



BELGIUM IN THE WORLD AND IN THE EU

(2015, source: FAO and Eurostat)

Belgium is the EU's 18th largest producer of fisheries and 27th largest of aquaculture products.

(1000 tonnes)	World	EU-28	Belgium	% World	% EU-28
Catches	104 635	5 144	24	0,02%	0,47%
Aquaculture	106 094	1 307	0,1	0%	0,01%
Total	211 511	6 451	24,1	0,01%	0,37%

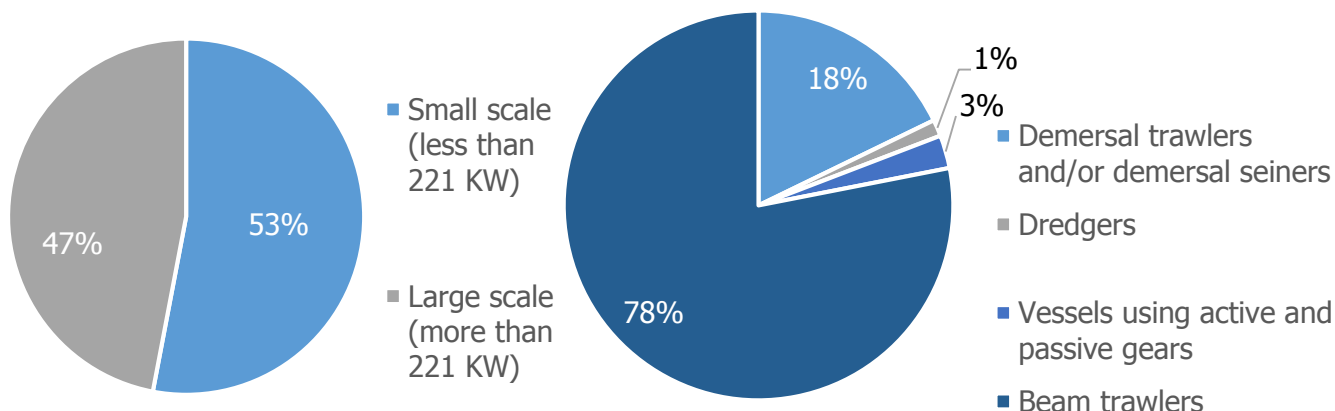
FISHING FLEET

(2015, source: [JRC and Annual Economic Report](#))

Vessels	Capacity	Power
Number: 79 (6 inactive)	GT: 14,6	KW: 47,6
TOTAL FTE: 293 (2014)		
Small scale	Large scale*	Distant fleet
Jobs (FTE): 0%	Jobs (FTE): 100%	Jobs (FTE): 0%

* Since 2014, Belgium had no vessels under 12 meters and thus no small-scale fleet. However, under national classification system, SSF includes vessels <221 KW.

The Belgian fishing fleet and gear composition:



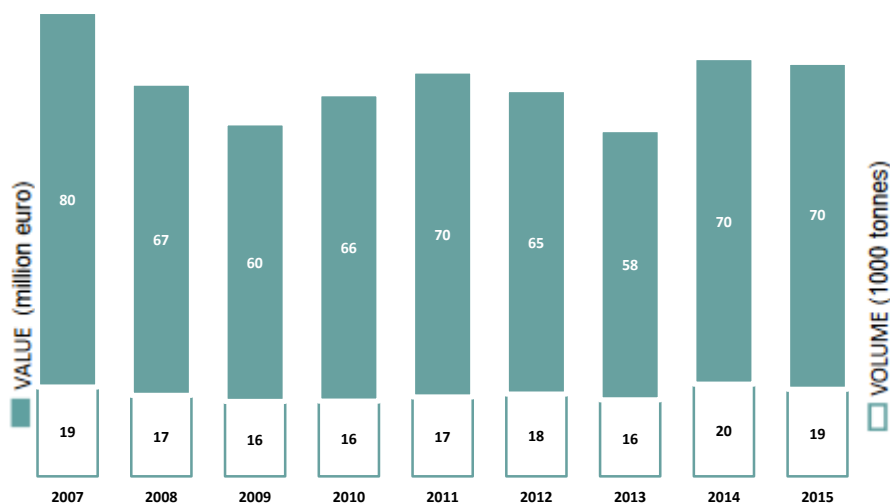


LANDINGS

Landings comprise the initial unloading of any fisheries products, including aquatic plants, from on board a fishing vessel to land in a given country, regardless of the nationality of the vessel making the landings. Landings are recorded in net weight.

In Belgium, 97% of the species are landed fresh. Almost 100% of the production is for human consumption.

There are 3 main ports in Belgium.



Main commercial species landed and % of total
(2015, million euro and 1.000 tonnes)



SOLE	33	47%	7	31%	PLAICE
PLAICE	9	27%	4	19%	SOLE
MONK	4	11%	1	7%	RAY
COD	3	9%	1	6%	COD
RAY	3	8%	1	5%	GURNARD
BRILL	2	6%	0,7	5%	OTHER SHARKS
OTHERS	16	23%	7	30%	OTHERS

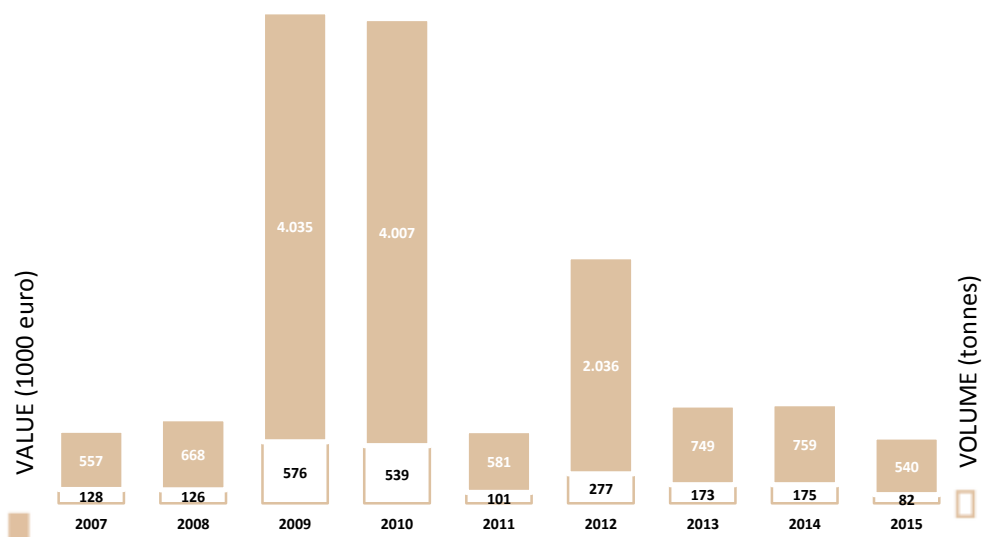
(source: Eurostat)



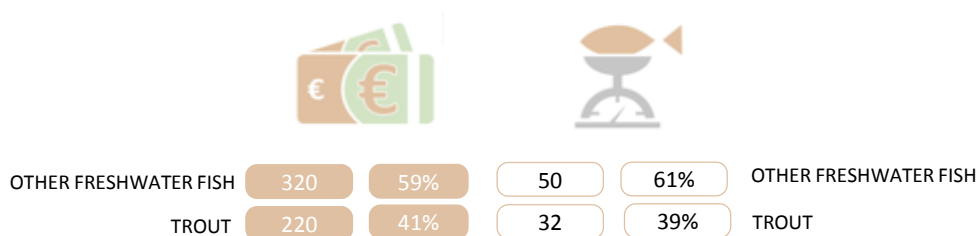
AQUACULTURE

Aquaculture refers to the farming of aquatic (freshwater or saltwater) organisms, such as fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants. Aquaculture data are reported in live weight equivalent and value.

