



WORLDWIDE ABALONE PRODUCTION STATISTICS

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WITH UPDATES FROM MAJOR ABALONE PRODUCING
COUNTRIES

PRESENTATION TO INTERNATIONAL ABALONE SYMPOSIUM
XIAMEN 2018

Definitions

Abalone Fisheries: The total allowable annual commercial landing quota (country by country) expressed in terms of "in shell" weight. This category would include the planting of seeds in large areas of the sea wherein the sea bottom has not been prepared with man placed rocks or structures. This definition does not include the legal sport catch or any illegal catch worldwide.

Quoted from Fishtech, California



Definitions

Cultured abalone (expressed in terms of "in shell" weight) includes both:

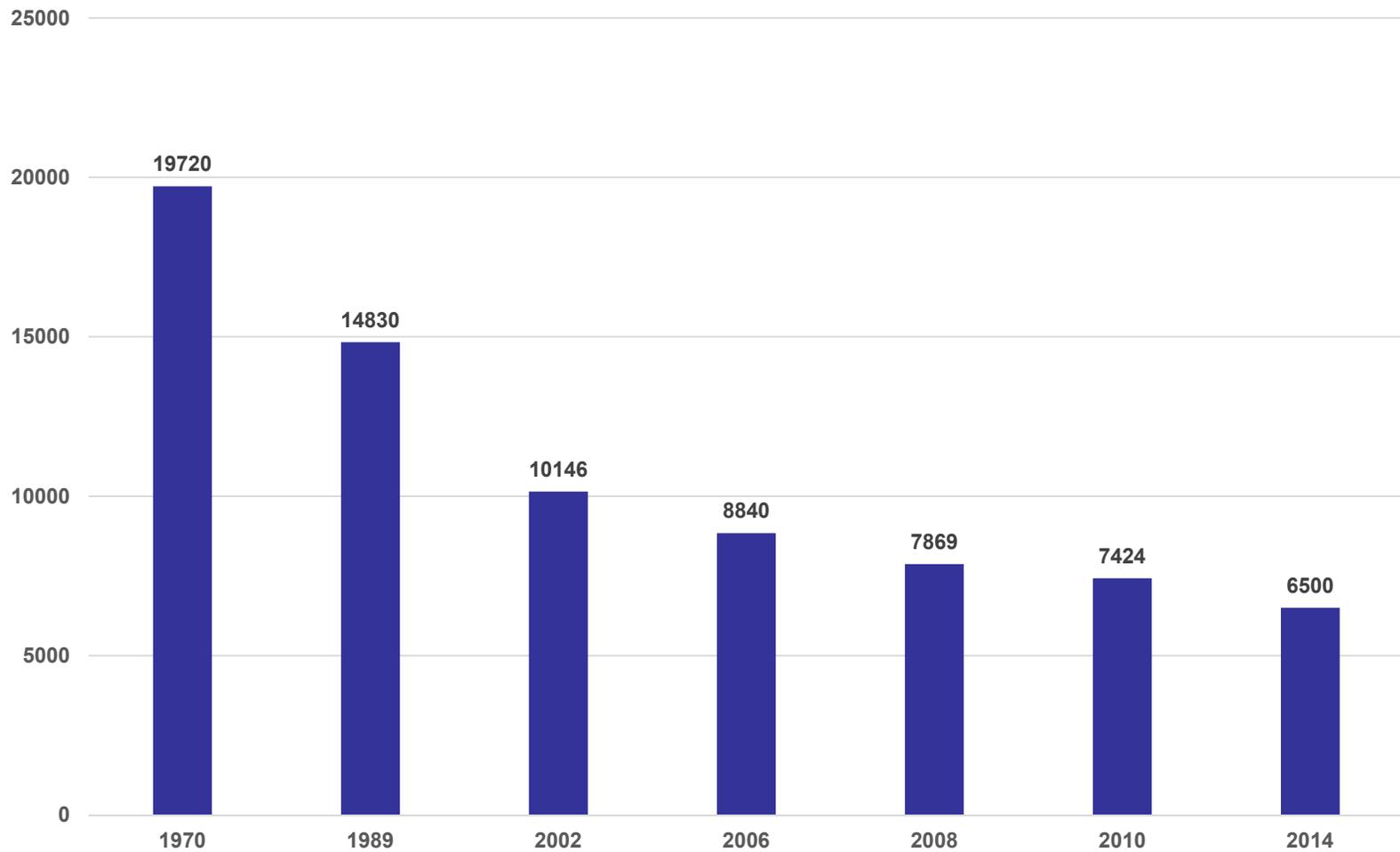
Intensive Culture: The farming of abalone on land or sea - - contained in man made tanks, nets or structures.

