



CHILI ▾

Your Country

ABOUT OCEANA

PUBLICATIONS

BLOG



PRESS RELEASES

OCEANA IN THE MEDIA

PRESS CONTACT

INFORMATION

**BECOME A
WAVEMAKER**

Sign up today to receive weekly
updates and action alerts from
Oceana.

Email address



Oceana publishes a study that analyses the risks of illegal activity in the industrial handling of sardines and anchovies

May 26, 2021



- Both fisheries are 100% processed for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.
- It is estimated that the fishing industry associated with these fisheries represents 14% of the regional GDP and that the local economies most involved are Coronel and Talcahuano.

Santiago, May 26, 2021. A total of 20 gaps in the industrial production chain of fishmeal and fish oil were detected in the report of the marine conservation organization Oceana entitled "[Study of control gaps in the landing and processing of anchovy and common sardine in the Biobío region](#)". The report identified risks in the control of landing, production, storage and marketing of these fisheries, as well as a lack of information and traceability.

"We conducted this study considering the importance of these species for the ecosystems of the region and the need to observe how these fisheries are processed," said César Astete, Director of Fisheries Campaigns at Oceana Chile. It is estimated that in the period from 2009 to 2018, before the landing certification system passed from private hands to Sernapesca, the processed accompanying fauna was about 645 thousand tons, which is equivalent to 155 thousand tons of fishmeal, valued at US\$170 million.

Among the 20 breaches identified by Oceana, it was found that the accumulation of discharges from several artisanal vessels in the storage wells affects the monitoring of the production line, also impacting the environmental standards of local communities due to the emission of bad odors that have already been reported in both Coronel and Talcahuano.

The pelagic fisheries, which include the common sardine, anchovy and horse mackerel, to name a few, are among the most important in Chile, with landings reaching close to 1.5 million tons per year. In the Biobío region, the majority of operations are carried out on the mixed anchovy and common sardine fishery, 78% of which is assigned to the artisanal sector, but 100% of the processing is done by the industry.

"This study is a good way to provide transparency to know how this industry is operating. Environmental aspects must be important in extraction, but also in processing and marketing," said César Astete of Oceana Chile. "Unfortunately, within the framework of the investigation, Sernapesca requested that 11 companies authorize the provision of public information on the supply of plants and the destination of production, however, only one of them was willing to do so," he added.

The study was submitted to the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Service (Sernapesca), the agency responsible for fisheries oversight, so that joint actions can be taken to reduce these gaps.

Regarding the study, Sernapesca pointed out that they value Oceana's interest and dedication in carrying out technical studies on the matter, highlighting that several of the problems detected are already being addressed thanks to the entry into force of the Service's modernization law. In 2019, the certification of landings in pelagic fisheries was resumed without distinction of length, that is, for all vessels, whether artisanal or industrial, that operate in common sardine and anchovy. In this regard, it can be highlighted that the levels of accompanying fauna were considerably reduced in 2019, reaching a historic 2%.

On the other hand, the allocation was increased for better coverage in each of the landings and traceability was improved. "We are very aware and share the concern about the regulatory gaps in the regulation of the production chain of this fishery that is so economically and socially relevant for the fishing world of Biobío," said Fernando Naranjo, Deputy Director of Fisheries at Sernapesca. "We hope that all the organizations that make up the fishing institutionality can work quickly to correct them," he added.

Following the presentation of this report, the gaps will be analysed individually and solutions will be proposed to ensure that the sardine fishery remains an important source of income and way of life for fishermen and women in the Biobío region.



Do you know what marine protected areas are?

Marine protected areas are established in order to protect marine areas of particular biological importance.

[Learn more](#)

[Pollution](#) >

[Protecting ecosystems from bottom trawling](#) >

[See all](#) >

BECOME A WAVEMAKER

Sign up today to receive weekly updates and action alerts from Oceana.

Email address

[JOIN US](#)

[Press Center](#)
[Job Opportunities](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Terms of Use](#)

REGIONAL SITES :

[International United States](#)
[Europe](#)
[Canada](#)
[Belize](#)
[Philippines](#)
[Brazil](#)
[Peru](#)
[Mexico](#)

Oceana Chile
Suecia 0155, office 1001
Providencia, Santiago, Chile
Phone: [+56 2 27128696](#)

FIND OCEANA AT



SHARE OUR MESSAGE ON TWITTER

Do you want to protect the world's oceans? Join [Oceana](#).

