

A large school of fish, likely minnows or similar small species, swimming in clear blue water. The fish are densely packed in the lower half of the frame, creating a textured, almost abstract pattern of dark shapes against the light blue water. In the upper half, the water is calmer, with some ripples and a few fish visible. A semi-transparent dark rectangular box is overlaid on the upper part of the image, containing the title text.

# FISH FARMING

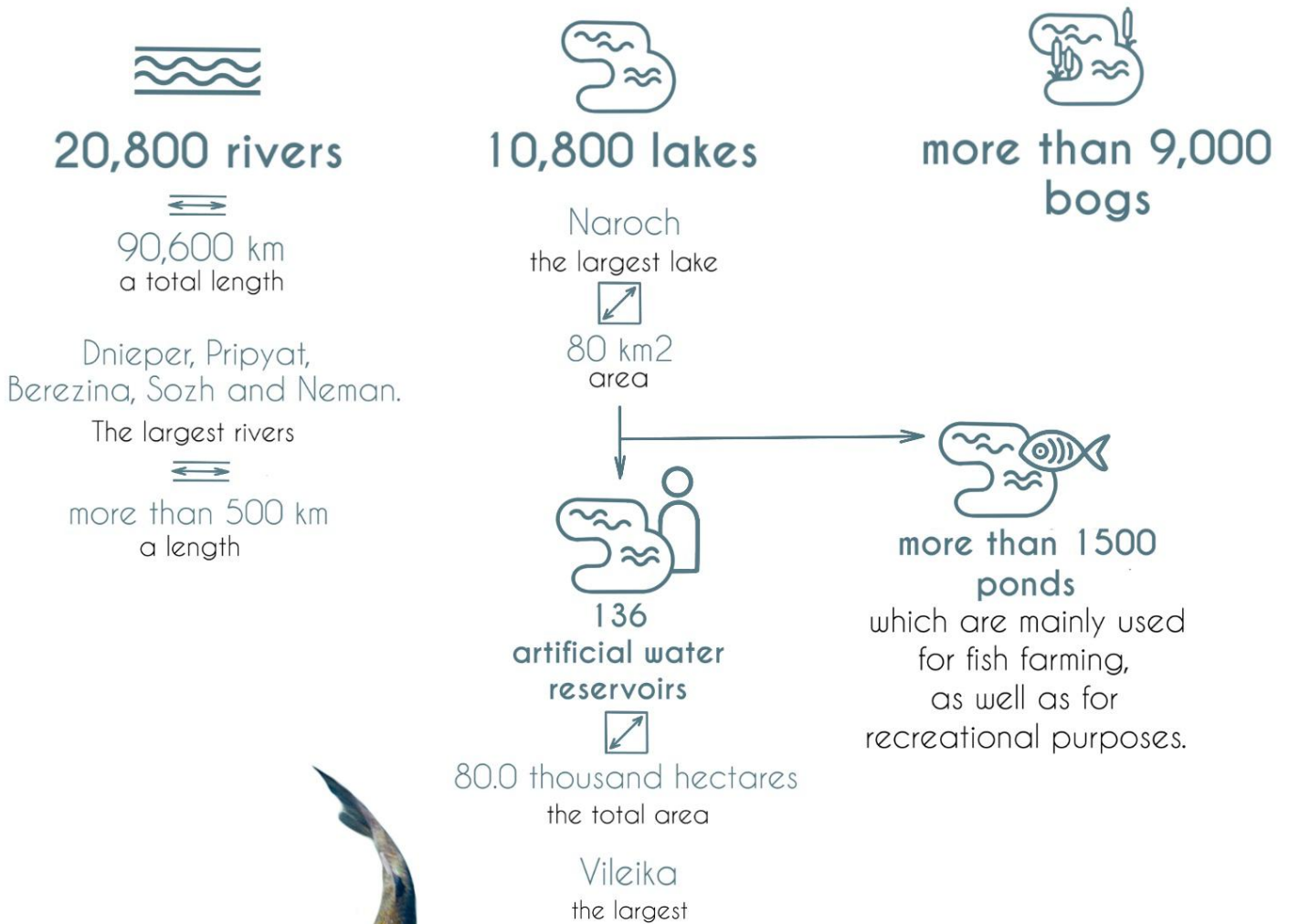
in the Republic of Belarus

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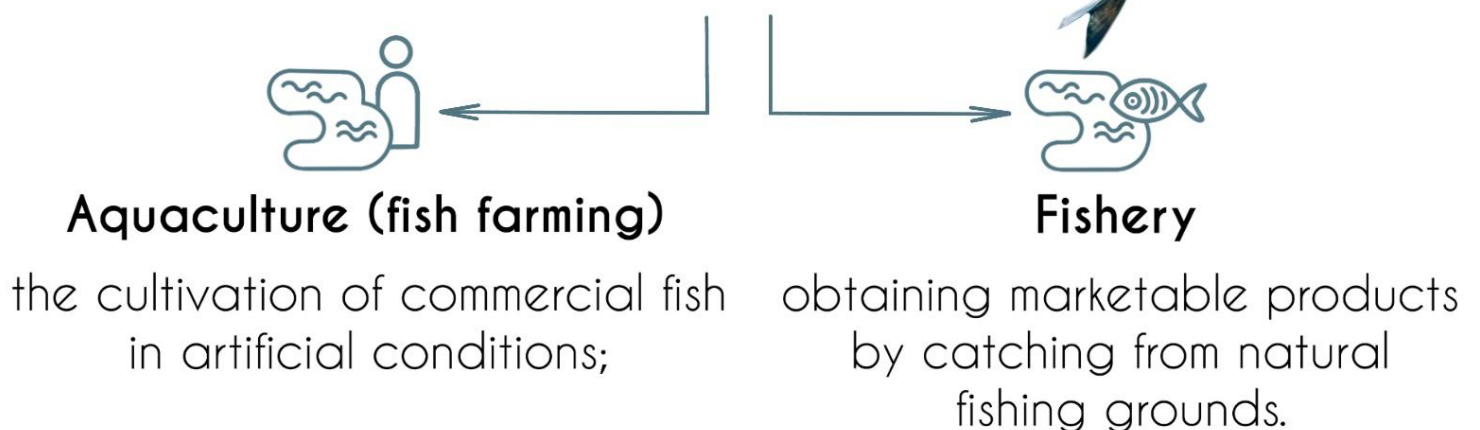
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# 1. The Current State of the Industry

## 1.1 Key Industry Indicators



## Fisheries in the Belarus



# Fish farming



which includes the cultivation of fish in cages, pools and water recycling (closed water supply) facilities (UZV).



In the Republic of Belarus **more than 800 legal entities and individuals** are engaged in fish farming. Fish farming is carried out by specialized fish-farming organizations under republican ownership, organizations under communal ownership, whose fish farming is not the main type of activity, as well as farms, individual entrepreneurs and individuals.



