

PRESS RELEASE – June 29th 2011

APROMAR and Ctaqua collaborate to promote the consumption of meagre

The Spanish Association of Marine Aquaculture Producers, APROMAR, commissioned the Andalusian Aquaculture Technology Centre, Ctaqua, to complete a study on the production and market for meagre in Spain, focused on developing proposals to promote the consumption of the species in this country.

As a species, meagre has strong aquaculture potential thanks to its organoleptic characteristics and optimum growth conditions. However, consumer's lack of knowledge about meagre is delaying its presence in the Spanish market.

With this initiative, APROMAR aims to obtain a diagnostic of the current situation concerning the market for meagre and production of this species, as well as an evaluation of its potential and consumer perception.

Ctaqua is currently developing the study, *"Proposals to promote consumption of meager (*Argyrosomus regius*)"*, which will be completed at the end of July. The study is being financed by the Regulation and Organization Fund for the Fish and Marine Cultures Market (FROM) and by APROMAR.

Once the conclusions of the study have been obtained, Ctaqua, in collaboration with APROMAR, will develop a series of recommendations and proposals for the sector. These proposals will help the sector to adopt strategic decisions about the production of this species.

About Ctaqua

Ctaqua works for the aquaculture sector in various lines that include Environment, Food and Nutrition, New Species, Pathology, Applied Engineering and Commercialisation, with excellent results.

With finished projects in the lines mentioned above, this year Ctaqua reinforces the services it offers with the implementation of new facilities in El Puerto de Santa María, which will allow for the development of new projects in the test centres, workshops and laboratories equipped with the latest technology.

The modern two-story building houses the nutrition, diversification, mollusc, crustacean, phytoplankton and zooplankton rooms on the ground floor. The microbiology and pathology labs, transformation room and the engineering room are also located on this level. The technical offices, physicochemical, materials and food technology labs are located on the upper level.

The premises will be fully equipped by Septiembre 2011 and will allow Ctaqua to consolidate its work and become a reference in R+D+I management for the aquaculture sector, as well as a driving and essential force to generate added value for companies in the sector.

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