

Monthly Highlights

No. 1 / 2025

E U M O F A

European Market Observatory for
Fisheries and Aquaculture Products

During January–October 2024, 18 EU Member States (MS) and Norway reported first-sales data for 10 commodity groups.

In the countries reporting to EUMOFA, first sales of small pelagics in October 2024 totalled EUR 90,1 million and 86.098 tonnes, representing an 11% increase in value and a 5% decrease in volume compared to October 2023.

Over the 36-month observation period (November 2021 – October 2024), the weighted average first-sales price of European sprat in Denmark was 0,40 EUR/kg, 22% more than in Poland (0,33 EUR/kg) and 27% more than in Sweden (0,31 EUR/kg).

Between weeks 46/2021 to 45/2024 prices of frozen sardines from Morocco ranged between 0,39 EUR/kg (week 50/2023) and 1,40 EUR/kg (week 25/2024). 72% of the weekly prices were between 0,80 EUR/kg and 1,00 EUR/kg.

In October 2024, the average monthly household consumption of fresh squid in Italy was 585 tonnes. Households paid on average 17,52 EUR per kg.

Aquaculture has seen a steady growth in production in Africa, growing from 120.471 tonnes in 1992 to 2,5 million tonnes in 2022 and a value of EUR 6,3 billion.

In 2023, the EU imported 141.660 tonnes (net weight) of seaweed and other algae from third countries at a value of EUR 124,4 million, and the trade deficit is increasing.

The EU has adopted legislation to enhance the selectivity of flatfish fisheries in the Baltic Sea and reduce incidental cod catches by at least 55% in ICES subdivisions 22-26. Operators must adopt the selective fishing gears by 9 April 2025.



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1. First sales in Europe

During **January–October 2024**, 18 EU Member States (MS), and Norway reported first-sales data for 10 commodity groups. First-sales data are based on sales notes and data collected from auction markets. First-sales data analysed in the section “*First sales in Europe*” are extracted from EUMOFA¹.

1.1. January–October 2024 compared to the same period in 2023

Increases in value and volume: Bulgaria, Greece and Norway recorded an increase in both first-sales value and volume. The highest increase was recorded in Greece due mainly to common sole and European plaice.

Decreases in value and volume: Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Sweden recorded decreases in first-sales value and volume. Sweden and Belgium stood out with the most significant drops due to lower first sales of sprat and herring in Sweden, and common sole and European plaice in Belgium.

Table 1. **JANUARY–OCTOBER OVERVIEW OF FIRST SALES FROM THE REPORTING COUNTRIES**
(volume in tonnes and value in million EUR) *

Country	January – October 2022		January – October 2023		January – October 2024		Change from January – October 2023	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Belgium	11.680	73,67	11.616	72,11	9.001	54,56	-23%	-24%
Bulgaria	1.876	1,24	2.633	1,37	2.896	2,02	10%	47%
Cyprus	588	2,60	601	2,87	530	2,65	-12%	-8%
Denmark	555.698	404,42	653.025	451,24	628.717	441,16	-4%	-2%
Estonia	52.429	14,76	57.047	22,64	50.944	25,52	-11%	13%
Finland	42.485	10,28	46.346	13,58	37.519	14,05	-19%	3%
France	238.570	636,30	214.358	591,48	214.111	584,70	0%	-1%
Germany	26.963	81,90	26.070	60,15	22.793	45,10	-13%	-25%
Greece	8.791	23,69	12.481	36,04	25.047	74,39	101%	106%
Ireland	164.047	253,42	162.862	218,95	166.335	217,71	2%	-1%
Italy	69.299	308,70	61.614	274,06	52.249	231,56	-15%	-16%
Latvia	33.826	7,42	33.888	9,57	31.866	11,44	-6%	19%
Lithuania	765	0,51	296	0,62	309	0,44	4%	-30%
Netherlands	78.602	164,56	48.598	115,51	20.707	130,66	-57%	13%
Poland	54.242	13,55	56.978	23,01	50.032	26,04	-12%	13%
Portugal	99.100	255,92	105.525	255,54	96.194	239,78	-9%	-6%
Spain	390.368	1.325,82	367.011	1.207,99	349.160	1.188,92	-5%	-2%
Sweden	115.636	76,84	97.146	68,18	43.665	51,33	-55%	-25%
Norway	2.526.075	2.878,58	2.575.761	2.744,42	2.476.905	2.729,0	-1%	-4%

Possible discrepancies in % changes are due to rounding.

* Volumes are reported in net weight for EU Member States, and in live weight equivalent (LWE) for Norway. Prices are reported in EUR/kg (without VAT). For Norway, prices are reported in EUR/kg of live weight. Data for Denmark are subject to confidentiality measures, so they do not fully correspond to total first sales in the country.

¹ First sales data updated on 02. 01. 2025.

1.2. October 2024 compared to October 2023

Increases in value and volume: First sales increased in Cyprus, France, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland and Portugal. In relative terms the highest increase was observed in Lithuania, due mainly to European flounder and smelt.

Decreases in value and volume: First sales decreased in Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Germany, and Spain. Germany experienced the most significant falls in relative terms in volume and value. The decrease was mainly due to falls in first sales of cod, crab and haddock.

Table 2. **OCTOBER OVERVIEW OF FIRST SALES FROM THE REPORTING COUNTRIES**
(volume in tonnes and value in million EUR) *

Country	October 2022		October 2023		October 2024		Change from October 2023	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Belgium	1.395	8,1	984	6,2	556	3,2	-44%	-48%
Bulgaria	24	0,0	295	0,214	174	0,283	-41%	32%
Cyprus	12	0,1	23	0,2	29	0,2	25%	27%
Denmark	38.732	48,7	42.243	45,8	36.151	50,4	-14%	10%
Estonia	8.674	2,5	7.365	4,1	6.085	3,3	-17%	-20%
Finland	2.573	0,7	2.866	1,0	2.329	0,8	-19%	-24%
France	23.669	73,7	21.534	65,1	24.279	73,6	13%	13%
Germany	2.990	12,4	2.746	15,7	398	2,0	-86%	-87%
Greece	1.006	3,0	3.089	9,8	2.900	9,9	-6%	1%
Ireland	7.719	19,8	12.253	22,7	13.620	27,1	11%	20%
Italy	8.446	32,1	6.744	27,0	8.816	35,1	31%	30%
Latvia	5.092	1,2	3.413	1,1	4.343	1,7	27%	52%
Lithuania	4	0,010	5,91	0,0113	8	0,018	37%	57%
Netherlands	3.951	23,2	1.980	13,0	2.603	16,1	31%	24%
Poland	633	0,2	4.108	2,206	5.573	2,8	36%	28%
Portugal	10.202	22,0	11.275	23,7	13.683	26,8	21%	13%
Spain	37.852	114,3	32.363	110,4	32.003	108,1	-1%	-2%
Sweden	4.312	6,9	5.469	7,7	4.179	8,2	-24%	6%
Norway	264.660	255,2	297.334	380,7	249.351	349,2	-16%	-8%

Possible discrepancies in % changes are due to rounding.

* Volumes are reported in net weight for EU Member States and the UK, and in live weight equivalent (LWE) for Norway. Prices are reported in EUR/kg (without VAT). For Norway, prices are reported in EUR/kg of live weight. Data for Denmark are subject to confidentiality measures, so they do not fully correspond to total first sales in the country.

The most recent weekly first-sales data are available via the EUMOFA website and can be accessed [here](#).

The most recent monthly first-sales data are available via the EUMOFA website and can be accessed [here](#).

1.3. First sales in selected countries

First-sales data analysed in this section are extracted from EUMOFA.²

Table 3. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN BELGIUM**


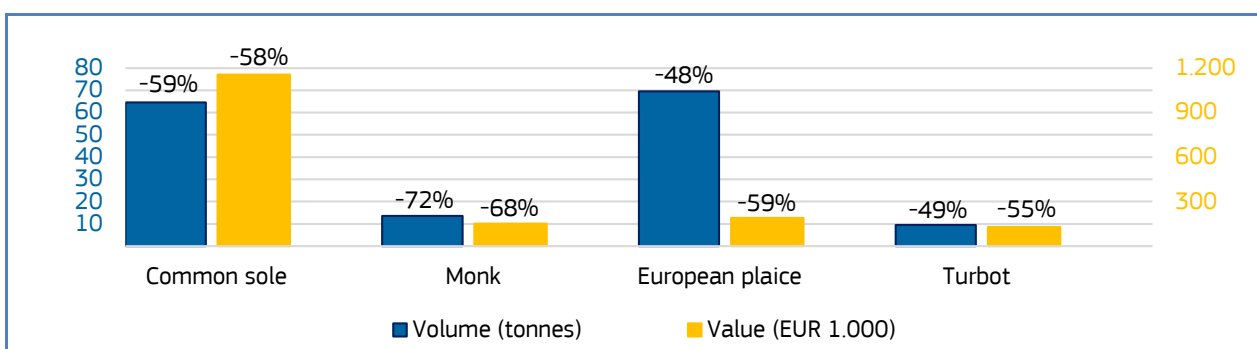

 Belgium	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Oct 2024 vs Jan-Oct 2023	EUR 54,6 million, -24%	9.001 tonnes, -23%	Common sole, European plaice, squid, ray.
Oct 2024 vs Oct 2023	EUR 3,2 million, -48%	556 tonnes, -44%	Common sole, monk, European plaice, turbot.

Figure 1. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN BELGIUM, OCTOBER 2024**



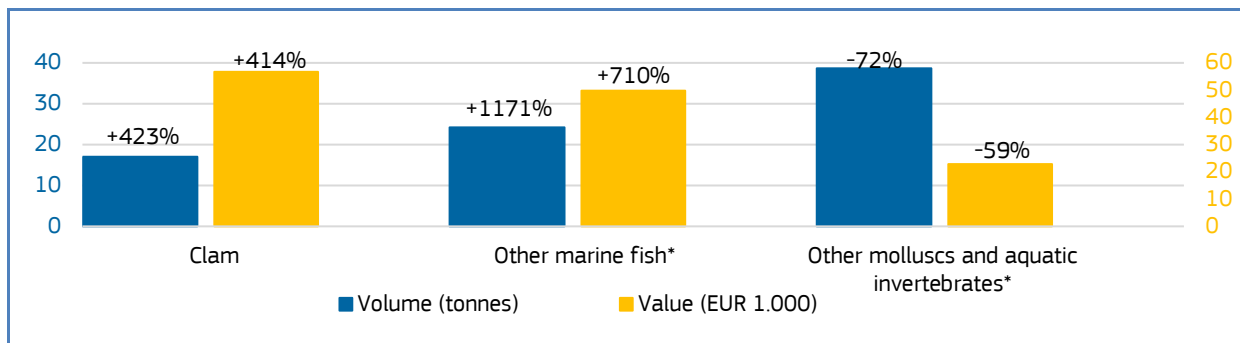
Percentages show change from the previous year.

Table 4. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN BULGARIA**

 Bulgaria	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species	Note
Jan-Oct 2024 vs Jan-Oct 2023	EUR 2,0 million, +47%	2.896 tonnes, +10%	Sprat, clam, red mullet.	In October 2024, there was a sharp increase in first sales of clam compared to October 2023. In Bulgaria clam fishing only occurs in coastal areas of the Black Sea, carried out by small-scale fisheries. It is not covered by TAC (Total Allowable Catches). It is noticeable that in October 2023, sales of clam catches were around 15% of those landed in Bulgaria, while in October 2024 they stood at 72%. Additionally, an approx. 12% increase in landed catches was observed when comparing October 2024 with October 2023. In October 2024, there was a significant increase in first-sales value (+710%) and volume (+1171%) of the commodity group Other marine fish compared to October 2023. The main species behind this trend was bluefish (<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>), where stock availability in the coastal area allowed an increase in the volume of landings compared with October 2023.
Oct 2024 vs Oct 2023	EUR 0,3 million, +32%	174 tonnes, -41%	Value: Clam, other marine fish*, red mullet. Volume: other molluscs and aquatic invertebrates*.	

² First-sales data updated on 19. 12. 2024.

Figure 2. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN BULGARIA, OCTOBER 2024**

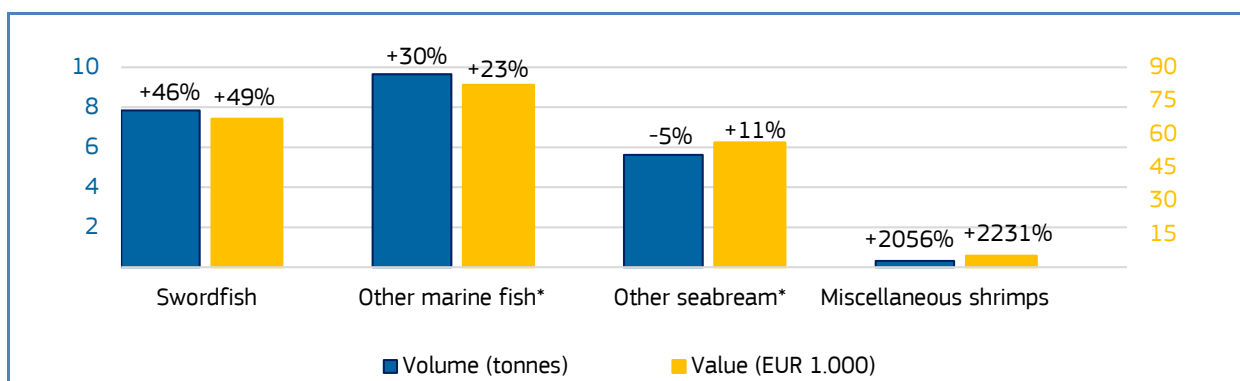


Percentages show change from the previous year. *EUMOFA aggregation for species (see Metadata 2, Annex 3: <https://eumofa.eu/supply-balance-and-other-methodologies>).

Table 5. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN CYPRUS**

Cyprus	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Oct 2024 vs Jan-Oct 2023	EUR 2,7 million, -8%	530 tonnes, -12%	Albacore tuna, picarel, red mullet, swordfish.
Oct 2024 vs Oct 2023	EUR 0,2 million, +27%	29 tonnes, +25%	Swordfish, other marine fish*, other seabream*, miscellaneous shrimps.

Figure 3. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN CYPRUS, OCTOBER 2024**



Percentages show change from the previous year. *EUMOFA aggregation for species.

