Attached is the draft chapter on Mexico for the Review of Fisheries, 1998-1999. This document is being distributed for DISCUSSION and APPROVAL at the 86th Session of the Committee for Fisheries, 9-11 October 2000. Please note that statistics will be distributed separately.

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Summary

1. Fisheries production totalled 1.2 million tonnes in 1998, of which 1.074 thousand tonnes (87%) were of marine origin and 160 thousand tonnes (13%) came from aquaculture. In 1999 (preliminary figures) total fisheries production was 1.3 million tonnes, of which 1.122 thousand tonnes and 151 thousand tonnes came from catches and aquaculture, respectively.

2. The sector’s trade balance for 1999 was USD 516 million and exports of fish and fish products were valued at USD 672 million and imports totalled USD 156 million. A positive balance for 1998 totalled USD 542 million, in which exports reached USD 676 million and imports USD 134 million.

3. During the period of 1998-1999, aquaculture was promoted in an industrial and high-yield nature, reinforcing the actions of support for rural aquaculture as a result of their social impact. In 1999, total production in aquaculture was 151 thousand tonnes, of which the highest production was mojarra (62 thousand tonnes), followed by oyster and shrimp with 37 thousand and 23 thousand tonnes, respectively.

4. With regard to the marketing and processing of fisheries products, actions are being carried out to restructure traditional forms of marketing so as to increase domestic consumption of fisheries products and the export capacity of national products by improving processing systems, infrastructure and hygiene conditions. During the 1998-1999 biennium, the fisheries industrial plant produced an average of 327 thousand tonnes of finished product.

5. During this biennium, within the framework of the 1995-2000 Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme, there are a series of programmes and sub-programmes aimed at promoting the sustainable development of fisheries activities. Work has continued on the Administration of Fisheries, through the Fisheries Ordering Programme and the Programme for Normalisation of Responsible Fishing.

6. In regard to the International Fisheries Co-operation, during the 1998-1999 biennium, actions were initiated for promoting and co-ordinating scientific-technological and economic-commercial programmes. Organising projects with other countries is to strengthen Mexico’s participation in the main international fisheries forums and to develop a World Fisheries Order that complies with sustainability criteria. The most important of these actions was Mexico’s incorporation into the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) in June 1999, ratification of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Programme in April 1999 and the approval by the Mexican Senate of the Inter-American Convention on the Protection and Conservation of Marine Turtles. Similarly, it is worth noting the conclusion of these negotiations is for a Free-Trade Agreement with the European Union toward the end of 1999.
Legal and institutional framework

7. The fisheries sector in Mexico comprises of a set of activities that encourages the development of aquatic flora and fauna resources. These activities include the capture and cultivation of these resources and their processing and marketing. Fishing forms an important part of the economic activity and regional development of the country. It contributes to food for the population, inputs for industry, foreign exchange from exports and direct and indirect employment in various levels of production.

8. Fisheries policy responds to a comprehensive view of the administration of aquatic flora and fauna resources based on the principle of responsible fishing. For this reason, the legal framework for fishing in Mexico lays the foundations for the administration and development of fisheries resources and activities and in order to ensure the conservation, protection and efficient utilisation of those resources.

9. In this regard, the federal government is responsible for the administration of fisheries resources from both marine and inland waters. The corresponding legal ordinance is based on the Fisheries Law, published in the Official Gazette of the Federation on 25 June 1992.

10. Based on the experience gained from the implementation of the Fisheries Law and its Regulations 1992, the proposals of the social and private fisheries sector, the scientific and academic community, the state and municipal governments and the corresponding committees of the Honourable Congress of the Union, the new Regulations of the Fisheries Law was issued and was published in the Official Gazette on 29 September 1999.

11. These Regulations further establish the elements of the National Fisheries Charter, which will contain indicators on the availability and conservation of fisheries resources, which is essential information for decision-making on the administration and management of resources. By establishing criteria requirements and deadlines for replies this will eliminate discretionary authority to resolve applications for concessions, permits and authorisations provided for by the Fisheries Law. Furthermore, it determines the conditions that provide the authority with more information to check the legal origin of fisheries products, which is to the advantage of conservation and sustainable development of aquatic flora and fauna resources and of those who devote themselves to fisheries activities within the framework of the Law.

12. The regulatory framework for fisheries has been strengthened by incorporating guidelines that make the actions of the authority vis-à-vis the individual more precise and transparent. These regulations also establish expeditious procedures and separate through a new structure, the specific provisions applicable to extractive fishing from those applicable to cultivation. Thus the Regulations of the Fisheries Law are directed to full and sustained development of fisheries and aquaculture activities, within the framework of sustainability, and will provide certainty to those who participate in them throughout the chain of production.

Capture fisheries

Performance

13. Fisheries production in 1998 totalled 1 233 292 tonnes, of which 1 073 511 tonnes (87%) were marine and inland catches, and 159 781 tonnes (13%) came from aquaculture. According to preliminary figures for 1999, fisheries production registered a total of 1 273 000 tonnes, of which 1 121 984 and 151 016 tonnes came from catches and aquaculture, respectively.
This means that there was an increase of 3% in marine catches and a decrease of 5.4% in aquaculture in comparison with 1998. The increase in marine production for 1999 was mainly due to the increases in catches of Spanish mackerel (23%), algae and sargasso (180%), grouper (6%), octopus (12%), and tuna (4%). Table 1 shows volume of fisheries production by main species 1998-1999.

It should be noted that fisheries production has begun to recover after having suffered from strong negative impacts owing to the presence of the “El Niño” phenomenon in late 1997 and during 1998, whose effects were more intensive than on previous occasions.

