Delegates at the Saudi International Marine Exhibition and Conference at the Hilton Riyadh Hotel from Jan. 30 to Feb. 1 are tasked with promoting the potential of aquaculture in Saudi Arabia. The country has the potential to become a significant player in the aquaculture industry, with a large and growing market for fresh seafood.

**SAUDI ARABIA AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION 2015-30**

- **Actual and projection**
  - 700k tons per year: 2015, 2030
  - 600k tons per year: 2020, 2025
  - 500k tons per year: 2020
  - 400k tons per year: 2025
  - 300k tons per year: 2025
  - 200k tons per year: 2020, 2025
  - 100k tons per year: 2015

**SAUDI FISHERIES PRODUCTION**

- Total capture and aquaculture production (tons)
  - 500k: 2015, 2020, 2025, 2030
  - 400k: 2020, 2025
  - 300k: 2025
  - 200k: 2020, 2025
  - 100k: 2015

**FISHERIES PRODUCTION TOP 10 SPECIES (IN TONS, 2018)**

1. **WHITELEG SHRIMP**
   - 56,100 tons
   - Introduced to Saudi Arabia in 2012 to bolster aquaculture projects in the Kingdom, which were seriously hit by the White Spot Syndrome Virus at the time.

2. **NILE TILAPIA**
   - 7,500 tons
   - The Nile tilapia is one of the most commonly cultured freshwater fish at inland farms in the Kingdom.

3. **NARROW-BARRED SPANISH MACKEREL**
   - 4,820 tons
   - Weighing up to 70 kg, the narrow-barred Spanish mackerel is found in the Middle East.

4. **EMPERORS NEI**
   - 4,137 tons
   - Also known as Lethrinidae, they are a family of fish which consume invertebrates and small fish.

5. **PINK EAR EMPEROR**
   - 3,116 tons
   - Found in the Indo-West Pacific, pink ear emperors could be fished for both commercial and sporting purposes.

6. **GREEN TIGER PRAWN**
   - 7,319 tons
   - A commercially important species of prawn which is found in the Red Sea and Eastern Africa.

7. **BARRAMUNDI FISH**
   - 5,500 tons
   - A common species that is easy to breed and suits the Kingdom's warm weather conditions.