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Concerns rise as over 30% of Peru anchovy catches are juveniles

Catches have surpassed the 1 million metric ton mark, but there are concerns at the high levels of juveniles in the landings

By Undercurrent News | Dec. 5, 2023 10:04 GMT



Peru fishing vessel. Credit: SNP

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Reports have emerged that more than 30% of the anchovies landed during Peru's second anchovy fishing season of 2023 have been juveniles, according to [Republica](#).

Some fishermen have called for the immediate closure of the fishing season on sustainability grounds. Juvenile landings are estimated at some 310,000 metric tons or more, with total catches surpassing the 1 million metric tons mark, equivalent to 60% of the quota.

On Dec. 3, catches had reached 1.017m metric tons, according to Undercurrent News sources.

A representative of the industry association Sociedad Nacional de Pesqueria, Eduardo Ferreyros, said in an opinion piece published on the organization's website that the anchovy fishery in Peru was well managed and denied "voices" speaking about "anchovy degradation."

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about anchovy depletion.

"Despite the warm conditions of the sea this year, the anchovy [...] has shown a great capacity for adaptation, and for this reason, it remains in abundance, perhaps a little deeper or closer to the coast; but the truth is that this second fishing season has been carried out responsibly, complying with the norms adopted by [Peruvian production ministry] Produce and [marine institute] Imarpe," he wrote.

"Let us remember that the anchovy is a species of high fecundity, fast growth, and relatively short life that moves in schools composed of fish of different sizes; therefore, before its capture, it is technically impossible to calculate the exact size of the anchovy, since the current acoustic detection technologies do not allow this level of precision," he added.

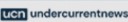
Angel Perea, the director of Imarpe in Chimbote, also defended the continuation of the fishing season, citing favorable weather conditions.

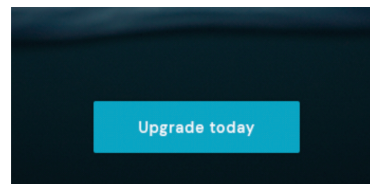
"Environmental conditions along the coastal strip and in [regions] one and two are still cooling compared to previous weeks, thanks to the strengthening of the South Pacific anticyclone," he noted.

He added that winds would remain moderate to strong in the coming days, weakening the impact of warm Kelvin waves that usually reach the Peruvian coast. Therefore, continuous monitoring will be crucial to assess the situation.

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