Uruguayan investors, National Sea Products Ltd. of Canada, through an affiliated company, and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), an affiliate of the World Bank, has launched a $21.6 million fishing project for Astra Pesquerías Uruguayas S.A. Current plans anticipate an annual export-oriented production of about 17,000 metric tons of frozen fish, fish meal and oil. Astra will operate six fishing vessels and a combined filleting/freezing and meal/oil plant at La Paloma, Uruguay, about 150 miles east of Montevideo. It will have an annual production capacity of 7,350 metric tons of frozen fish, 600 tons of squid and 8,700 tons of fish meal and oil, making it the largest fishery venture in Uruguay and the largest integrated operation outside of Montevideo. The fishing fleet will operate in joint Argentine-Uruguayan fishing grounds and is expected to have an annual catch of 17,000 metric tons of hake and other deep water species and 30,000 metric tons of anchovy. The project supports the objectives of the Uruguayan National Plan for Fisheries which was introduced in 1975 as part of the country's overall development plan.

Workers feed fish into a scaling machine at the Astra fishery, La Paloma, Uruguay.

Please Credit: IFC/WORLD BANK PHOTO by James Pickerell
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Women packing mackerel into cans at the Astra fishery, La Paloma, Uruguay.

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A woman laying out fish fillets for quick freezing at the Astra fishery, La Paloma, Uruguay.

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