Table 1. Volume of Fisheries Production by Main Species 1998-1999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>VOLUME 1998</th>
<th>VOLUME 1999</th>
<th>VARIATION%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Production</td>
<td>1 233 292</td>
<td>1 273 000</td>
<td>3.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Catch</td>
<td>1 073 511</td>
<td>1 121 984</td>
<td>4.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sardine</td>
<td>100 727</td>
<td>95 540</td>
<td>-5.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna(1)</td>
<td>138 137</td>
<td>143 088</td>
<td>3.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grouper</td>
<td>11 741</td>
<td>12 400</td>
<td>5.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrimp</td>
<td>90 335</td>
<td>93 540</td>
<td>3.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algae and Sargasso</td>
<td>12 443</td>
<td>35 013</td>
<td>181.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark and Dogfish</td>
<td>24 383</td>
<td>26 178</td>
<td>7.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Octopus</td>
<td>17 233</td>
<td>19 336</td>
<td>12.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crab</td>
<td>19 423</td>
<td>19 446</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clam</td>
<td>8 943</td>
<td>7 963</td>
<td>-10.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish mackerel</td>
<td>11 277</td>
<td>13 873</td>
<td>23.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>612 215</td>
<td>655 607</td>
<td>7.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture</td>
<td>159 781</td>
<td>151 016</td>
<td>5.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Includes the species Bonito and Skipjack Tuna  
Source: Department of the Environment, Natural resources and Fisheries (SEMARNAP)

State of fisheries

As and from 1997, the National Fisheries Institute began a study on “Sustainability and Responsible Fishing in Mexico.” This study presents a historical description of the situation of standards over the past 20 years for the 18 main fisheries. A quantitative approach was based on world trends (precautionary approach, points of reference, explicit consideration of risk and uncertainty in management, among others) and a section on management strategies and alternatives for each fishery, according to its condition. The analysis of these 18 fisheries included more than 31 fishery resources corresponding to 109 species that inhabit 16 regions of the Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea and inland waters.

The study has shown that fisheries in Mexico has not in general reached a critical stage, but the excess effort for some has led them to a state of deterioration that requires recovery strategies. Such is the case of the anchovy in the western coast of the Baja California peninsula, the abalone, the sea urchin and sea cucumber, the pink conch, the grouper and the fisheries of Lake Pátzcuaro.

Furthermore, updating work was carried out on the resources covered and studies were made on long-snouted fish in the Gulf and the Pacific, scale fish and inshore fishing, sea turtles, black cod and
fisheries of Lake Chapala and the Aguamilpas Dam, making a total of 14 new fisheries. The results of which are due to be published this year.

19. The importance of this work lies in the fact that it has made it possible to identify the fisheries that already require recovery strategies, those that are at an adequate level of development and those that still show an additional margin for tapping resources.

Management of commercial fisheries

20. During the 1998-1999 biennium, within the framework of the 1995-2000 Fishery and Aquaculture Programme, work continued on administration of Fisheries through the Fisheries Ordering Programme and the Programme for Normalisation of Responsible Fishing.

21. The long-term objective of the Fisheries Ordering Programme is to ensure the sustainable use of fishery resources by establishing mechanisms that bring fishing practices into line with the regulations in force and by applying the precautionary approach aimed at the development of responsible fishing with broad social benefits.

22. Decision-making with regard to fisheries ordering has been carried out according to the principles of sustainability and responsible fishing and is based on increased scientific information in the evaluation of fishery resources and the precautionary approach. With the result that it is now possible to gauge and maintain fishing efforts, regularise the legal situation of social organisations, establish fishery administration instruments, carry out ordering actions as part of the National Programme for Normalisation of Responsible Fishing and at state level in the Fisheries and Marine Resources Committees and to carry out the important work of identifying those who participate in this activity through censuses of fishermen, vessels and fishing equipment. All the above is carried out in a co-ordinated manner agreed upon by the 3 levels of government, the scientific community and the fisheries productive sector.

23. During the course of 1999, progress was made on ordering the country’s main fisheries by regularising producers’ organisations, quantifying vessels, weeding out and systematising files related to applications for permits and concessions, identifying participants in fishing and promoting a number of amendments to regulatory provisions.

24. With regard to fishery regulations, the closed season on abalone fishing in zone I of the Western Coast of Baja California was modified by extending the fishing season by one month. The preliminary draft amendment to Official Mexican Standard–003 was concluded to update the minimum sizes of catches and the measuring method for sardines, anchovies and mackerel (Northern Pacific Ocean).

25. Official Mexican standards were approved for the following dams: Vicente Guerrero in Tamaulipas, Luis Donaldo Colosio Murrieta (Huites) in Sinaloa and Sonora, and Aguamilpas in Nayarit within the framework of the programme for Normalisation of Responsible Fishing, through the National Consultative Committee for Normalisation of Responsible Fishing. Furthermore, draft standards were approved for sharks and similar species and for Zimapán Dam in Querétaro and Hidalgo, and El Infiernillo Dam in Michoacán and Guerrero.

26. On 30 July 1997, an amendment to Official Standard 002-PESC-1993 was published in the Official Gazette of the Federation, which makes the provision on the use of turtle-excluding device (TED) of a permanent nature both in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean, and in the Pacific Ocean. It also establishes the compulsory use of rigid turtle-excluding devices for the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fleet as of 1 January 1998.
27. For tuna fisheries, the provisions in the fleet aimed at protecting dolphins were consolidated and new regulations were incorporated into an Official Mexican Emergency Standard (NOM-EM-002-PESC-1999), published on 29 December 1999 in the Official Gazette of the Federation. These regulations are designed to ensure sustainable development of tuna species within the framework of the agreements signed by the Government of Mexico in regional fisheries ordering organisations.

28. After the preparation of diagnoses of scale fish and shark fisheries, administrative provisions were established in some fisheries, such as the implementation of a closed season for the species “bandera” (marine catfish) and snook, the standardisation of technical specifications for fishing gear and tackle to conserve and protect the resource and the progress made on preparing the draft Official Mexican Standard for shark fishing.

29. It should be pointed out that in the work to prepare the standard for sharks, certain provisions have been envisaged in accordance with the guidelines established in the Plan of Action on Sharks implemented by FAO.

30. Progress was made on preparing biological and fisheries studies to regulate management measures for fishing in Lake Chapala and a draft official standard and/or administrative provisions are under way to regulate grouper fisheries.

31. The amendments to the Regulations of the Fisheries Law, published on 29 September 1999 in the Official Gazette, strengthened legal certainty for fishermen and investors by ensuring greater transparency in steps to obtain permits, concessions and authorisations.