Extensive Culture: Sea planting of abalone seeds in artificially arranged substrate or structures, with or without adding food.

The Illegal Catch: Any taking of abalone beyond the total allowable annual landing quota.

Quoted from Fishtech, California

WORLDWIDE ABALONE FISHERIES metric tonnes



Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Mexico, Europe, USA

FARM PRODUCTION BY COUNTRIES as presented at 2015 symposium

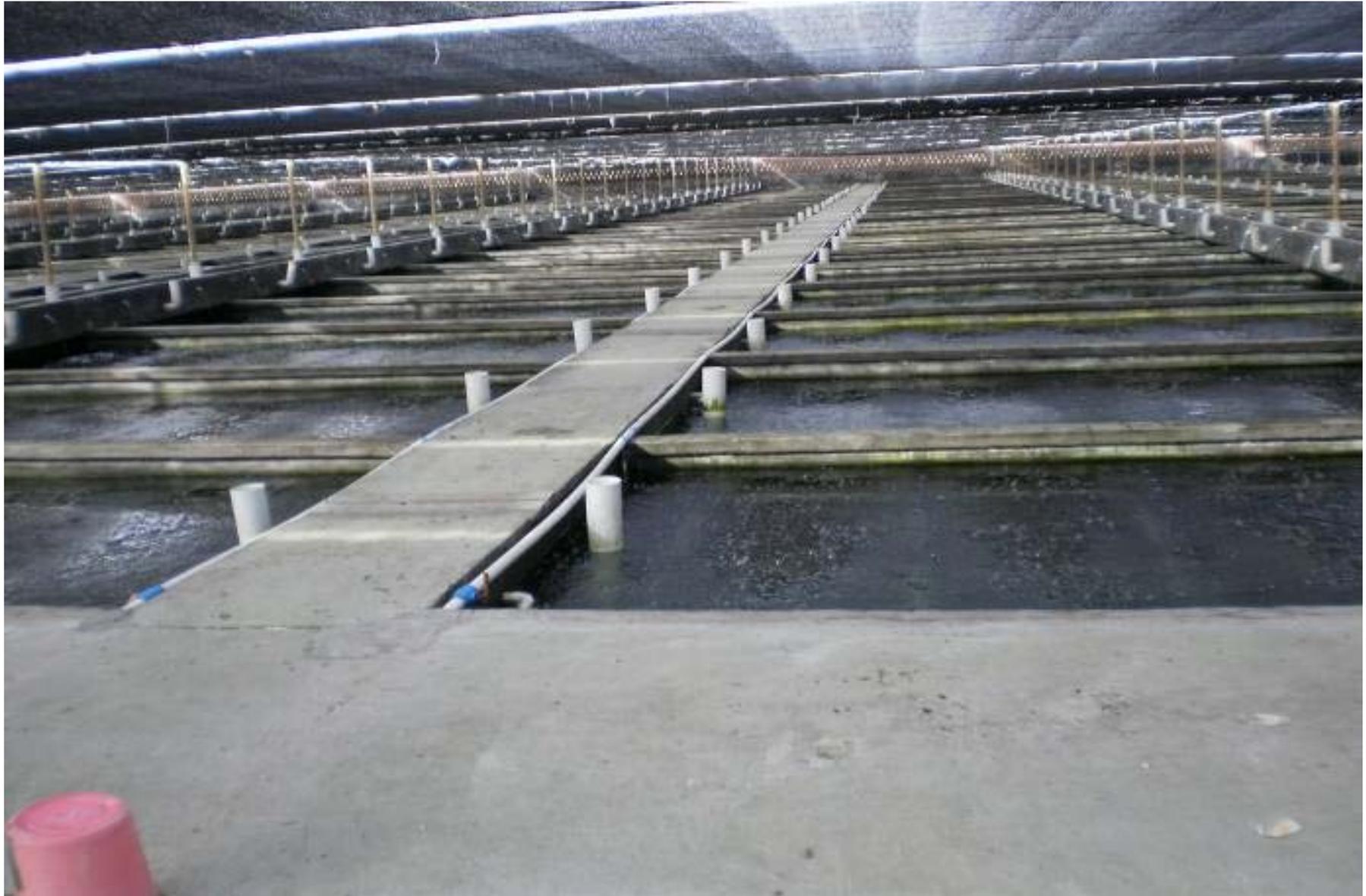
Region	2014-15 production (mt)
China	115 397
Korea	10 000
South Africa	1 400
Chile	700
Australia	900
USA (including Hawaii)	362
Japan (seeds)	200
Taiwan	171
New Zealand	100
Mexico	30
Europe	15
Thailand	8
Philippines	4
Total	129 287