Only freshwater production (mainly trout) exists in Belgium.



Main commercial species farmed and % of total (2015, KEUR and tonnes)



(source: Eurostat)



PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS (2016, source: DG MARE, [link](#))

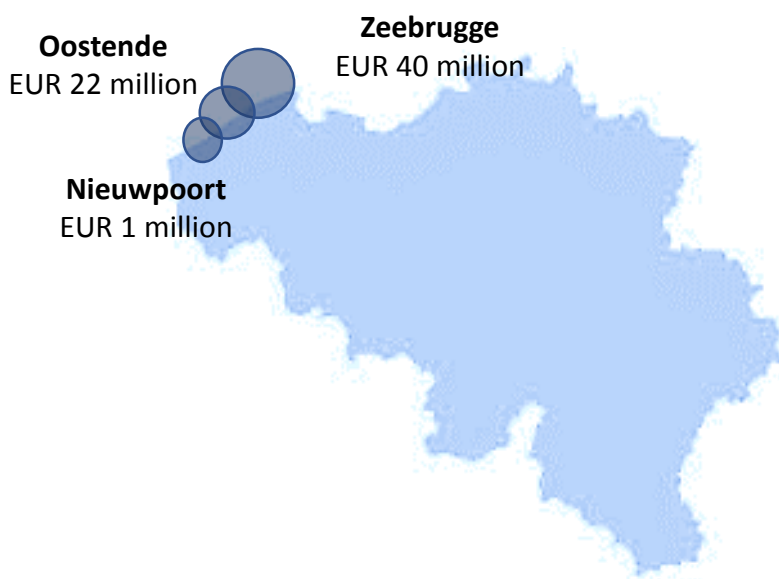
One producer organisation (PO), *Producentenorganisatie van de Reders ter Zeevisserij*, based in Oostende and involved in fisheries is recognised for the management of fishery activities of their associated members. This is one of the oldest POs (recognized in 1971).

FIRST SALES (2016, source: EUMOFA)

First sale concerns the fish that is sold or registered at an auction center or to registered buyers or to producer organizations (PO).

In Belgium, there are 3 auctions:

- Oostende (Ostend);
- Zeebrugge;
- Nieuwpoort.



3 auctions located in the North Sea.

The 3 auctions cover 100% of landings volume and value.

Auctions	Volume (tonnes)	Value (million EUR)	Top-3 main commercial species (value)
Zeebrugge	10.295	40	Sole, plaice, monk
Oostende (Ostend)	5.670	22	Sole, plaice, shrimp Crangon spp.
Nieuwpoort	184	1	Shrimp Crangon spp., sole, cuttlefish



WHOLESALE (source: Vlaamse Visveiling)

Wholesale is an intermediary stage in the distribution channel that buys in bulk and sells to resellers (e.g. retailers) rather than to consumers.

There are no wholesale markets in Belgium. The 3 Belgian auctions play an important role in the FAP supply chain. There are two auction management companies in Belgium:

- **Vlaamse Visveiling** (the most important): management company of the two auctions of Oostende and Zeebrugge. It gathers 170 buyers: wholesalers, supermarkets, markets and speciality stores.
- **Nieuwpoortse Visveiling**: management company of the Nieuwpoort auction.

PROCESSING (source: Eurostat-SBS)

In 2015, 1.082 persons were employed in Belgium in the fish processing industry.

In Belgium, the fish processing industry recorded a value added of EUR 89,6 million, covering only 1% of the value added of total manufacture of food products.

The main products were fresh or chilled fish fillets, processed crustaceans and molluscs, processed fish, and prepared meals and dishes.

