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La Libertad: Fishermen protest anchovy price cuts

LOCALS 11/18/2024 | Updated ago 11/18/2024

Written by: **German Montoya Guerrero**

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They blame the government and fishing companies for this bad situation.

The economic crisis affecting artisanal fishermen in Puerto Malabrigo, in the La Libertad region, has intensified following the drastic reduction in the price of a ton of anchovy, a vital resource for the local and national economy.

This decline, according to protesters, has led to an unsustainable situation for thousands of families who depend on this activity.



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Protests and complaints from fishermen

On Monday, dozens of artisanal fishermen, accompanied by their families, took to the port's main streets to express their discontent with banners and slogans directed at the government and fishing companies. Among their most prominent demands was a demand for state intervention to regulate market prices and ensure fair working conditions.

Juan Pérez , a fisherman with more than two decades of experience, stated: *"We can't survive at these prices. It's barely enough to cover the costs of fuel, maintenance, and food for our families."* The current price of a ton of anchovy is approximately 300 soles, which represents a decrease of more than 20% compared to the previous year.

Economic and social impact

Anchovy is not only essential for the livelihoods of families in Puerto Malabrigo, but also plays a key role in the production of fishmeal, an essential input for the global food industry. The drop in prices has generated a chain of negative effects, weakening the local economy, already battered by inclement weather and international market fluctuations.

Ana Ramírez, a spokesperson for the fishermen, emphasized: *"We are facing a critical situation. The hard work of the fishermen is not being appreciated, and we need the authorities to speak out and take urgent measures."* According to the fishing unions, the companies that buy anchovies have not provided clear explanations for the price reduction, which has increased distrust.



Requirements and possible measures

The fishermen have made a series of demands to the central government and the Ministry of Production, including:

1. **Price regulation:** Establish a fair base price that covers operating costs and ensures the economic sustainability of the sector.
2. **Temporary subsidies:** Support with financial incentives while the market stabilizes.
3. **Greater transparency:** Require fishing companies to provide clarity

on the criteria for valuing and paying for anchovies.

If they don't get a response, the fishermen have warned they will intensify their protests, including blocking strategic waterways and halting fishing activities in the region.

Official reactions and upcoming actions

To date, the Ministry of Production has not issued an official statement, although a meeting with representatives of the fishing industry has been announced for the coming days. Expectations are high, as fishermen believe that an effective solution must be found soon to avoid an economic collapse in Puerto Malabrigo.

In this context, the unions have emphasized the need to include long-term policies that strengthen the artisanal fishing sector on the agenda. This would involve everything from improving working conditions to implementing strategies for the conservation of marine resources.

A structural problem

The situation in Puerto Malabrigo reflects the structural problems of the Peruvian fishing industry, where price fluctuations and a lack of regulation create constant uncertainty for workers in the sector. In a region where the sea is the mainstay of life, ensuring a balance between environmental and economic sustainability is crucial.

While awaiting a response from the authorities, the fishermen of Puerto Malabrigo continue to fight for their right to fair conditions, highlighting the need to prioritize addressing the challenges facing the country's artisanal fishing sector.

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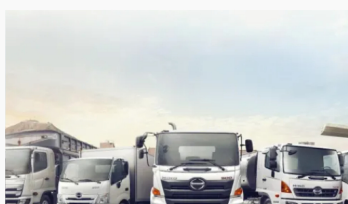
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