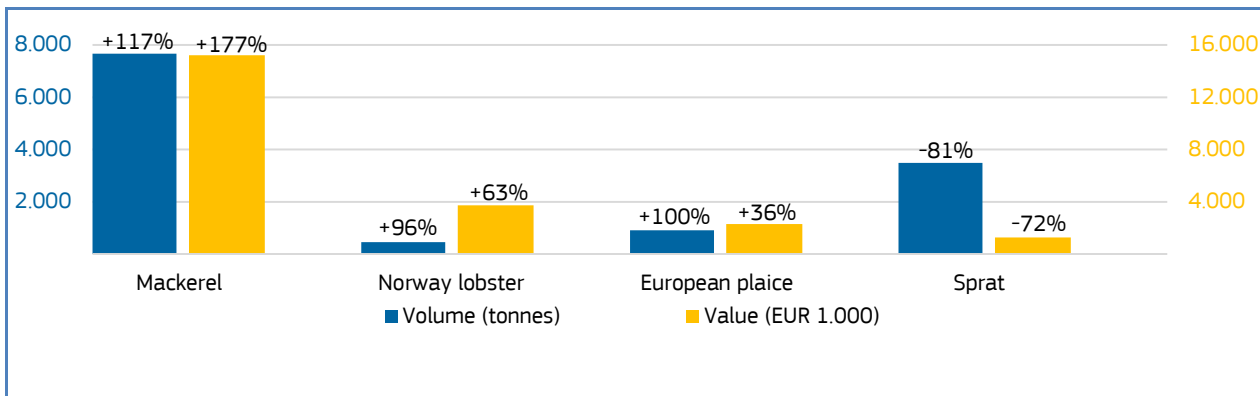
Table 6. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN DENMARK**

Denmark	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species	Note
Jan-Oct 2024 vs Jan-Oct 2023	EUR 441,2 million, -2%	628.717 tonnes, -4%	Other groundfish*, sprat, European plaice, coldwater shrimp.	In October 2024, there was a sharp increase in first sales of mackerel compared to October 2023. In a context of rather good stock ³ status, this development is mostly explained by inter-annual fluctuations in small pelagic catches. The catch recorded over the first 10 months of 2024 (around 13.200 tonnes) was close to that in the first 10 months of 2023 (around 11.900 tonnes, i.e., 1.300 tonnes or 11% increase). In October 2024, there was an increase in European plaice compared to October 2023. Compared to the previous months
Oct 2024 vs Oct 2023	EUR 50,4 million, +10%	36.151 tonnes, -14%	Value: mackerel, Norway lobster, European plaice. Volume: sprat, herring, whiting.	

³ ICES Advice 2023 – mac.27.nea – <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21856533>

of October (825 tonnes in 2022; 1.500 tonnes in 2021; 1.300 tonnes in 2020 and 1.000 tonnes in 2019), the catches observed in October 2023 (450 tonnes) appear to be the exception. In a context of very good stock status⁴, this development is thus mostly explained by inter-annual fluctuations in Danish plaice catches, with catches recorded over the first 10 months of 2024 (around 8.300 tonnes) being close to those recorded over the first 10 months of 2023 (around 8.050 tonnes).

Figure 4. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN DENMARK, OCTOBER 2024**



Percentages show change from the previous year. *EUMOFA aggregation for species.

Table 7. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN ESTONIA**


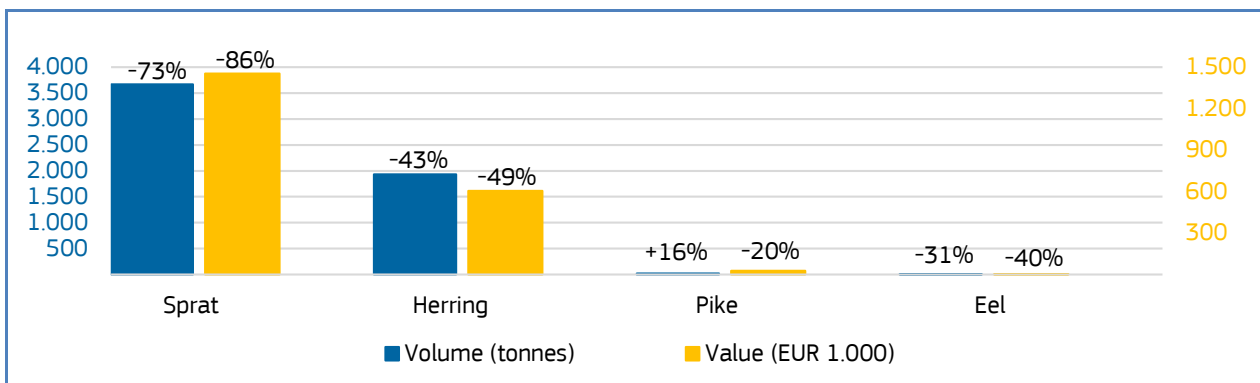
 Estonia	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Oct 2024 vs Jan-Oct 2023	EUR 25,5 million, +13%	50.944 tonnes, -11%	Value: sprat, herring, other freshwater fish*. Volume: herring, sprat, pike.
Oct 2024 vs Oct 2023	EUR 3,3 million, -20%	6.085 tonnes, -17%	Sprat, herring, pike, eel.

Figure 5. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN ESTONIA, OCTOBER 2024**



Percentages show change from the previous year. *EUMOFA aggregation for species.

⁴ ICES Advice 2024 – ple.27.420 – <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019441>

Table 8. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN FINLAND**


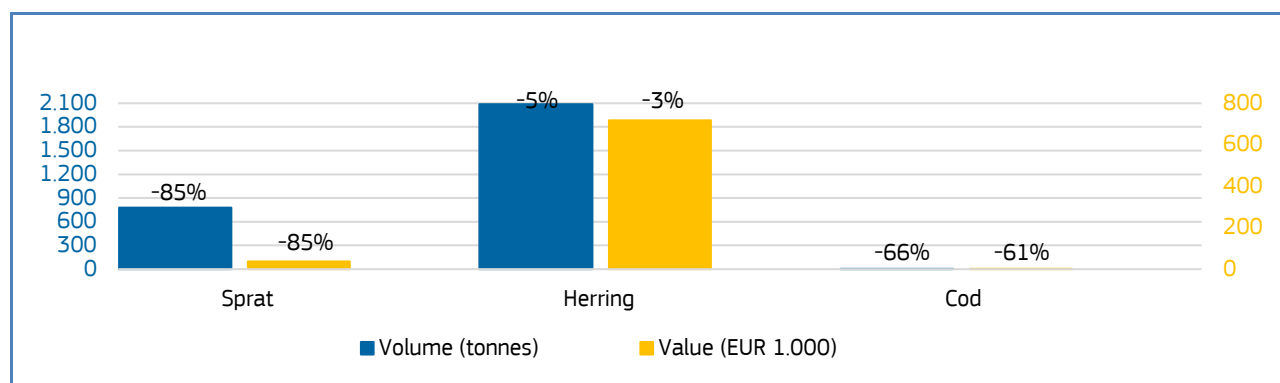

 Finland	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Oct 2024 vs Jan-Oct 2023	EUR 14,0 million, +3%	37.519 tonnes, -19%	Herring, cod, sprat.
Oct 2024 vs Oct 2023	EUR 0,8 million, -24%	2.329 tonnes, -19%	

Figure 6. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN FINLAND, OCTOBER 2024**



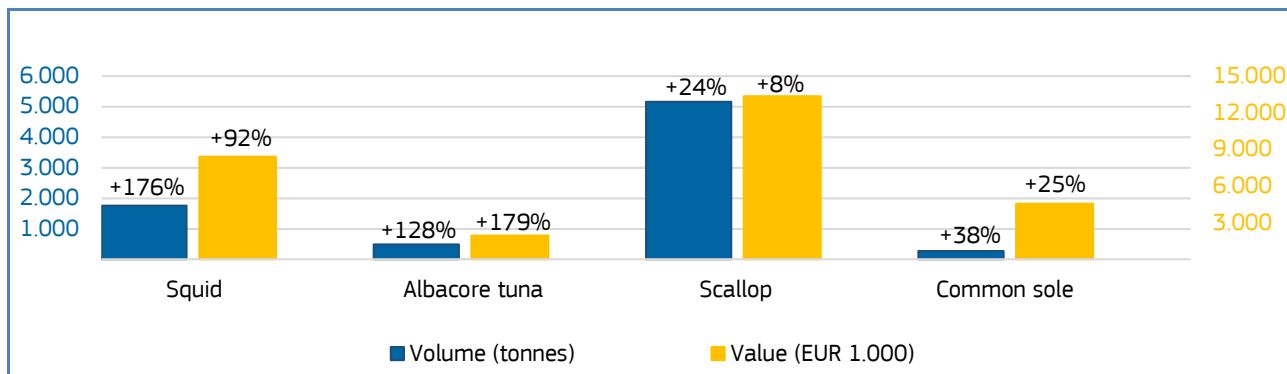
Percentages show change from the previous year.

Table 9. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN FRANCE**

 France	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species	Note
Jan-Oct 2024 vs Jan-Oct 2023	EUR 584,7 million, -1%	214.111 tonnes, 0%	Other molluscs and aquatic invertebrates ⁵ , octopus, eel, sardine.	<p>In October 2024, there was a slight increase in first sales of squid compared to October 2023. The squid fishery is highly seasonal in Brittany and Normandy, with the high season between September and January, and low season between February and August. However, recorded catch levels in January 2024 were low compared to January 2023. Conversely, the fishing season started a bit earlier, in August 2024. As a result, observed catches over the first 10 months appear to be rather stable.</p> <p>In October 2024, there was a slight increase in first sales of albacore tuna compared to October 2023. In a context of rather good stock status, with an increase in the North Atlantic Albacore Tuna stock for 2024⁵, the increase registered in October 2024 compared to October 2023 thus appears to partly offset the decrease observed in July 2024 compared to July 2023 (-510 tonnes), with overall production over the 10 first months being relatively stable.</p>
Oct 2024 vs Oct 2023	EUR 73,6 million, +13%	24.279 tonnes, +13%	Squid, albacore tuna, scallop common sole.	

⁵ https://www.iccat.int/documents/scrs/execsum/alb_eng.pdf, page 68.

Figure 7. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN FRANCE, OCTOBER 2024**

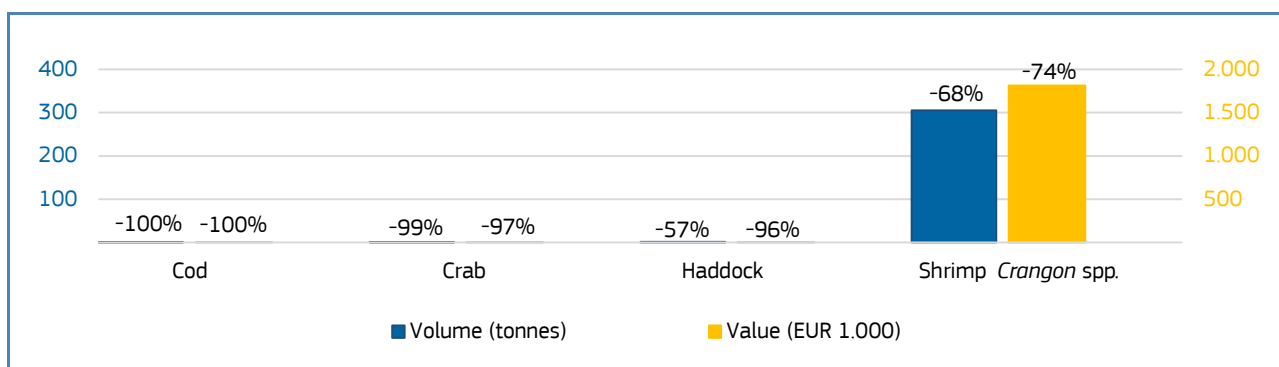


Percentages show change from the previous year. *EUMOFA aggregation for species.

Table 10. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN GERMANY**

Germany	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Oct 2024 vs Jan-Oct 2023	EUR 45,1 million, -25%	22.793 tonnes, -13%	Cod, shrimp <i>Crangon</i> spp., Greenland halibut, mackerel.
Oct 2024 vs Oct 2023	EUR 2,0 million, -87%	398 tonnes, -86%	Cod, crab, haddock, shrimp <i>Crangon</i> spp.

Figure 8. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN GERMANY, OCTOBER 2024**

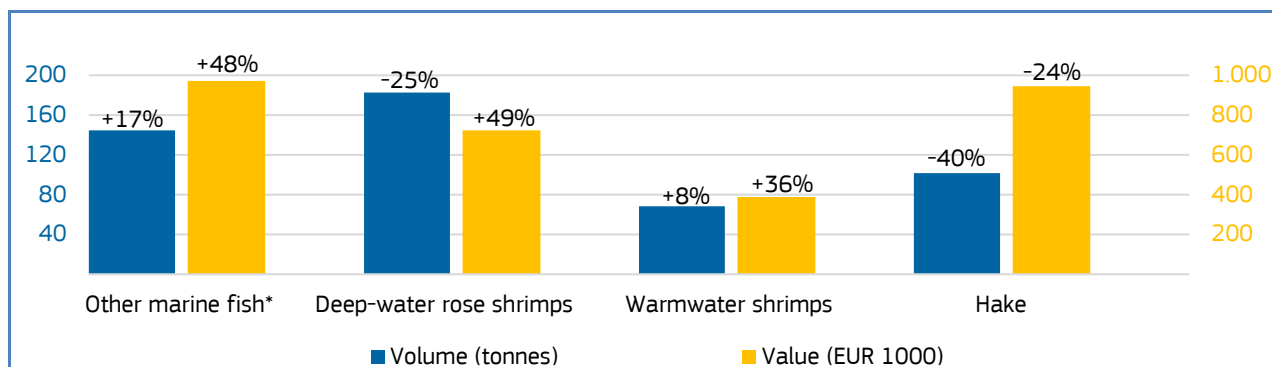


Percentages show change from the previous year.

Table 11. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN GREECE**

Greece	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Oct 2024 vs Jan-Oct 2023	EUR 73,4 million, +106%	25.047 tonnes, +101%	Anchovy, sardine, other marine fish*, hake.
Oct 2024 vs Oct 2023	EUR 9,9 million, +1%	2.890 tonnes, -6%	Value: other marine fish*, deep-water rose shrimps, warmwater shrimps. Volume: hake, deep-water rose shrimps, squid.

Figure 9. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN GREECE, OCTOBER 2024**



Percentages show change from the previous year.

