

# NEW GOALS

**BRAZILIAN SHRIMP FARMING RECORDS AN 18% INCREASE IN 2018.** FOR 2019, ABCC PROJECTS A PRODUCTION INCREASE AS A WAY TO LEVERAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS ACTIVITY TO HAVE ACCESS TO FOREIGN MARKETS

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**A**fter the White Spot affected the main shrimp producing regions in Brazil, causing significant impacts, the shrimp farming industry has been recovering in the last years, using well the opportunities available to leverage its activities. In 2018, an increase of approximately 18% was recorded, with the production of 77 thousand metric tons of marine shrimps, according to the Brazilian Association of Shrimp Farmers (ABCC), generating a total revenue of 3 billion reais. The industry now seeks to expand its production in order to be among the major global players in the near future.

Taking into account that Brazil has a huge potential for the aquaculture sector, with all the requirements needed to leverage the activity, ABCC projects that shrimp farming will double production until 2020, reaching 120 thousand metric tons. The association expects a production of approximately 90 thousand metric tons this year, which corresponds to a 3 thousand kg/ha/year productivity. The association's special advisor, Itamar Rocha, remembers that this figure has already been reached in the

past, in 2003, when the Brazilian shrimp farming production reaches 90,360 metric tons. "This figure established Brazil as the world's productivity leader", he adds.

Itamar is striving to achieve the government's recognition of this activity so the Brazilian shrimp will have again an outstanding position in the international market. However, he says that is necessary to fight for it, defending the best interests of the industry to ensure the development of the Brazilian shrimp farming. "We have to wake up, unite our efforts, celebrate partnerships and transform the potentialities into real opportunities for businesses, jobs, income and living conditions with dignity in the Brazilian rural area", emphasizes the fishing engineer.

The present high demand for healthy products has leveraged the market even further to increase the crustacean consumption. "Shrimp is a product that everybody likes. There's much room for growth. And to achieve this we need to have anchor companies that will contribute to increase the market" he stresses when talking about verticalization of the sector. Besides that, the activity stands out as it offers various production opportuni- ►







ties. “Shrimp farming is beneficial as it is sustainable, contributes to the surrounding communities, generating jobs and income for all stakeholders”, states Itamar.

In spite of all benefits derived from shrimp production, there are still some bottlenecks to be overcome, such as the difficulties to obtain licensing and financing, the import of shrimp that is now regulated thanks to the persistence of ABCC, with a new normative ruling on the inspection of imported shrimp. Another challenge faced by the industry is related to exports, as Brazil has kept its distance for some years due to the high prices of the product in the domestic market.

**BRAZILIAN SHRIMP FARMING SHOULD BRING TOGETHER ALL FORCES TO BOOST ITS GROWTH PACE**

According to Itamar, it will be necessary to increase production in order to achieve this objective. “We have to reestablish the independence and economic ability of our activity in the international market”.

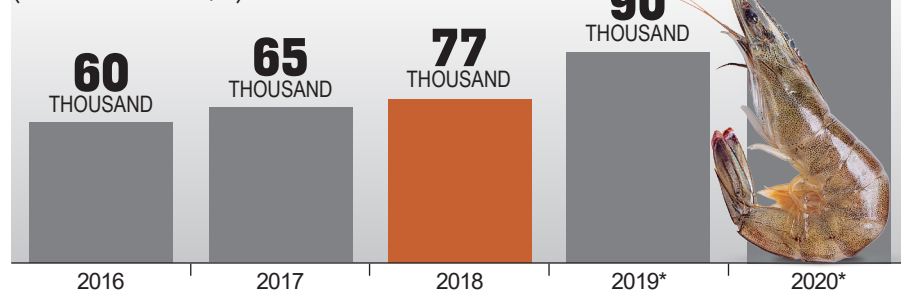
To resume its production capacity, Brazilian shrimp farming should bring together all forces to boost its growth pace as they already have all the necessary infrastructure, investing in genetics, nutrition and production systems, namely in the Northeast region that has the highest concentration of producers, representing 97% of the total activity according to ABCC. Increasing production will be the starting point to achieve this objective, as well as credit and financing lines for investments in new enterprises as well to cover the operational costs of the large number of micro and small producers. According to the association, the country has three thousand independent producers, 70% of them are micro and small, 25% medium sized and 5% are large.

If all the recommended changes are deployed, the association believes that the first exports will take place already in the second semester of 2019, initially to China and then to the United States. Besides these countries, the European Union, Japan, South Korea and Vietnam are potential markets for the Brazilian product. With the possibility of exporting, Brazil will become more competitive in the international scenario, recovering the privileged space it had years ago. “Brazil needs to - and will - become a large farmed marine shrimp producer and exporter in the next five years. Besides the outstanding soil and climate conditions, Brazil has an established infrastructure, electricity, ports and airports, as well as an outstanding grain production and a privileged geographical location in relation to the EU and USA markets”, he stresses. ■



## BRAZILIAN SHRIMP PRODUCTION

(METRIC TONS)



\*projections / Source: ABCC, 2018



**“ WE NEED TO REESTABLISH THE INDEPENDENCE AND ECONOMIC ABILITY OF OUR ACTIVITY IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET ”**

**ITAMAR ROCHA, ABCC'S SPECIAL ADVISOR**