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## FACT SHEET: The international fish trade and world fisheries

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

### THE GLOBAL FISH TRADE

<b>Trade volumes</b>	A large share of all fish production enters international marketing channels, with about 37% (live weight equivalent) being exported in 2008.
<b>Value of exports</b>	In 2008, total world exports of fish and fish products reached a record value of USD 102 billion, a 83% increase from 2000.
<b>Value of imports</b>	Fish imports rose 79% from 2000 to 2008, reaching a new record of over USD 108 billion. Developed countries accounted for about 80% of imports, in value terms.
<b>Top exporters</b>	Since 2002, <b>China</b> has been the world's largest exporter of fish and fishery products. In 2008 its exports reached USD 10.3 billion. In the same year, other major exporters were <b>Norway</b> (USD 7.0 billion), <b>Thailand</b> (USD 6.5 billion), <b>Viet Nam</b> (USD 4.6 billion), the <b>USA</b> (USD 4.5 billion) and <b>Chile</b> (USD 4.0 billion).
<b>Top importers</b>	With the exception of 2007, <b>Japan</b> has been the leading importer of fish and fishery products since 1970s. In 2008, its imports were valued at USD 14.4 billion. In the same year, the second major importer was the <b>USA</b> with USD 14.1, followed by <b>Spain</b> (USD 7.2 billion), <b>France</b> (USD 5.9 billion), <b>Italy</b> (USD 5.6 billion) and <b>China</b> (USD 5.2 billion).
<b>Top commodities in trade</b>	<b>Shrimp</b> continues to be the most important commodity traded in value terms, accounting for about 15% of the total value of internationally traded fish products. The other main groups of traded species are <b>salmon</b> (12%), groundfish (11%: e.g. <b>hake</b> , <b>cod</b> , <b>haddock</b> and <b>Alaska pollock</b> ), and <b>tuna</b> (8%). <b>Fishmeal</b> represents around 3% of the value of exports and fish oil less than 1%.
<b>Developing countries &amp; global fish trade</b>	The share of developing countries in total fishery exports was close to 50% by value and 60% by quantity (live weight equivalent) in 2008. The net exports of fish by developing countries (i.e. the total value of exports less the total value of imports) has increased continuously over recent decades, from USD 2.9 billion in 1978 to USD 9.8 billion (1988), USD 17.1 billion (1998) and to USD 27 billion in 2008. These figures were significantly higher than those for other agricultural commodities such as rice, coffee and tea.
<b>Consumption</b>	World-wide, per capita consumption is estimated at about 17.0/kg, with fish accounting for about 16% of animal proteins and 6% of all proteins.
<b>Employment</b>	In 2008, about 45 million people were directly engaged in primary production of fish, either in capture fishery or in aquaculture. An additional 6.5 million are engaged in the sector on an occasional basis.



## THE FISH TRADE & SOUTH AMERICA

### Exports from South America

In 2008, South American exports of fish and fishery products were valued at USD 10.4 billion, representing a growth of 99% since 2000. About 10% of the total were destined to other South American countries.

In 2008, in value terms, salmon was the main species exported followed by fish meal, shrimps and prawns, cod and hakes, tunas, cephalopods and other molluscs.

### Imports to South America

In 2008, South American imports of fish and fishery products reached USD 2.0 billion representing a growth of about 200% compared to 2000. Notwithstanding this significant increase, South America continues to hold a strong positive net fishery exporter position.

In 2008, in value terms, tunas were the main species imported by South American countries, followed by shrimps and prawns cod and hakes, salmonoids, other pelagic fish, fish meal and fish oil.

### Top exporters to South America

In 2008, about 63% of the South American imports of fish and fishery products had an intra-region origin. Major suppliers were Ecuador (18% of total imports), Chile (18%), Peru (10%), Argentina (8%), and Uruguay (3%). Other leading non-South American suppliers were Norway (10%), Portugal (3%), Thailand (2%) and China mainland (2%).

### Top importers from South America

In 2008, the USA was the main market (17% of the export value) of fish and fishery products from South America. Other major importers were China mainland (12%), Japan (12%), Spain (12%), Germany (5%) and Italy (5%).

## THE FISH TRADE & ARGENTINA

### Trade flows

In 2008, **Argentina** was the world's 23<sup>rd</sup> exporter of fish and fish products (USD 1.3 billion) and the 64<sup>th</sup> exporter (USD 0.1 billion). In 2009, Argentine exports of fish and fishery products were valued at USD 1.1 billion and imports at USD 0.1 billion.

### Argentine exports

In 2009, **Spain, Brazil, Italy, Japan, the USA, France and China** represented the main outlets for Argentine exports of fish, in value terms. 32% of its exports were directed to Spain, 13% to Brazil and 10% to Italy.

