



EUROPEAN HAKE (*MERLUCCIUS MERLUCCIUS*)



Source : [Information system on commercial designations](#)

BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

- Species description ([Read more](#))

The European hake is a slim bodied fish of the genus *Merluccius*, with a large head and large jaws on which are set a number of large curved teeth.

- Geographical distribution and habitat ([Read more](#))

The European hake lives in the north-east Atlantic, eastern-central Atlantic, and can also be found in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

- Stocks and resource status/conservation measures ([Read more](#))

Minimum conservation size is established at 30 cm in Skagerrak and Kattegat, 20 cm in the Mediterranean Sea, and 27 cm in all the other fishing area).

- Production methods and fishing gears ([Read more](#))

The main fishing gears used are gillnets and similar nets, hooks and lines, and trawls. The specie is exclusively caught in the wild.

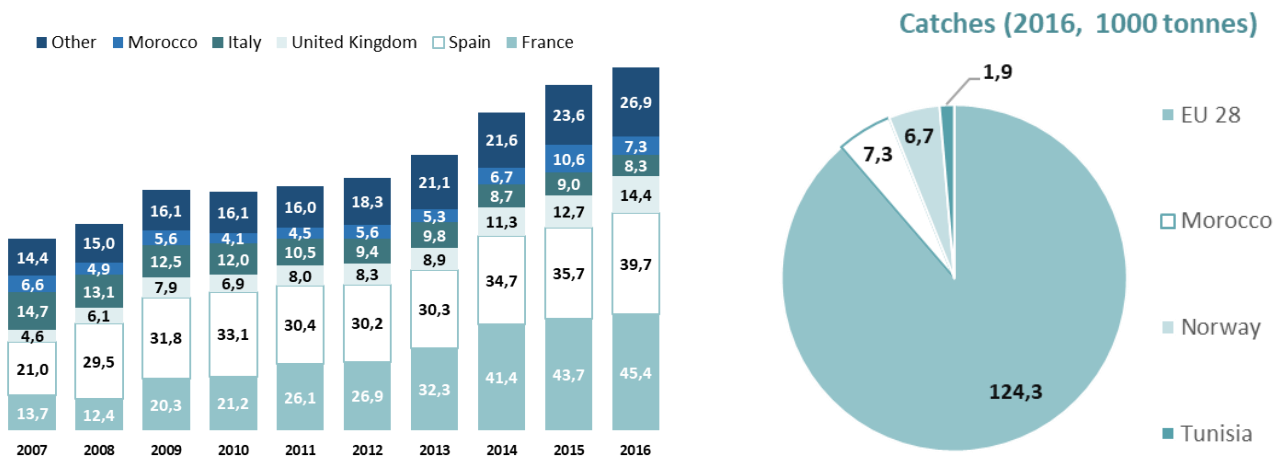
European hake



CATCHES

- The share of hake in the global catches is **0,16%** (FAO, 2016).
- Catches have increased significantly from 2007 to 2016 at global level (+ 89%) and EU level (+ 102%). Concerning the main producers : France, Spain and Italy have respectively increased their production of 230%, 89% and 214%.

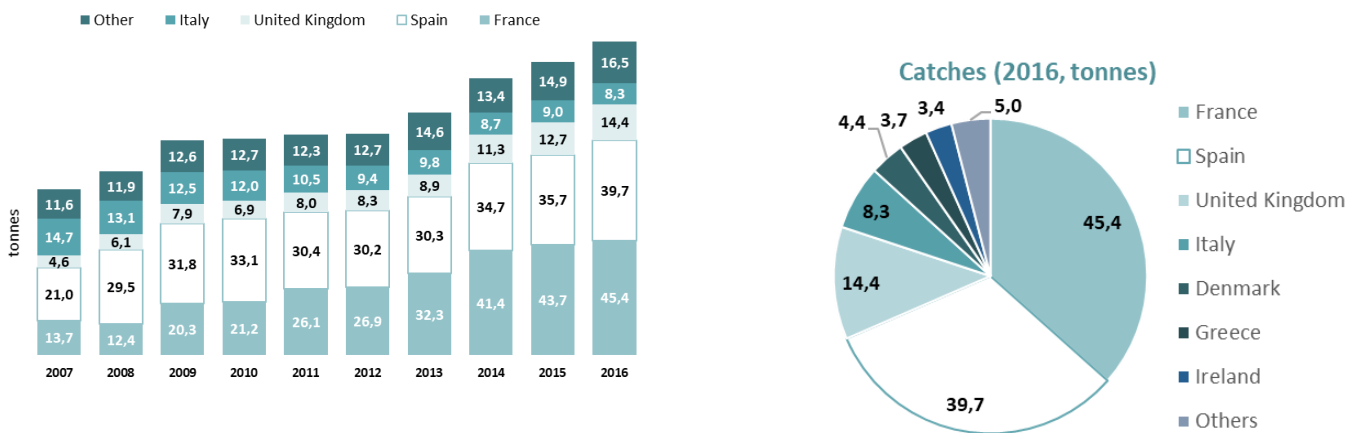
Evolution of world catches, 1000 tonnes



Source: FAO

Evolution of EU catches

- The EU provides **87,4%** of the global hake catches in 2016 (vs. 87,1% in 2007).