**16**  
**thousand hectares**

of fattening areas  
(for fish fattening  
to marketable weight)



**5.4**  
**thousand hectares**

of rearing areas  
(for growing fry)



**16**  
**pond farms**



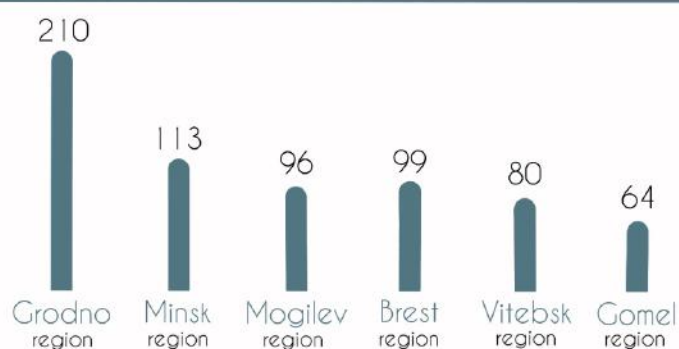
**18**  
**industrial complexes**

specializing in valuable  
fish species



**11 farms** in the system of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, **5** - communal form of ownership, as well as agricultural organizations, farmers, individual entrepreneurs are engaged in pond fish breeding.

According to the water cadastre in 2021 Belarus there were  
**662 water bodies**  
in the lease for the purpose of fish farming

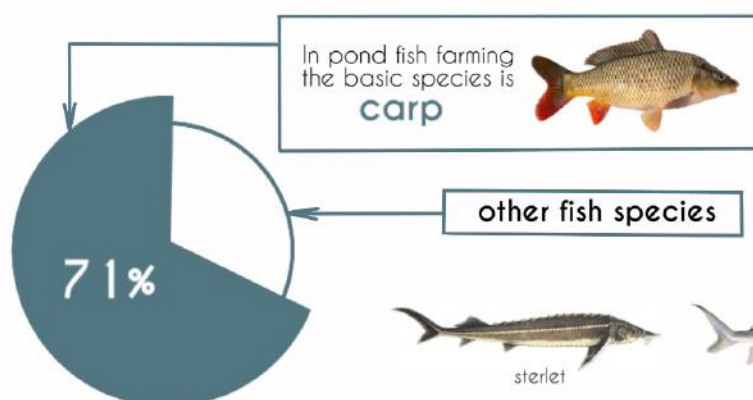


**More than 90%**

of commercial fish in Belarus  
is grown in pond fish farms.



The area of pond fund of Belarus, suitable for fish farming is  
**22,46 thousand hectares.**







## 1.2 Legal environment

A number of state programs and concepts identify **goals and objectives** in the field:

### The concept of the development of fisheries in the Republic of Belarus

(approved by the Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus from June 2, 2015 N 459, as amended by Decree of 27.06.2018 N 493):

-  creation of favorable conditions for reproduction of valuable native fish species and preservation of their populations by carrying out a complex of various fish-reclamation and fish-protection measures aimed at improvement of hydrological, hydrogeochemical and ecological conditions of water bodies
-  conducting a set of hydraulic and reclamation works aimed at improving habitat conditions and reproduction of semi-native salmonids and other fish species in order to restore their populations;
-  Improving the system of legislation in the field of fisheries and fishing;
-  improving the ecological condition (status) of surface water bodies (their parts), including the conservation of biological diversity.

### State Program of Agricultural Business Development in the Republic of

**Belarus for 2021-2025** (Subprogram 5 "Development of Fisheries") (approved by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus on February 1, 2021, N 59):

-  increasing the production of pond, lake and river fish and valuable fish species;
-  increasing the natural productivity of fishing grounds
-  restoration of biodiversity of fish resources;
-  application of economically justified innovative technologies for breeding rare and valuable fish species, increasing the efficiency of fishery activities;
-  maximum use of production areas of fish-farming organizations and resource potential of fishing grounds, liming of ponds of fish-farming organizations, implementation of veterinary and sanitary and anti-epizootic measures;
-  stocking fishing grounds with rare valuable fish species;
-  restoration of natural and creation of artificial spawning grounds;
-  reproduction and reintroduction of rare and valuable fish species in order to obtain fish stocking material of rare and valuable fish species (whitefish, zander, pike, salmon, sturgeon, etc.).

The key event for the fishing industry in 2021 was the signing of **two decrees** by the President:



**The Decree No. 279** - the document amends the Decree № 268 of July 14, 2016 "On the establishment and operation of the Open Joint Stock Company "Agency for Asset Management".

The document is aimed at financial recovery and stabilization of the economic situation of fish farming organizations. The Decree approves a set of measures, including mechanisms for the introduction of progressive forms of management of fish farming organizations and the effective management of fisheries. The main of them are restructuring of liabilities of fish-farming organizations on credits

as well as the transfer of shares owned by the state into trust management of successfully developing companies. These measures will allow to release the fish-farming organizations from the debt burden and will promote successful fishery.



### The Decree No. 284 "On Fishing and Fisheries"

the document approves a new version of the rules for fisheries and recreational fishing rules. Clauses of the decree relate to underwater hunting, sale and storage of fishing nets, lease of fishing grounds and so on.

## 1.3 Research base



RUE "Fisheries Institute" is the leading research center, which leads and coordinates the research work on fish farming in the Republic of Belarus. "The Institute of Fisheries" is a part of the "Scientific and Practical Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus on Animal Husbandry" as a subsidiary enterprise. The Institute is a full member and one of the founders of the **Association "Network of Scientific Centers for Aquaculture in Central and Eastern Europe" (NACCE)**.



Currently RUE "Institute of Fisheries" includes 6 scientific laboratories. There are also two production fish breeding areas within the structural subdivisions of the institute: **breeding area "Izobelino"** and **self-supporting area "Vileika"**.

Previous and modern developments of the institute are aimed at solving the **most pressing issues of fish farming**.



Long-term works on creation of pure lines of carp of local selection carried out by the Institute have resulted in three breeds of Belarusian carp with high fish-breeding and consumer qualities: "Lakhvin scaly", "Izobelinsky" and "Tremlyansky";



The institute has developed an intensive technology for growing fish stocking material, which solves the problem of fish stocking material deficit and expands the range of fish products.



The creation of new chemical and biological therapeutic agents for the prevention and treatment of fish diseases allowed fish farms to stop using a number of expensive and environmentally unsafe antibiotics, eliminating massive waste of fish under intensive fish farming conditions.



Safe ways of fertilizing ponds with food industry wastes have been developed, which helps to increase fish productivity and significantly reduce the cost of expensive concentrated feed.



The mixed fodder created on the basis of local raw materials for different species of fish allows to reduce the cost of grown fish and increase competitiveness. All mixed fodders for fish in the republic are Belarusian developments. They are tested, and only then, after testing both in laboratory conditions and in fish farms, they are recommended for production.



Genetic certification of Belarusian breeds of **carp** collection herds is carried out. Schemes of two-breed crosses are developed to obtain heterosis industrial hybrids (hybrids in which economically valuable features are considerably superior to both parents), whose productivity is 20-25% higher than purebred forms; standards, recommendations, technological instructions and regulations for work with carps of Belarusian and foreign breeds. The computer program "BelPlemR Fish" for accounting of breeding stock of various fish breeds is being developed and improved. The Institute constantly works on saturation and renewal of industrial fish farms with purebred breeding material of domestic and foreign selection.