32 companies
Sales: EUR 0,6 billion
(2015, source Eurostat - SBS)



TRADE (source: Eurostat)

Import

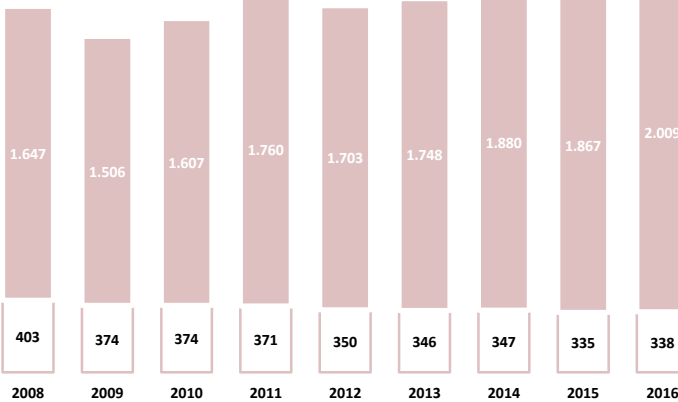
MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IMPORTED AND % OF TOTAL IMPORTS (2016, million euro)



SALMON	326	16%
TROPICAL SHRIMP	240	12%
MISCELLANEOUS SHRIMP	209	10%
OTHER PRODUCTS	114	6%
COD	106	5%
OTERH MARINE FISH	101	5%
OTHERS	913	45%

VALUE (million euro)

VOLUME (1000 tonnes)



Export

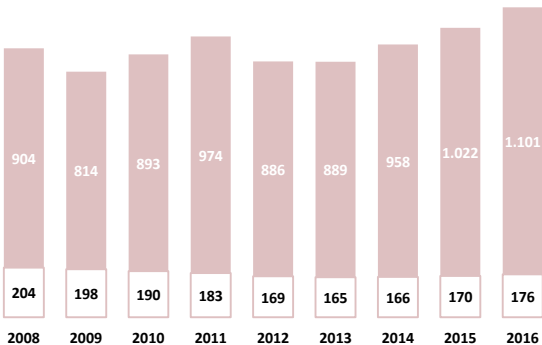
MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES EXPORTED AND % OF TOTAL EXPORTS (2016, million euro)



TROPICAL SHRIMP	172	16%
MISCELLANEOUS SHRIMP	147	13%
SALMON	110	10%
OTHER PRODUCTS	75	7%
OTHER MARINE FISH	73	7%
SCALLOP	47	4%
OTHERS	475	43%

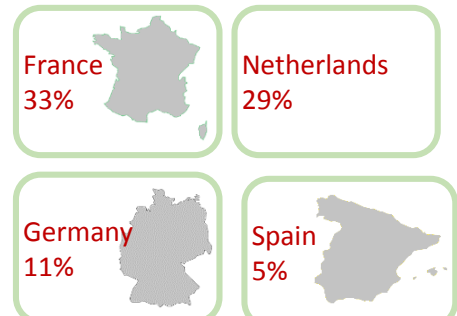
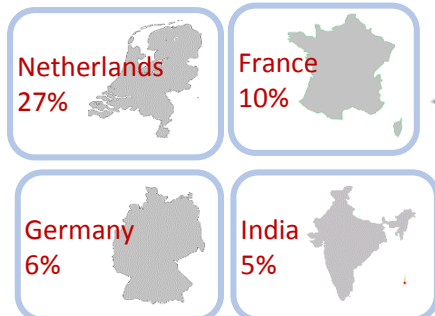
VALUE (million euro)

VOLUME (1000 tonnes)