32. The formalities for issuing fishing permits, concessions and authorisations were simplified. The policy adopted by this administration of issuing concessions and permits for the maximum legal period was continued. In 1999, 1,254 permits for commercial fishing were granted, 931 for large vessels and 323 for smaller ones and a total of 484 (38.5%) permits were issued for a 4-year period, 374 (29.8%) for two years and 396 (31.6%) for one year. Additionally, the systematisation and modernisation of the process for issuing permits, concessions and authorisations was continued by locating the files available in the central offices and the design and operation of a database by fishery was carried out, and support was provided for by the regularisation of more than 300 fishery social organisations.

33. In accordance with its guidelines and with the support of the Department of the Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries (SEMARNAP), and with the participation of fishery social organisations, the foundations were laid for the process of issuing identification cards to fishermen, which began with the states of Oaxaca and Tamaulipas.

34. The Interdepartmental Commission on Maritime and Port Security and Vigilance (CONSEVI) advanced in the process of registration and issuing of license plates for vessels, which will facilitate the identification and ordering of national fisheries efforts.

35. In this regard, by the end of 1999, the registration process showed significant progress, since 55,500 vessels (50.6% of the total) had been registered, and special mention should be made of the states of Quintana Roo (100%), Sinaloa (93%), Tamaulipas (86%), Yucatán (83%), Colima (73%) and Veracruz (68%).

36. Moreover, in support of the activities carried out by CONSEVI, budget resources were provided for the training programme on Safety of Human Life at Sea. Under this programme, 9,000 fishermen were trained in different techniques to avoid marine hazards, identify natural phenomena, provide first aid, prevent fires and advancement on implementing the concept of fisheries ordering. The fishermen who
received these courses were able to obtain or renew their “tarjetones” (register card) and logbooks, an essential requirement for carrying out fishing operations at sea.

37. With regard to fishing gear, the Programme of Experimental Fishing of deep-water shrimp in Bahía Magdalena–Bahía Almejas was continued in order to find alternatives to replace the fishing gear known as “chango” (small trawl net). The aim is to strengthen ordering actions through the identification and regularisation of fishermen’s organisations, registration of vessels and legal accreditation of vessels in favour of legitimately established organisations.

38. Prohibition of the use of hooks and diving was reiterated, based on a model of technical and biological information on octopus (Campeche and Yucatán). The Prospecting Programme for the use of the boulter in swordfish fishery (Pacific Ocean) was implemented and the prospecting Programme in tuna fisheries (Pacific Ocean) was continued also, in order to know the effects of the use of the boulter.

39. These efforts have made it possible to care not only for fishery resources but also for the balance of the ecosystems in which these resources develop. In this regard, the species protection policy has been consolidated. Furthermore, in the context of shrimp and tuna fisheries, the incidental catch or death of turtles and dolphins has been drastically reduced.

**Recreational fisheries**

40. As part of the 1995-2000 National Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme, the sub-programme for recreational fisheries constitutes an aspect of the current policy to foster this practice in national tourist centres and the generation of greater benefits by promoting related productive activities and fishing equipment and inputs that in turn support the development of tourism.

41. Some of the advances in this sub-programme include: preparation of Official Mexican Standards (NOMs) for the ordering of inland water reservoirs; the formulation and evaluation of the “Revillagigedo Archipelago” Biosphere Reserve Management Programme and other strategies for identifying our country’s natural riches, such as the study by CONABIO on Mexico’s bio-diversity. Thus, consultations with the Department of Tourism (SECTUR) were concluded for the implementation and signing of Execution Annex III for the Promotion of Recreational Fisheries.

42. In regard to recreational fisheries, during the period mentioned efforts were aimed at co-ordinating the elements of the National System of Information on this category of fishing. The Department of Tourism and SEMARNAP are working on improving this system in conjunction with SEMARNAP’s Federal Delegations, state and municipal governments and the productive and services sectors, in order to upgrade its structure and content.

43. In co-ordination with the National Ecology Institute’s Protected Natural Areas Co-ordinating Unit, the criteria for the development of this activity in the Revillagigedo Biosphere Reserve were established, bearing in mind the elements of the National Ecology Institute’s proposed Management Programme for this area. The work is being done by taking into account the activities carried out by sports fishermen in the Reserve, the catch volumes obtained, the composition of catches, the fishing areas and in general, all useful information for knowing the impact of these activities on the resources and habitats of the Reserve so as to support the planning of the following season.
Monitoring and enforcement

44. The Federal Environmental Protection Bureau (Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente: PROFEPa), through its Marine and Fishery Resources Inspection and Surveillance Office (Dirección General de Inspección y Vigilancia de los Recursos Pesqueros y Marinos), is responsible for drawing up and implementing polices and standards in the area of inspection and surveillance.

45. Monitoring activities related to fisheries that are the responsibility of the Bureau are effected on the basis of the Programme for Inspection and Surveillance of Fishery and Marine Resources, a fundamental instrument for carrying out of the said activities and the result of a long process of consultation between the agencies of the Public Administration involved in the exploitation and protection of fishery and marine resources, the State governments and the productive sector. The programme addresses problems affecting the 17 coastal states and carries out priority actions of inspection and surveillance in order to combat it. This programme is updated annually with the opinions of the participants themselves.

46. The Bureau thus carries out the following fundamental activities directed at verifying the legal origin of fishery products.

**Inspections:** which are acts of authority, generally corrective, aimed at verifying boats, installations, storage depots or warehouses, collection centres or markets and road or air transport where it is believed that fishery products of illegal origin are to be found. During inspections the product is examined physically to check species, size, and other relevant physical characteristics. Documentation proving the legality of the product is checked and an official report is filed testifying to the facts and the circumstances of the act of inspection. If during the course of the inspection it is not possible to establish the legality of the product, it is impounded and an administrative procedure is then set in motion to study the evidence and allegations presented and to establish the legality or illegality of the fishery product. If the product turns out to be illegal it is confiscated and a sanction is imposed which in certain cases includes a fine. The inspection is carried out exclusively by staff of the Bureau duly accredited and with an inspection warrant signed by the competent authorities. Acts of inspection constitute the central element in the PROFEPa’s activities.