The **Belarusian State Agricultural Academy** is also engaged in scientific developments. The academy has a large fish breeding industrial complex for cultivation of rainbow

trout planting material, where students practice and postgraduate students conduct scientific work. After graduating from the academy graduates of the specialty "Industrial fish farming" with the specialties "Aquaculture" and "Technology of processing of fish and fish products" can not only work in fish farms of the republic and grow pond fish, but also carry out scientific research, aimed at finding new objects of fish farming and increasing of fish productivity of ponds.

## 1.4 Human resources



**The Belarusian State Agricultural Academy (BSAA)** (in Horki, Mogilev region) prepares the professionals for the industry.



At the Faculty of Biotechnology and Aquaculture of BSCA there is a specialty **"Industrial fish farming"**. Every year a group of around 25 people are accepted to the specialty. The specialty includes the following courses: **"Biological Bases of Fish Breeding"**, **"Ornamental Fish Breeding"**, **"Artificial Fish Breeding"**, **"Fisheries Research Methods"**, **"Rational Use of Nature"**, **"Fish Ethology"**. The academy also trains engineers-technologists for the processing industry.



Great attention in the BSCA is paid to research work in fish farming. A large part of the teaching staff participates in the implementation of various scientific programs and projects of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Foundation for Fundamental Research.



The largest fish farm in Eastern Europe for the cultivation of **rainbow trout** seedlings operates in BSCA.



**Polessky State University (PSU).**



The training of specialists for the fish industry is carried out at the engineering faculty at the department of aquaculture technology, specialty **"Industrial fish farming"** (specialization **"Technology of fish products processing"**). Also, training of highly qualified personnel in postgraduate studies in the specialty **"Fish farming and aquaculture"** is carried out.



The department have been carrying out the research work of **"Development of innovative methods of aquaculture intensification"**. The aim of the research is the development and justification of new technological methods of reproduction, cultivation and feeding of young valuable fish species, innovative approaches to the treatment of technical water in the conditions of industrial fish breeding. Within the framework of the research works of postgraduate students of the department are carried out scientific-research works on the themes **"Improvement of the techniques of hydrobionts cultivation considering the parameters of resource-efficiency in the industrial warm-water fish farming"** and **"Improvement of technological methods of reproduction and cultivation of the Clarias catfish (CLARIAS GARIEPINUS) to provide industrial fish farms with seeding material"**.

# 1.5 Technologies



The main technologies of fish production in the Republic of Belarus are

## alpha-technologies,

which include pasture, pond and integrated fish farming. This method is as close as possible to the natural rhythm of fish feeding.



In recent years, fish farming in cooling ponds of thermal and nuclear power plants, in thermal discharge waters of metallurgical and chemical enterprises, as well as in geothermal waters has been widely developed. This direction of aquaculture is considered industrial and refers to

## beta technologies.

Industrial fish farming is a promising supply of conditioned planting material for pasture and pond aquaculture.



## Gamma technologies

based on recycling water supply systems (RWSS) make it possible to produce fish products regardless of climatic conditions in large cities where there is industry. This is especially important for places where there are difficulties with the supply of the population with fish. Besides that, fish stocking material of high quality and commercial fish of valuable species can be successfully grown in UHF. In Belarus, sturgeon, rainbow trout and African catfish are raised in the RCD.



In order to obtain a sufficient amount of fish spawning material, works have been carried out to develop technologies for the formation of highly productive breeding stocks and methods of reproduction of fish breeding objects.

## The technologies developed:



the technology for the formation of trout breeder flocks adapted to the conditions of Belarus;



the technology of sturgeon and whitefish breeding under industrial conditions;



the technology of cultivation of viable landing material of Lena sturgeon by combined method in the conditions of fish farms of Belarus.

This makes it possible to increase the efficiency and competitiveness of the Belarus's fisheries.



## 1.6 Production and territorial clusters



On the basis of the Belarusian State Agricultural Academy, an innovative structure - **Technopark "Gorki" LLC** - was created and is functioning. Within its framework, training and practical simulators on aquaculture were created for educational and research organizations of the Republic of Belarus and CIS countries in the field of aquaculture, fishery and ichthyology.



«**Polessye» Technopark** was created on the basis of Polessye State University. The technopark is an organization of cluster development, as since 2018 an innovative and industrial cluster in the field of biotechnology and green economy has been functioning on the basis of Polessye State University. In particular, research on industrial aquaculture is being developed.



## 2. Resource and raw material base



The main high-quality protein in fish feed is

**fishmeal**

By 2025, the volume of fishmeal on the world market will be halved.

Therefore, feed developers around the world are searching for alternative types of animal protein.



The main object of fish farming in Belarus is **carp**, the cultivation of which is associated with the use of artificial feed. However, the profitability of carp farming is low, primarily due to the high cost of mixed fodder, which accounts for **more than 50%** in the cost structure of commercial fish.

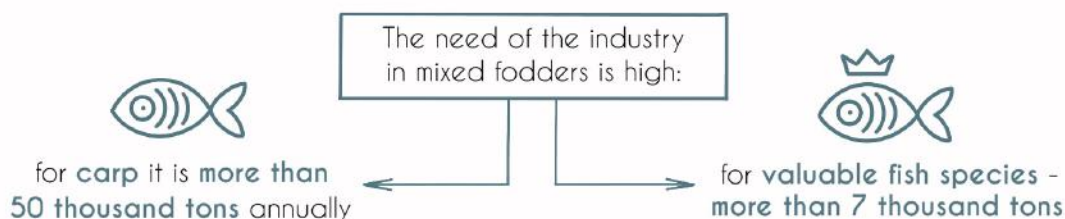


Valuable species of fish, in particular **sturgeon species and rainbow trout**, are also raised in Belarus. In the structure of the cost of cultivation of valuable species, mixed fodder accounts for **100%**, as a rule, it is imported feed.

Due to the constant rise in prices for the raw feed compound and the shortage of protein raw materials the attention of scientists is attracted to

**non-traditional feed**

as a source of energy, nutrients and biologically active substances.



A lot of granular feed is produced by the **Belarusian National Biotechnological Corporation (BNBC)**. BNBK and **Zhabinka Feed Mill** produce feed for valuable fish species. The **Berezovsky Feed Mill** was launched. Within the framework of the program of the Union State, a line of compound feed for valuable fish species will operate on it (for the time being, feed is produced only for carp).



Recently, due to the rise in prices for mineral fertilizers, pond farms of Belarus have reduced, and in some cases completely eliminated the fertilization of ponds, which has led to a deterioration of conditions for growing both commercial fish and planting material (low weight, lack of fatness and viability, etc.). Therefore, the use of new cheap forms of fertilizers in fish farming in the form of secondary raw materials of the processing industry, which contain organic substances, compounds of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium necessary for the functioning of the pond ecosystem, is of particular relevance.



The researches which have been carried out on the fish-breeding ponds of Belarus show that the application of wastes of brewing and distillery production (barm, shot, residual beer yeast), by-products of meat-packing plants (technical albumin) led to the increase of natural fish productivity of ponds by 50-90 %, at the reduction of the mineral fertilizers consumption by 50 %, promoted the reduction of expenses of compound feeds per a unit of a fish growth by 13 %. At the same time, it was most expedient to use the wastes of the plants located at a distance of up to 50 km from the fish farms.



