



## **Fish consumption in Italy is still growing, but dependence from imports increases**

Unique aquaculture solution, AquaFarm is the only event for the supply chain. The second edition on 15th and 16th February at Pordenone Fair will enable to know the trends of this sector, the most innovative researches and the active policies for such a strategic sector.

**Pordenone, 9 January 2018.** 26 kilograms per person is the yearly consumption of fish products per capita in Italy. The latest figures from the FAO states this, showing a growth of 2% between 2015 and 2016. Our country remains well above the world (20.3 kg) and the 22.5 kg of European averages (EU28), showing a growth three years after a fall corresponding to the worst years of the crisis.

In parallel, the dependence from abroad increases. Every year the WWF calculates the moment in which each European country ceases to be self-sufficient for its own consumption. In 2017 the gong sounded on April 1st, in 2016 it did three days later. It is a phenomenon common to many European countries, overall the EU28 have exhausted their domestic production on July 6 (a year earlier it did on July 13).

Fishing production continues to fall in the EU as a whole (the different species of tuna and sardines fall in double digits), while aquaculture continues to grow, although for now, it is not able to compensate. In Italy (Confagricoltura data), the sector grows in terms of number of companies, now they are 3007 with a growth of 2.7% compared to 2016. Production has stabilized over the last two years between 140 thousand and 150 thousand tons, at the beginning of the 2000s it was much higher.

There would be, therefore, room to reduce dependence from foreign countries, at least for species that can be kept in our waters. The key to decisive growth lies in the domestic demand, which always showed an erratic trend for domestic aquaculture products. Often imports from countries where the breeding of fish species is not subject to the same controls in force in Italy grow, as they are much cheaper (what is the final cost for the consumer is another matter).

However, the national supply chain is ready to face the challenge and has chosen again AquaFarm as the reference event of this year. Scheduled at Pordenone Fiere on the 15th and 16th February 2018, the event is organized with the partnership, renewed and extended, of API (Italian Piscicoltori Association) and AMA (Mediterranean Association of Fishers).



For more information about the conference programme please check:

<http://www.aquafarm.show/program-15-february/?lang=en>

Aquafarm 2018 attendance is free of charge after registration. Register and download your pass:

<http://www.aquafarm.show/registration-to-attend-aquafarm-2018/?lang=en>

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