FARM PRODUCTION BY COUNTRIES to be filled in during updates

Region	2014-15 production (mt)	2017 production
China	115 397	
Korea	10 000	
South Africa	1 400	
Chile	700	
Australia	900	
USA (including Hawaii)	362	
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Total	129 287	

**Worldwide abalone farm production
dominated by China and South Korea**

ABALONE NURSERY IN CHINA





Chinese abalone production from farms

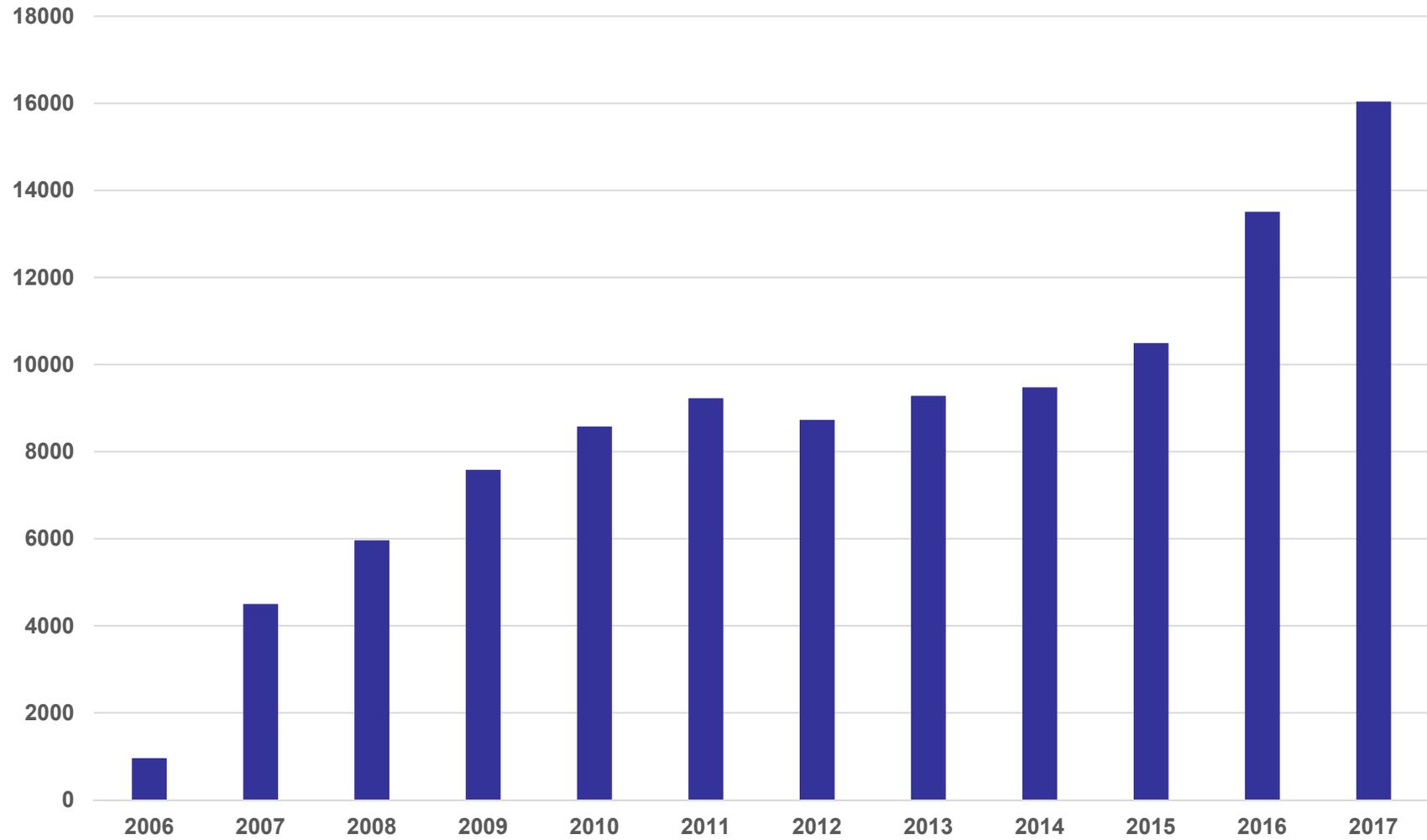
(metric tonnes)

