

FISH AND SEA PRODUCT IMPORTS, 1994 TO 1995

US \$ THOUSANDS

	World		Canada	
	1994	1995	1994	1995
Fresh, chilled, frozen, smoked, dried or salted	47,961	22,479	4,075	3,450
Fresh or chilled fish excluding fillets and meat	5,744	1,928	1,526	1,255
Frozen fish, excluding fillets and meat	6,763	4,637	12	58
Fresh or frozen fish fillets and meat	6,211	2,822	226	19
Smoked, dried or salted fish	13,163	6,871	1,921	2,001
Crustaceans	7,257	3,368	387	106
Mollusks	8,823	2,853	3	11
Prepared or preserved	50,734	15,962	5,061	937
Extracts and juices of fish, crustaceans, mollusks	148	95	1	0
Prepared or preserved fish, caviar etc.	30,458	8,539	4,985	933
Crustaceans, mollusks and other aquatic invertebrates	20,128	7,328	75	4
Grand total	98,695	38,441	9,136	4,387

Source: Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior (Bancomext), Mexican Foreign Trade Commission.

AQUACULTURE

Aquaculture accounted for only about 11 percent of Mexico's seafood catch in 1995, but ambitious government development plans, combined with foreign investments, are expected to yield results over the next few years.

Mexico has a significant aquaculture industry, which is based mainly on traditional methods, such as small-pond cultivation of fresh water species. Total aquaculture production was about 158,000 tonnes in 1995, of which almost half was *mojarra*. But the government believes that greater use of non-traditional methods could greatly expand production. Changes to the *Ley de Pesca*, Fishery Law, in 1992 encouraged a substantial increase in private investment in this sector. Among other measures, it allows for 50-year operating licences for private facilities. Private capital, including foreign investment, is now seen as essential to develop the potential of the entire fishery sector.

The government maintains almost 40 aquaculture centres throughout the country and it has been operating a large-scale training program for several years. The objective is to expand capacity for a broader range of species, especially higher-value products.