**Surveillance:** which is an act aimed at preventing the committing of illegal acts and consists basically in maintaining a constant presence in fishing zones and at places where fishery products are unloaded or traded.

**Operations:** which are actions of inspection and surveillance on a larger scale, and may include several visits to a particular zone carried out in co-ordination with authorities such as the National Defence Ministry, (Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional: SEDENA); the Navy Ministry (Secretaría de Marina); the Attorney General of the Republic (Procuraduría General de la República); local and municipal police forces etc., in order to verify the legality of activities.

47. Thus such actions and the results of inspections and surveillance carried out by the PROFEPa in the area of fishery and marine resources for the period between January 1998, and September 1999, have included a total of 12 485 inspection activities and 7 928 larger-scale operations.

48. As a result of such actions, 3 731.25 tonnes of fishery products, 1 154 vehicles and vessels, 48 290 items of fishing tackle and equipment have been impounded and 4 838 administrative proceedings have been set in motion. Training of personnel from other departments of the Federal Government and a number of different social organisations has been implemented. A total of 3 324 members of 64 military units of the National Defence Ministry from 18 different states have been given training.
49. At present there are 218 committees and sub-committees on Marine and Fishery Resources involved in inspection and surveillance along our coastlines and at least 1,005 individuals have been added to the community watch brigades, assuming the responsibility of assisting the authorities in conserving fishery resources.

50. At the same time, five agreements and conventions exist with state and municipal governments and fishery organisations over protection and the legal exploitation of these resources.

51. Concerning marine resources and shrimp and prawn fishing on the basis of the provisions of NOM-002-PESC-1993—relating to the mandatory use of devices to prevent the entry of marine tortoises into the shrimp dragnets during commercial shrimp and prawn fishing operations in the Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean—the PROFEPE has the obligation to check both on the presence of these devices in the shrimp fishers’ dragnets and on the compliance of such devices with the specifications, i.e., components, materials of manufacture, structure and installation, as well as the previous physical examination of the vessel.

52. Verification and certification, as the case may be, is carried out during two periods of the year, March-April and August-September, throughout the country’s entire shrimping fleet. It is a requirement that certification be issued by the PROFEPA before the port authorities, which come under the Ministry of Communications and Transport (Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transportes: SCT) give the go ahead to the “Vía la Pesca” office to grant permission for these boats to leave port and embark on their fishing activities.

53. A significant advance is the certification given by this Institution on the installation of Marine Turtle Excluding Devices in the dragnets of the shrimping boats along the whole length of the Mexican coasts. As in Table 2 during 1998 and 1999 a total of 4,104 certifications were carried out on the national fleet consisting of 2,052 shrimp boats, and over that period the installation of marine turtle excluding devices (TEDs) has thus been certified for 100% of the national fleet. It may thus be affirmed that the Mexican regulations and the international legislation in this matter have been fully complied with.

### Table 2. Actions and results carried out in 1998 and 1999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Inspections</th>
<th>Operations</th>
<th>Administrative proceedings begun</th>
<th>Fishery produce impounded (tonnes)</th>
<th>Vehicles and vessels impounded</th>
<th>Equipment and fishing tackle impounded</th>
<th>Number of vessels inspected for DETs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>3,362</td>
<td>3,523</td>
<td>2,154</td>
<td>2,069.55</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>2,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>9,123</td>
<td>4,405</td>
<td>2,684</td>
<td>1,721.70</td>
<td>831</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>2,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>12,485</td>
<td>7,928</td>
<td>4,838</td>
<td>3,731.25</td>
<td>1,154</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>4,104</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preliminary figures to September 1999

**Multilateral agreements**

54. Over recent years, Mexico’s international fishery policy has been directed toward the development of a world fishing order responding to the criteria of sustainability, as well as satisfying different countries’ needs of food, employment and income. Mexico’s participation in international fora has contributed, since 1995, to the formulation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, in the FAO.
55. Mexico has endorsed actions such as the creation and application of multilateral mechanisms for the protection of marine species, the rejection of the implementation of trade sanctions and the suppression of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in fishery products, and has also promoted responsible fishing practices before authorities such as the Working Group on Fisheries of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Forum (APEC), the Latin American Organisation for Fisheries Development (Oldepesca), the Fisheries Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), among others.

56. In this context, and in harmony with the aims set forth in the 1995–2000 Programme on Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mexico has made efforts to resolve, for example, the problems generated by unilateral measures related to the incidental mortality of marine species. The embargo on tuna is a case in point that has been affecting the development of the Mexican tuna fleet and industry.

57. With regard to this commercial sanction, on 15 August 1997, the United States promulgated the amendments to the Marine Mammals Protection Act and in January 2000, regulations for applying these amendments are to be published, which means that by the beginning of 2000 the trade sanctions on tuna will have been virtually eliminated. Likewise in April 1999, the United States’ Information and Consumer Protection Act was modified, introducing a new definition of the “dolphin-safe” concept, which means that it will be possible for this label to be borne by tuna where no dolphin mortality resulted from the actual process of catching the fish. Likewise, Mexico and the United States are working to obtain more scientific information on the impact of tuna fishing on dolphin populations, for which purpose a Programme of joint information-gathering cruises has been organised.

58. On 15 February 1999, the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Programme came into force. This agreement is legally binding in nature and obliges Mexico and the Mexican tuna fleet to apply measures to reduce the incidental capture of dolphins during commercial fishing of tuna with the seine or ring nets associated with this marine mammal. Mexico ratified the agreement on 8 February 1999.

59. Likewise, on 30 April 1999, the Senate of the Mexican Congress approved the Convention for the setting up of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), and on 4 June of the same year the Mexican Government joined the Convention, announced in decrees published in the government’s Official Gazette (Diario Oficial de la Federación) on 3 June and 19 July 1999, respectively. One of the objects of this was to establish measures for conserving and managing the populations of the various tuna species and other Scombridae in the eastern Pacific Ocean, in order to ensure their sustainable exploitation.

