

# ICE HELPS SALMON RETAIN QUALITY

The Chilean company Alisan, one of the country's biggest salmon exporters, processes around 6000 tonnes of salmon fillets per year.

Most of it is exported to the United States and Japan, where customers expect products of outstanding quality. Product freshness is a decisive factor in consumer choice. Consequently, the salmon is put in flake-ice as soon as it is caught, and kept near to the temperature of melting ice, or zero degrees Celsius, throughout the distribution and processing chain.

Being well aware of this, Alisan installed two 20-tonne Geneglance flake-ice machines capable of producing 40 tonnes of flake ice per day.

Alisan, based in Quellón on the island of Chiloé in Chile's major fish farming region, operates only one salmon farm, four hours from Quellón by boat. As the farm has an annual output of 2000 tonnes, Alisan makes up its requirements from the production of other companies. As soon as the salmon are taken out of the water, they are placed in a mixture of cold water and flake-ice in insulated boxes. Each box contains 350kg of salmon and 130kg of ice.

The boxes are brought back to the plant, and the fish are cleaned, gutted, sorted and placed according to size in containers in a clean mixture of water and flake-ice



Fresh ice is the best medium to keep seafood market-fresh

pending processing. This technique chills the fish quickly to the core, resulting in improved flesh texture, making it easier to fillet and process later.

The fish may be sold frozen or fresh. In the latter case, both whole fish and fillets are covered with flake-ice and shipped in polystyrene crates to ensure freshness.

Contact: Refrigeration Engineering Co Ltd

9 Prescott Street, Penrose, Auckland

PO Box 12-072, Penrose. Email: [tech@realcold.co.nz](mailto:tech@realcold.co.nz)



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0800 11 66 90 [tech@realcold.co.nz](mailto:tech@realcold.co.nz)