2010	56511
2011	76786
2012	90694
2013/14	110 380
2015	115 397
2017	?

Offshore cage production in Korea



Korean Farm Production



**Unfortunately, we cannot assess
worldwide abalone production
without considering the illegal trade**

The worldwide illegal trade in abalone

2004	(South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, USA, Japan)	3696 mt
2007	(Huge increase from South Africa +/- 2000mt)	5500mt
2014	(some attempts at control of poachers)	4800mt
2017/18		?

Where is this illegal product coming from ?

According to the Wall Street Journal, China

Easy Pickings for Abalone Smugglers

High demand for abalone is fueling overharvesting around the world, especially in South Africa, one of Hong Kong's largest suppliers of abalone. Recently, Hong Kong officials returned a massive 2.6-ton shipment of dried abalone to South Africa, where they'd been poached before being smuggled to Hong Kong.

ABALONE WILD FISHERIES FACING POACHING CRISIS

Information: Fishtech, California

ILLEGAL CATCH BY COUNTRY (2008)

Australia	1,500mt
New Zealand	1,000mt
South Africa	2,000mt
Mexico	400mt
USA	200mt
Misc. Countries	200mt
TOTAL	5,300mt

South Africa

Poaching for Abalone, Africa's 'White Gold,' Reaches Fever Pitch

A booming illegal trade in abalone—the world's most valuable shellfish—is fueling a social and environmental crisis in South Africa.

Source: Paul Steyn [Wildlife Watch](#), *National Geographic*

A special investigation published recently concludes that nearly two-thirds of dried abalone shipments to Hong Kong are harvested illegally in South Africa before being shifted via a complex variety of smuggling routes that snake northwards up the continent as far as Central and East Africa.

South Africa

Since 2001 an estimated 75 million abalone—40,000 tons—have been plucked from South African waters

According to Markus Bergener, of the Southern Africa branch of TRAFFIC, a nonprofit that monitors illicit wildlife trades around the world, the total legal wild abalone harvest in South Africa in 2015 was 105 tons. “Our estimate for poaching for the same year was 3,477 tons,” he says.