60. Mexico has also played a leading role regarding the protection of marine turtles, which are associated with shrimp and prawn fishing. This action has taken the form not only in the setting up of the National Programme for Protection of the Marine Turtle and the use of Marine Turtle Excluding Devices (known by their abbreviation in Spanish as DETs) throughout the entirety of the shrimping fleet, but also on the insistence at regional level on the creation of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Marine Turtles. In December 1998, Mexico signed the Convention and on 28 April 1999, it was ratified in the Mexican Senate. The Convention, besides guaranteeing the entry of Mexican shrimps and prawns into the United States market, will furnish us with an instrument giving adequate protection to marine turtles under a multilateral mechanism that avoids the application of unilateral commercial initiatives and sanctions in connection with the protection of the Cheloniidae.

61. Such actions complement the efforts made by Mexico in the framework of bilateral agreements. For several years Mexico has been co-operating with the United States on matters related to diseases affecting shrimps and prawns; on how to achieve compatibility between different standards for control of quality and the public health aspects of fishery products; on how to ensure observance of legal provisions
concerning the regulation of fisheries in both countries; and on intensifying efforts in favour of the marine
turtle, the smaller pelagic fauna, marine mammals and sharks.

62. During 1999, Mexico took part in the formulation of measures to regulate the different fisheries
and initiatives related to the “management of fishing capacity”, “conservation and management of shark”
and for “reducing incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries”, held under the auspice of the FAO. In
view of the importance of the subject of fishing capacity management, Mexico was host to a Technical
Consultation in December 1999, from which recommendations arose regarding the elements to be taken
into consideration when measuring fishery capacity.

63. Along with Oldepesca, Mexico continued vigorously to promote the launching of the fishery
development project entitled “Support for the Regional Implementation of International Fishing
Instruments”, through which an attempt is being made to advise the countries of the region on how to
approach the responsibilities arising from the implementation of the Agreement on Deep Sea Fishing and
from the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing.

64. As regards trade, in terms of bilateral and multilateral agreements, measures have been promoted
in favour of diversification and the stepping up of fishery product exports to non-traditional markets by
means of the negotiation of free-trade agreements and in this field the agreement with the European Union
(EU) was finalised during 1999. This agreement has brought positive results for the fisheries sector. While
by 2003 a proportion of 71% of the products imported from the EU will be free of tariffs, the European
Union will liberate from tariff protection, 88% of the products that Mexico exports to that region. Likewise
Mexico has been working on the formulation of Free Trade Agreements with Panama and the Northern
Triangle of Central America (Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador).

65. In an attempt to complement national actions and efforts in the area of fisheries development,
Mexico took part in the OECD’s Fisheries Committee, where work was engaged in to achieve
compatibility between quality control Programmes in fisheries and in a study of the costs of the transition
toward responsible fishing.

66. In the APEC Working Group on Fisheries, a proposal was made to work on rendering compatible
the regulations for attention to the presence of pathogenic viruses in aquaculture. For this purpose, Mexico
will be hosting a meeting on the subject during the year 2000 (April-May).

67. In the area of scientific-technical and economic-commercial bilateral co-operation on fishing and
aquaculture, during the 1998-1999 joint actions were implemented between Mexico and various countries
of the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Pacific.

68. Along with nations such as the Bahamas, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Guatemala,
Nicaragua and Panama, scientific and technical co-operation projects were implemented on the following
subjects: cultivation and reproduction of shrimps and prawns, lobsters, sea urchin, cypriniformes,
salmoniformes and mollusks; design and construction of aquacultural infrastructure; maintaining healthy
environmental conditions in aquaculture; marketing of fishery products. Mexican technicians involved in
the fishery sector also attended training courses in Japan and Peru on the subjects of planning fishery
development and processing fishery products.

69. With the aim of promoting investment and technology transfer, co-operative bilateral actions on
fisheries took place with Korea, China, Finland, Morocco, Spain and Canada.

70. Joint efforts continued with the United States in the conservation and protection of species and in
attaining a more ordered approach to the exploitation of resources of common interest, especially sea
turtles, dolphins and other pelagic fauna, marlins, sharks, whales, development and perfecting of selected
types of fishing tackle, aquacultural health, processing of fishery products and in ensuring observance by fishermen of the legal provisions and standards associated with fishery activities. Likewise, requests from different North American institutions and specialists were attended to with regard to carrying out research work on subjects relating to freshwater fish, marine turtles, sharks and stingrays, as well as studies on dolphins and whales.

Aquaculture

Policies changes

71. As a strategy to alleviate poverty and a way of stimulating food production in rural communities, the Rural Aquaculture Programme was continued. This Programme offers one of the most important alternatives for both increasing national fish production and fostering improvements in the Mexican rural environment.

72. The Rural Aquaculture Programme is currently operating in all the states of the country. During 1998 a total of 2 255 communities in 580 municipalities were attended to and the corresponding figures for 1999 were 2 202 and 522. In 1998 this Programme benefited a total of 46 250 inhabitants, A figure, which increased in 1999 to reach a total of 52 001 inhabitants, with a production of 8 897 and 8 303 tonnes of fish meat, destined for consumption on the farm and secondly to the marketing of surplus.

73. In other aspects of the activity, during 1999 the following advances were registered:

74. On 19 March 1999, the Mexican Official Emergency Standard (NOM-EM-001-PESC-1999), was published in the Official Gazette, laying down the requirements and measures for preventing and controlling the introduction and dissemination of the viral diseases known as white spot baculovirus (WSBV) and yellow head virus (YHV). It was originally valid for six months, and was extended for a further six months on 24 September 1999.

75. Four issues of the National Programme on Aquacultural Health Bulletin were published and the Diagnosis Network was set up with the aim of disseminating among producers, researchers and other persons interested in the subject technical information on the prevention, diagnosis and control of the different pathogens causing diseases affecting, or liable to affect, organisms in cultivation.

