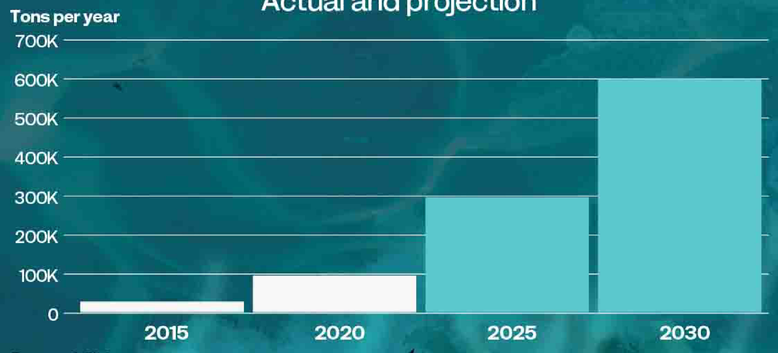
Delegates at the Saudi International Marine Exhibition and Conference at the Hilton Riyadh Hotel from Jan. 30 to Feb. 1 are tasked

conditions, is considered a largely unexploited goldmine in terms of its marine resources and capacity for aquaculture production.

SAUDI ARABIA AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION 2015-30

Actual and projection



Source: MISA

1980 — Farm in Qasim (Maram) was founded

Al Balla Marine Aquaculture R&D Station in Al-Lith set up — 1982

1982 — Jeddah Fish Farming Center established with government support

Red Sea Aquaculture Company in Al-Lith, a pilot project, founded — 1988

Naqua, National Aquaculture Group began commercial operations in Al-Lith

1995 — The National Prawn Company (NPC) established in Al-Lith

1996

1998 — The first International Aquaculture Conference held in Riyadh

Tabuk Fish Marine Fish Cage Project began operation — 2008

Saudi Aquaculture Society established

2012 — The National Fisheries Development Program (NFDP) launched

2015

2018 — SAMAQ, a national aquaculture quality certification body launched

NFDP's plan officially approved — 2019

FISHERIES PRODUCTION TOP 10 SPECIES

(IN TONS, 2018)

1 WHITELEG SHRIMP
Whiteleg shrimp was introduced to Saudi Arabia in 2012 to bolster aquaculture projects in the Kingdom, which were seriously hit by the White Spot Syndrome Virus at the time.

56,100

7,319

3 GREEN TIGER PRAWN
The green tiger prawn is a commercially important species of prawns which is found in the Red Sea and Eastern Africa.

4 BARRAMUNDI FISH
Barramundi is a common species that is easy to breed and suits the Kingdom's warm weather conditions.

5,500

4,137

6 EMPERORS NEI
Emperors, also known as Lethrinidae, are a family of fish which consume invertebrates and small fish.

3,116

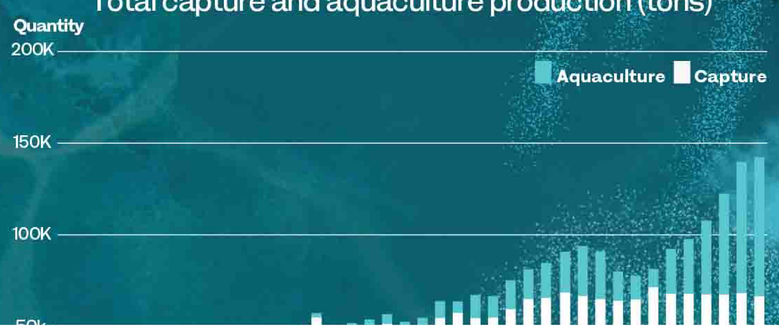
9 PINK EAR EMPEROR
Found in the Indo-West Pacific, pink ear emperors could be fished for both commercial and sporting purposes

7,500

2 NILE TILAPIA
The Nile tilapia is one of the most commonly cultured freshwater fish at inland farms in the Kingdom.

4,820

5 NARROW-BARRED SPANISH MACKEREL
Weighing up to 70 kg, the narrow-barred Spanish mackerel is found in the Middle

SAUDI FISHERIES PRODUCTION

Total capture and aquaculture production (tons)