When it comes to the stocking material, the **sturgeon** farms of Belarus have a full breeding cycle.



As for **salmonids** (in particular, rainbow trout), farms buy caviar due to the lack of their own brood stock of trout, and then incubate themselves.



The nursery of the **Belarusian State Agricultural Academy** also buys caviar. It provides the whole republic with the fish stock (about 3 million trout fry a year). The constructed fish-flattening complex is designed to produce 150 tons of the stocking material with the mass from 50 to 70 grams for four laying eggs a year. Such amount of stocking material will allow to provide production of trout fry in the volume of 1200 t per year at newly established fish farms in the Republic of Belarus.



# 3. Production infrastructure

## 3.1 Availability of fishing grounds suitable for fishery



One of the main objectives of the development of the fishing industry is  
**to increase the production of valuable fish species.**

Republican budget funds are allocated for this purpose. Oblast executive committees put into operation water bodies, ponds and production facilities that have not been used before. Water bodies are given in rent together with a land plot according to the results of the tender on the basis of decisions of regional executive committees.



Regional executive committees give in rent fishing grounds in accordance with the national list of fishing grounds suitable for fisheries, approved by the **Ministry of Agriculture in coordination with the State Inspectorate.**

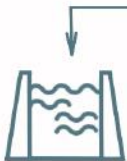


Since July 29, 2022 the list of fishing grounds suitable for fishing has been updated in Belarus. This decision is fixed by the **decree of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus No. 42 of April 21, 2022.**



The list includes about  
**650 water bodies**

located in each region of the country, which can be used  
for commercial fishing and organization of paid recreational fishing.



reservoirs



ponds



sections of rivers



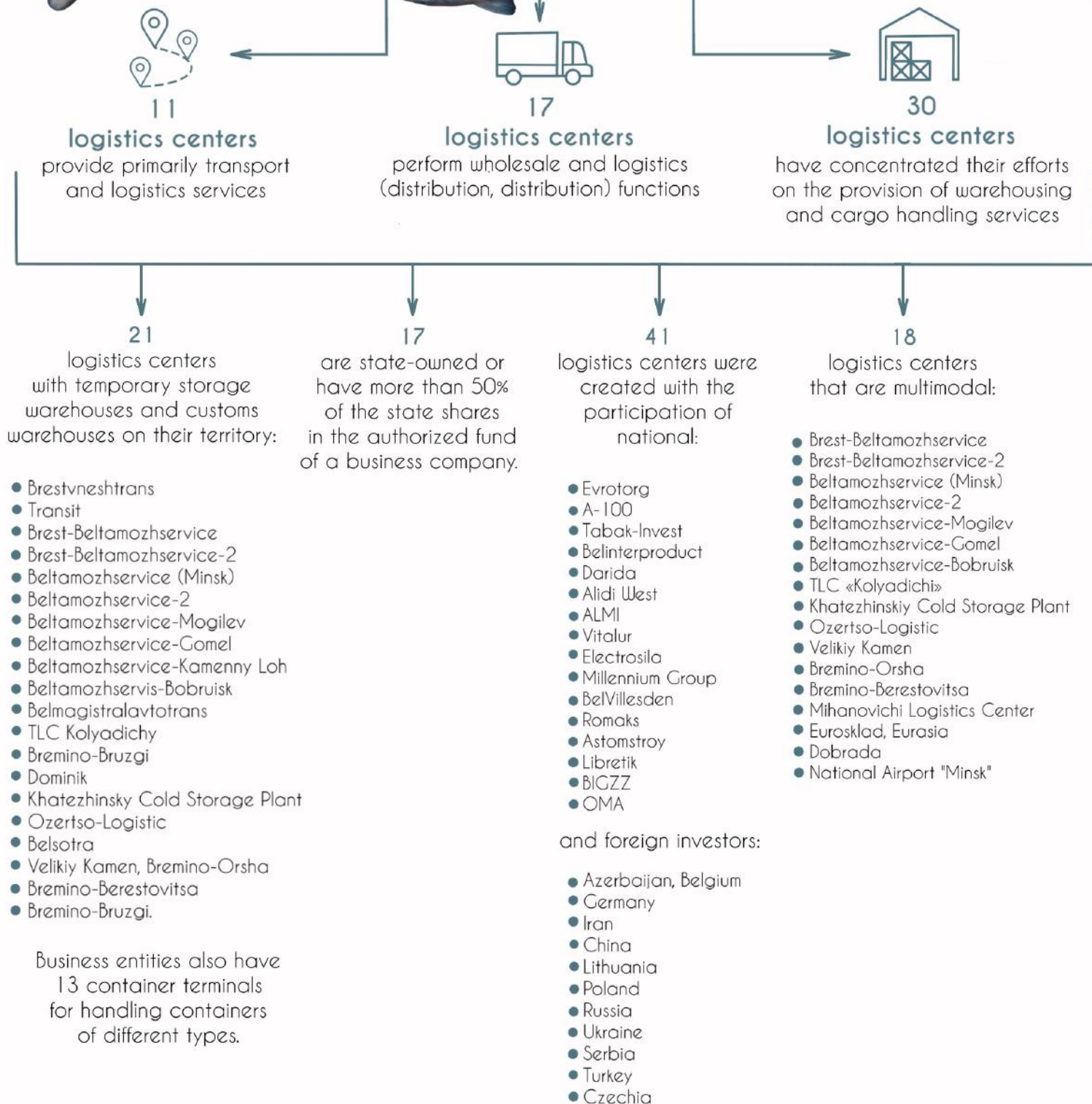
lakes



channels

## 3.2 Logistics capabilities

As of 2021, there are  
**58 logistics centers**  
in Belarus.



A number of logistics centers in Belarus either give in rent warehouse space (fully or partially - without identifying an "anchor" tenant) to third parties without providing them with any services, or have organized economic activities of an industrial or service nature on this space.

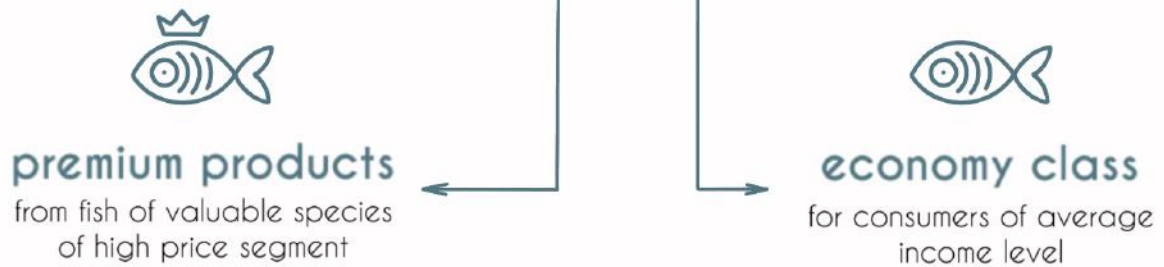
## 4. Market review

### 4.1 Major Trends



Since Belarus has no access to the sea, **sea fish and seafood are imported**. The peculiarity of the market is that imported fish and seafood go to Russia through Belarus. However, exports are much less than imports.

The commodity market of fish products in Belarus is represented by:



The food preferences of the population of Belarus are determined by both the general level of food culture and national traditions and priorities.