76. A sampling programme in the collection zones of wild shrimp and prawn post-larvae continued, with the aim of identifying diseases. This was assisted by the Network System for Diagnosis and Prevention of Diseases in Aquatic Organisms at National Level, in which a number of the country’s Universities were involved. The results obtained revealed the incidence of intra-cellular bacteria and those of the genus Vibrio, as well as the VP virus (Vaculovirus penaei), that of the white spot disease (WSBV) and that of the Taura syndrome (TSV). All these were found in a small number of shrimp and prawn farms in the states of Sinaloa and Nayarit.

77. Under the aegis of the research fund for the “Development of Aquaculture in Mexico” project, state-level committees were set up for the evaluation and selection of research protocols in the states of Oaxaca, Chiapas and Veracruz. Particular projects were supported including: Training and Diagnosis in Aquaculture Health; Research on Oyster Purging in Tamiahua, Veracruz; Technological Transfer for the Cultivation of Shrimps and Prawns in Extensive Systems in Oaxaca; Research for the Mar Muerto shallows on the Oaxaca coast; Research for Organising Fisheries at the Catazajá Beaches, Chiapas; and the contracting of technical assistance to install the Fisheries Department’s Geographical Information System.
78. The 1999 National Register of Aquaculture Producers was set up, to serve as an input for the 1999 Statistical Fisheries Annual and, it is intended, for the edition of the National Directory of Aquaculture.

79. For a fuller understanding and stricter observance of the New Code of Regulations of the Fisheries Act, seven regional training workshops were set up, covering the 31 Delegations plus one more at central level, in which officers of the Secretariat participated in order to discuss and define with greater clarity the application of the Regulations in the area of aquaculture.

**Production facilities**

80. The inventory of aquacultural production units in national territory was brought up to date. Thus, at the end of 1998, on the basis of information sent by the Federal Delegations of the SEMARNAP, a total of 9 300 production units are now in operation, in the categories of Promotional Aquaculture, Aquaculture Fisheries and Controlled Systems.

81. Of these units, 1.1 million hectares (93.0%) correspond to interior bodies of water (reservoirs, lakes, coastal lagoons, etc.) where fishing is practised on the basis of periodic “seeding” with organisms (aquacultural fisheries); 58 000 hectares (5.0%) correspond to small productive units devoted to production for self-supply (promotional aquaculture); and 20 437 hectares (2.0%) correspond to commercial farms (controlled systems).

82. Of the area under exploitation in the category of Controlled Systems, 87% corresponds to 253 shrimp and prawn farms and the remaining 13% to units devoted to the commercial production of trout, *Catarina* clams, oysters, catfish, carp, tilapia, lobster, abalone, frogs, crabs, mussels, ornamental fish and sea bass, mainly.

**Volume and value of production.**

83. As in Table 3, total aquaculture production for 1998 was 159 781 tonnes, consisting mainly of mojarra (a type of bream), 70 392 tonnes, followed by oysters, 33 486 tonnes. In 1999 production totalled 151 016 tonnes, the largest production being that of mojarra, 61 630 tonnes followed by that of oysters and shrimps and prawns at 36 776 and 22 737 tonnes respectively.
### Table 3. Value and volume of aquaculture production by principal species for 1998-1999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Volume (Tonnes, live weight)</th>
<th>Value (Thousands of pesos)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>1999 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrimp/Prawn</td>
<td>23 749</td>
<td>25 437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carp</td>
<td>24 659</td>
<td>21 713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mojarra</td>
<td>70 392</td>
<td>61 630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oyster</td>
<td>33 486</td>
<td>36 766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>7 495</td>
<td>5 470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>159 781</td>
<td>151 016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Estimated  

**Source:** SEMARNAP

84. According to preliminary figures in 1999, the participation of commercial aquaculture in total national aquaculture production was close to 20%. Of this aquacultural production, that of shrimps and prawns is particularly prominent since the almost 25 400 tonnes produced at national level corresponds in its entirety to production by commercial aquaculture. It should be explained that there is a marked under-registering of the aquacultural production of shrimps and prawns, which is estimated at around 30 000 tonnes; and while Sinaloa has traditionally stood out for its production of this type of crustacean, it is worth pointing out that during 1999 this state raised its output by 20% compared to 1998, this being due to the intensification of cultivation and the diversification in sizes that this state’s producers offer the market.

85. Total national aquacultural production of mojarra registered a 10% reduction as against 1998. This fall is attributed to the impact of the prolonged period of low water in the early months of 1999 on aquaculture production in reservoirs. Nevertheless, the production of mojarra by commercial aquaculture registered an increase in its share in the total national aquaculture production of this species, since in 1998 it only accounted for 0.1%, while in 1999 it was around 1.4%, which shows the advance of commercial aquaculture as against the extensive systems.

86. On the other hand, the share of oyster production by commercial aquaculture in overall national aquaculture production showed a reduction of around 2%, falling from 6% in 1998 to 4.3 in 1999. Nevertheless, the production by commercial aquaculture of oysters in 1999 was close to that obtained in 1998 (2 000 tonnes), which was severely affected in that year by the meteorological phenomenon known as “El Niño”; this shows the process of recuperation of the commercial aquacultural production of this mollusk.

### Fisheries and the environment

#### Governmental financial transfers

87. As part of the 1995-2000 overall Fishery and Aquaculture Programme a component programme was established for the promotion of credit support to the Fishery and Aquaculture Sector, the purpose of which is to design and promote, in co-ordination with the competent authorities, the financial instruments appropriate to the characteristics of the sector, as well as to channel credit and risk capital resources, in a
timely and sufficient manner and to improve on a long-term basis the financial structure and capitalisation of fishing organisations.

88. The achievement of these objectives is being aided by co-operation with the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público: SHCP), the Promotion Funds of the FIRA-FOPESCA (Guaranty and Promotion Fund for Fishery Activities) and the National Bank for Foreign Trade (Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior: BANCOMEXT), the Commercial Banks and other sources of finance, with the aim of getting credit resources flowing in a timely and sufficient manner, according to the specific needs of the sector.

89. For the above reasons Mexico is participating directly in the Technical and Administration Committees of FIRA-FOPESCA, BANCOMEXT and Ocean Garden, where monitoring and evaluation of the financial support programmes designed in co-ordination with the SHCP is being carried out, as well as the financial and credit management of investment projects specifically requested by the producers.