Table 12. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN IRELAND**


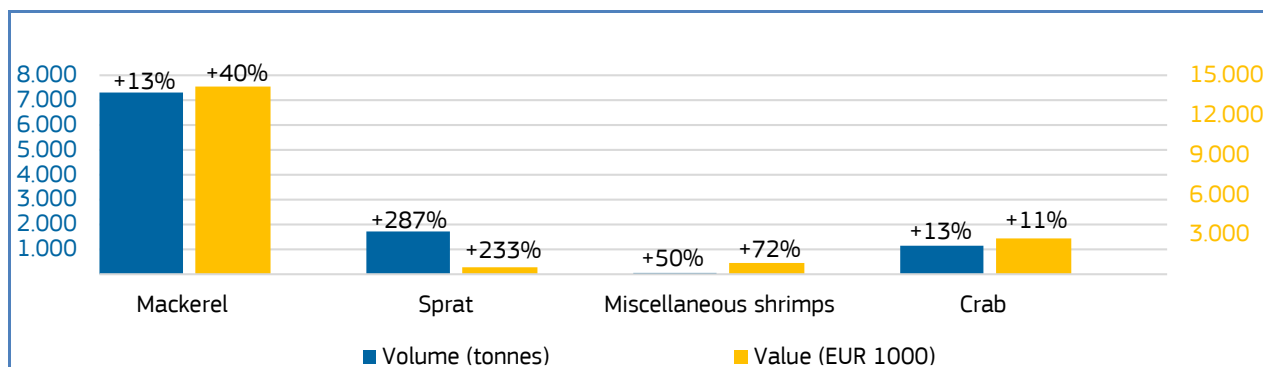

 Ireland	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species	Note
Jan-Oct 2024 vs Jan-Oct 2023	EUR 217,7 million, -1%	166.336 tonnes, +2%	Value: haddock, other molluscs and aquatic invertebrates*, crab. Volume: blue whiting, sprat, Norway lobster.	In October 2024, there was a substantial increase in first sales of sprat compared to October 2023. Irish sprat production usually occurs from September to January, with a peak observed during November – December (3.600 tonnes in 2019; 12.450 tonnes in 2020; 3.200 tonnes in 2021; 2.500 tonnes in 2022). However, as with most of the small-pelagic species, intra-annual fluctuations can be important (e.g. around 3.600 tonnes landed in October 2019).
Oct 2024 vs Oct 2023	EUR 27,1 million, +20%	13.620 tonnes, +11%	Mackerel, sprat, misc. shrimps, crab.	

Figure 10. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN IRELAND, OCTOBER 2024**



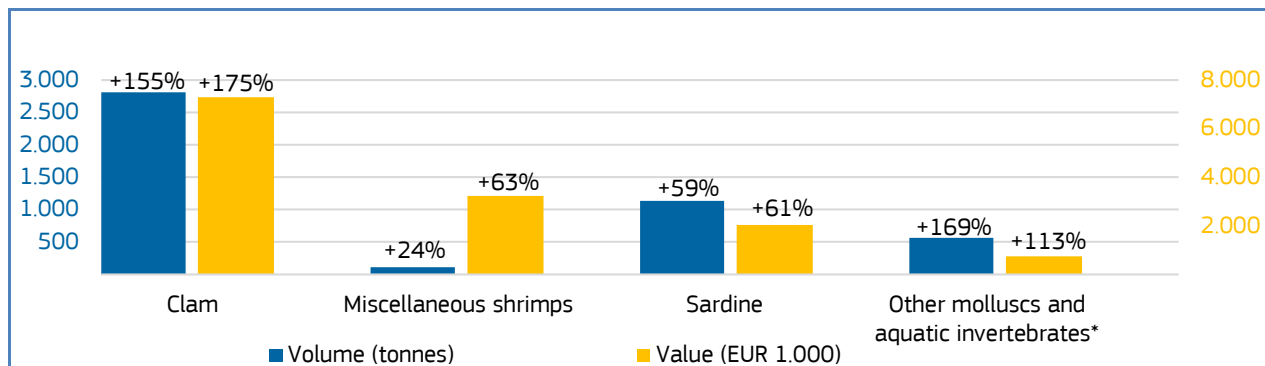
Percentages show change from the previous year.

Table 13. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN ITALY**

 Italy	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species	Note
Jan-Oct 2024 vs Jan-Oct 2023	EUR 231,6 million, -16%	52.249 tonnes, -15%	Miscellaneous shrimps, hake, anchovy, deep-water rose shrimps, anchovy.	In October 2024, there was a substantial increase in the group other molluscs and aquatic invertebrates compared to October 2023. The increase in both catches and revenues is primarily attributed to the increase in landings of the purple dye murex (<i>Bolinus brandaris</i>) in the Adriatic Sea. The
Oct 2024 vs Oct 2023	EUR 35,1 million, +30%	8.816 tonnes, +31%	Clam, miscellaneous shrimps sardine, other molluscs and aquatic invertebrates*.	

				<p>assessment from 2020⁶ revealed a declining trend in biomass and an increasing trend in fishing pressure (fishing mortality), resulting in a reduction in fishing effort since 2020⁷. Nevertheless, the stock has resisted being overfished. The increase in landings observed in October 2024 is thus likely to be due to a recovery in the abundance of these resources at sea.</p> <p>In October 2024, there was also an increase in first sales of clam compared to October 2023. The Manila clam (<i>Ruditapes philippinarum</i>) is the main species harvested in the Italian lagoons and coastal areas of the Adriatic Sea. In October 2023, severe anoxia⁸ severely impacted this resource. This occurred soon after a huge mortality of Manila clams caused by the invasive blue crab (<i>Callinectes sapidus</i>), affecting about 60% of the stock in major production areas in 2023. In 2024, the blue crab had a less destructive impact compared to 2023. Shellfish farmers adopted new gear and pot systems designed to protect the clams from predation. In addition to these adaptive strategies, improved environmental conditions contributed to recovery. As a result, an increase in both landings and revenues for Manila clams was recorded.</p>
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Figure 11. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN ITALY, OCTOBER 2024**



Percentages show change from the previous year.

⁶ GFCM: https://gfcmsitestorage.blob.core.windows.net/website/5.Data/SAFs/DemersalSpecies/2019/BOY_GSA_17_2019_ITA.pdf

⁷ <https://www.fao.org/gfcm/managementplan-demersal-adriatic/en/>

⁸ An event causing lack of oxygen in the seabed. In the Po area anoxia was primarily driven by persistently high summer temperatures that extended into late October and calm sea conditions devoid of storms. These factors contributed to an excessive influx of freshwater from the Po River and a gradual depletion of oxygen levels in the seabed. Oxygenation is critical for the growth of young clams seeded in the nursery which had been established in the harbour channel three years earlier.

Table 14. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN LATVIA**


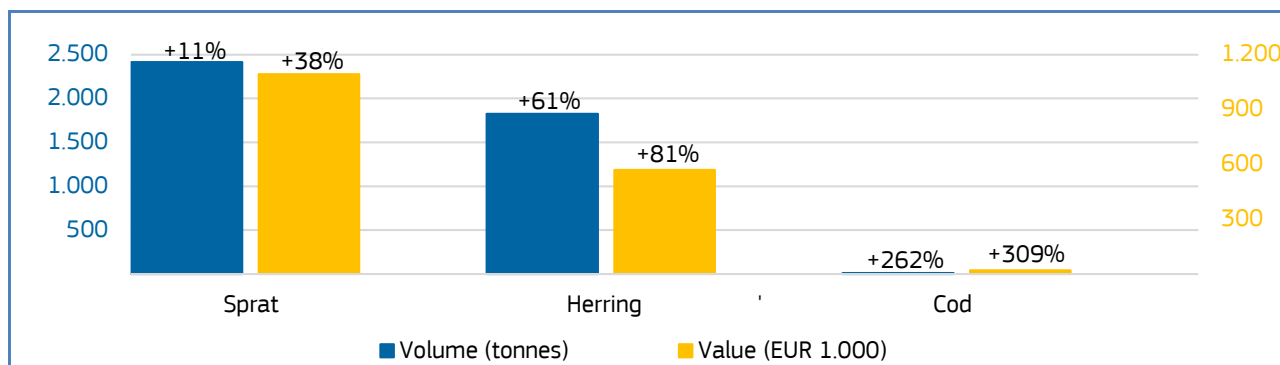
 Latvia	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume/ trend %	Main contributing species	Note
Jan-Oct 2024 vs Jan-Oct 2023	EUR 11,4 million, +19%	31.866 tonnes, -6%	Value: sprat, other freshwater fish*, herring. Volume: herring, sprat, smelt.	In October 2024, there was an increase in first sales of cod compared to October 2023 due to bycatch by the Latvian fleet. In October 2024 cod catches increased by 199% compared to October 2023. Existing fishing capacity and some TAC availability allowed an increase in the volume of landings. However, a ban on cod fishing remains in place, resulting in limited cod supplies to the market. In October 2024, there was an increase in first sales of the group other freshwater fish compared to October 2023 due mainly to increases in the stock of vimba bream. Catches of vimba bream increased by 626% when comparing October 2024 with October 2023. The low price of vimba bream in October 2023 indicates low market demand during that period. In October 2024 sales of vimba bream were around 66% of the Latvian fleet landings in Latvia. Weather conditions, fishing capacity and resources allowed an increase in fishing effort and thus an increase in supply to the market in October 2024.
Oct 2024 vs Oct 2023	1,7 million, +52%	4.343 tonnes, +27%	Sprat, herring, cod.	

Figure 12. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN LATVIA, OCTOBER 2024**



Percentages show change from the previous year. *EUMOFA aggregation for species

Table 15. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN LITHUANIA**


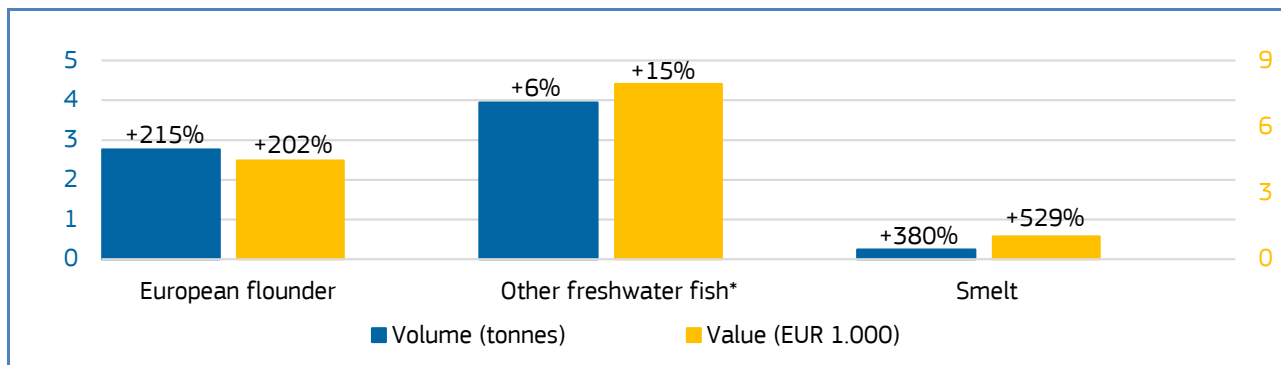
 Lithuania	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume/ trend %	Main contributing species	Note
Jan-Oct 2024 vs Jan-Oct 2023	EUR 0,4 million, -30%	308 tonnes, +4%	Value: smelt, herring, other salmonids*. Volume: other freshwater fish*, other groundfish*, miscellaneous small pelagics.	In October 2024, there was a considerable increase in first sales of European flounder in value (+202%) and volume (+215%) compared to October 2023. This was due to fish stock availability in the coastal area. The price fell by around 4%, which indicates that the market was satisfied.
Oct 2024 vs Oct 2023	0,2 million, +57%	8 tonnes, +37%	European flounder, other freshwater fish*, smelt.	

Figure 13. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN LITHUANIA, OCTOBER 2024**



Percentages show change from the previous year. *EUMOFA aggregation for species

Table 16. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN THE NETHERLANDS**


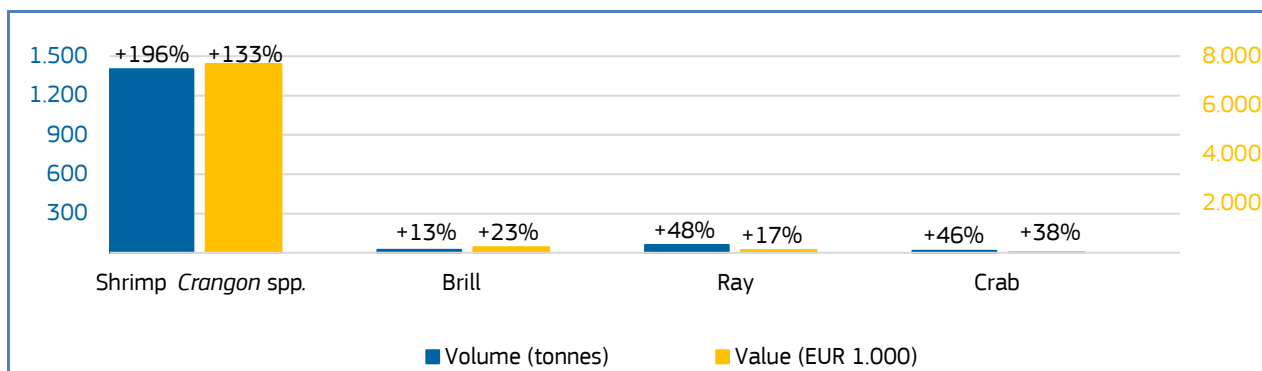
 Netherlands	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species	Notes
Jan-Oct 2024 vs Jan-Oct 2023	EUR 130,7 million, +13%	20.707 tonnes, -57%	Value: shrimp <i>Crangon</i> spp., squid, cod, mackerel. Volume: European plaice, gurnard, Norway lobster.	In October 2024, there was a sharp increase in first sales of Shrimp <i>Crangon</i> spp. (<i>Crangon crangon</i>) compared to October 2023. Production recorded in October 2023 (472 tonnes) appears to be the exception, compared to production in 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019, being 2.300 tonnes; 2.500 tonnes; 2.700 tonnes and 2.600 tonnes respectively. More generally, 2023 seems to be abnormal, with total brown shrimp over the first 10 months (2.900 tonnes) far below recorded production level: around 8.800 tonnes in 2024; 8.600 tonnes in 2022; 9.900 tonnes in 2021. In a context where the North Sea "brown" shrimp stock appears to be trending above lower reference limits or proxies and showing a tendency to recover quickly from periods of lower abundance ⁹ , external factors in 2023 were probably behind the development.
Oct 2024 vs Oct 2023	EUR 16,1 million, +24%	2.603 tonnes, +31%	Shrimp <i>Crangon</i> spp, brill, ray, crab.	

Figure 14. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN THE NETHERLANDS, OCTOBER 2024**



Percentages show change from the previous year.

⁹ https://www.fishsource.org/stock_page/1207

Table 17. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN POLAND**


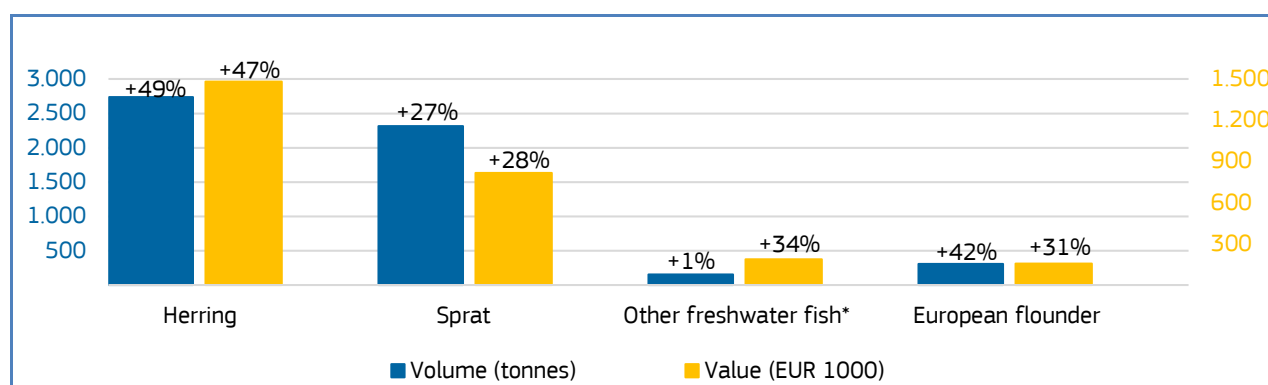

 Poland	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Oct 2024 vs Jan-Oct 2023	EUR 26,0 million, +13%	50.032 tonnes, -12%	Value: sprat, other freshwater fish*, pike-perch, eel. Volume: herring, sprat, European flounder, European plaice.
Oct 2024 vs Oct 2023	EUR 2,8 million, +28%	5.573 tonnes, +36%	Herring, sprat, other freshwater fish*, European flounder.

