

The lobster fishery is reserved to cooperative operations, as mentioned earlier. Product from these cooperatives is sold to intermediaries who bring the lobsters to distribution points located in the large urban centers such as Mexico City, Guadalajara, Monterrey, Acapulco, León, Tijuana, etc. These intermediaries and the wholesalers control the volume, price and quality of the product. An estimated 100,000 tonnes of fisheries products move through the La Viga fish market each year, and approximately 5% corresponds to crustaceans, including domestic crayfish and lobster.

TARIFF AND STRUCTURE

As of 13 November, 1992 the importation into Mexico of crayfish and lobster does not require a permit from the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development (SECOFI).

Under the Harmonised System, crustaceans are described according to the following: "Crustaceans, including those that are shelled, live, fresh, chilled, frozen, dried, salted or in brine; unshelled crustaceans, boiled in water or steamed, chilled, frozen, dry, salted or in brine; meal, flour or "pellets" of crustaceans, fit for human consumption."

<u>Class. No.</u>	<u>Product Description</u>	<u>AD VALOREM</u>
	Frozen Product:	
0306.11.01	Lobsters (<i>Palinurus</i> , <i>Palunirus</i> and <i>Jasus</i> species)	20%
0306.12.01	Lobsters (<i>Homarus</i> species)	20%
	Unfrozen Product:	
0306.21.01	Lobsters (<i>Palinurus</i> , <i>Palunirus</i> and <i>Jasus</i> species)	20%
0306.22.01	Lobsters (<i>Homarus</i> species)	20%
1605.30.01	Prepared lobster or preserves	20%

PHYTOSANITARY REGULATIONS

All imported fisheries products must comply with sanitary requirements established by the Secretariat of Health, published in the Official Gazette on January 18, 1988. The law prohibits the marketing of fisheries products whose natural appearance, composition or quality have been adulterated in any way; they are considered to be contaminated when they exceed the limits allowed by the Secretariat for pathogenic agents, foreign substances, antibiotic residues, hormones and toxic substances such as heavy metals, biotoxins, petroleum and hydrocarbon derivatives, insecticides, bacteriostats and radioactive substances.