

## The 3rd edition of the Halieutis Fisheries Show

The city of Agadir will host the 3rd edition of the Halieutis Fisheries Show from the 18th to 22nd February 2015

In order to accompany the new dynamic of the fisheries sector in Morocco and its opening to maritime friend countries and partners, the Ministry of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries has wished to organize an international event dedicated to fisheries in Agadir,

Under the high patronage of his Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Halieutis Show is a professional appointment of national and international scale dedicated to different trades of marine fisheries, aquaculture and seafood industries.

This event is organized around six major thematic poles:

- Fleet and fishing gear pole;
- Value adding and processing pole;
- Fisheries resources pole;
- International pole;
- Training pole;
- Institutional and sponsoring pole.

This show aims to set forth Morocco's real assets and potentialities in the field of fisheries.

The holding of this international event aims to set forth the achievements and prospects of development for the fishing industry in Morocco through the « Halieutis » strategy:

- Infrastructure and fleet upgrading programs;
- Resource development plans;
- Aquaculture development;
- Establishment of regional poles reinforcing the competitiveness of sea products.

On a wider scale, the "Halieutis" show aims to create new opportunities of exchange and partnership through:

- Facilitating exchanges and business relationships (north-south and south-south) in the field of fisheries by acting as a platform (HUB) to promote exchanges and cooperation between Morocco, Europe and the countries of the African continent;
- The organization of B to B meetings between professionals interested in advance targeted contacts;
- Privileged areas of exhibition and exchange between both exhibitors from over 30 countries and more than 45,000 visitors;
- The invitation of several ministerial delegations and operators from many countries to a higher level and fruitful contacts.

#### Overview of the fisheries sector in Morocco:

Featuring a double coastline, Atlantic and Mediterranean, Morocco has 3500 km of rich and varied coastline

- The Moroccan waters, consisting of an exclusive economic zone of over one million square kilometers are considered among the most abundant in fish resources;
- Morocco holds the rank of first fish producer in Africa as well as the first producer and exporter of sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*)
- The significant production potential available to Morocco creates increasing interest from major maritime nations as evidence the cooperation agreements that Morocco signed with the EU and Russia in the field of fisheries ;
- In addition to this international interest, there is a growing national will to make of this sector one of the major drivers of the Moroccan economy;
- The fisheries sector already plays an important economic and social role in the Moroccan economy. Its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been around 2.3% as an average during the past 10 years;

- In terms of employment, the fishing industry generates more than 170,000 direct jobs and nearly 500,000 indirect jobs;
- Morocco has implemented a national strategy called "Halieutis" for the development of the sector up to 2020.

The 2015 edition of the show "Halieutis" will take place in the most favorable and propitious context:

- Morocco, the largest producer of fish in Africa witnesses a new dynamic thanks to an inclusive long-term strategy and a strong sustainable development of fish production and exports. Within this framework, major projects were launched, including the "Parc Haliopolis" in Agadir and several fish farming projects across the kingdom;
  - The signing of the EU-Morocco fisheries agreement opens up new opportunities for exchange and cooperation in this regard;
  - Prospects for growth in international demand for fish products are particularly encouraging following the global economic recovery, especially in the Euro zone
  - Morocco grows up increasingly as a "gateway to Africa", particularly by strengthening cooperation and exchange with other countries in Africa. In this context, it should be noted that 60% of the 33 countries present at the 2nd edition of the show are from the African continent.
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