Figure 15. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN POLAND, OCTOBER 2024**



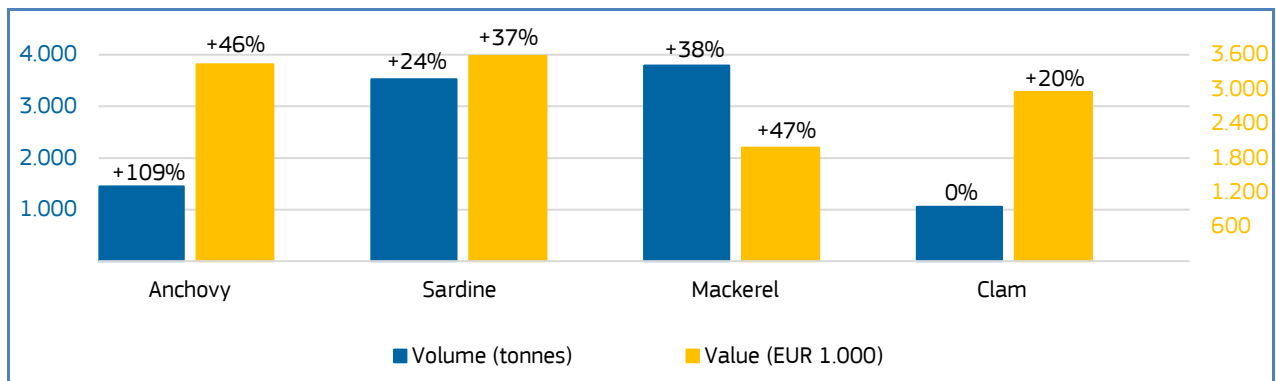
Percentages show change from the previous year. *EUMOFA aggregation for species.

Table 18. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN PORTUGAL**

 Portugal	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species	Note
Jan-Sep 2024 vs Jan-Sep 2023	EUR 239,8 million, -6%	96.194 tonnes, -9%	Octopus, anchovy, mackerel, Atlantic horse mackerel.	In October 2024, there was a slight increase in first sales of anchovy compared to October. This species is highly influenced by environmental factors and food availability, particularly during its early growth stages (larvae and juveniles) which play a critical role in determining recruitment success. Fluctuations in population dynamics may be due to multiple causes, a significant contributing factor being the high natural variability of the species. The fishing season of 2023/2024 increased allowable catches by 30% compared to 2022/2023. ¹⁰ The quantities reported in October are consistent with anchovy catches observed during the period from 2017 to 2021, suggesting a stabilization of catches within historical ranges.
Sep 2024 vs Sep 2023	EUR 26,8 million, +13%	13.683 tonnes, +21%	Anchovy, sardine, mackerel, clam.	

¹⁰ ICES report on Anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) in Division 9.a (Atlantic Iberian waters) 2023/2024: https://ices-library.figshare.com/articles/report/Anchovy_Engraulis_encrasicolus_in_Division_9_a_Atlantic_Iberian_waters_/21907911

Figure 16. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN PORTUGAL, OCTOBER 2024**



Percentages show change from the previous year.

Table 19. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN SPAIN**


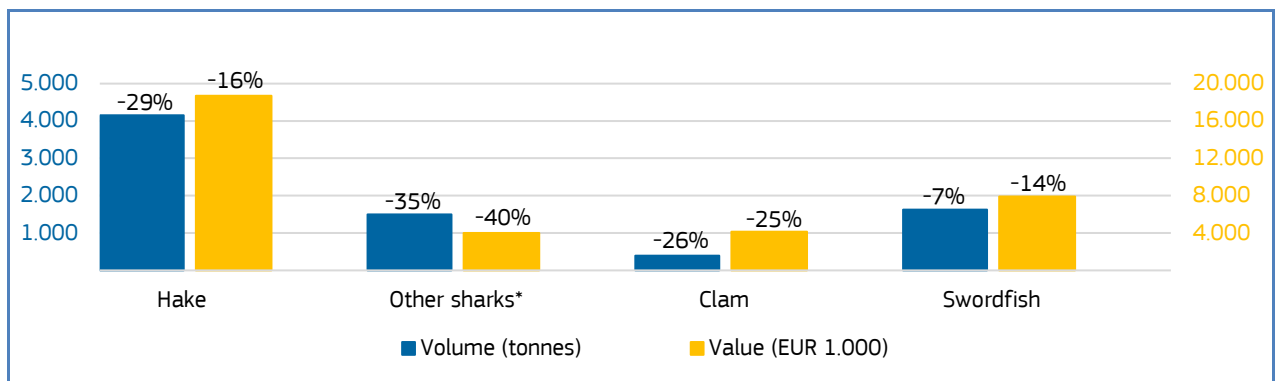

 Spain	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Oct 2024 vs Jan-Oct 2023	EUR 1.189,0 million, -2%	349.160 tonnes, -5%	Clam, Greenland halibut, bigeye tuna, hake.
Oct 2024 vs Oct 2023	EUR 108,1 million, -2%	32.003 tonnes, -1%	Hake, other sharks*, clam, swordfish.

Figure 17. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN SPAIN, OCTOBER 2024**



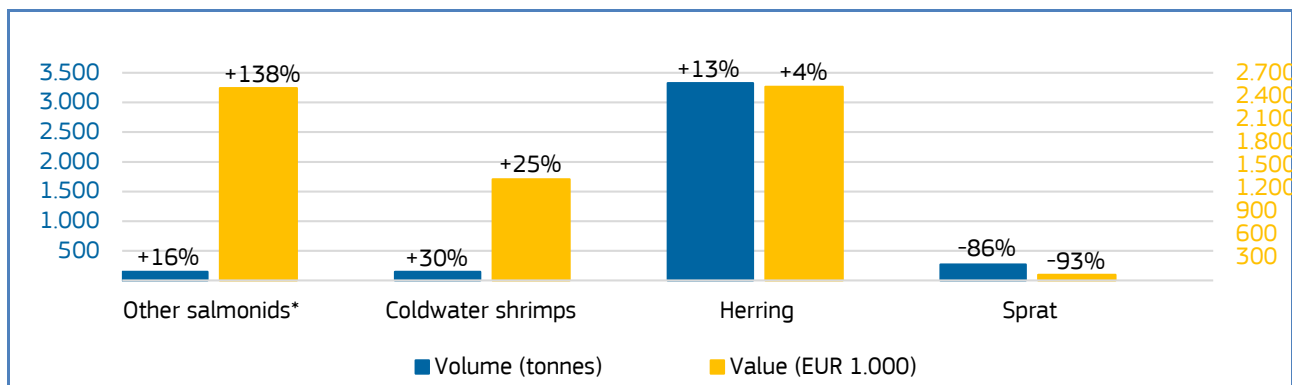
Percentages show change from the previous year.

Table 20. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN SWEDEN**

 Sweden	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species	Note
Jan-Oct 2024 vs Jan-Oct 2023	EUR 51,3 million, -25%	43.665 tonnes, -55%	Sprat, herring, coldwater shrimp, monk.	In October 2024, there was a moderate increase in first sales of other salmonids compared to October 2023 (other than salmon and trout). A notable factor contributing to the high value was the unusually high price of EUR 97,82 per kg for 124.528 kg of vendace. Data also showed that only about 14% of other salmonids landed by the Swedish fleet in both October 2024 and October 2023 were sold in Sweden, suggesting either low local demand or potential inaccuracies in sales data. Catches of vendace and whitefish are not regulated by means of TACs. Despite this, the volume of
Oct 2024 vs Oct 2023	EUR 8,2 million, +6%	4.179 tonnes, -24%	Value: other salmonids*, coldwater shrimps, herring. Volume: sprat, saithe, cod.	

landings increased modestly by 14%, supported by available fishing capacity and stock levels. A slight rise in fishing activities also contributed to higher market supplies of vendace. However, irregular market demand for other salmonids has probably led to unstable pricing.

Figure 18. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN SWEDEN, OCTOBER 2024**

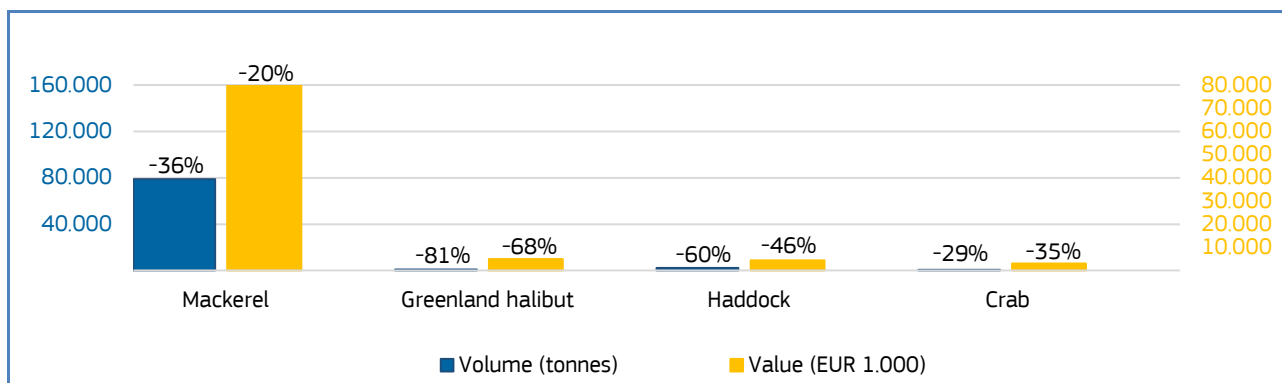


Percentages show change from the previous year. *EUMOFA aggregation for species.

Table 21. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN NORWAY**

Norway	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Oct 2024 vs Jan-Oct 2023	EUR 2.729,0 million, -1%	2,5 million tonnes, -4%	Cod, saithe, Greenland halibut, haddock.
Oct 2024 vs Oct 2023	EUR 349,2 million, -8%	249.351 tonnes, -16%	Mackerel, Greenland halibut, haddock, crab.

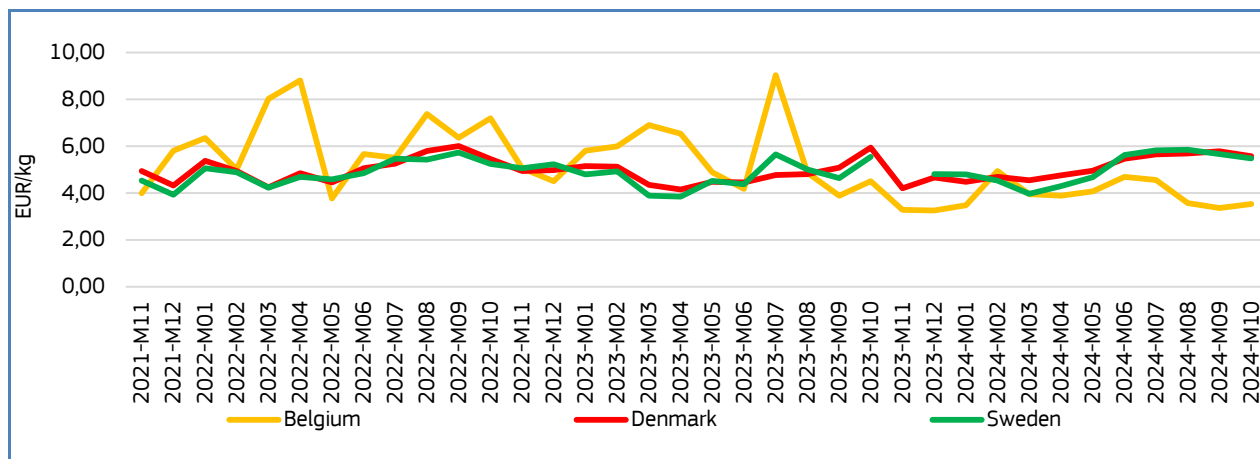
Figure 19. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN NORWAY, OCTOBER 2024**



Percentages show change from the previous year. *EUMOFA aggregation for species.

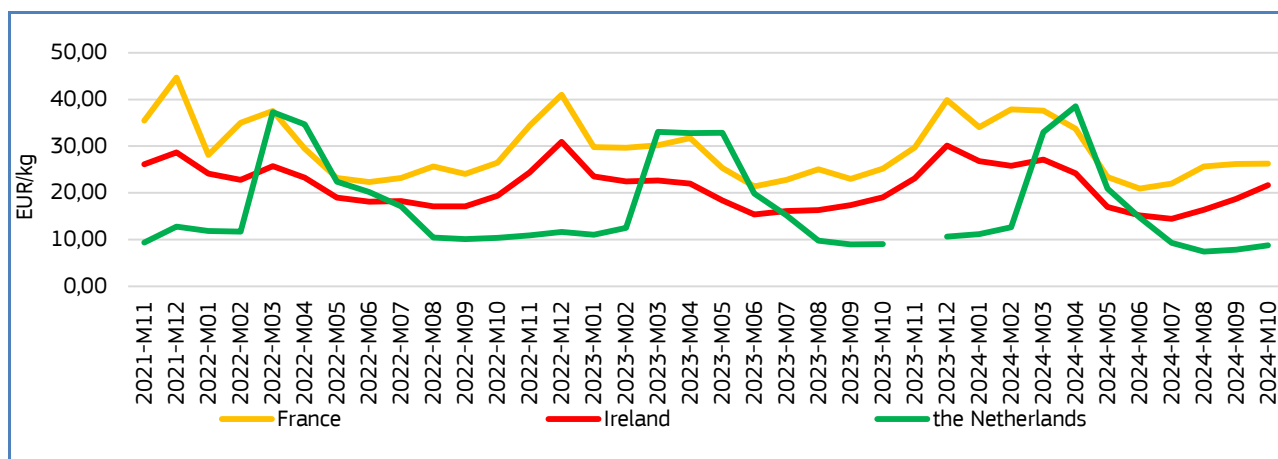
1.4. Comparison of first sales prices of selected species in selected countries¹¹

Figure 20. **FIRST SALES PRICES OF COD IN BELGIUM, DENMARK AND SWEDEN**



EU first sales of **cod** occur in several countries including **Belgium, Denmark** and **Sweden**. In October 2024, the average first-sales prices of cod were 3,53 EUR/kg in Belgium (up by 5% from the previous month and down by 22% from the previous year), 5,58 EUR/kg in Denmark (down by 4% from September 2024 and by 6% from October 2023), and 5,48 EUR/kg in Sweden (down by 3% from the previous month and by 1% from the previous year). In October 2024, supply relative to the previous year increased in Denmark (+21%), while it decreased in Belgium (-58%) and Sweden (-50%). In the countries analysed, volume seemed to peak between May-June and September-November in Belgium; between June-August and October-December in Denmark; between March-May and September-November in Sweden. Between months 11/2021 and 10/2024, prices in Belgium decreased and seemed to drop in May-June and November-December. However, prices increased in Denmark and Sweden; with highest peaks in September-October in Denmark and falls in prices between March-April in Sweden.

