



OYSTERS (OSTREIDAE)



Crassostrea gigas

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

BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

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

Oyster is the common name for many salt-water bivalve molluscs living in marine or brackish waters. Most are part of the family *Ostreoidea*.

The main species produced in Europe is *Crassostrea gigas*.

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

Oysters have a worldwide distribution and can be found in all sea and oceans, from saltwaters to brackish waters.

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

- Production methods and fishing gears

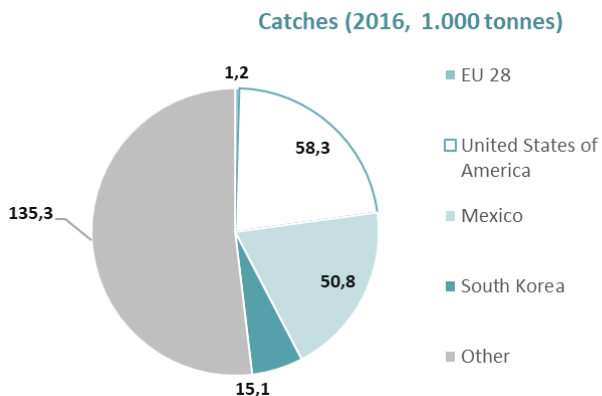
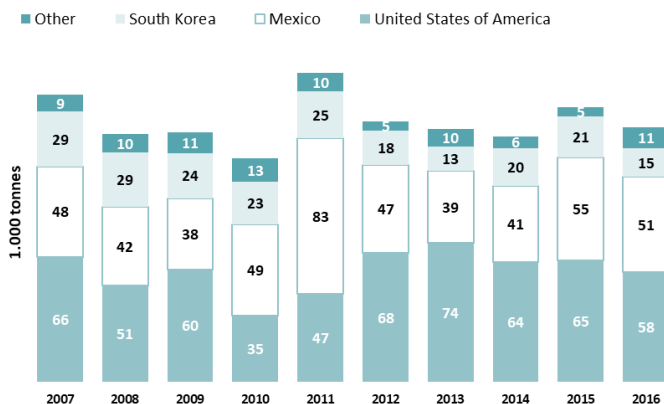
Oysters can be caught in the wild but are mainly farmed. The main fishing gears used are dredges and trawls.



CATCHES

- With a total of 135.000 tonnes in 2016, oyster catches represent 0,15% of the global fisheries production.
- Catches of oysters in 2016 are 2,4% below the average of the last decade.
- USA and Mexico provided **81%** of the world catches in 2016 (vs. 75% in 2007).

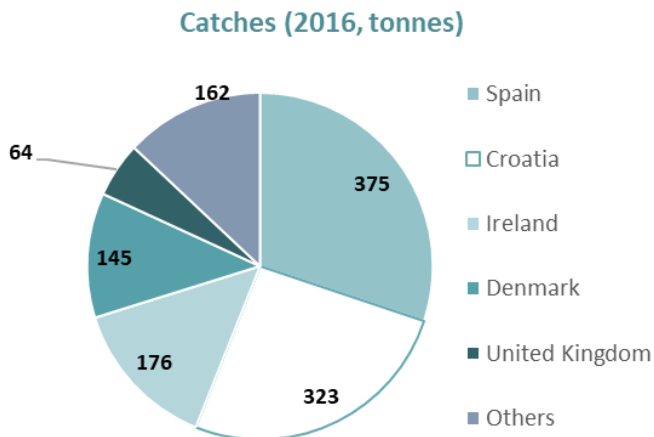
Evolution of world catches (1.000 tonnes)



Source: FAO

Evolution of EU catches (tonnes)

- EU catches, which were above 10.000 tonnes at the end of the 1960s, followed then a decreasing trend to slightly above 1.000 tonnes in the years 2012-2016.
- Spain and Croatia account for 56% of EU catches in 2016.
- Flat oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) represent 86% of the total EU catch.



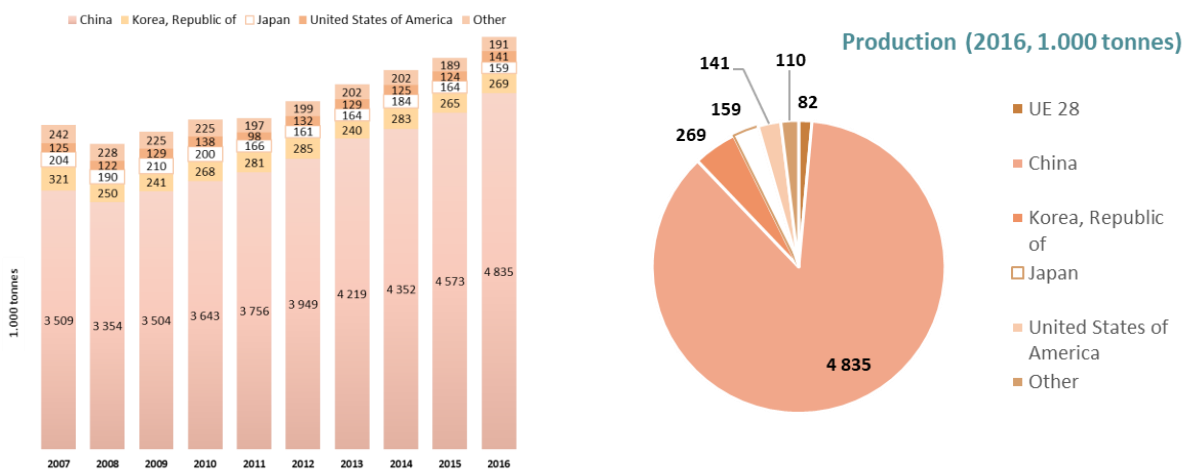
Source: FAO



AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

Evolution of world aquaculture production (1.000 tonnes)