Belarusian importing companies buy the bulk of fish and seafood from Europe



Import of fish and seafood requires serious financial investments and availability of storage space, especially considering the fact that many fish species are seasonal, that is, are caught a short period of the year and require an annual "stocking".

**All seafood and sea fish are imported.**



In general, there is an increase in the capacity of the market. The difference between imports and exports for fish and seafood was \$436 million in 2021 and \$339 million in 2017. For 2021, the capacity for FEACN code 303 is \$175 million, FEACN code 302 is \$131 million, FEACN code 304 is \$100 million, and FEACN code 306 is \$15 million.

The development of fish farming in 2021-2025 is envisaged through the implementation of the following directions:



development of industrial fish farming;



increase in the production of valuable fish species;



application of economically sound innovative technologies for the breeding of rare and valuable fish species;



maximum use of production areas of fish farms and resource potential of fishing grounds;



providing fish farms with mixed fodder to meet their full needs;



limiting of ponds of fish-breeding organizations, implementation of veterinary and sanitary and anti-epidemic measures, which will ensure the biological safety of the industry and prevent disease and death of fish;



reproduction of rare and valuable fish species (whitefish, pike, pike, salmon, sturgeon, and others);



increasing the natural productivity of fishing grounds;



restoration of biodiversity of fish resources.



The main objective of the implementation of the above direction is **the tendency to increase the production of pond and lake and river fish, as well as increasing the production of valuable fish species.**



The increase in fish production by 2025 by 850 tons in relation to 2020 is planned due to the increase in valuable fish species. Putting into economic turnover of the existing capacities of industrial fish farms will provide an increase of about 600 tons of fish in 2021-2023. Also at the expense of new construction and putting into operation of fish farms in 2024-2025 the annual increase in production of valuable species of fish in the amount of 200 tons is provided.



## 4.2 Production

### The production of valuable fish species in Belarus

  
**10**  
industrial fish farms



  
**800 tons**  
of commercial  
products per year



The production of **valuable fish species** (salmon, sturgeon, catfish and others) accounts for about **5 percent** of the total fish production in the republic.



More than half of the fishery resources obtained by commercial catch are economically **valuable fish species**.

In 2021 Belarus raised about  
**15 thousand tons of fish.**



among pond fish  
the **carp-tolmon** prevails,



in the production  
of valuable species - **trout**



in the structure of catches  
by fishery - **bream, pike,  
fathead** and others.

In recent years there is a tendency to increase production of **sturgeon** (sturgeon, sterlet, beluga).



In the period of 2016-2020, the volume of production of fish resources in the water bodies of Belarus amounted to 76.5 thousand tons with a target of 76.1 thousand tons, including in 2020 - 16.5 thousand tons with a target of 18.2 thousand tons.



### The "Volma" fish farm

is engaged in sturgeon production in large volumes. Having received an export number, the enterprise started supplying such goods abroad in 2021. According to the results of 2021, the country's total sturgeon catch decreased from 147.5 tons in 2020 to 108.1 tons.

### Nesvizh agrocombinat

Sturgeon and black caviar are goods with high export potential. Another Belarusian sturgeon producer, the Nesvizh agrocombinat, is engaged in it.

240.6

2020

126.5

2021



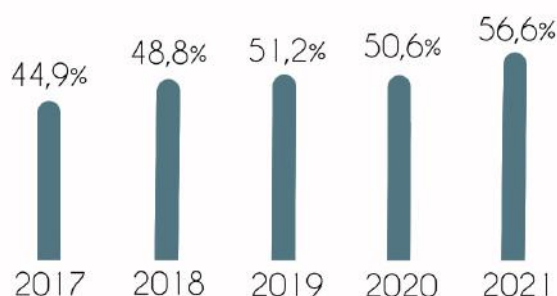
The **trout** catch decreased to 126.5 tons in 2021 (240.6 tons in 2020) due to the lack of planting material at a competitive price for Belarusians.

The volume of **trout and sturgeon production** is planned to increase. For this purpose, a set of measures for the development of the industry in the Republic of Belarus for 2020-2025 has been developed. It is envisaged to build new hatcheries: three - in Mogilev region with a total capacity of 3 thousand tons of fish per year; a sturgeon breeding complex with a capacity of 200 tons per year with a processing facility on the basis of the fish farm "Volma". The implementation of these activities will increase the production of valuable fish species and increase exports. According to the data of the State Enterprise "Belvodkhoz" in the last two years pond aquaculture supplied for sale 8.9 thousand tons of marketable fish and industrial fish - 380 tons.



The only producer of trout fry in our country is **Lohva Trout Farm**. However, the production of trout itself has decreased due to a shortage of feed.

In general, the use of production capacities for fish, seafood and canned food in 2017-2021 as follows:



## 4.3 Consumption



It is necessary to produce at least

**200 thousand tons**

of fish and fish products  
a year in order to meet the needs  
of Belarus people in fish and seafood  
on a sustainable basis.

In 2021 **15 thousand tons** were produced.



Belarusians annually consume

**150-180 thousand tons**

of fish and fish products,  
including their own production,

**15-17 thousand tons**

of freshwater fish.



The Register of the Eurasian Economic Union for the supply of fish products for export includes:



"Pilot fish farm "Selets"



fish farms "Volma"



"Loktyshi"



"Polesie"



"Fish processing plant "Luban"



The consumption of fish and fish products remains insufficient - **12.5 kg (18.2 kg)**.

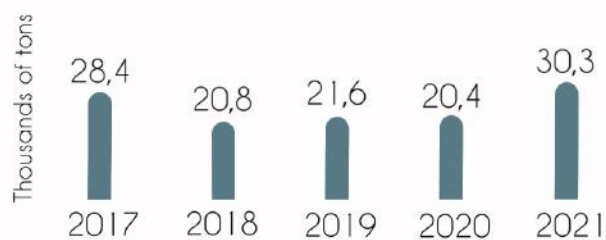


Nevertheless, the assessment of the level of consumption of basic foodstuffs in households revealed that the consumption of fish increased by **14.3%** in 2021 compared with 2020.