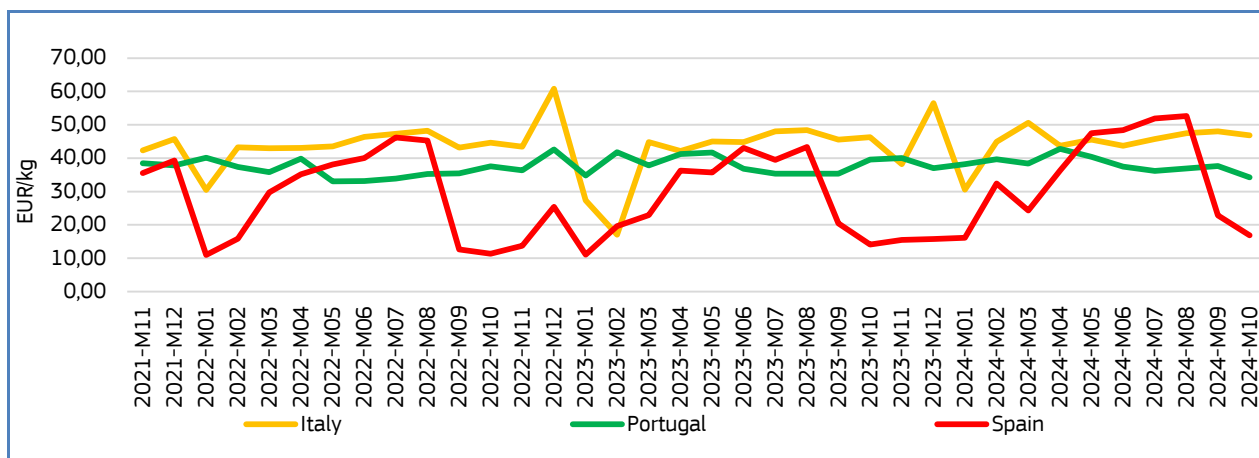
Figure 21. **FIRST SALES PRICES OF LOBSTER HOMARUS SPP. IN FRANCE, IRELAND AND THE NETHERLANDS**



EU first sales of **lobster Homarus spp.** occur in **France, Ireland** and **the Netherlands** as well as several other Member States. In October 2024, the average first-sales prices of lobster *Homarus* spp. were 26,24 EUR/kg in France (no changes detected from previous month and up by 4% from October 2023), 21,66 EUR/kg in Ireland (up by 16% from September 2024 and by 14% from October 2023), and 8,78 EUR/kg in the Netherlands (up by 12% from the previous month and down by 3% from the previous year). In October 2024, supply increased in France (+4%), and Ireland (+14%) while it decreased in the Netherlands (-27%), relative to the previous year. Peaks in supply seemed to occur in a similar period in the three markets analysed: June-July in France and Ireland, between June and August in the Netherlands. Between months 11/2021 and 10/2024, prices fluctuated and decreased in the three markets analysed. Prices seemed to peak in December in France and Ireland, and between March and May in the Netherlands.

¹¹ First sales data updated on 02. 01. 2025.

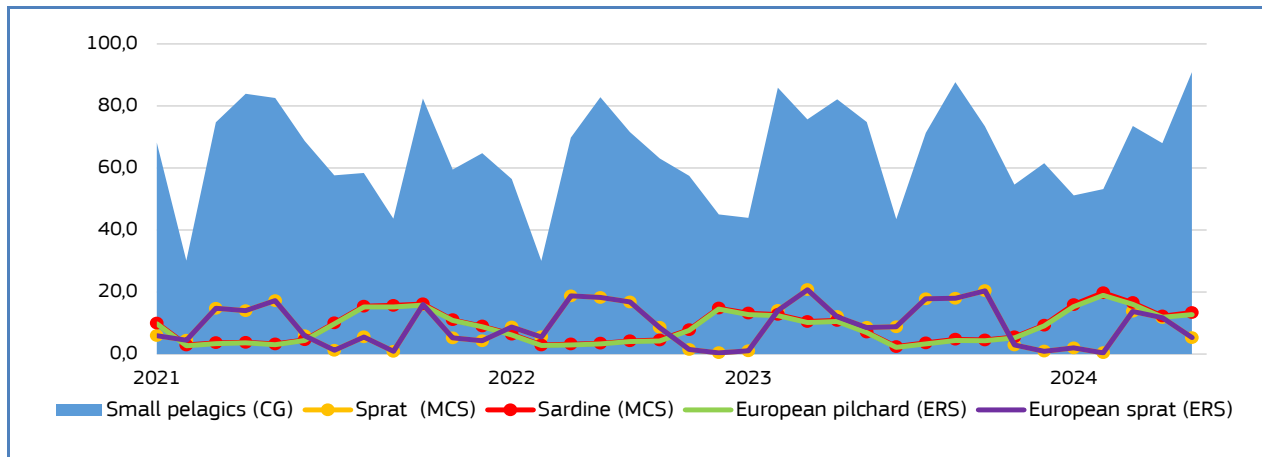
Figure 22. **FIRST SALES PRICES OF ROCK LOBSTER AND SEA CRAWFISH IN ITALY, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN**



EU first sales of **rock lobster and sea crawfish** are recorded in nine Member States including **Italy, Portugal** and **Spain**. In October 2024, the average first-sales prices of rock lobster and sea crawfish were 46,87 EUR/kg in Italy (down by 2% from the previous month and up by 1% from the previous year), 34,22 EUR/kg in Portugal (down by 9% from the previous month and down by 14% from October 2023), and 16,88 EUR/kg in Spain (down by 26% from September 2024 and up by 20% from the previous year). In October 2024, supply decreased in Italy (-21%), and Spain (-48%), while it increased in Portugal (+55%), relative to the previous year. In the countries analysed, volumes seemed to peak in similar periods in the three markets analysed: July-August in Italy; June-July in Portugal and June-July in Spain. Between months 11/2021 to 10/2024, prices fluctuated strongly and increased in Italy, while they decreased in Portugal and Spain. In Italy highest drops in prices were recorded in January and February. Price falls in Spain occurred in a similar period to Italy, but also between September and October.

1.5. Commodity group of the month: Small pelagics¹²

Figure 23. **FIRST SALES COMPARISON AT CG, MCS, AND ERS LEVELS FOR REPORTING COUNTRIES¹³, NOVEMBER 2021 – OCTOBER 2024**



In October 2024, first sales of the “**Small pelagics**” commodity group (CG¹⁴) were highest in both value and volume out of the 10 CGs in the countries monitored by EUMOFA.¹⁵ In the reporting countries covered by the EUMOFA database, overall first sales of this group of species in October 2024 totalled EUR 90,1 million and 86.098 tonnes, representing an 11% increase in value and 5% decrease in volume compared to October 2023. In the past 36 months, the highest first-sales value of small pelagics was observed in October 2024 at about EUR 90,9 million.

The “small pelagics” commodity group includes seven Main Commercial Species (MCS): anchovy, herring, Atlantic horse mackerel, mackerel, sardine, sprat and miscellaneous small pelagics.¹⁶

At the Electronic Recording and Reporting System (ERS) level European pilchard (14%) and European sprat (6%) together accounted for 20% of the total first-sales value for “Small pelagics” recorded in October 2024.

¹² First sales data updated on 03. 01. 2025.

¹³ Norway, the Faroe Islands and the UK are excluded from the analyses.

¹⁴ Annex 3: <http://eumofa.eu/supply-balance-and-other-methodologies>

¹⁵ More data on commodity groups can be found in Table 1.2 of the Annex.

¹⁶ Greater argentine accounts for the highest first-sales value and volume within the miscellaneous small pelagics category.

1.6. Focus on European pilchard



European pilchard (*Sardina pilchardus*) is the most widely distributed small pelagic fish species in European waters. It is a fast-growing migratory pelagic species typically found at depths of 25–55 m during the day, and 10–35 m at night. It can reach lengths of 25 cm and lives on average between 10–12 years. The species feeds mainly on plankton and crustaceans. It is found in the Northeast Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.¹⁷

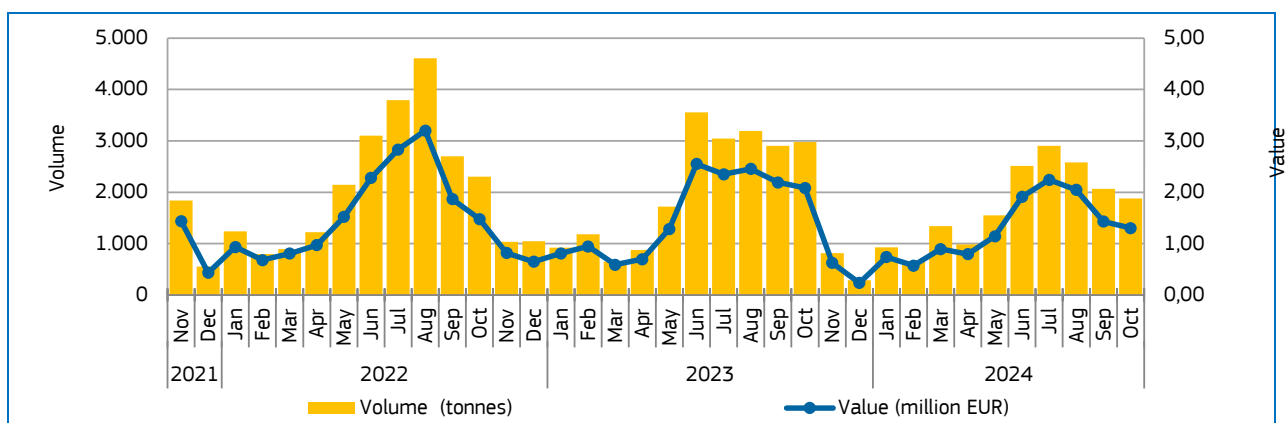
European pilchard is caught mostly by purse seiners and pelagic trawlers, as well as by small-scale vessels. In the EU Atlantic waters, two stocks are relevant to fisheries management: the Northern stock (ICES Subareas VII and VIIIa, b, d) fished mainly by France, Spain, the Netherlands and the UK, and the Southern stock (ICES Subarea VIIIc and Division IXa) fished by purse seiners from Croatia, Italy, Spain and Portugal. The species is commercially important for fisheries and processing industries (canning)¹⁸. Management measures for the Northern stock include technical measures and limits on purse seine licensing in French waters. Management measures for the Southern stock include technical measures and limits on fishing effort and catches (closure periods and maximum volume of landings). In the EU, the minimum size is 11 cm or 55 specimens per kg. Pilchard is caught year-round, with peaks in summer¹⁹.

Selected countries

Table 23. COMPARISON OF EUROPEAN PILCHARD FIRST-SALES PRICES, MAIN PLACES OF SALE, AND CONTRIBUTION TO OVERALL SALES OF “SMALL PELAGICS” IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

European pilchard		Changes in European pilchard first sales Jan-Oct 2024 (%)		Contribution of European pilchard to total “Small pelagics” first sales in October 2024 (%)	Principal places of sale in October 2024 in terms of first-sales value
		Compared to Jan-Oct 2023	Compared to Jan-Oct 2022		
France	Value	-18%	-21%	37%	Douarnenez, Boulogne-sur-Mer, Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie.
	Volume	-17%	-24%	59%	
Netherlands	Value	-10%	+47%	7%	IJmuiden/Velsen. (100% of first sales)
	Volume	-3%	+94%	8%	
Spain	Value	+25%	+11%	39%	Ondárroa, Santa Eugenia Ribeira, Isla Cristina.
	Volume	+21%	+24%	48%	

Figure 24. EUROPEAN PILCHARD: FIRST SALES IN FRANCE, NOVEMBER 2021 – OCTOBER 2024



Over the past 36 months in **France**, most first sales of European pilchard were in August 2024 when approximately 4.607 tonnes were sold for EUR 3,2 million.

¹⁷ <http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2910/en>

¹⁸ <http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2910/en>

¹⁹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1481546248599&uri=CELEX:32006R1967>

Figure 25. **FIRST SALES: COMPOSITION OF “SMALL PELAGICS” (ERS LEVEL) IN FRANCE IN VALUE AND VOLUME, NOVEMBER 2024**

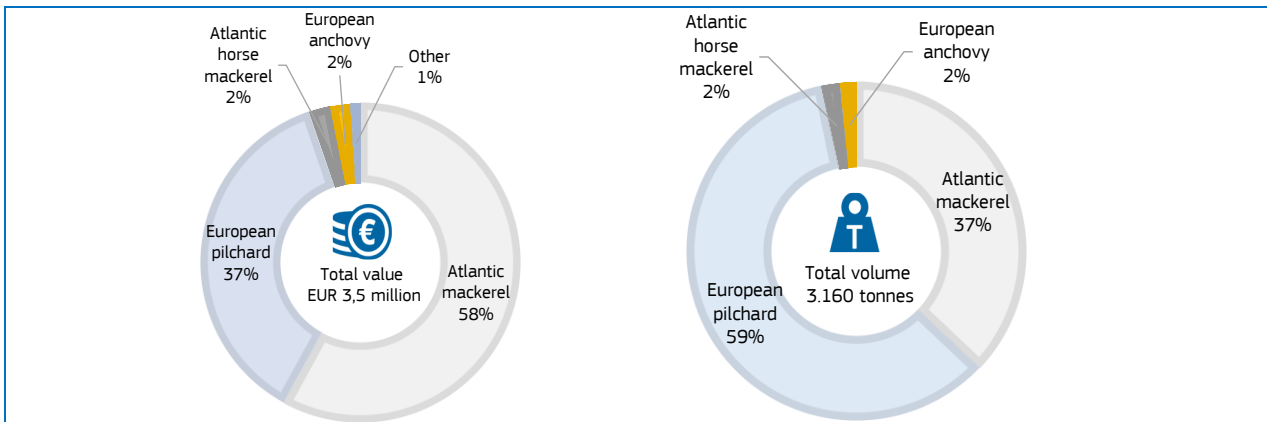
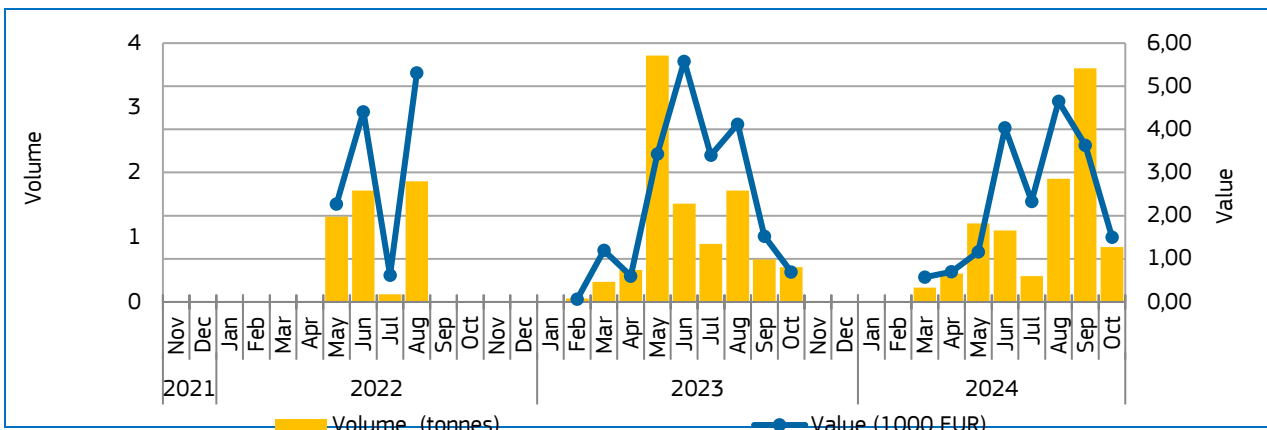


Figure 26. **EUROPEAN PILCHARD: FIRST SALES IN THE NETHERLANDS, NOVEMBER 2021 – OCTOBER 2024**



Over the past 36 months in **the Netherlands**, the highest first-sales value of European pilchard was in June 2023 when approximately 1,5 tonnes were sold for EUR 5,6 million. The peak in first sales volume was registered in May 2023 when 3,8 tonnes were sold. The main fishing season generally occurred during warmer months.

