

GOOSE BARNACLE

[Pollicipes cornucopia] Spanish: percebe French: pouce-pied

Tariff Code 03.06.29.90.10 I (subject to suspension of quota).

Tariff Codes 03.06.29.90.20 H and 03.06.29.90.90 A (not subject to suspension of quota).

Duty on imports (fresh): 9.1%

The Pacific species (Pollicipes elegans) is very similar to the European variety.

There is also a species known as the wood barnacle (Lepas anatifera; L. fascularis) in the Atlantic, but we are unable to quote commercial rates for this species.

Barnacles must be free of algae and mussels. The preferred size is roughly equivalent to a man's thumb (short and wide), although larger sizes are also imported.

Goose barnacles should be packed (no more than 10kg net per container) with one or two plastic bags of ice so that specimens are kept alive as long as possible. The plastic bags are necessary since direct contact with ice will kill barnacles.

Under the quality standards required by the SOIVRE [Import Inspection Service of the Foreign Trade Quality Control and Standards Division], the tolerance for dead barnacles in import shipments is 5% by weight. However, in practice the inspectors are more lenient, allowing up to 20-30% dead specimens.

Current retail price for barnacles from Canada is Pts 2000-2500, according to supply and demand. The retail price can exceed Pts 2500 in October and November.