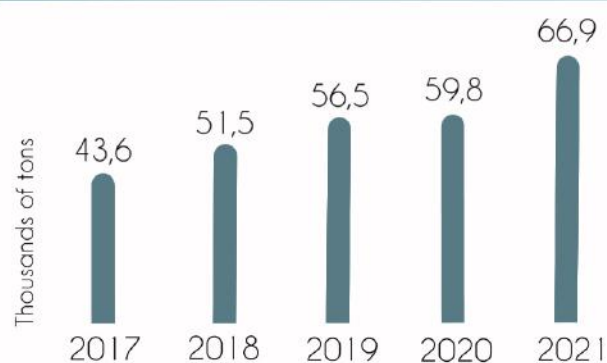


## 4.4 Foreign trade

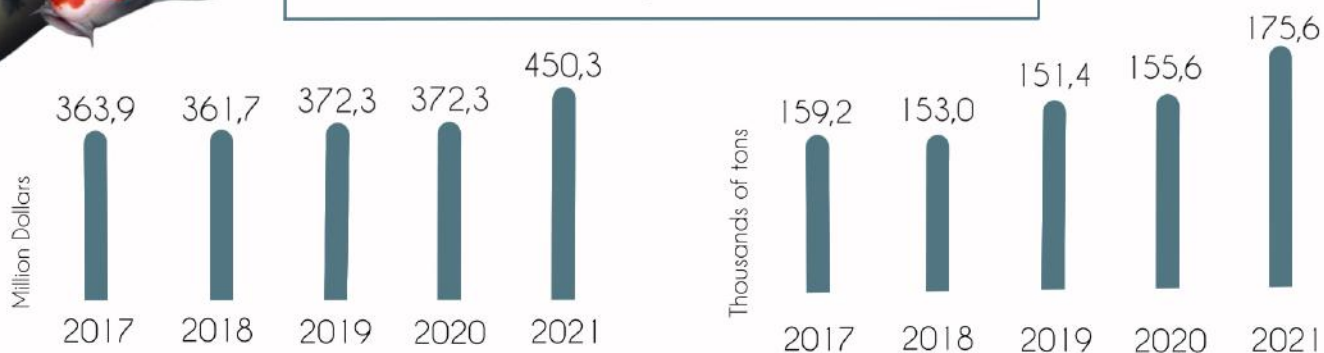
Fish and crustacean exports from 2017 to 2021



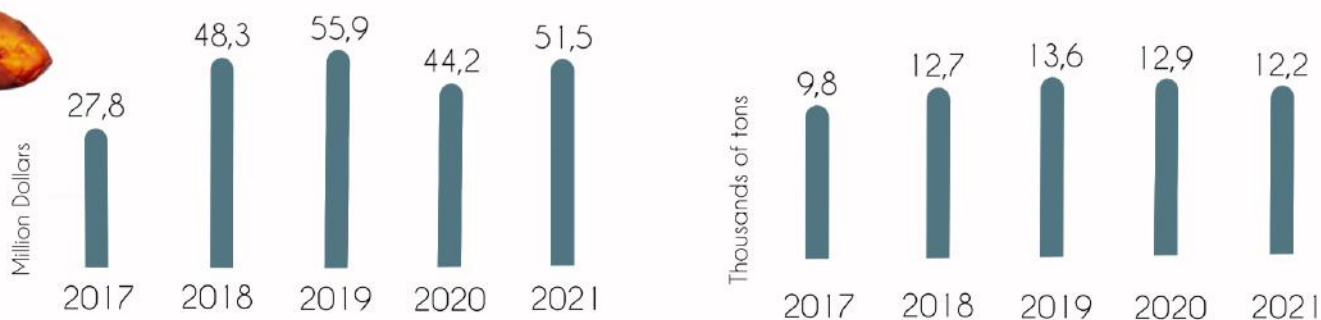
Export of canned fish from 2017 to 2021



## Fish and crustacean imports from 2017 to 2021

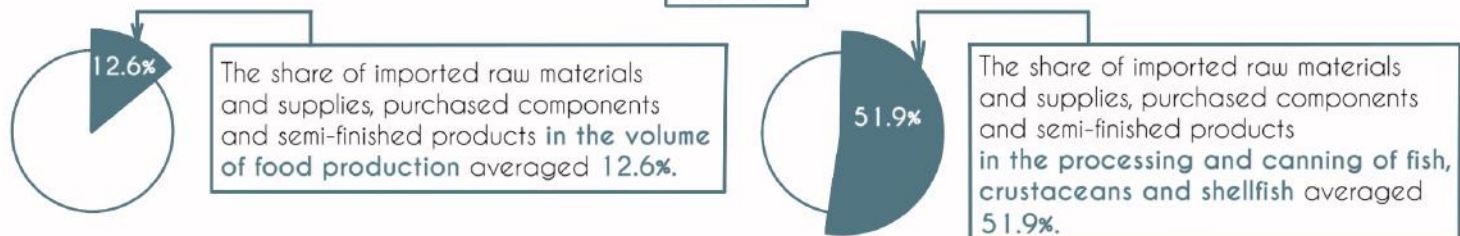


## Imports of canned fish in million dollars. USD in the period from 2017 to 2021



Special attention should be paid to the increase in the availability of domestic food and processing industry with its own high-quality raw materials at optimal cost.

2020



2021



There is a decrease in the share of domestically produced food products sold by trade organizations in the domestic market.





Since 2015, the volume of mutual trade of EAEU member states in fish and fish products has increased by 63.3% and amounted to 206.5 thousand tons, in value terms the indicator has doubled and reached \$674.2 million. The analysis of mutual trade in fish and fish products of the EAEU in the geographical aspect shows that the main supplier of these products is Belarus, the buyer is Russia.

In 2021,  
import purchases of agricultural products  
and foodstuffs of the Republic of Belarus  
amounted to

**\$4,509.5 million.**

In physical terms, imported purchases  
consisted of fish and crustaceans -

**175.6 thousand tons.**

**The maximum imports in value terms come from codes:**

\$163.9 million  
per year

0303  
Frozen fish

\$106.1 million  
per year

0302  
Fresh and  
chilled fish

\$81.4 million  
per year

0304  
Fish fillets  
and meat

These are the most profitable / monetary segments of the marine fish and seafood market.  
For fish, Belarus is a net importer.

**The main exports:**



**dried fish**

\$50.8 million over 5 years



**frozen fish**

\$25.6 million over 5 years



The main supplies of  
**frozen fish**  
come from Russia,  
Norway, and Iceland.



The main supplies of  
**fresh and chilled fish**  
come from Norway,  
Finland and Great Britain.



The main supplies of  
**fish fillets and meat**  
come from Norway,  
India, and Iceland.

## 4.5 Key players



The main market participants: Belvneshrybtorg LLC, Vitalur LLC, Santa Impex Brest LLC, Agro LLC, Beloe More LLC, Akva-Fristail LLC, Ivasi-Plus ChPTUP, Barentsevo LLC, Belryba OJSC, Leor Plastic LLC (mainly fish processing), Meragold (according to ICetradex).

The largest of them are as follows.



### JV Santa Bremor LLC



JV Santa Bremor LLC is a strategic business unit of Santa Group, one of the largest food producers in Europe, with over 40 companies. The holding company includes suppliers of raw materials, manufacturers of finished products, distribution, logistics companies, a retail network and other companies. Company brands are among the most recognizable in Belarus and Russia. "Santa Bremor started in 1998 from herring processing.



Today the company produces **more than 1000 items of foodstuff in 13 categories**: herring, red fish, natural caviar, capelin caviar in sauce, spreads, seafood, surimi, preserves, salads, seaweed, semi-finished products, ice-cream, water and drinks.



The company produces **1,000,000 packages of prepared foods daily**, which is more than **100,000 tons of products per year**.



The company's products are sold in **37 countries** around the world.



Products are made by **six plants** located in Belarus and Russia. Each plant has advanced equipment of world manufacturers, automated production and innovative technologies.



### Vitalyur ALC

Vitalyur ALC is one of the leaders of trade in Belarus. The company "Vitalyur" was founded in 1995, and today it occupies a leading position in the retail trade of the Republic of Belarus. The company has its own production of fish, meat, bakery and confectionery products.



The **main category of goods** from the first days of the company's existence is fresh, frozen, tinned, salted and smoked fish.



