

SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

Fishery Resources

Thailand's fishery resources originate in the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea, and come from four sources of production: marine catch accounting for 87.6% of the total, coastal cultivation (aquaculture) accounting for 5.8%, freshwater catch accounting for 4.5% and fresh water cultivation (aquaculture) accounting for 2.1% of the total catch.

Thailand's seafood industry has emerged as one of the top 10 foreign currency earners and is playing a vital role in the country's economic development. Frozen, canned and dried shrimp, squid and cuttlefish are the major seafood exports. Thailand's canned seafood exports has placed it number one in Southeast Asia and also among the world's leading canned seafood exporters. For instance, exports of canned tuna alone account for more than 60% of the total canned seafood exports.

The concentration of the seafood industry is on the southern east coast located around Songkhla, followed by the lower central area at Samut Sakhon and the eastern region at Samut Prakarn. Rayong is the center for dried squid processing. Bangkok is the center for seafood export and dominates the frozen shrimp business.

Key Areas of Expansion Identified by the Board of Investment

1. Brackish water shrimp farming.
2. Aquarium fish, freshwater plants for aquariums.
3. Aquaculture feed production.
4. Hatchery and culture operations.
5. Breeding and raising tiger prawns.
6. Marine products for canning (tuna, baby clams, cuttle fish and molluscs).
7. Cold storage facilities.