Source: FAO

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TRADE (source COMEXT)

- Combined nomenclature ([Read more](#))

EU trade of European hake products (tonnes)

Source: COMEXT

CN code	Product	EU imports		EU exports	
		Intra-EU	Extra-EU	Intra-EU	Extra-EU
03025419	fresh or chilled hake "merluccius spp." (excl. cape hake, deepwater hake and southern hake)	38.168	4.602	18.958	1.686
03036619	frozen hake "merluccius spp." (excl. cape hake, deepwater hake, argentine hake and southern hake)	7.121	5.628	9.040	1.932
03044490	fresh or chilled fillets of fish of the families bregmacerotidae, euclichthyidae, gadidae, macrouridae, melanonidae, merlucciidae, moridae and muraenolepididae (excl. cod, coalfish and boreogadus saida)	3.950	5.018	5.048	89
03045300	fresh or chilled meat, whether or not minced, of fish of the families bregmacerotidae, euclichthyidae, gadidae, macrouridae, melanonidae, merlucciidae, moridae and muraenolepididae (excl. fillets)	5.159	281	1.282	350
03047419	frozen fillets of hake "merluccius spp." (excl. cape hake, deepwater hake and argentine hake)	4.287	25.388	4.050	167
03049510	frozen surimi of fish of the families bregmacerotidae, euclichthyidae, gadidae, macrouridae, melanonidae, merlucciidae, moridae and muraenolepididae (excl. alaska pollack "theragra chalcogramma")	368	14.261	559	40
03049550	frozen meat, whether or not minced, of hake "merluccius spp." (excl. fillets and surimi)	1.461	13.561	3.086	41
03053290	fillets, dried, salted or in brine, but not smoked, of fish of the families bregmacerotidae, euclichthyidae, gadidae, macrouridae, melanonidae, merlucciidae, moridae and muraenolepididae (excl. cod and boreogadus saida)	4.611	7.049	4.812	155
16041994	hake "merluccius spp., urophycis spp.", prepared or preserved, whole or in pieces (excl. finely minced and fillets, raw, merely coated with batter or breadcrumbs, whether or not pre-fried in oil, frozen)	3.509	2.100	6.079	490

There are not specific trade code related to the European hake. Aggregates thus involve other species.



TRADE (source COMEXT)

Source: COMEXT

EU trade of European hake products (tonnes)

- **Main extra-EU destinations are:**

- for fresh or chilled European hake : in 2017, 96 % of extra-EU exports are sent to Algeria (1.617 tonnes)
- for frozen hake (whole fish) : Serbia (421 tonnes in 2017), Chile (386 tonnes), Ukraine (200 tonnes) and Egypt (195 tonnes)
- for preserved or prepared hake : Serbia (189 tonnes in 2017) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (134 tonnes)

- **Main extra-EU suppliers are:**

- for frozen fillets of hake : United States of America (13.223 tonnes in 2017), Peru (4.994 tonnes) and China (4.942 tonnes)
- for frozen surimi, including European hake : in 2017, 97% of extra-EU imports were bought from the United States of America (13.863 tonnes)
- for frozen meat, whether or not minced, of hake (excluding fillets and surimi) : Namibia (4.860 tonnes), United States of America (3.017 tonnes) and Argentina (2.150 tonnes)

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PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

First-sale (fresh hake)

First-sale prices are presented at French and Spanish level, the two main EU producers

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Source
France	3.66	3.97	3.84	3.37	3.20	3.70	3.81	3.69	EUMOFA
Spain	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	5.97	5.86	6.18	EUMOFA

Wholesale

Wholesale prices are presented at EU level

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Source
EU	8.17	8.30	6.39	6.34	7.89	7.29	6.92	5.97	EUMOFA

Retail/consumption

Retail prices refer UE and Spain which is the major consumer country in the EU.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Source
Spain	12.55	11.80	11.92	12.02	11.94	12.05	12.15	12.15	EUMOFA
EU	9.30	9.60	10.53	10.61	10.64	10.88	11.05	10.58	EUMOFA

Import (fresh or chilled)

Import prices are presented for France and Spain which are the main hake importers in the EU.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Source
France	3.12	3.23	3.32	3.25	3.14	3.05	3.07	3.16	EUMOFA
Spain	3.10	3.05	3.26	3.11	3.30	3.49	3.61	3.70	EUMOFA

Export (fresh or chilled)

Export prices refer to Spain, France and UK as they are the main hake exporters in the EU

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Source
Spain	3.32	3.50	3.88	3.86	4.48	4.32	4.50	4.61	EUMOFA
France	5.31	2.45	2.62	2.73	2.82	2.88	3.10	3.14	EUMOFA
UK	3.61	3.55	3.48	3.52	4.19	4.73	4.27	4.78	EUMOFA

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MARKETING ASPECTS

- Commercial designations in all EU official languages ([Read more](#))
- Common marketing standards ([Read more](#))

CONSUMPTION

- Hake is the 8th most consumed fish in the EU.
- Apparent consumption per capita in 2016: **0,96 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2018 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Nutritional value (European hake, Atlantic, cut from whole fish, values per 100 g – source : USDA)

Nutritional value	Hake
Kilo calorie (kcal)	78
Kilojoule (kJ)	326
Protein (g)	17,5
Total lipid (g)	0,88
Carbohydrates (g)	0
Calcium (mg)	44
Iron (mg)	0,95
Sodium (mg)	100
Cholesterol (mg)	20