Vitalyur already has **67 stores in 9 cities of Belarus**.



The daily attendance of the stores is **about 100 000 people**.



### BELRYBA



BELRYBA communal trade and industrial unitary enterprise was founded on **December 28, 1957** and has been working on the Belarusian market for more than 60 years, successfully developing, keeping the staff and supplying the Belarusians with various seafood. "BELRYBA" is one of the largest manufacturers of smoked fish products, fish delicacies, canned and preserved fish, as well as importer of frozen fish and seafood in the Republic of Belarus.



The **product range is constantly expanding**: it is cold and hot smoked fish, salted, dried, herring, mackerel, salmon preserves, seaweed salads, fish in jelly, various delicacies, **over 400 items** in total.

# 5. Investment potential and development prospects of the industry

## 5.1 Investment attractiveness of the industry

As part of the development strategy for the near future new areas of research and development, which can become the main in accordance with the modern needs of the fishing industry, are being worked out. Works are supposed to be carried out as part of scientific and technological clusters (centers), including the Institute of Fisheries and its production sites, taking into account current trends:



**1. breeding of new Belarusian carp breeds** with increased growth rate, good assimilation of feed, increased viability, resistance to diseases, high productivity and improved consumer properties. Currently, breeding work is underway to create two new breeds - mirror carp and scaly carp:



mirror breed will be characterized by improved exterior appearance (including mirror cover), high productivity and resistance to disease;



the flake breed will be distinguished by earlier maturity and increased fecundity;



**2. in the production of fish feed:**



development of resource-saving technologies of mixed fodder production for fish by modeling and working off the technological process of mixed fodder production;



the use of non-traditional raw materials in the recipe. The search for new raw protein raw materials in connection with its deficit in the country;



search for interchangeable ingredients to reduce the share of imported raw materials and conduct gradual import substitution;



Development of the formulation and production technology of mineral and vitamin premix for carp fish using modern biologically active substances;



Development and mastering of the technology for obtaining mixed fodder containing active microbial culture and its metabolites for carp family fish (together with the Institute of Microbiology, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus);



**3. in the field of fish farming technology:**



development of organic technologies of fish breeding, contributing to reducing the use of mineral fertilizers in ponds through the use of agricultural waste, integrated use of waste food industry, new forms of organomineral fertilizers, microbial preparations, integrated technologies, allowing to reduce the cost of production without reducing its volume;



development of a set of measures to ensure the ecological balance of the aquatic environment in fishponds, ponds, ponds, and natural water bodies;



development of technologies to improve economic efficiency in fish farming;



creation of new, adapted to local climatic conditions, resource-saving technologies for breeding and growing traditional and prospective fish species;



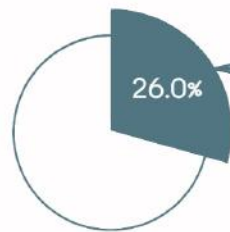
Reducing the cost of breeding planting material and breeding stocks of valuable fish species through the introduction of new technological methods.



obtaining viable planting material and delicatessen fish products of promising fish breeding objects (pike, pikeperch, catfish, etc.)



development of technologies for reproduction of herbivorous fish under the conditions of operating fish farms. The "Beloozersky" Department (OAO "Pilot fish farm "Selets"), due to its location on the warm waters of Berezovskaya State District Power Station, is the only place in Belarus where herbivorous fish reproduction is organized, and it is about 150 million larvae per year. The fish farm meets the needs of all fish farms of Belarus and exports it to the European Union countries - Lithuania and Latvia, as well as to the Russian Federation. In connection with the commissioning of the Belarusian nuclear power plant it is supposed to close some generating capacities, including Berezovskaya GRES, as a result of which JSC "Pilot fish farm "Selets" may lose the function of the original reproduction complex) herbivorous fish, which determines the prospects of the above-mentioned direction.



In 2021, **26.0%** of organizations whose main activity is the industrial production of food invested in innovation, including in the processing and canning of fish, crustaceans and mollusks - **28.6%**.



There is a positive dynamics and a significant innovative component in the development of the food industry. The index of industrial production of food products was 101.1%, including fish processing and canning - 110.2%.

## 5.2 Prospects for industry development



**Industrial breeding of trout, sturgeon and catfish species remains a priority in Belarus.** Industrial fish farms for their production and fish nurseries for the production of planting material are being created.

To date, promising targets in aquaculture in Belarus are:  
**tench, pike, pikeperch and paddlefish.**



The **tench** is a valuable but stunted species of carp. It is suitable as an additional object for cultivation in pond aquaculture and as an object of industrial fish farming. The tench is intensively cultivated in Germany and Poland, where its price is not inferior to trout. Belarus has experience in successful juvenile tench rearing in rearing ponds in polyculture with other fish species. In CDFs fed with artificial feed, juvenile fish can reach 50 grams in weight, and two-years old - up to 200 grams. The works are planned to form a breeding herd of tench from local populations of Belarus and to obtain offspring.



**Pikeperch** is no less in demand. There is a growing demand for it on the European market. By nutritional value, 1 kg of pikeperch meat is accepted as a reference for protein products of animal origin in France. Pikeperch production is developing towards the use of artificial pelleted feed and RPE. At present the Netherlands already produces about 200 tons of pikeperch per year in aquaculture, in Poland - about 20 tons. In future it is planned: to carry out domestication of pikeperch of older age groups from natural populations in conditions of fish farms of Belarus with its further reproduction; to work on technologies of growing in pond and industrial conditions.



The **pike** is a valuable object of commercial and recreational fishing. On commercial shelves pike (fresh) is the most sought-after commodity, characterized by lean meat, similar in composition of proteins, fats and carbohydrates to cod meat. The volumes of pike production in pond farms are small (in Belarus they usually do not exceed 0,1-0,7% of the total volume of fish grown). This situation is due to the peculiarities of its biology, which makes it difficult to dramatically increase the production of marketable products;

The most promising for Belarus is the **paddlefish** - the only species of freshwater sturgeon that benefits from the fact that it feeds on natural fodder without the use of expensive compound feed. At the same time, it has a high growth rate. For its cultivation in the conditions of Belarus ordinary carp ponds are suitable. Getting its own planting material will make it possible to reduce considerably the cost of breeding this valuable species of fish, it will expand the assortment of fish products on the consumer market, it will contribute to import substitution. In the future, paddlefish can become an export commodity.








Further expansion of the species composition of aquaculture in Belarus for commercial farming will be determined by the possibilities of the existing production base (ponds, cages, SPF) and the needs of the domestic market. In pond fish farming - at the expense of species that fit into the technology of carp direction, primarily at the expense of sestonophagous species and predators, in industrial fish farming - at the expense of expansion of sturgeon species, as well as some perch and eel.




## 6. Investment climate




**Preferential treatment** most suitable for investments in the industry:

**General guarantees.** Belarusian legislation provides the following basic guarantees to investors:



-  the right of private property and its protection without discrimination;
-  protection against illegal actions on the part of state authorities that violate the rights of investors and/or cause losses;
-  equality of rights for national and foreign investors;
-  free repatriation of profits;
-  protection of investments from nationalization and requisitioning.