Source: Tony Carnie 9th February 2018



What about in Australia and New Zealand ?

“It is estimated that one of the more well known abalone poachers in Australia made in excess of \$1 million per year from the harvest and sale of illegal abalone”

It is estimated up to 40 tonnes of abalone worth more than \$3 million is poached annually in South Australia alone.

Australia and *New Zealand* supply 70 per cent of the world *abalone* market and impose stringent controls. Even they find it impossible to prevent massive *poaching*. Last year Asian countries imported twice as much Australian *abalone* as Australians are legally supposed to catch or farm.

Source : New Zealand Herald

Aside from over-fishing, the biggest threat to the growth of the New Zealand abalone industry, according to experts, is the rise of a black market.

There are no official figures, but it is estimated that only two-thirds of abalone shipments were legally caught.

Source : BBC News

**What about the USA and
Canada?**

California

Some estimates value the black market for abalone as a \$25 million dollar per year industry, with San Francisco rumoured as the hub of the trade.

According to the CDFW, abalone poachers often operate as a network of divers, salesmen, and buyers similar in structure to the commercial fish businesses. Each year the CDFW catches several of these rings, but they keep resurfacing. “The vast majority of abalone poaching is being done now by organized rings” (Source Benavides, The Special Operations Unit)

Recent Headline

**“California Game Wardens Arrest 4 For Poaching Abalone
September 21, 2017”**

CANADA

In the biggest abalone poaching case to date in B.C., three poachers harvested approximately 11,000 abalone over just two and a half days in the Port Edward area near Prince Rupert.

The 11,000 abalone poached in just this one case compares with an entire abalone population on the B.C. coast estimated at roughly 420,000.

Source : The Vancouver Sun

MEXICO

Although Mexico has a well-established legal framework regulating fisheries for the green abalone *Haliotis fulgens* and pink abalone *H. corrugata*, there is empirical evidence about a sizeable abalone black market and substantial sectors of fishing communities dedicated to poaching

Source : [Ricardo Bórquez Reyes](#), [Alberto Pombo](#), [Germán Ponce-Díaz](#)

The worldwide illegal trade in abalone

2004 (South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, USA, Japan) 3696 mt

2007 (Huge increase from South Africa +/- 2000mt) 5500mt

2014 (some attempts at control of poachers) 4800mt

2017/18

+/- 7000mt

How does the illegal trade affect the international abalone market ?

