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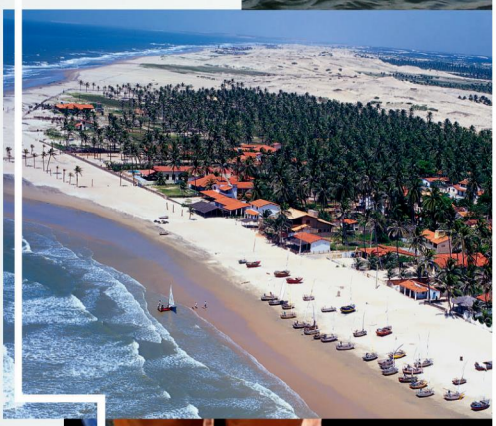

NOVEMBER 16-19, 2015
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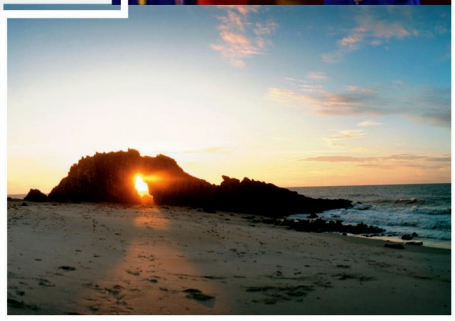

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ABSTRACTS

LONG DROUGHTS AND ITS IMPACTS ON THE TILAPIA'S MARKET IN BRAZIL

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With the estimated production of 275.000t in 2014 (Brazilian Association of Fish Farmers/Peixe BR) and a significant growth in recent years (56% of increase between 2008 and 2011), tilapia is the main aquaculture product in Brazil. Most part of the tilapia production in Brazil is carried in cage culture systems. In Brazil, no native freshwater species has a well developed technology package for production in cages and the other species in the country has a low productivity in cages. The Brazilian Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture has establishied guidelines for aquaparks and aquaculture areas in many hidrelectric reservoirs. Therefore, most of the Brazilian aquaculture growing is based in cage systems, which tilapia is the main species. As a result, reservoirs of great dams have become important for tilapia production in recent years and are expected to contribute to a large production increase for the comming years in Brazil. By offering a high quality tilapia to the domestic market and consequently popularizing the consumption of fish in all regions of the country, domestic demand has accompanied the growth of its supply. Virtually, all domestic production is consumed in the country. Even the increased imports of cheaper white fillets (eg. Alaska Pollock and Pangasius), didn't shook the domestic tilapia consumption significantly. However, with an economic crisis, consumer purchasing power may be affected if there is a sharp change in prices of this product with consequences for consumers because of the high price-sensibility of fish. Among the factors that can compromise the prices of tilapia is the productive insecurity recently caused by a long period of drought. More specifically, the last four years (since 2012), part of the country has faced a long drought that has directly affected the water levels of reservoirs and its usage for energy generation and water supply. Among other regions, the important tilapia poles of Castanhão (Ceara state), São Francisco (Peernambuco and Bahia states) and Ilha Solteira (São Paulo state) have faced the lowering of water volume. In Castanhão and Ilha Solteira reservoirs the water bodies has decreased by 37% and 50% respectvely. As consequence, producers at those areas have been suffering with the lower level and quality of these waters. The established insecurity about the situation has lead to a lower production, either due to the fewer number of fingerlings put in production or due to the reduced number of cages used in consequence of the lower level of water. This paper intends to analyze the effect of this scenario to the tilapia's market, correlating it with the climate trend of these areas for the next years.