### Countries exporting to Argentina

In 2009, in value terms, main suppliers to Argentina were **Chile, Ecuador, Brazil, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Spain**. In quantity, 34% of Argentine fishery imports originated from Chile and 26% from Ecuador.

### Top commodities

Tunas, Argentine hake, shrimps and prawns, squid (*Illex*), scallops and Patagonian grenadier are among the most important species exported by Argentina. In 2009, Argentine hake made up 31% of the total value of traded fish products, followed by shrimps and prawns (mainly Argentine red shrimp) at 29%, squid (*Illex*) at 6% and Patagonian Grenadier at 6%.

### Consumption

In 2007, Argentine per caput fish consumption was 7.7/kg, with fish representing a share of 3.8% in animal proteins and 2.6% in total proteins.

### Employment

In 2008, Argentina reported 22 600 permanent jobs related to fisheries, representing a substantial increase from the 16 900 permanent jobs informed in 2006.



## FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

<b>Global production</b>	Total global fishery production from capture fisheries and aquaculture combined reached 142 million tonnes in 2008 (excluding aquatic plants), with 37% of that coming from aquaculture. With aquaculture excluded, world global capture fisheries production in 2008 was about 90 million tonnes.
<b>South American capture production</b>	During the 1999-2008 period, total capture production (including catches in inland waters) by South American countries decreased by 16%, from 16.5 to 13.8 million tonnes. This decrease was mostly due to reduced catches of small pelagics in the Pacific Ocean, whereas the quantity of cephalopod catches more than doubled in the same period.
<b>Top fishing countries, worldwide</b>	<b>China</b> and <b>Peru</b> have stayed as the top two fishing countries since 1999. On the other hand, <b>Chile</b> stepped back from the 4 <sup>th</sup> to the 7 <sup>th</sup> position in the last decade.
<b>Top fishing countries, South America</b>	Besides <b>Peru</b> and <b>Chile</b> , other major fishing countries in South America are <b>Argentina</b> , <b>Brazil</b> and <b>Ecuador</b> . <b>Argentina</b> ranked 21 <sup>st</sup> among the global producers and its catches have been quite stable around one million tonnes since 1999.
<b>Top captured species, worldwide &amp; in South America</b>	The top species in the global catch is by far the <b>Peruvian anchoveta</b> (7.4 million tonnes in 2008). It is followed by <b>Alaska pollock</b> , <b>Atlantic herring</b> , <b>skipjack tuna</b> and <b>chub mackerel</b> . In addition to <b>Peruvian anchoveta</b> , three other small pelagic species ( <b>Chilean jack mackerel</b> , <b>Araucanian herring</b> and <b>chub mackerel</b> ), two cephalopods ( <b>jumbo flying squid</b> and <b>Argentine shortfin squid</b> ) and <b>Argentine hake</b> are the main species in the catch by South American countries.
<b>Top captured species, Argentina</b>	The top species in Argentine catches in 2008 were <b>Argentine hake</b> , followed by <b>Argentine shortfin squid</b> , <b>Patagonian grenadier</b> and the valuable invertebrates (e.g. <b>Patagonian scallop</b> and <b>Argentine red shrimp</b> ).
<b>Top aquaculture countries, worldwide</b>	<b>China</b> is by far the leading aquaculture producer, accounting for about two thirds of world aquaculture production. The other major aquaculture producing countries are <b>India</b> , <b>Viet Nam</b> , <b>Indonesia</b> , <b>Thailand</b> and <b>Bangladesh</b> . South America account for 2.7% of world aquaculture production with 1.4 million tonnes in 2008.
<b>Top aquaculture countries, South America</b>	Main aquaculture producing countries in 2008 among the countries of South America were <b>Chile</b> , <b>Brazil</b> , <b>Ecuador</b> and <b>Colombia</b> . Argentina ranked 17 <sup>th</sup> with 2 700 tonnes in 2008.
<b>Top cultured species, worldwide &amp; in South America</b>	Various <b>carps</b> are the top species group cultured in the world in quantity, accounting for 39% of production in weight, followed by other fresh water fishes, clams and cockles, and oysters. In value term, <b>Whiteleg shrimp</b> and <b>Atlantic salmon</b> are two top species cultured followed by Grass carp, silver carp, common carp, Chinese mitten crab and Giant tiger prawn. In South America, <b>whiteleg shrimp</b> and <b>Atlantic salmon</b> are the most cultured species, followed by <b>Chilean mussel</b> , <b>rainbow trout</b> , and <b>tilapias</b> .
<b>Top cultured species, Argentina</b>	Major species cultured in Argentina were <b>rainbow trout</b> , <b>Pacu</b> , <b>common carp</b> and <b>mussels</b> .