90. Thus, with the purpose of permanently strengthening the financial health and capitalisation of the organisations in accordance with the technical, economic and social development of the sector, for 1998 and 1999 the credit support channelled by the promotion funds rose to 1,317 and 1,895 million pesos respectively. An average of 50% over this two-year period was provided by the National Bank for Foreign Trade (BANCOMEXT) and the remaining 50% by FIRA-FOPESCA.

91. Another of the programmes managed with financial schemes was the Programme for Modernising the Fishing Fleet, which is aiming to bring the fleet into line with the most up-to-date standards in the international field.

92. Consequently, during 1999, FIRA-FOPESCA channelled financial resources worth 226 million pesos for the modernisation of 300 vessels, of which 291 were rehabilitated and 9 replaced. The modernisation of these fishing boats contributed to the strengthening of the organisations that own them. While the safety and living conditions of the fishermen at sea during fishing trips were improved benefiting approximately 1,582 fishermen, rewarding economically industries such as shipbuilding, dry docks, equipment, parts, fuels, lubricants and others in the commercial sector.

93. An important point of the fleet modernisation programme is that it does not under any circumstances consider the granting of subsidies or economic resources on the basis of a life annuity. The modernisation of the vessels is a voluntary decision of the producers. Institutions participating in the programme can help them obtain financial resources in order to carry out this modernisation process and at the same time capitalise their organisations and stimulate their overall corporate development. It is for this reason that the decisions of the producers have tended towards rehabilitation rather than the replacement of their vessels.

**Post-harvesting policies and practices**

94. With the purpose of guiding and supporting the sector’s industrial plant, in early 1995 the Modernisation Plan for the Fishing Industry was set in motion. Among the basic elements of this Programme is the recognition that sustainable development of fisheries implies, among other aspects, of having an efficient processing industry and making rational use of raw materials. For which reason, it is essential that the industrial plant should introduce systems to ensure quality in the processes for transformation of fishery products, focusing as a priority on the programme for sound hygiene and public-health practices as well as risk analysis and control of critical aspects.
Seafood safety

95. An important consequence of the programme for Modernisation of the Fisheries' Industrial Plant and the implementation of the public health standards, NOM-128-SSA1-1994 (which makes reference to the System of Risk Analysis and Control of Critical Points) was the publication of the decision (98/695) of the European Economic Community, which specifies the conditions regarding importation of fishery and aquaculture products originating in Mexico (24 November 1998). In addition, seven agreements were signed between the Health Ministry and the States of Baja California, Baja California Sur, Sinaloa, Sonora, Colima, Campeche and Yucatán for the decentralisation of the issuing of certificates for exportation fishery products.

96. Conversely, the Mexican Official Emergency Standards (NOM-EM-001-SEMARNAP-PESC-1999) was drawn up to establish the requirements and measures to be adopted for preventing and controlling the introduction and dissemination of the strains of the pathogenic agents known as White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) and Yellow Head Virus (YHV), which pose a threat to both wild and cultivated populations as a result of imports into, and movements across, the national territory.

Processing and handling facilities

97. During 1998 and 1999 the issuing of recommendations to improve both infrastructure and health and hygiene practices in the processing of fishery products continued. Two courses in Sensory Evaluation for the Fishing Industry were held. At present there is a list of 59 companies holding certificates for exportation to the European Union, awarded on the basis of their sanitary conditions.

98. Similarly, during the period of March to December 1999, as part of the Modernisation Programme for fishing industry plant, 48 fishery product processing plants received recommendations through the self-evaluation guide for the fisheries industrial plant, while six plants received technical assistance and were evaluated in situ for the issuing of the recommendations necessary for compliance with the new standards issued by the Health Ministry, the Labour Ministry and the Ministry of Trade and Industrial Promotion. Both recommendations and technical assistance have been focused on specific actions used for diagnosis of the fishing industry plants both in terms of infrastructure, conditions of hygiene and the implementation of the HACCP Programme.

99. After five years of this programme certain areas have been identified in which the industry has worked to improve its conditions and thus to ensure compliance with government standards and also the requirements of the international market. This approach always takes into consideration the aim of providing consumers with healthy and high-quality fishery products.

100. It is worth emphasising that these actions have enabled Mexico to win the recognition of the European Union, which now regards Mexico as a permanent exporter of fishery products. A proof of this is the publication of the decision (98/695) of the European Economic Community to fix the particular conditions of importation of fishery and aquaculture products originating in Mexico (24 November 1998).

101. As shown in Table 4, during the two year period 1998-1999, the fisheries industrial plant produced on average 326,594 tonnes of finished product, while for products in the frozen food line and other processes a fall was observed for 1999 in comparison with what was registered during 1998. In the case of frozen products a reduction of 1.8% was registered, while for other processes the fall-off was 6.86% in the canned presentations and in reduction, however, an increase for 1999 of 1.53% and 11.11% was registered respectively.
### Table 4. Fishery industries production 1997 - 1999

(tonnes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1997</th>
<th>1998</th>
<th>1999e</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>401 294</td>
<td>324 574</td>
<td>328 614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frozen</td>
<td>203 768</td>
<td>169 652</td>
<td>166 591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canned</td>
<td>120 647</td>
<td>100 060</td>
<td>101 588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other processes</td>
<td>2 908</td>
<td>2 900</td>
<td>2 701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction</td>
<td>73 971</td>
<td>51 962</td>
<td>57 734</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

e.- estimated figures.

### Markets and trade

**Markets**

*Tendencies in internal consumption*

102. The basic objective of fishery production is to provide food of high protein value to domestic consumers in accordance with their varying economic capacities.

103. To supply varied fishery products, which also means options viable in terms of price and availability in the market at the right time, is one of the challenges of fishery policy as is also the achieving of more extensive and better access of this country’s products to foreign markets.

104. In this context we are continuing to work with the National Committee for the Promotion of Consumption of Fishery Products (*Comité Nacional para el Fomento al Consumo de Productos Pesqueros*), which operates throughout the year but intensifies its efforts during the seasons of greater demand, such as Lent, Christmas and the New Year.

