Aquaculture in Latin America

Aquaculture in **Latin America** produced 1.5 million tonnes in 2006. In the past, the top species in **Latin America** was whiteleg shrimp, but that shifted to Atlantic salmon over the last decade due to disease outbreaks in major shrimp producing areas and the rapid growth in salmon production in **Chile**. Chile is the world second producer of cultured salmons, accounting 31% of total. Other main species cultured in the region are rainbow trout, Chilean mussel and Coho salmon.

Production levels

Chilean aquaculture accounts for 1.6% of the global total (4.7% of the total when Chinese production excluded). For just **Latin America**, Chile's output accounts for 53% of all regional aquaculture production.

Value of production

Aquaculture production in **Chile** 2006 was worth US\$ 4.4 billion, the second highest after China. The value of all aquaculture production for **Latin America** as a whole that year was US\$ 6.6 billion, while **worldwide** aquaculture production was worth US\$ 78.8 billion.

Employment

In 2006, the total number of fish farmers **world-wide** was about 9 million people. In **Chile**, farming of salmon and trout represents an important source of employment with about 53 000 people employed directly or indirectly in 2006.

Leading species

Carps are most cultured species in the world, making up 39% of production. Other major groups cultured include shellfishes (oysters, clams, mussels, and scallops), other freshwater fish, shrimps and prawns and salmons. Aquaculture's contribution to world fish supplies now represents 81% of shellfishes, 76% of freshwater fish, 69% of salmons, and 42% of shrimps and prawns.

Consumption & diet

In 2005, **global** per capita (pc) consumption of fish was estimated at 16.4/kg, with fish accounting for 15.3% of the global population's intake of animal proteins and 5.9% of all proteins consumed. In the same year aquaculture accounted for nearly half (45 percent) of the world's fish food supply.

Consumption in **Latin America** was about 8.7/kg/pc, with fish having a share of about 6.4% of total animal proteins and 3.1% of total proteins.

Chilean consumption was of about 22.4/kg (pc), with fish representing a share of 17.6% in animal proteins and 9% in total proteins.

Trade

In 2006, **Latin American exports** of fish and fishery products were valued at US\$10.4 billion, representing a share of 12.1% of world exports. Imports were US\$1.6 billion (1.8% of all world imports). In 2006, **Chilean exports** of fish and fishery products were valued at US\$3.6 billion. Chile is the world's seventh largest exporter of fish and fish products. The bulk of those exports consist of salmons and trouts as well as fish meal, with the USA and Japan being the main markets, followed by China mainland, Germany, Spain and France. In 2006, about 60% of the value of Chilean exports of fish and fishery commodities consisted of farmed products.

* Figures are for 2006 unless otherwise noted.