Countries of ORIGIN

Countries of DESTINATION

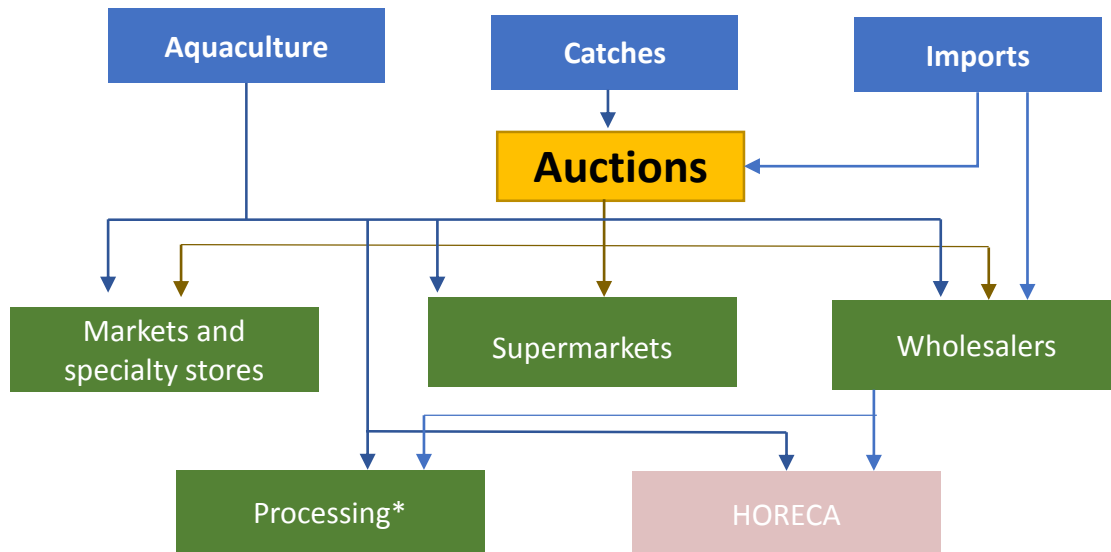




DISTRIBUTION

The supply chain of fishery and aquaculture products in Belgium

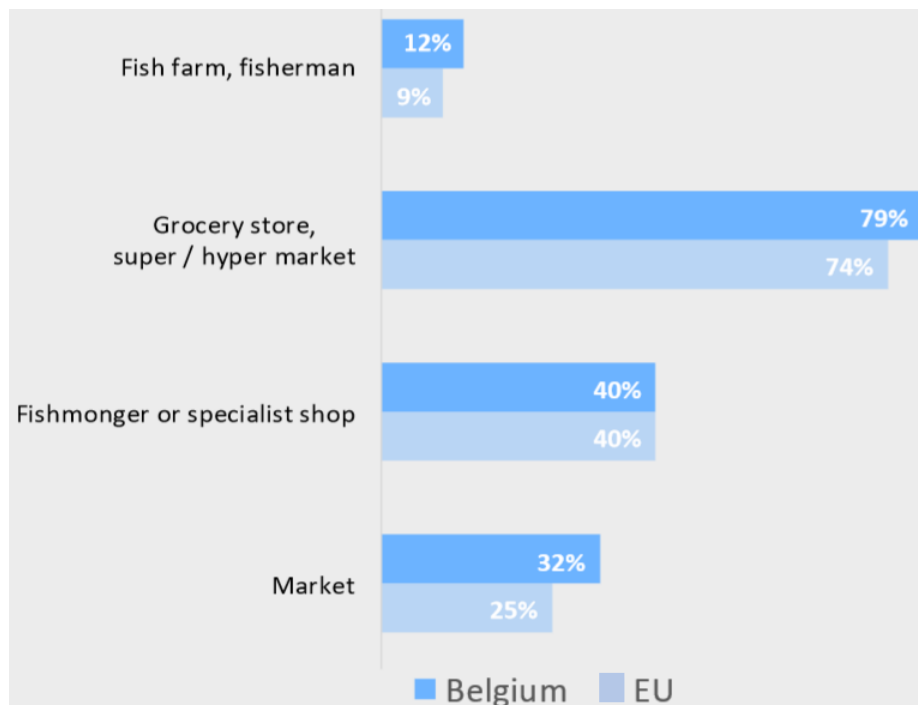
(source: Based on the operational programme for the EMFF of Belgium)



* Processing depends heavily on imports. the majority of processed products are exported

