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Sardine crisis sparks massive protests by artisanal fishermen in Bio Bio

By [Antonio González](#)
With information from [José Manuel Lagos](#) and [Óscar Valenzuela](#) .

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The protests, which are due to the sardine and anchovy crisis, have caused traffic disruptions and changes in Biotren schedules.

At this time, barricades are being seen on Route 160 between Concepción and Coronel, as well as in Talcahuano and other sectors of Greater Concepción, in the [Bío Bío region](#) . The protests are being led by artisanal fishermen in the area, who are denouncing an acute crisis of sardines and anchovies.

Seafarers complain about the impossibility of [use mackerel and mackerel](#) , which they

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The roadblock is located on the stretch between Coronel and San Pedro de la Paz, at kilometer 15. This blockage has generated significant traffic congestion for those heading to the city of Concepción.

[In response, Carabineros](#) COP personnel are working to clear traffic.

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The burning barricades, mainly made of tires, are also causing difficulties in traffic in the direction of the capital of Penquista from the commune of Tomé.

As a result of the protests, **Biotren announced changes in its service** . The trains that normally leave from Coronel to Concepción are not operating from the coal basin, but from the Laguna Quiñenco station. In addition, there have been changes in departure times.

Biotren

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Biotren informa | Nuestros servicios L2 operarán entre Concepción y Laguna Quiñenco por protestas en cruce Lo Rojas, Coronel.

Servicios de L1 operando con normalidad en horario según itinerario.

6:04 a. m. · 2 abr. 2024

45

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Similarly, demonstrations are taking place in Talcahuano, specifically on Avenida Blanco Encalada, near the La Tortuga gymnasium. The protests have caused a huge traffic jam in the port commune.

Many drivers are trying to take alternative routes to get to the center of Talcahuano.

Fishermen call on the Government

In conversation with **Radio El Carbón** de Lota, **Pedro Martínez** , spokesman for the Mesa Pesquera del Bío Bío Artesanal, stated that “we have been extremely responsible when the resource is not in a condition to be captured. And now that we have the problem, the Executive does not want to provide a solution to this problem. The only thing we are asking is that they give us a percentage of horse mackerel to be able to extract mackerel, as they are species that work together, they are unified among themselves. **We have to be sure that there is a percentage so that the fishery can unload it .”**

“Artisanal fishing is going to return to the old days, asking for things on the street. **We spent two days sitting at a work table, it would seem quite absurd to us that we have to occupy the public road ,** interrupt society, its scheduled tasks, for this situation that we could have solved yesterday,” he added.

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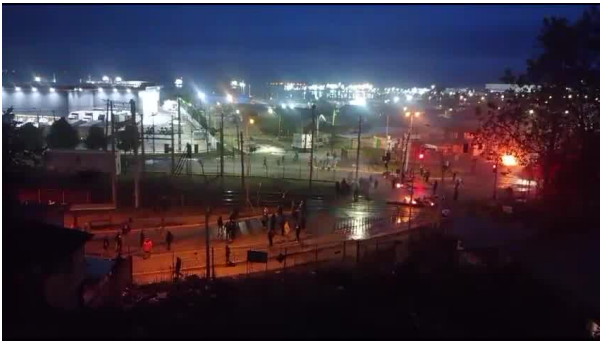
Matías Canales , one of the fishermen present at the demonstration in Coronel, said that "we want sustenance for our families, we want that quota that will help us feed ourselves and our families, since the sardine quotas are very bad this year , because the horse mackerel and mackerel resources have eaten up the smallest ones."

He urged the Government to do the same. “I call on the President, the Governor and all politicians to do something in this country, because these causes are just and noble,” he concluded.

Check here the records of the artisanal fishermen's protests:



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