

CLAMS

Spanish: almeja

French: clovisse, palourde

There are various commercial classes:

++ Grooved carpet shell [Venerupis decussatus; Tapes decussatus]

(Spanish: almeja fina; French: clovisse croisée)

++ Babosa clam [Venerupis pullastra; Tapes pullastra]

++ Rubia clam [Tapes rhomboïdes]

++ Golden carpet shell clam [Tapes aureus] (French: clovisse jaune)

++ Carneiro clam [Venus verrucosa] (Spanish: carneiro, carneiros, escupinas; French: praire, venus à verrues, coque rayée)

Fresh:

All genera of Veneridae (clams) are included under Tariff Code 03.07.91.00.3.00 D and are subject to duty of either 8.7%, according to Supplement 286 of the Boletin Oficial [Official Gazette], or 11% (under the same Tariff Code) according to another publication.

Under the Directive of 21 May 1971, the SOIVRE is responsible for quality standards on mollusks and crustaceans in international trade. The minimum standards that must be met are as follows:

1. Products must be wholesome with no subsequent spoilage. Shells must be closed, and mollusks must be cleaned in accordance with the applicable legislation.
2. Mollusks and crustaceans are not admitted if smaller than the minimum sizes specified in Annex 1 to the Ministerial Directive of 25 March 1970 (regulations governing natural beds and closed seasons):

Babosa clam [ <u>Tapes pullastra</u> ]	. . . . .	30mm
Grooved carpet shell [ <u>Tapes decussatus</u> ]	. . . . .	30mm
Golden carpet shell [ <u>Tapes aureus</u> ]	. . . . .	30mm
Carneiro clam [ <u>Venus verrucosa</u> ]	. . . . .	50mm
(measured along minor axis)		

A 10% tolerance for defects is allowed (failure to meet minimum measurements given above). No more than 5% of mollusks may be broken or have open or empty valves.

Grooved carpet shell clams are sold to retailers for as much as Pts 3400-3500/kg for good size specimens, and as little as Pts 2800-3000 for somewhat smaller specimens.

No. 0 (plump) clams are priced at Pts 1300; No. 1 (mixed sizes), at Pts 1225; and smaller (chowder-size) specimens, at Pts 900. By comparison, at Madrid and depending on the season, No. 0 clams can go for as much as Pts 2000-2100. These prices are for good quality clams taken off our coasts.