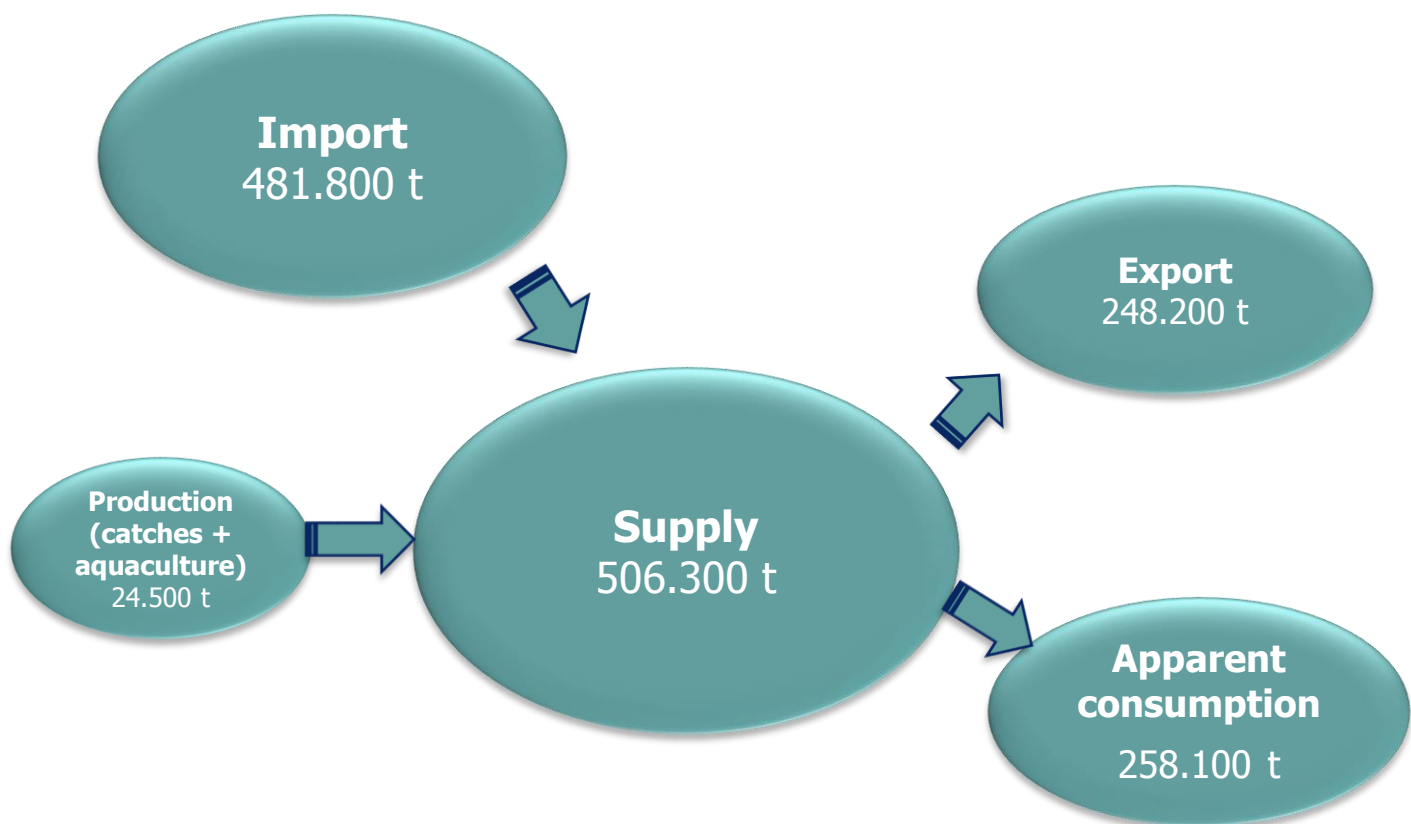
Consumers preferences on purchasing channels

(source: EUROBAROMETER)





SUPPLY BALANCE (source: EUMOFA)





CONSUMPTION

Apparent consumption of fishery and aquaculture products in Belgium amounted to **23,7 kg/per capita in 2015**, a slight decrease (-2%) compared to the previous year. Specifically, consumption of exotic species is decreasing. However, consumption is increasing of salmon and cod (the species with the biggest market share) and for the North sea species. The main consumed species are **cod, mussels and salmon**.