105. It is important to point out that the National Committee has the participation of the production and marketing concerns of the Federal Government institutions. This Committee is of a permanent nature and takes in the whole national territory through the State Committees, which establishes their own working programmes in line with regional conditions. The aim of this committee is to achieve a sufficient and timely domestic supply at prices that enable the public to have access to these traditional foods during the above-mentioned seasons.

106. As a result of these efforts, during the Lenten period of 1999 a total of 124 304 tonnes of fishery products were marketed, representing a 5.27% over the same season of the previous year. Agreements were arrived at with the industrial and marketing firms of the sector to support the stability of prices and an adequate supply. The marketing system was also supported through the installing of 2 891 additional sales points complementing the established outlets.

107. It is necessary to stimulate changes of attitude regarding the consumption of fishery products. The education of the consumer to adopt patterns of consumption favourable to sustainability has an important role. In this direction, wide-ranging dissemination campaigns on radio and television have been implemented, informing the public of the nutritional properties, quality and prices of the different species,
fresh and frozen, available on the market. At the same time the consumption of canned tuna is being promoted.

**Promotion efforts**

108. In order to improve the system of marketing and favour the access of the public to these products, in 2000 the creation of three new central markets for supply and distribution of fishery products is being promoted in order to complement the existing ones (La Nueva Viga and Zapopan) which is in the centre of the country.

109. The creation of these markets will facilitate an improvement in supply channels, reduce the present margins of the various intermediaries and favour the formation of a market offering a wide variety of species.

110. Through the Programme for Modernisation of Fisheries, in the period 1998-1999 training courses for retailers in fish and shellfish have been introduced to cover aspects such as health and hygiene in fishery products. Thus promoting the improvement in the operation and presentation of outlets dedicated to this trade so as to enhance their commercial practices.

111. One of the principal tasks is to consolidate and increase our traditional exports while promoting exports of new fishery products and incorporating added value thus allowing us to compete favourably in international markets.

112. The incorporation of greater added value to fishery products under strict sanitary and quality standards is a requirement for generating the sector to be more independent and able for competition in the national and international markets. For this reason the re-adaptation, modernisation and construction of processing plants is being promoted, in which new presentations, more attractive to the consumer, will be incorporated. An important consequence of greater added value in fishery products is that it generates employment and higher quality standards.

113. For the first time Mexico organised the International Food Fair, “Alimentaria México 1998”, which took place in November. The aim of this fair was to promote opportunities for business, through the exchange of products and food technology among the markets of Europe and Latin America. The staging of this event promoted a wider and more detailed knowledge of the most recent technological advances, especially in the fields of production and marketing of seafood, as well as consolidating the exchange of products and technology between Europe and the Americas.

114. With the objective of satisfying the needs of the Mexican and Central American markets, the “Expo Marítima México’99” took place in April. This event brought together important entrepreneurs connected with fisheries and other activities, that take place on the seas and in adjacent zones, thus providing the opportunity to learn of the most recent advances, especially in the fields of production and marketing of sea food.

**Trade**

115. Table 5 shows the balance in trade in fisheries products. The sector’s trade balance for 1999 registered a positive balance of USD 516,000 as a result of having carried out exports worth USD 671,821,000 and imports of USD 155,790,000. A positive balance was likewise registered in 1998, which totalled USD 541,930,000, in which exports reached USD 675,825,000 and imports USD 133,895,000.
Table 5. Balance of Trade in Fisheries Products
(000 dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>1998</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>99/98</th>
<th>VAR. ABS.</th>
<th>VAR. REL.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VAL</td>
<td>VAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALANCE</td>
<td>541 930</td>
<td>516 031</td>
<td>-25 899</td>
<td>-4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EXPORTS</td>
<td>675 825</td>
<td>671 821</td>
<td>-4 004</td>
<td>-0.59</td>
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<td>IMPORTS</td>
<td>133 895</td>
<td>155 790</td>
<td>21 895</td>
<td>16.335</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPORT</td>
<td>675 825</td>
<td>671 821</td>
<td>-4 004</td>
<td>-0.59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seaweed and gulfweed</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>1 253</td>
<td>939</td>
<td>298.96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna and similar</td>
<td>56 733</td>
<td>33 663</td>
<td>-23 070</td>
<td>-40.66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squid</td>
<td>10 560</td>
<td>16 262</td>
<td>5 702</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrimp and prawn</td>
<td>436 811</td>
<td>455 184</td>
<td>18 373</td>
<td>4.21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobster</td>
<td>17 259</td>
<td>19 894</td>
<td>2 635</td>
<td>15.26</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Octopus</td>
<td>14 839</td>
<td>7 116</td>
<td>-7 723</td>
<td>-52.05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sardine and mackerel</td>
<td>16 468</td>
<td>14 808</td>
<td>-1 660</td>
<td>-10.08</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canned crust. and moll.</td>
<td>42 168</td>
<td>44 789</td>
<td>2 621</td>
<td>6.22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>80 673</td>
<td>78 853</td>
<td>-1 820</td>
<td>-2.26</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>IMPORTS</td>
<td>133 895</td>
<td>155 790</td>
<td>21 895</td>
<td>1635</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna and similar</td>
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<td>14 314</td>
<td>6 340</td>
<td>79.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cod</td>
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<tr>
<td>Squid</td>
<td>2 468</td>
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<td>557</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shrimp and prawn</td>
<td>14 138</td>
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<td>-1 038</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salmon</td>
<td>4 081</td>
<td>6 129</td>
<td>2 048</td>
<td>50.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seaweed derivatives 4/</td>
<td>27 547</td>
<td>30 672</td>
<td>3 125</td>
<td>11.34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fats and oils</td>
<td>1 055</td>
<td>14 991</td>
<td>13 936</td>
<td>1320.94</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fishmeal</td>
<td>12 139</td>
<td>11 429</td>
<td>-710</td>
<td>-5.85</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>57 472</td>
<td>53 055</td>
<td>-4 417</td>
<td>-7.69</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ABS VAR = Absolute Variation.
REL VAR = Relative Variation.
VAL = Value

Source: Directorate of Fishery Registry and Statistics and the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit.