

Iran’s shrimp output hits 50K tons; exports reach CIS, Europe: *Union chief*

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INTERVIEW

Iran’s annual shrimp production is earmarked to be approximately 50,000 tons, and its exports span Persian Gulf countries, Russia, CIS nations (including Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan), and Europe, according to Ali Khatibi-Tabar, head of Aquatics’ Production & Trade Union of Iran.

In an interview with Iran Daily, Khatibi-Tabar said Iran is utilizing only about 5% of its actual capacity in shrimp production despite possessing extensive clean coastal waters and ideal conditions for aquaculture.

The official emphasized that shrimp farming requires no freshwater resources, offers substantial economic development opportunities, creates jobs in coastal regions, and could significantly boost exports.

“The southern coasts of the country, especially along the Sea of Oman, have vast untapped potential due to deeper, cleaner waters with better circulation — ideal for shrimp farming,” he said.

Beyond shrimp, these waters also support the cultivation of diverse marine products such as shellfish, sea cucumbers, and seaweed, further expanding the sector’s production capacity.

Fully harnessing these resources, Khatibi-Tabar noted, could position Iran as a major global shrimp producer and elevate its international trade standing.

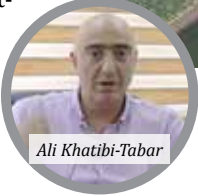
“The time has come to deploy modern technologies and expand infrastructure to unlock

Iran’s full shrimp production potential and secure its rightful place in global markets,” he said. Iran has already achieved notable export successes despite sanctions, primarily targeting Russia, Egypt, and other regional markets. However, those markets have weakened economically due to ongoing regional conflicts, reducing their purchasing power. “This isn’t related to [anti-Iran] sanctions — it’s due to the economic conditions in our target countries,” Khatibi-Tabar clarified.

Efforts to enter new markets are underway, but international certification remains a hurdle. “We have no problem obtaining standards domestically, but sanctions make it more difficult to secure international certifications,” he explained, adding that multiple strategies are being employed to overcome this barrier.

Market challenges cloud outlook

Khatibi-Tabar warned that 2025 will not be a strong year for Iran’s shrimp industry, citing global oversupply — estimated at around 3 million metric tons — and trade disruptions stemming from US tariffs imposed during the Trump administration. Ecuador, the world’s top shrimp producer with an output of 1.2 million tons, is unable to export directly to the US due to heavy tariffs and instead ships mostly to Europe and China. Meanwhile, India — another major producer — faces a 50% US tariff, contributing to global market volatility.



Ali Khatibi-Tabar

Iran’s stance

Iran’s annual shrimp production is projected at approximately 50,000 tons, though exact figures remain uncertain as the country is still in harvest season. Of this, only about 3,000 tons are consumed domestically; the rest is exported. Iranian shrimp exports face a 12% tariff in the European Union—a rate unchanged since

the Ahmadinejad administration (2005-2013)—while Ecuador enjoys zero tariffs and India pays just 2.8%. Iran exports to Persian Gulf countries, Russia, CIS nations (including Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan), and Europe.

Domestic production profile

All of Iran’s shrimp is farmed; the country has no wild-caught shrimp fisheries. Production is

concentrated in five provinces: Khuzestan, Bushehr, Hormozgan, Sistan and Baluchestan, and Golestan. Harvesting typically occurs twice a year. Shrimp farming in Iran uses saline water and non-arable coastal or salt-affected lands, avoiding pressure on the country’s scarce freshwater resources. The industry also drives infrastructure development — including roads, electricity, and security — and supports

processing plants that generate widespread employment. From a hygiene standpoint, Iranian shrimp farms benefit from pristine, pollution-free environments. In contrast, Indian farms are often situated near rice paddies, where agricultural runoff and pesticides contaminate shrimp ponds — leading to higher rejection rates for Indian exports. “Our product does not face such issues,” Khatibi-Tabar stressed.



MEHR

IFO launches joint initiative to curb plastic waste, promote sustainable fishing



IRNA

Economy Desk

Iran’s Fisheries Organization (IFO) launched a joint program with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to reduce plastic waste and promote sustainable fishing practices. The initiative targets the global problem of abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and is

being implemented in coordination with Iran’s Department of Environment to manage plastic waste and raise awareness among fishing communities, according to a report by Tasnim citing the Agricultural Ministry’s information portal. A specialized training workshop is scheduled with representatives and experts from relevant organizations to lay the

groundwork for operational measures aimed at reducing plastic pollution and protecting the country’s marine ecosystems. The Office for Conservation and Rehabilitation of Marine Resources at IFO — serving as a member of the national task force reviewing the draft treaty on plastic pollution — has already undertaken significant actions.

These include participation in the plastic pollution crisis conference, development of a national strategic waste management plan, and submission of reports on waste generated by fisheries units. In parallel, technical meetings have been held with the Iranian Fisheries Science Research Institute and the Department of Environment to formulate a plan addressing ghost nets, plastic debris, and other discarded fishing equipment. Other notable efforts include involvement in sessions to define evaluation indicators for national environmental policies in the fisheries sector, collaboration in organizing an international waste management and recycling exhibition, and participation in meetings on marine waste disposal held by the Ports and Maritime Organization.

Non-oil trade volume posts slight rise; value falls nearly 10%: *IRICA*



IRNA

Economy Desk

Iran’s non-oil foreign trade rose by 2.8% in volume during the first seven months of the current Iranian year (which began March 21), but the total value dropped by 9.7% compared to the same period last year, according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA)’s official data cited by ISNA. Exports of non-oil goods in the seven-month peri-

od reached approximately 91.9 million metric tons, valued at \$32 billion. This compares with 89 million tons worth \$32.636 billion during the same timeframe in the previous year — reflecting a 3.20% increase in weight but a 1.88% decline in dollar value. Imports during the same period totaled 22.3 million tons, valued at \$34.2 billion, up from 21.944 million tons worth \$40.804 billion a year earlier, which represents a

1.60% year-on-year increase in import volume but a sharp 16.07% drop in value. Overall, Iran’s total non-oil trade in the first seven months of the year amounted to 114.237 million tons, valued at \$66.272 billion. In the corresponding period last year, the figure stood at 111.038 million tons worth \$73.440 billion, confirming the trend of rising trade volume alongside a significant contraction in monetary value.