

Russian seafood firm to build processing plant in Crimea

By [Undercurrent News](#)

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A Russian seafood company plans to build a new fish processing plant in Crimea with up to 75,000 metric tons of annual production capacity, reports *Investia*.

The new plant, to be built by Lazurny Okean Group, will process fish (sprat, anchovy and mackerel) from the Black Sea and Azov Sea and should be part-operational this summer, a representative of the state-run Federal Agency for Fishery (Rosrybolovstvo) told *Investia*.

The plant will process Russian raw material which is currently processed abroad and then re-exported back to Russia. This could enable Russia to reduce fish imports by up to 20%, according to Rosrybolovstvo analysts.

Fish products made at the plant will also be exported to other members of the Moscow-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). In addition to Russia, the EEU includes Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan.

In 2015, Russia's fish industry processed about 1.175 million metric tons of fish and seafood which represented an increase of 0.7% compared with 2014. Imports totaled 401,000t, which equaled a decrease of 38%.

The plant ranks as a significant investment by a Russian firm in Crimea since the region was annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

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