



สำนักงานที่ปรึกษาการเกษตรต่างประเทศ  
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Office of Agricultural Affairs - Royal Thai Embassy - Washington DC

## DOF Put in Place Import Control Measures for Aquatic Animals



*The Committee on Resolving Low Aquatic Animal Prices gathered to discuss measures on import control in accordance with international practices.*

Capt. Thammanat Prompao, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives revealed after attending a meeting of the Committee on Resolving Low Aquatic Animal Prices at the Chulabhorn Building, Department of Fisheries (DOF). The meeting reviewed the complaints on low prices of aquatic animal products due to the influx of imports. This has caused the price of domestic aquatic animal products to fall. Thai fishermen suffer losses as a result. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC), through DOF, has analyzed the holistic situation of imports and current prices of in-country aquatic animal products including certain products such as squid and surimi products. Other import and relevant measures were discussed to urgently tackle the pricing issues.

The meeting considered the complainants' proposals to enforce the import control measures including 1) Stop the importation of aquatic animals 2) Limit import quantity necessary to supplement domestic demands and production capacity 3) Ensure imported aquatic animals are subject to the same IUU regulation as domestic production 4) Implement stringent import inspection and 5) Impose import taxes as appropriate.

DOF has no intention to ban or limit aquatic animal import quantity. Such an operation would be contrary to the principles of international trade of the World Trade Organization (WTO). However, the import inspection has been strengthened to comply with relevant standards both in terms of sanitary measures and quality standard. Imported shrimps are subject to 100% inspection and quarantine for diseases. Sampling rate of snapper for chemical residues and contaminant analyses has been increased from 2% to 10%. A health certificate is required to accompany each shipment. These are examples of measures put into force.

For wild caught fisheries, measures to prevent products of IUU fishing to enter the country have been established. Importers must provide valid catch certificates or other documents demonstrating that the aquatic animals are not obtained from IUU fishing. Verified origin is required for import permission. DOF has established an operation center to combat the import-export of illegal fishery products. Surveillance and inspection are strengthened to prevent illegal imports.

The meeting acknowledged the solving of low seabass price issues, the 2024 collaboration project with Ministry of Commerce on seabass distribution, the draft ministerial regulation on collecting fees for permits to import animals or carcasses into the Kingdom in accordance with the Animal Epidemic Act. On the issue of the fees for animal imports, Minister Thammanat Phrompao suggested that the private sector including Thai Chamber of Commerce, Board of Trade of Thailand, Thai Frozen Food Association and the Fisheries Association of Thailand work together to reach the conclusion on import fee rates that are appropriate and acceptable by all parties.

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