Poachers deal mainly in the larger size animals

The illegal product competes mainly with the larger farmed or fished product

The international farm production of large (10cm+) animals is about

5 000mt

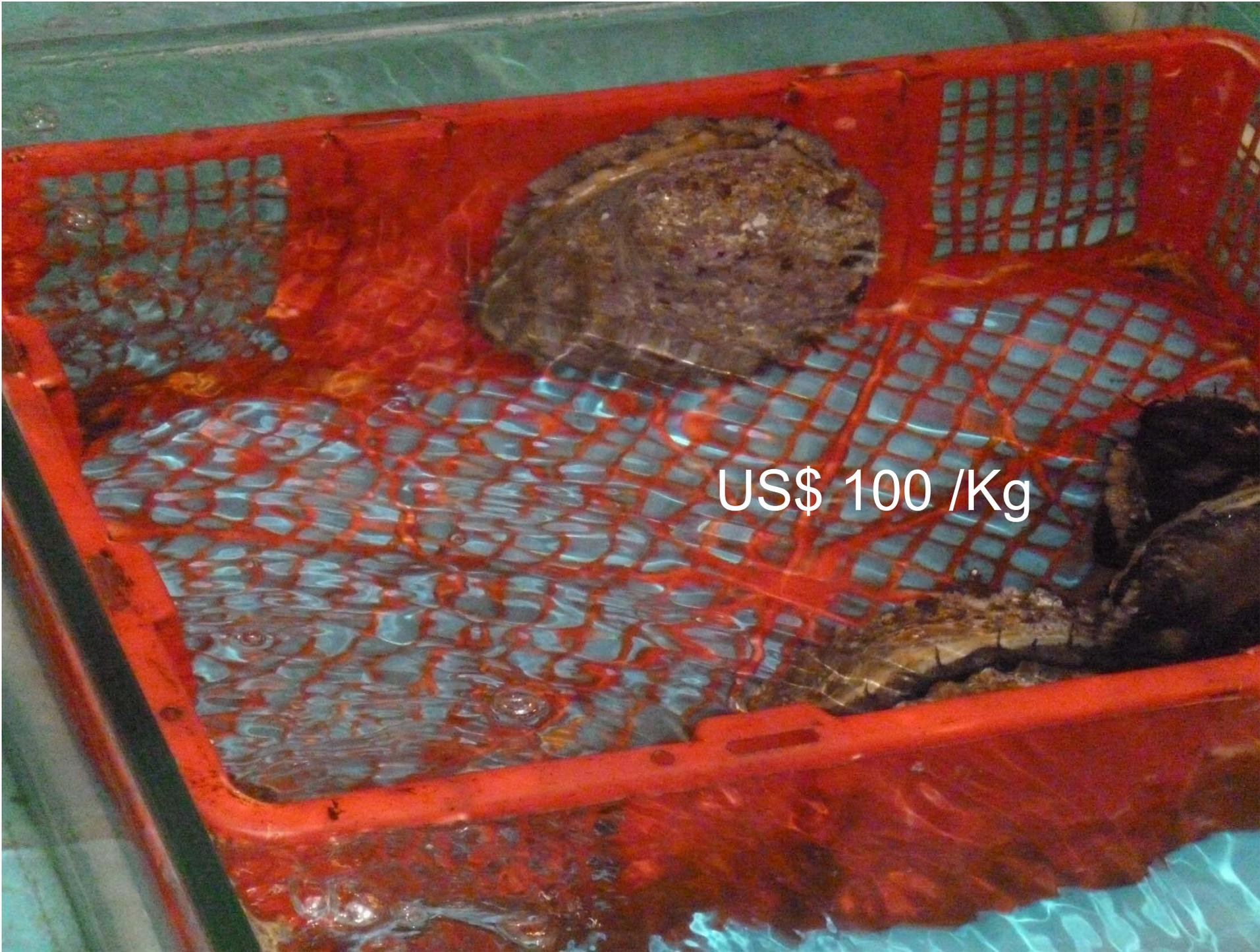
Fisheries produce about an additional

6 500mt

Total – +/- 11 500mt

7 000mt is about 60% of this market





US\$ 100 /Kg

**I WOULD NOW LIKE TO INVITE SPEAKERS
FROM VARIOUS ABALONE PRODUCING
COUNTRIES TO PRESENT AN UPDATE OF
PRODUCTION FROM THEIR REGION**

**DURING THESE PRESENTATIONS, I WILL
UPDATE THE PRODUCTION TABLE FOR
EACH COUNTRY**

Country updates:

STATUS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ABALONE INDUSTRY- **Peter Britz**

ABALONE PRODUCTION STATISTICS FROM THE USA - **Laura Rogers-Bennett**

UPDATE OF ABALONE PRODUCTION STATISTICS IN EUROPE -
Gercende Courtois de Vicose

ABALONE PRODUCTION IN KOREA - **Han Kyu Lim**

UPDATE FROM NEW ZEALAND -**Tom McCowan**

AUSTRALIAN FARMED ABALONE PRODUCTION - **Nicholas Savva**

RECENT TRENDS IN ABALONE PRODUCTION IN MEXICO - **Ricardo Searcy-
Bernal**

UPDATE FROM CHILE -**Carolina Oliu**

SUMMARY OF WORLDWIDE ABALONE PRODUCTION- **Peter Cook**