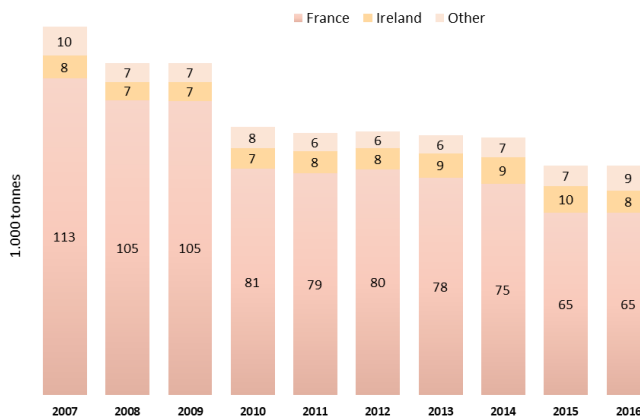
- From 2007 to 2016, the world oyster aquaculture production increased by **27%** to reach 5,6 million tonnes in 2016 (all-time record), driven by the development of China's harvest (+38% over the same period).
- China's production represented 86% of the global oyster farmed production in 2016.



Source: FAO

Evolution of EU aquaculture production (1.000 tonnes)

- EU oyster farmed production decreased by **38%** over the last decade.
- The main species produced in the EU is the Pacific cupped oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*), with 92% of harvested volumes in 2016.
- In 2016, France alone represented 79% of EU production (vs. 86% in 2007).



Source: FAO

Oysters



PROCESSING (source EUROSTAT/PRODCOM)

- No significant processing activity exist with oysters. Yet canned and smoked oysters industry is developed in Asia and America.
- 1 [PRODCOM](#) code partly refers to oyster:
 - 10 20 34 00: “crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates and seaweed, otherwise prepared or preserved”. In this code the share of oyster is very limited.



TRADE (source EUMOFA and COMEXT)

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

Most of the oyster trade is intra-EU, as it mostly concerns live products. France and Ireland are the main exporters for live oysters, both intra-EU and extra-EU.

Main importers of live oysters are France and Italy, for products originating in Ireland and France respectively.

EU trade of oyster products in 2017 (tonnes – product weight)

CN code	Product	EU imports		EU exports	
		Intra-EU	Extra-EU	Intra-EU	Extra-EU
03071110	Flats oysters (of the genus <i>Ostrea</i>), live and weighing (shell included) not more than 40 g each	3.699	13	8.131	705
03071190	Other oysters, live	16.911	6	13,132	5.343
03071200	Oysters, even in shell, frozen	841	152	130	50
03071900	Oysters, even in shell, smoked, dried, salted or in brine	2.155	42	6.901	130
16055100	Oysters, prepared or preserved (excl. smoked)	260	20	241	8

Main extra-EU suppliers are:

- for frozen oysters : South Korea (147 tonnes in 2017) ,
- for smoked, dried, salted or in brine oysters : South Korea (31 tonnes),
- for prepared/preserved oysters: South Korea (20 tonnes).

Main extra-EU destinations are:

- for live oysters (genus *Ostrea* and other) : China (2.445 tonnes), Hong Kong (1.667 tonnes) and Switzerland (406 tonnes),
- for oysters smoked, dried, salted or in brine : Tunisia (65 tonnes) and Ukraine (39 tonnes).



PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (live, EUR/kg)

First-sale

First-sale prices are presented for France, the leading EU producer.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Source
France	2.27	2.61	3.33	3.47	3.53	3.23	3.14	2.60	EUMOFA
EU	2.18	2.63	3.37	3.21	3.63	3.44	3.27	3.01	EUMOFA

Wholesale

Wholesale prices are presented for Spain (Wholesale market of Barcelona).

Mean price	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Source
Spain	8.72	9.94	10.92	11.03	11.55	12.37	12.43	11.79	Mercabarna

Retail/consumption

Retail prices refer to France, major consumer country in the EU.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Source
France	7.1	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.4	7.3	7.1		FranceAgriMer

Import

Import prices are presented for France and Italy, which are EU's main oyster importers.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Source
France	3.16	4.85	4.88	4.99	4.64	4.12	4.37	4.26	EUMOFA
Italy	3.30	4.51	4.24	4.24	4.07	4.03	4.30	4.35	EUMOFA

Export

Export prices refer to France and Ireland, the two main exporters in the EU.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Source
France	5.92	6.57	6.86	7.34	7.36	6.54	6.73	7.07	EUMOFA
Ireland	3.04	4.29	5.01	5.03	4.36	4.17	4.76	5.05	EUMOFA



MARKETING ASPECTS

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

CONSUMPTION

- Apparent consumption per capita of oyster in 2016: **0,15 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [EUMOFA supply balance](#)).
- Nutritional value (Oyster - *Crassostrea gigas*, France, raw meat, values per 100 g – source : NUTRAQUA/AQUIMER)

Nutritional value	Oyster (<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>)
kilo calories (kcal)	66
Kilojoule (kJ)	280
Water (g)	83,3
Ashes (g)	2,3
Proteins (g)	8,6
Carbohydrates (g)	4
Lipids (g)	1,7
Cholesterol (mv)	20,3
Omega 6 (mg)	67
Omega 3 (mg)	272
EPA (mg)	146
DHA (mg)	71