Figure 27. **FIRST SALES: COMPOSITION OF “SMALL PELAGICS” (ERS LEVEL) IN THE NETHERLANDS IN VALUE AND VOLUME, OCTOBER 2024**

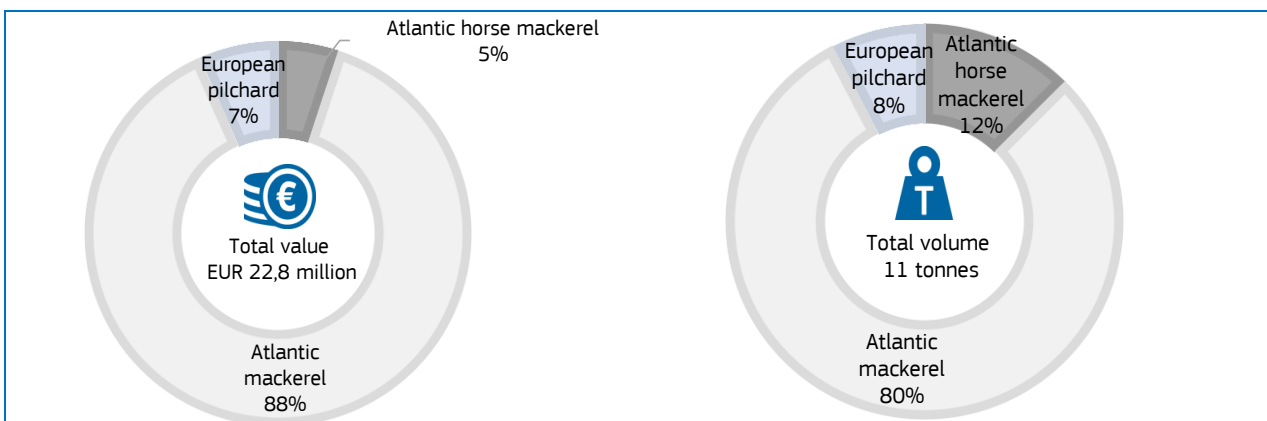
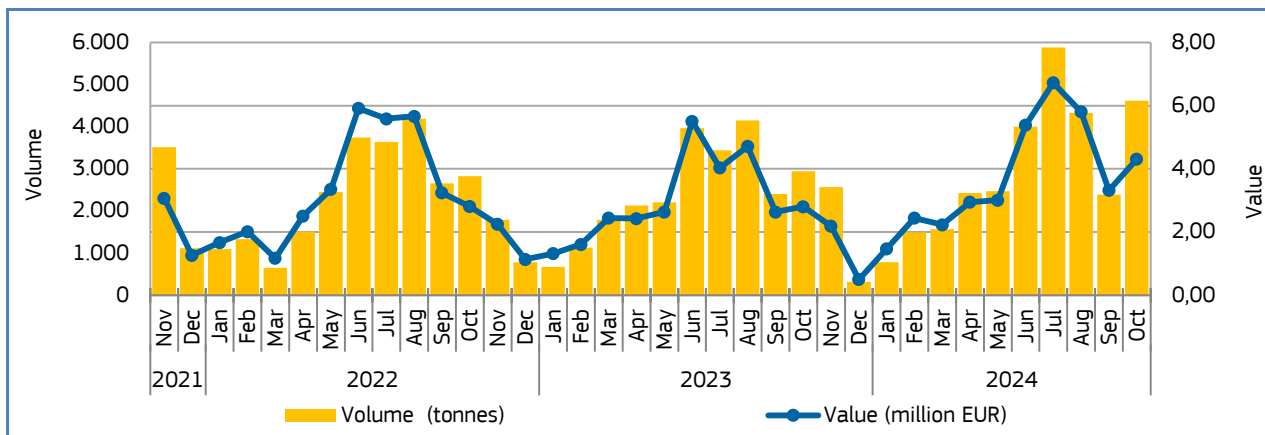
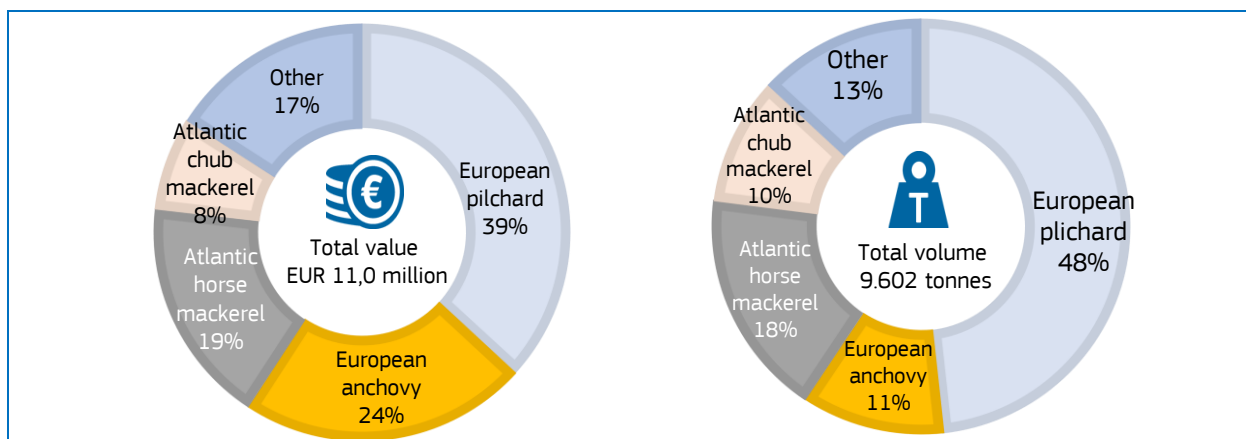


Figure 28. EUROPEAN PILCHARD: FIRST SALES IN SPAIN, NOVEMBER 2021 – OCTOBER 2024



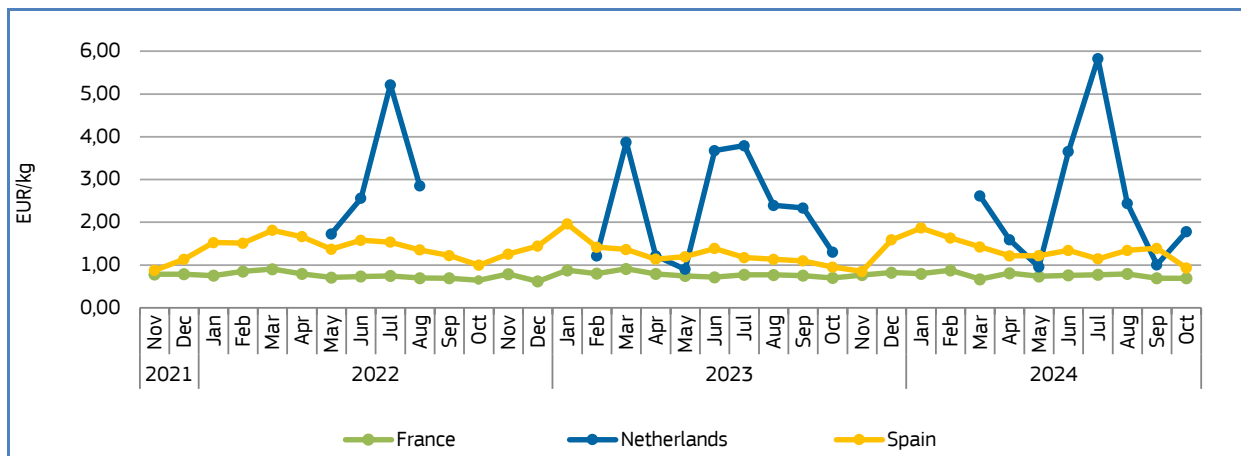
Over the past 36 months in **Spain**, the highest first-sales volume of European pilchard occurred in July 2024 when 5.878 tonnes were sold for EUR 6,7 million. Typically, highest sales are recorded during the summer when the fishery is most intense.

Figure 29. FIRST SALES: COMPOSITION OF “SMALL PELAGICS” (ERS LEVEL) IN SPAIN IN VALUE AND VOLUME, OCTOBER 2024



Price trend

Figure 30. **EUROPEAN PILCHARD: FIRST-SALES PRICES IN SELECTED COUNTRIES, NOVEMBER 2021 – OCTOBER 2024**



Over the 36-month observation period (November 2021 to October 2024), the weighted average first-sales price of European pilchard in **the Netherlands** was 2,90 EUR/kg, 181% higher than in **France** (0,75 EUR/kg) and 66 % higher compared to **Spain** (2,82 EUR/kg). The higher price in the Netherlands could be explained by its smallest first sales volume compared to other countries surveyed.

In **France** in October 2024, the average first-sales price of European pilchard (0,69 EUR/kg) remained stable compared to October 2023 and went up by 8% compared to the same month in 2022. Over the past 36 months, the average price ranged from 0,62 EUR/kg for 1.044 tonnes in December 2022 to 0,91 EUR/kg for 646 tonnes in March 2023.

In **the Netherlands** in October 2024, the average first-sales price of European pilchard (1,78 EUR/kg) increased by 37% compared to October 2023, while in October 2022 there were no registered sales. Over the past 36 months, the average price ranged from 0,90 EUR/kg for 3,8 tonnes in May 2023 to 5,83 EUR/kg for about 0,4 tonnes in July 2024.

In **Spain** in October 2024, the average first-sales price of European pilchard (0,93 EUR/kg) decreased by 2% compared to October 2023 and by 6% compared to 2022. During the period observed, the average price ranged from 0,85 EUR/kg for 2.566 tonnes in November 2023 to 3,63 EUR/kg for 672 tonnes in January 2023.

EUMOFA also covered **European pilchard** in the following *Monthly Highlights*:

First sales: MH February/2013 (Portugal), MH July/2013 (Greece), MH 5/2015 (Portugal), MH 3/2016 (Greece), MH 8/2017 (France, Greece, Italy), MH 9/2018 (France, Italy, the United Kingdom), MH 11/2020 (the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain), MH 7/2023 (France, Portugal, Spain).

Topic of the month: MH 6/2016 “Sardine market in the EU”, MH 5/2021 “Species profile about sardine and sardine-type products”.

1.7. Focus on European sprat



Source: *Scandinavian Fishing Year Book*

European sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) is a short-lived pelagic marine species that lives in schools in inshore areas. It has a tolerance for low-salinity waters, and feeds on zooplankton. Sprat migrates to spawning grounds in spring and summer and moves to the surface at night. Some spawning may take place throughout the year, near the coast or up to 100 km from the shore²⁰. Sprat is distributed in the Northeast Atlantic (from the North Sea and Baltic Sea, down to North Africa), the Mediterranean, and the Black Sea²¹.

The species is important in North Sea and Baltic Sea fisheries, where it is caught in a mixed fishery with herring, and acts as a prey species for cod. It is fished by pelagic trawlers using small-meshed nets. The species is managed by means of a multiannual plan²² on the basis of which it is subject to annually agreed TACs which are shared among Member States.²³ On the commercial market, sprat is mainly found canned and smoked for human consumption, but also used in the production of fishmeal and fish oil for non-human consumption.

Selected countries

Table 24. **COMPARISON OF EUROPEAN SPRAT FIRST-SALES, MAIN PLACES OF SALE, AND CONTRIBUTION TO OVERALL SALES OF "SMALL PELAGICS" IN SELECTED COUNTRIES**

European sprat		Changes in European sprat first sales Jan-Oct 2024 (%)		Contribution of European sprat to total "Small pelagics" first sales in October 2024 (%)	Principal places of sale in October 2024 in terms of first-sales value
		Compared to Jan-Oct 2023	Compared to Jan-Oct 2022		
Denmark	Value	-16%	+18%	4%	NA
	Volume	-12%	-17%	12%	
Poland	Value	+25%	+66%	36%	Hel, Kolobrzeg, Wladyslawowo, Ustaka (100% of first sales).
	Volume	-7%	-15%	46%	
Sweden	Value	-91%	-91%	3%	Göteborg.
	Volume	-91%	-93%	7%	

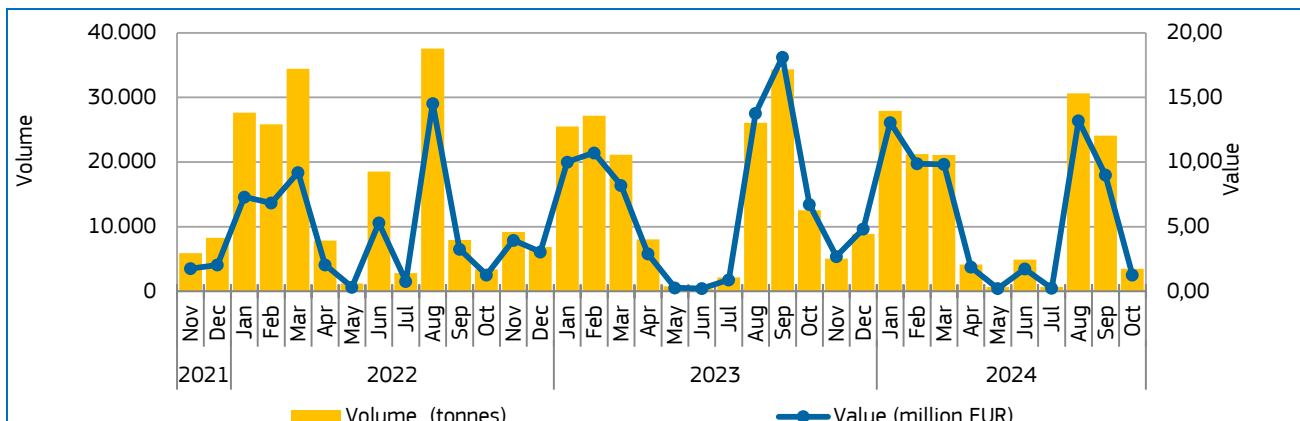
²⁰ <http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2102/en>

²¹ https://mare.istc.cnr.it/fisheriesv2/species_en?sn=34462

²² Regulation (EU) 2016/1139 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016R1139>

²³ Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257 of 10 January 2024 fixing for 2024, 2025 and 2026 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/257/oj/eng>

Figure 31. EUROPEAN SPRAT: FIRST SALES IN DENMARK, NOVEMBER 2021 – OCTOBER 2024



In **Denmark** over the 36-month period observed, the highest first sales in value were registered in September 2023 when approximately 34.340 tonnes were sold for EUR 18,1 million. The peak in first-sales volume were recorded in August 2022 with 37.555 tonnes.

