

## Peru, Shellfish

A Swiss entrepreneur who lives in Peru, founded Acuicultores Pisco SA (Acqua Pisco), a company that processes and markets shellfish, in 1998. The company based in the Pisco region started to process scallops, its main product, in 2000. In the same year, the EU imposed a ban on scallops from Peru because of virus contamination and the activities of Acqua Pisco were stopped. Thereafter, the plant worked only occasionally.

Once the EU import ban was partially lifted in summer 2003, the Swiss owner sought support to modernize the processing facilities and relaunch operations. The scallops are supplied by local fisherman and after processing, marketed to the EU where there is a notable demand for frozen scallops. The project has a significant impact on the local economy. It provides employment for 500 workers and several hundred fishermen. Employees have been trained in methods of processing scallops using modern Western equipment.

The Swiss entrepreneur and Acqua Pisco received a loan from the SECO Start-up Fund to finance construction and equipment for the processing plant.