 Under the law, nationalization may only be carried out on the basis of public necessity and subject to appropriate compensation. Compensation for nationalized property must be paid in a timely manner and include the value of the nationalized property and other losses caused by nationalization. The legislation also establishes a number of circumstances under which requisitioning is possible. These are mainly emergencies such as natural disasters, accidents, epidemics and epizootics, as well as when the public interest requires such measures.



**Investment Agreement.** The investment agreement implies:

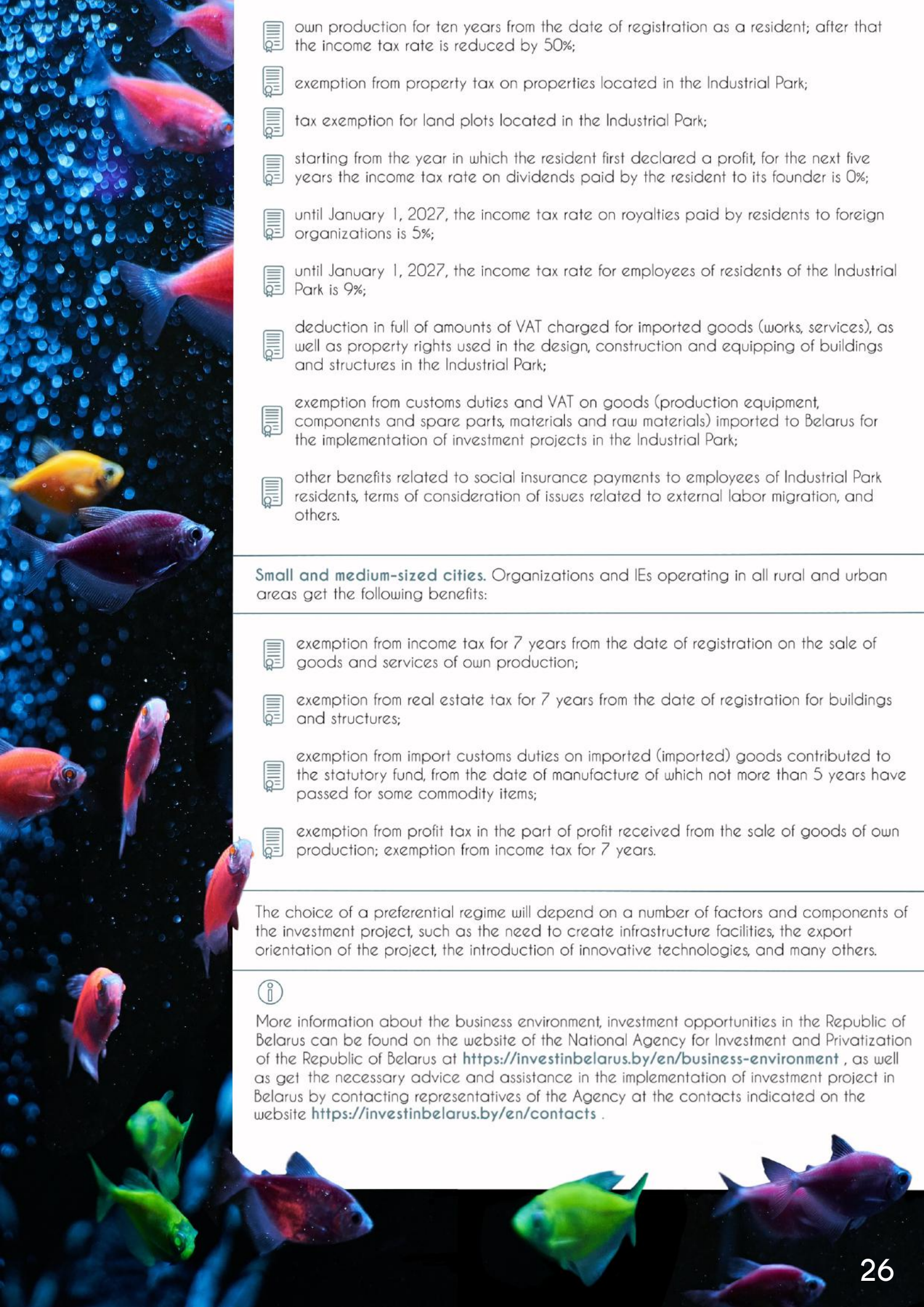
-  VAT deduction in full;
-  exemption from import duties and taxes on import into the territory of the Republic of Belarus of technological equipment, raw materials and supplies;
-  exemption from compensation for losses in forestry and agricultural production

**Free Economic Zones (FEZ).** The advantages of free economic zones:

-  exemption from profit tax when selling products for export and other FEZ residents;
-  exemption from real estate tax on objects in the territory of FEZ for three years from the date of registration;
- exemption from land tax and land lease for the period of design and construction, but not more than for 5 years from the date of registration. Exemption regardless of the direction of their use (when sold for export or to other FEZ residents);
- exemption from payment for the right to conclude a lease agreement for a land plot.

**Great Stone Industrial Park.** Residents receive the following benefits:

-  exemption from income tax on revenue from the sale of goods (works, services) of own production for ten years from the date of registration as a resident; after that the income tax rate is reduced by 50%;
-  own production for ten years from the date of registration as a resident; after that the income tax rate is reduced by 50%;

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- own production for ten years from the date of registration as a resident; after that the income tax rate is reduced by 50%;
  - exemption from property tax on properties located in the Industrial Park;
  - tax exemption for land plots located in the Industrial Park;
  - starting from the year in which the resident first declared a profit, for the next five years the income tax rate on dividends paid by the resident to its founder is 0%;
  - until January 1, 2027, the income tax rate on royalties paid by residents to foreign organizations is 5%;
  - until January 1, 2027, the income tax rate for employees of residents of the Industrial Park is 9%;
  - deduction in full of amounts of VAT charged for imported goods (works, services), as well as property rights used in the design, construction and equipping of buildings and structures in the Industrial Park;
  - exemption from customs duties and VAT on goods (production equipment, components and spare parts, materials and raw materials) imported to Belarus for the implementation of investment projects in the Industrial Park;
  - other benefits related to social insurance payments to employees of Industrial Park residents, terms of consideration of issues related to external labor migration, and others.

**Small and medium-sized cities.** Organizations and IEs operating in all rural and urban areas get the following benefits:

- exemption from income tax for 7 years from the date of registration on the sale of goods and services of own production;
- exemption from real estate tax for 7 years from the date of registration for buildings and structures;
- exemption from import customs duties on imported (imported) goods contributed to the statutory fund, from the date of manufacture of which not more than 5 years have passed for some commodity items;
- exemption from profit tax in the part of profit received from the sale of goods of own production; exemption from income tax for 7 years.

The choice of a preferential regime will depend on a number of factors and components of the investment project, such as the need to create infrastructure facilities, the export orientation of the project, the introduction of innovative technologies, and many others.



More information about the business environment, investment opportunities in the Republic of Belarus can be found on the website of the National Agency for Investment and Privatization of the Republic of Belarus at <https://investinbelarus.by/en/business-environment> , as well as get the necessary advice and assistance in the implementation of investment project in Belarus by contacting representatives of the Agency at the contacts indicated on the website <https://investinbelarus.by/en/contacts> .