Figure 32. FIRST SALES: COMPOSITION OF “SMALL PELAGICS” (ERS LEVEL) IN DENMARK IN VALUE AND VOLUME, OCTOBER 2024

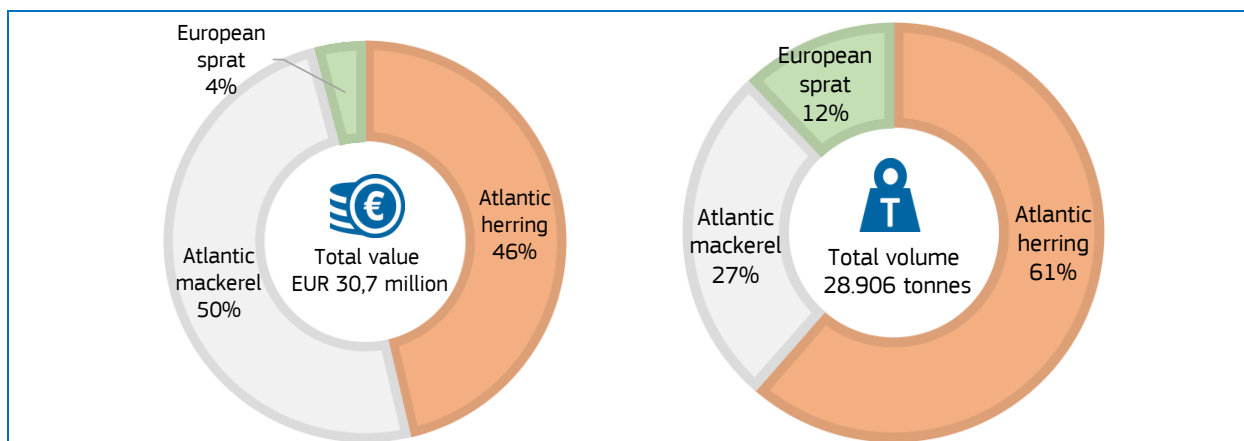
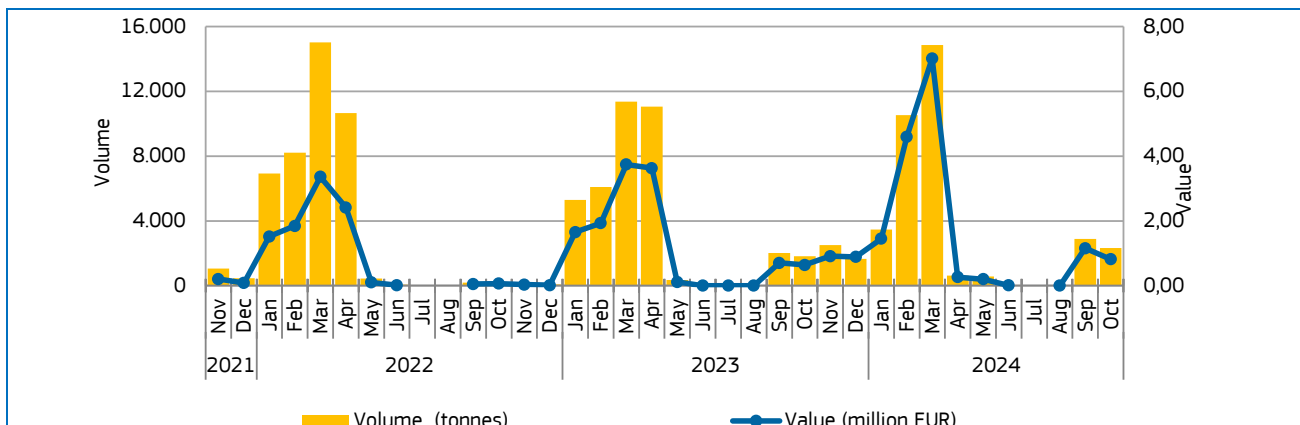


Figure 33. EUROPEAN SPRAT: FIRST SALES IN POLAND, NOVEMBER 2021 – OCTOBER 2024



In **Poland** over the 36-month period observed, the highest first sales in both value and volume were registered in March. The highest value was recorded in March 2024 (EUR 7,0 million), while the peak in volume was in March 2022 (15.027 tonnes).

Figure 34. **FIRST SALES: COMPOSITION OF “SMALL PELAGICS” (ERS LEVEL) IN POLAND IN VALUE AND VOLUME, OCTOBER 2024**

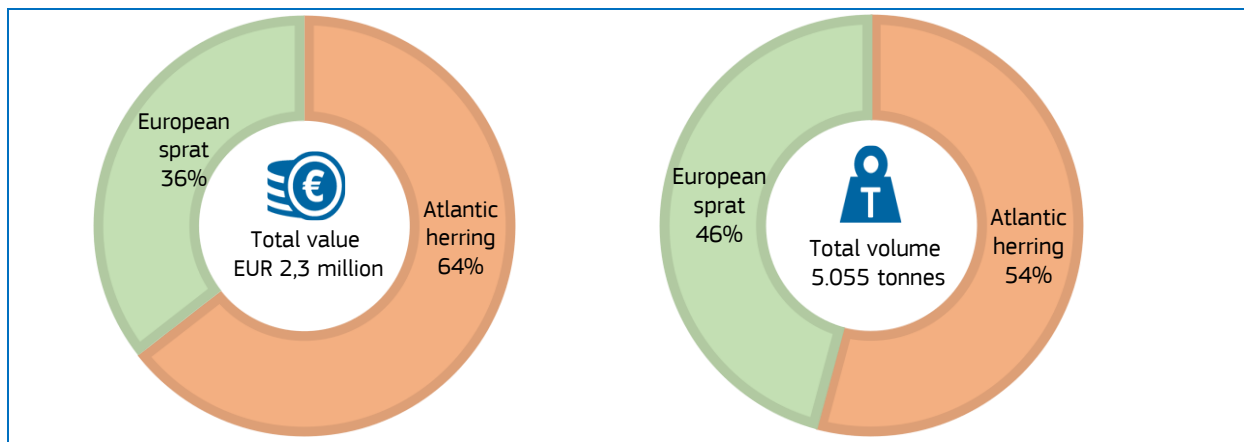


Figure 35. **EUROPEAN SPRAT: FIRST SALES IN SWEDEN, NOVEMBER 2021 – OCTOBER 2024**

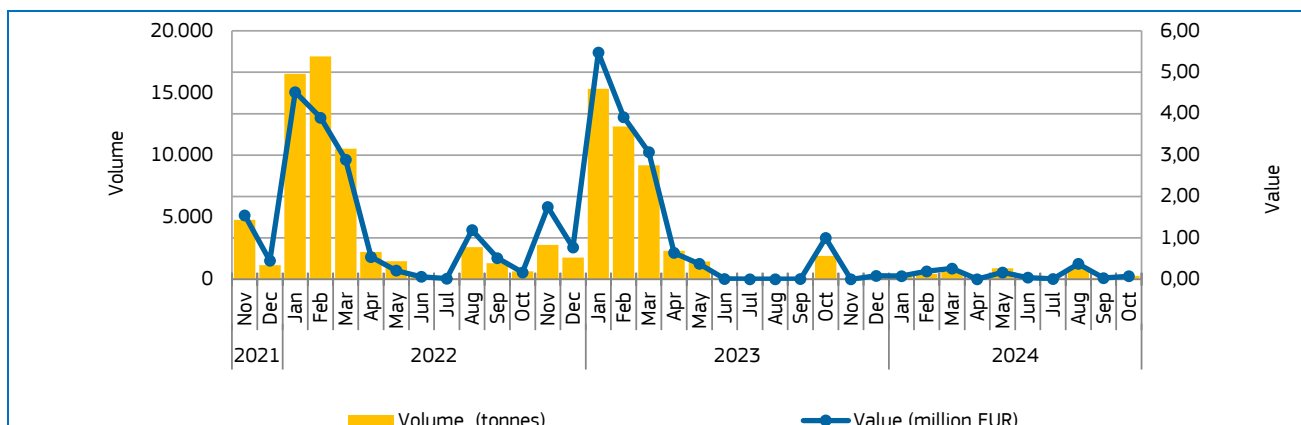
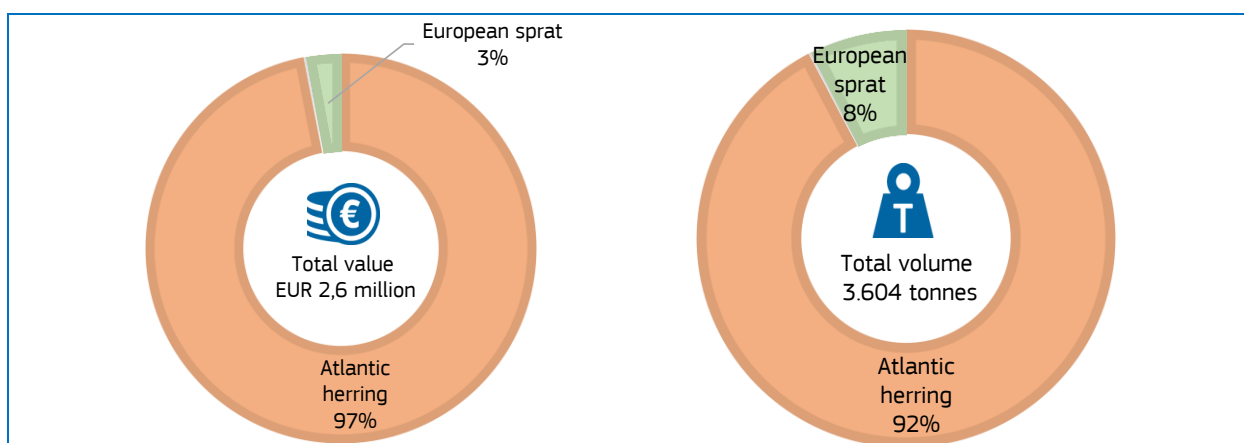


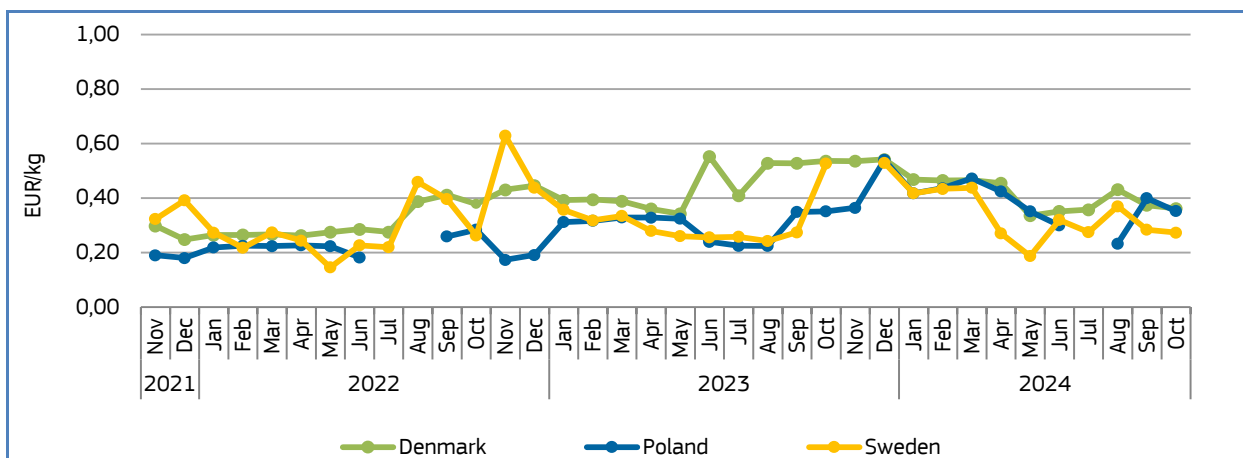
Figure 36. **FIRST SALES: COMPOSITION OF “SMALL PELAGICS” (ERS LEVEL) IN SWEDEN IN VALUE AND VOLUME, OCTOBER 2024**



In **Sweden**, from November 2021 to October 2024, the highest first-sales value was registered in January 2023 at EUR 5,5 million, while the highest first-sales volume was recorded in February 2022 (17.951 tonnes).

Price trend

Figure 37. **EUROPEAN SPRAT: FIRST-SALES PRICES IN SELECTED COUNTRIES, NOVEMBER 2021 – OCTOBER 2024**



Over the 36-month observation period (November 2021 – October 2024), the weighted average first-sales price of European sprat in **Denmark** was 0,40 EUR/kg, 22% more than in **Poland** (0,33 EUR/kg) and 27% more than in **Sweden** (0,31 EUR/kg).

In **Denmark** in October 2024, the average first-sales price of European sprat (0,36 EUR/kg) decreased by 32% compared to October 2023 and by 4% compared to October 2022. In the 36-month period observed, the lowest average price of 0,25 EUR/kg for 8,258 tonnes was registered in December 2021, while the highest price of 0,55 EUR/kg for about 382 tonnes was recorded in June 2023.

In **Poland** in October 2024, the average first-sales price of European sprat (0,35 EUR/kg) remained stable compared to October 2023 and increased by about 25% over the same month of 2022. During the period observed, the highest average price of 0,54 EUR/kg was reached in December 2023 when 1.647 tonnes were sold, while the price bottomed out in November 2022 (0,17 EUR/kg) when 196 tonnes were sold.

In **Sweden** in October 2024, the average first-sales price of European sprat (0,27 EUR/kg) decreased by 48% compared to October 2023 and increased by 4% compared to October 2022. In the 36-month period observed, the lowest average price of 0,15 EUR/kg for 1.453 tonnes was registered in May 2022, while the highest price at 0,63 EUR/kg for about 2.776 tonnes was recorded in November 2022.

