

## China Rolls Back Testing and Disinfection Protocols for Seafood Imports

In cooperation with seaports, the Chinese government is rolling back coronavirus import protocols — including testing, disinfection, and quarantine — as the country undergoes a major COVID-19 policy shift.

Seafood and other food importers across China report that testing and quarantine are no longer required for products arriving at Chinese ports and that they are now being sent through normal import channels so as to further optimize and improve China's epidemic prevention and control measures. The relaxing of epidemic policies also shortens the waiting time for customs clearance; previously, there was a lot of uncertainty about denials during this period.

Similarly, domestic consumption is expected to have a “restorative” growth after COVID-19 restrictions are eased. A full return to normal consumption is expected before the Spring Festival on January 22 next year.

Source: Undercurrent News



## Small and Medium-Sized Shrimp Producers Carried Out a Three-day Fisheries Shut Down

With road closures, sit-ins, and placards, hundreds of small and medium-sized shrimp producers seized control of several access roads to Puerto Hualtaco, Puerto Pitahaya, and Puerto Jelí in El Oro Province and to Pedernales, Jama, and Cojimíes in Manabí as part of a production strike that took place on December 7, 8, and 9.

The measures were part of the producers' protest against the price they get per pound of shrimp from the packing houses and their rejection of the elimination of the diesel subsidy that the Government put into effect as of Friday, December 2, for producers with more than 30 hectares in production

Danilo Rengifo, president of the Association of Aquaculture Producers of the South (Asoproadsur), reported that during the three-day strike, small and medium producers —who account for 69% of the national total of 220,000 hectares and make up 97% of the country's shrimp farmers— stopped the sale of somewhere between 80 million and 100 million pounds of shrimp to the big packing houses. The shrimp producers union took this measure in hopes of prompting dialogue with the government to seek a solution that will enable the Ecuadorian market to remain competitive, since the elimination of the diesel subsidy adds a cost of \$0.16 per pound and is likely to affect the demand for shrimp.

Source: El Comercio Newspaper



## Ecuador Hopes to Finalize Negotiations with Mexico and China Before Year's End

Trade agreements with Mexico and China are nearing conclusion. The signing of the Technical Memorandum of Understanding for the Free Trade Agreement with the Asian giant has been announced for this December 14, as part of the China-LAC 2022 Summit to be held in Guayaquil.

The agreement with Mexico is 99% complete and will allow 90% of Ecuador's exports, or five thousand products, to enter that country without tariffs. The remaining 10% would reportedly have short- and medium-term tax relief terms, helping to increase GDP by over \$100 million and growing investment and consumption by over \$200 million, according to data provided by the Ministry of Production to the National Assembly.

Source: El Universo Newspaper

