

NORWEGIAN SEAFOOD COUNCIL

Free trade agreement between the EFTA-member states and the Philippines

On the 1st of June 2018, the free trade agreement between the EFTA member states and the Philippines entered into force. The agreement will establish free trade for most seafood products, and the agreement will also establish a set of rules which will simplify the trade in seafood products between the signatories.

Reduced tariffs

- After the agreement entered into force, tariffs were reduced or eliminated for most seafood products.
- Some seafood products will be subject to gradually reduced tariffs over a period of six years.

Eksempler



	Pre-agreement	Post-agreement
Fresh, whole Salmon	7 %	0
Frozen, whole Salmon	7 %	0
Frozen, whole Trout	7 %	0
Frozen, whole Mackerel	5 %	0
Frozen, whole Cod	7 %	0
Smoked Salmon	10 %	Gradual reduction
Coldwater Shrimp	15 %	Gradual reduction
Crab	15 %	Gradual reduction

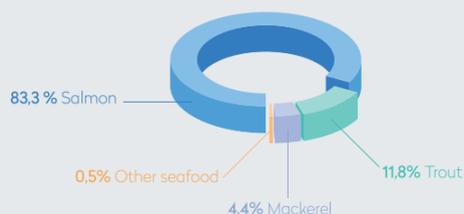
Special provisions regarding seafood trade

- Seafood imports to the Philippines has been subject to import licenses for many years.
- An appendix to the free trade agreement, containing provisions regarding application processing time and appellate procedures, ensures both legal protection and predictability for the seafood trade between Norway and the Philippines.

Health and food safety

- The free trade agreement contains a special chapter regarding Veterinary, and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, which are aimed at alleviating certain challenges related to the trade in seafood.
- The chapter contains provisions pertaining to inspections, certification systems, system audits, certificates and import checks and ensures low threshold consultation mechanisms, as well as the possibility to review the chapter in the future. Health certificates issued by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority (Mattilsynet) are now accepted, without requiring further review or attestation.

Norwegian seafood exported to the Philippines



Salmon, trout and mackerel are the most frequently exported species from Norway to the Philippines. Saithe, king crab, halibut and cod are also exported from Norway to the Philippines. In 2017, 94.3% of the export consisted of frozen products..

The Philippine seafood market in 2017



140 millions



4 200 tonnes

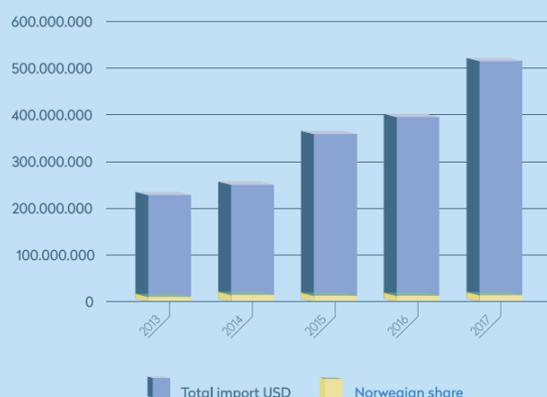
Liberal rules of origin

The rules of origin agreed upon in the free trade agreement between the EFTA-states and the Philippines, are very liberal.

This means that seafood imported from third party nations, which are subsequently processed in Norway, are eligible for Norwegian origin under the rules of origin contained in the agreement.

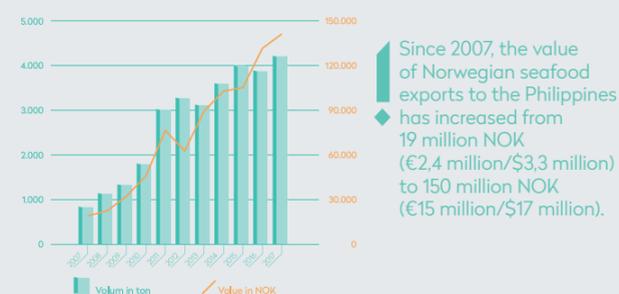
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Norwegian market share of the Philippine seafood market

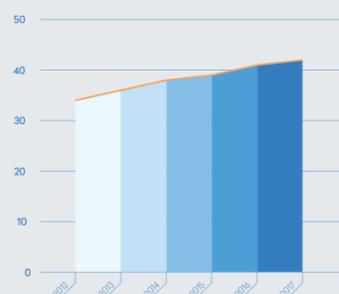


In 2017, 2,2% of the seafood imported to the Philippines came from Norway. After the completion of the free trade agreement, Norway is poised to gain a larger share of the seafood market.

Norwegian seafood exports to the Philippines 2007 - 2017



Seafood consumption per capita 2012 – 2017



From 2012 to 2017, the seafood consumption in the Philippines increased by 23%. In 2017, the per capita seafood consumption was 42 kilograms. In comparison, the per capita consumption in Norway, which is among the highest in the world, was 53 kilograms.

How to utilize the free trade agreement?



In order to be able to use the free trade agreement, and the preferential tariffs afforded to Norwegian seafood, you have to be able to certify the Norwegian origin.

When exporting to the Philippines, this can be achieved by issuing a certificate of origin, directly on the invoice.

EFTA

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) was established in 1960, and charged with the task of promoting free trade and economic cooperation.

Today, the EFTA consists of Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Together with the other EFTA member states, Norway has completed 27 free trade agreements with a combined total of 38 partner nations.

Contact

Market access is one of the areas covered by the Norwegian Seafood Council. Please don't hesitate to contact us, should you have any questions pertaining free trade or market access:

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