

An Overview of World Shrimp Markets and Trade

Audun Lem, PhD.
Products, Trade and Marketing Service,
Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Economics Division,
FAO
Audun.Lem@fao.org

Shrimp is the most important species in global fish trade with close to 20% of the total export value. Shrimp import markets are dominated by the three traditional destinations, USA, Japan and the EU but emerging economies and regional markets are taking an increasing share of production and exports.

Total shrimp supply is increasingly dominated by farmed production from Asia and South and Central America. In the market there is clear segmentation between wild and farmed production with the farmed production now setting the trend in market and product development.

Over the last few years, prices have been on the rise because of supply responses to the economic crisis during 2008-2010. Despite growing costs of some of the crucial input factors, the outlook for shrimp is positive with rising long-term demand in both the major traditional markets as well as in emerging economies.