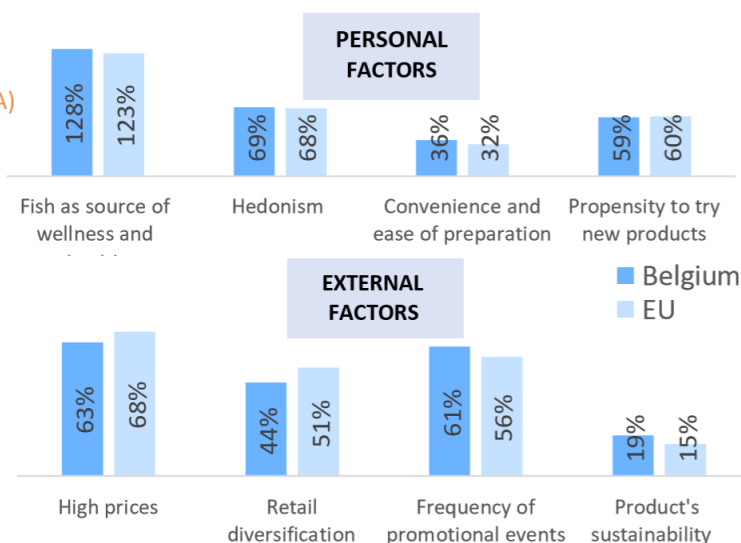
From a socio-demographic point of view, regular fish consumers belong mainly to the age groups 40-54 years and over 55 years. Young people also tend to eat fish frequently in Belgium. This age group has the lowest number of regular consumers across the EU. While this is also the case in Belgium, the number of regular consumers in this age group is higher (69% in Belgium) than the EU average (67%) (source: "EU consumer habits regarding fishery and aquaculture products").

Belgians consume especially fresh and frozen products, while loose fish is more rarely consumed (54%) than the EU average (68%).

23,7 Kg per capita
(source: EUMOFA)

Purchasing factors

(source: EUROBAROMETER DATA)



BELGIUM IN EUMOFA



LANDINGS

Volumes and values are collected by EUMOFA from **Eurostat – Fishery**. Data concern all species landed in Belgium by vessels of all nationalities.

Data are available on a yearly basis, accessible through simple and advanced tables.

FIRST SALES

Volumes and values are collected from the **Department of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Government of Flanders** on a weekly and monthly basis. Data include all sales occurred through auctions and do not include other sales occurred out of auctions (e.g. direct sales).

Weekly data are collected and disseminated for 20 species and 3 places of sale. Click [here](#) for the list of species and places of sale.

Monthly data are collected and disseminated for all species sold in all auctions included in the data transmission (3 auctions). Click [here](#) for the list of auctions.

Both types of data are accessible through simple and advanced tables.

TRADE

Volumes and values are collected from **Eurostat – COMEXT**. Data concern trade of all fisheries and aquaculture products as recorded by national customs, available on a monthly and yearly basis.

Data are accessible through simple and advanced tables.

AQUACULTURE

Volumes and values are collected by EUMOFA from **Eurostat – Fishery**. Data are available on a yearly basis, accessible through simple and advanced tables.

WHOLESALE

No data for this supply chain are available.

PROCESSING

Volumes and values are collected from **Eurostat – PRODCOM**. Data concern 35 processed products as recorded through the PRODCOM nomenclature.

Data are available on a yearly basis and are accessible through simple tables.

CONSUMPTION

No data for this supply chain are available.