EUMOFA also covered **European sprat** in the following Monthly Highlights:

First sales: MH February/2013 (Sweden), MH 5/2014 (Latvia), MH 3/2015 (Sweden), MH 5/2015 (Latvia), MH 5/2016 (Latvia), MH 4/2017 (Estonia, Latvia, Sweden), MH 9/2018 (Estonia, Latvia, Sweden), MH 11/2020 (Poland, the Netherlands, Sweden).

2. Extra-EU imports

The weekly extra-EU import prices (weighted average values per week, in EUR per kg) for nine different species are examined every month. The three most relevant species in terms of value and volume remain consistent: fresh or chilled Atlantic and Danube salmon from Norway, frozen Alaska pollock fillets from China, and frozen tropical shrimp (*Penaeus* spp.) from Ecuador. The other six species change each month; three are chosen from the commodity group of the month, and three are randomly selected. The commodity group for this month is “small pelagics”²⁴.

Data analysed in the section “Extra-EU imports” are extracted from EUMOFA, as collected from the European Commission.²⁵

Table 25. **EVOLUTION OF WEEKLY PRICE AND VOLUME OF THE THREE MOST RELEVANT FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS IMPORTED INTO THE EU**

Extra-EU Imports		Week 45/2024	Preceding 4-week average	Week 45/2023	Notes
Atlantic and Danube salmon, excluding liver and roes, fresh imported from Norway ²⁶ (<i>Salmo salar</i> , <i>Hucho hucho</i> CN code 03021400)	Price (EUR/kg)	6,56	6,37 (+3%)	6,74 (-3%)	From weeks 46/2021 to 45/2024 prices fluctuated seasonally following supply with the highest peaks occurring between weeks 10 and 16, and the highest falls between weeks 34 and 39. Prices ranged between 5,93 EUR/kg (week 39/2024) and 11,28 EUR/kg (week 16/2022) showing a slight decreasing trend.
	Volume (tonnes)	14.949	16.827 (-11%)	17.462 (-14%)	Volumes fluctuated seasonally with supply ranging between 1.309 tonnes (week 52 ²⁷ /2023) and 22.013 tonnes (week 38/2024). The highest peaks in supply seemed to occur most often in weeks 35 and 49.
Frozen Alaska pollock fillets imported from China (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i> , CN code 03047500)	Price (EUR/kg)	2,43	2,34 (+4%)	2,89 (-16%)	In the period analysed prices fluctuated, following a decreasing trend since week 41/2022, and ranged between 1,84 EUR/kg (week 48/2022) and 4,03 EUR/kg (week 41/2022).
	Volume (tonnes)	1.783	1.762 (+1%)	4.179 (-57%)	From weeks 46/2021 to 45/2024 highest peaks in supply seemed to occur in the last part of the year between weeks 46 and 50. Weekly volumes ranged between 147 tonnes (week 25/2022) to 13.785 tonnes (week 50/2023).
Frozen tropical shrimp imported from Ecuador (genus <i>Penaeus</i> , CN code 03061792)	Price (EUR/kg)	5,51	5,14 (+7%)	5,25 (+5%)	From weeks 46/2021 to 45/2024 prices fluctuated ranging between 4,83 EUR/kg (week 07/2024) and 7,19 EUR/kg (week 41/2022) following a decreasing trend, with highest falls in prices occurring between weeks 1 and 8, 26 and 35.
	Volume (tonnes)	4.118	2.822 (+46%)	4.137 (0)	In the period analysed volumes ranged between 482 tonnes (week 25/2022) and 5.523 tonnes (week 34/2024). Supply showed high fluctuations with highest peaks in supply occurring most often between weeks 15/27, 30/34 and 44/46.

²⁴ The featured species of the commodity group of the month are frozen sardines from Morocco, frozen mackerel from Faroe Islands and frozen meat of herring from Norway. The three randomly selected species this month are frozen yellowfin tunas from Seychelles, prepared or preserved skipjack from Ecuador and fresh or chilled fillets of Pacific, Atlantic and Danube salmon from Norway.

²⁵ Last update: 17. 12. 2024.

²⁶ Norway exclusively produces and exports Atlantic salmon. The country does not import and re-export any other salmon species.

²⁷ The limited supply in week 52 is attributed to reduced harvest activity during the Christmas break and the related decreased processing activity in the EU.

Figure 38. **IMPORT PRICE OF ATLANTIC AND DANUBE SALMON FROM NORWAY, 2021 - 2024**

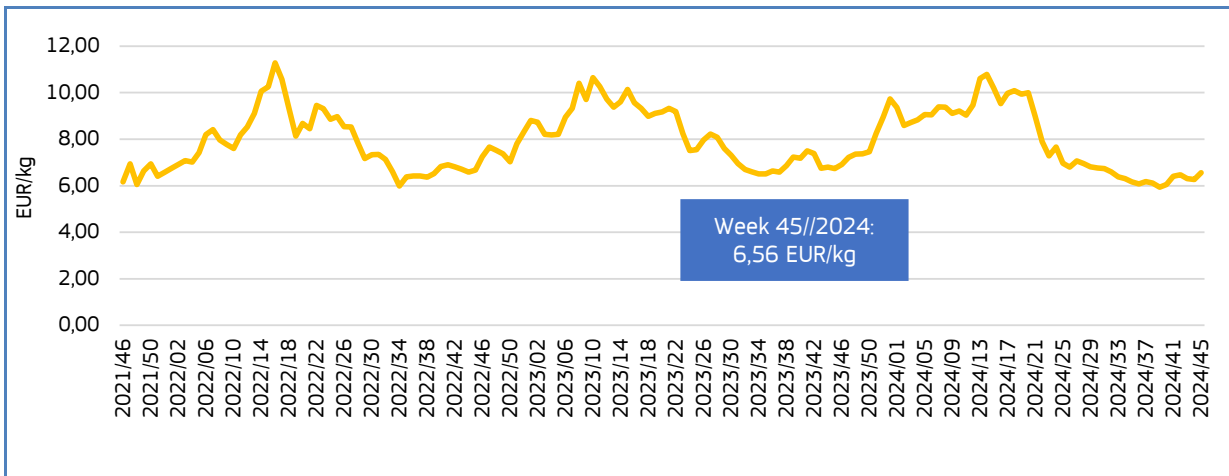


Figure 39. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN ALASKA POLLOCK FILLETS FROM CHINA, 2021 - 2024**

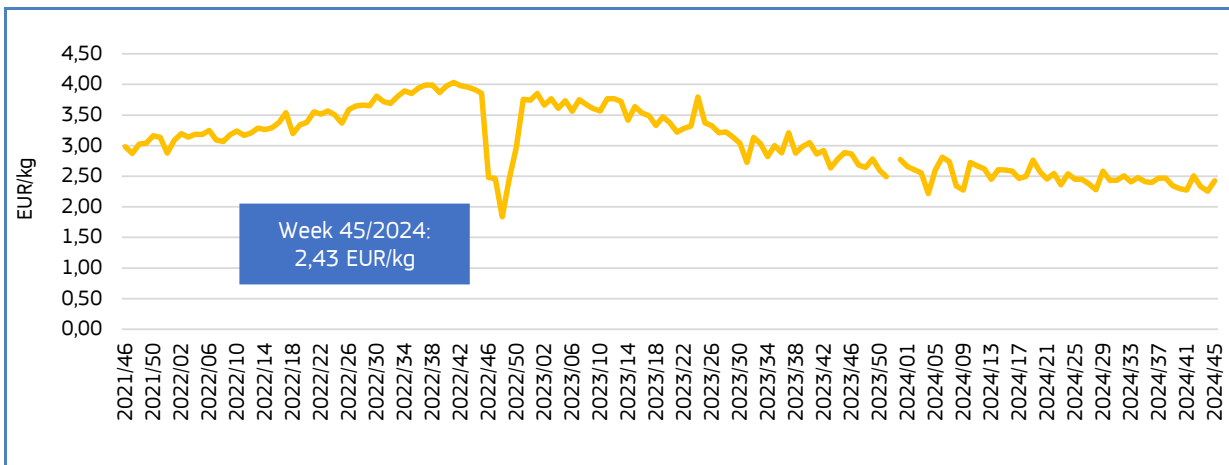


Figure 40. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN TROPICAL SHRIMP FROM ECUADOR, 2021 - 2024**

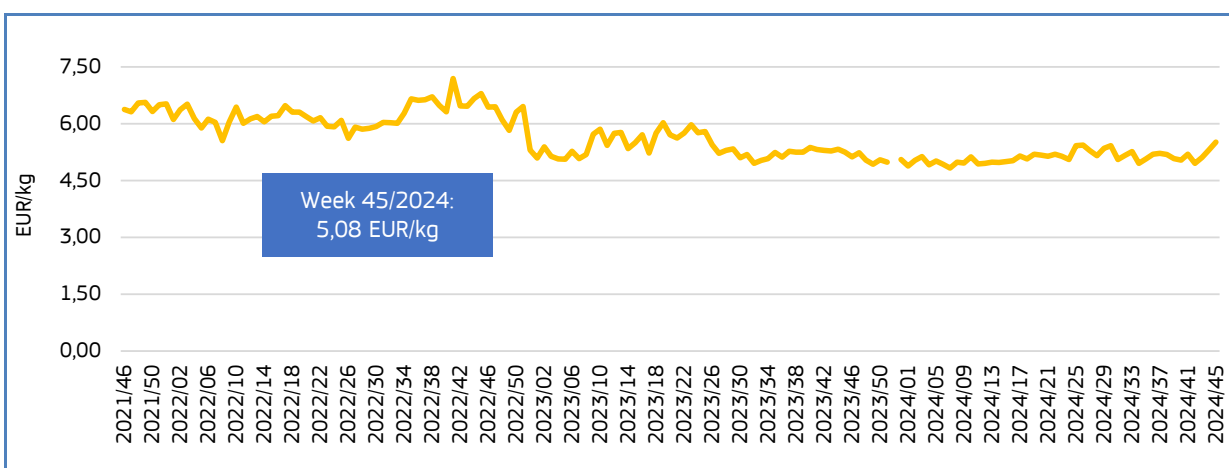


Table 26. **EVOLUTION OF WEEKLY PRICE AND VOLUME OF THIS MONTH'S THREE FEATURED COMMODITY PRODUCTS IMPORTED INTO THE EU**

Extra-EU Imports		Week 45/2024	Preceding 4-week average	Week 45/2023	Notes
Frozen sardines from Morocco (" <i>Sardina pilchardus</i> ", CN code 03035310)	Price (EUR/kg)	1,11	0,96 (+16%)	0,78 (+42%)	Between weeks 46/2021 to 45/2024 prices fluctuated, ranging between 0,39 EUR/kg (week 50/2023) and 1,40 EUR/kg (week 25/2024). 72% of weekly prices were between 0,80 EUR/kg and 1,00 EUR/kg.
	Volume (tonnes)	679	831 (-18%)	757 (-10%)	Volumes showed a strong fluctuation ranging from 2 tonnes (week 25/2024) to 2.642 tonnes (week 35/2022). 58% of the weekly supply was below 600 tonnes. Highest peaks in supply were registered in 2022.
Frozen mackerel from Faroe Islands (" <i>Scomber scombrus</i> , <i>Scomber japonicus</i> ", CN code 03035410)	Price (EUR/kg)	2,55	2,30 (+11%)	1,98 (+29%)	Between weeks 46/2021 to 45/2024 prices fluctuated showing an increasing trend, ranging between 1,43 EUR/kg (week 22/2023) and 3,11 EUR/kg (week 05/2023). 75% of weekly prices were between 1,50 EUR/kg and 2,00 EUR/kg.
	Volume (tonnes)	468	679 (-31%)	458 (+2%)	In the period analysed supply fluctuated with the highest peaks occurring most often between weeks 4 and 29, 39 and 44. The highest peaks were registered in 2022. Volume ranged from 17 tonnes (week 29/2024) to 2.691 tonnes (week 41/2022). 48% of the weekly supply was less than 300 tonnes.
Frozen meat "whether or not minced" of herring (excl. fillets) from Norway (" <i>Clupea harengus</i> , <i>Clupea pallasii</i> ", CN code 03049923)	Price (EUR/kg)	1,91	1,96 (-3%)	1,85 (+3%)	Between weeks 46/2021 to 45/2024 prices fluctuated following an increasing trend from the minimum price of 1,38 EUR/kg (week 09/2022) to the maximum price of 2,12 EUR/kg (week 31/2024), then increased again. 85% of weekly prices were between 1,50 EUR/kg and 2,00 EUR/kg.
	Volume (tonnes)	612	349 (+75%)	1.162 (-47%)	High fluctuations in supply between 1 tonne (week 25/2022) and 3.357 tonnes (week 11/2023). Supply fluctuated with the highest peaks occurring most often between weeks 8 and 13. 42% of the weekly supply was above 500 tonnes.

Figure 41. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN SARDINES FROM MOROCCO, 2021 - 2024**

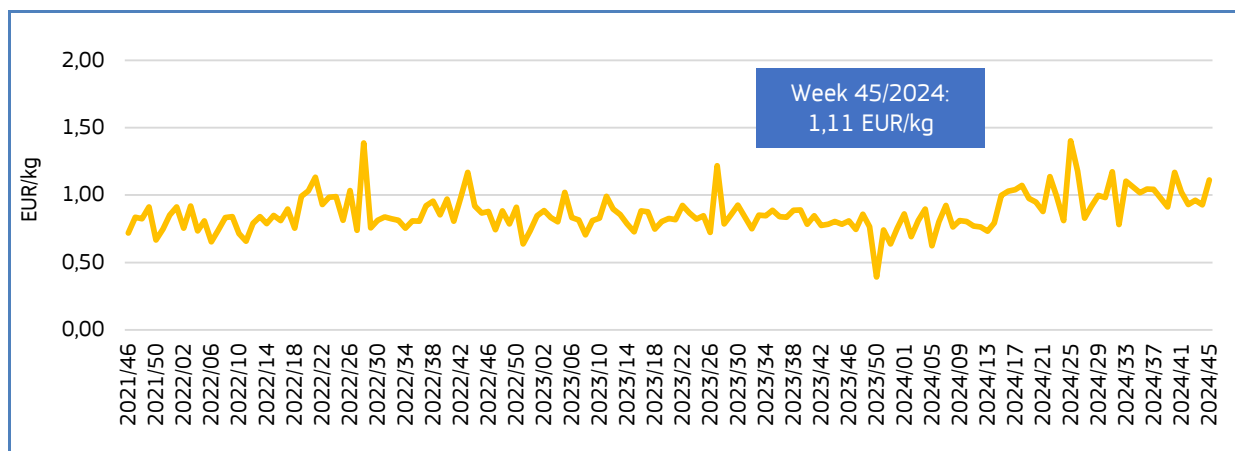


Figure 42. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN MACKEREL FROM FAROE ISLANDS, 2021 - 2024**

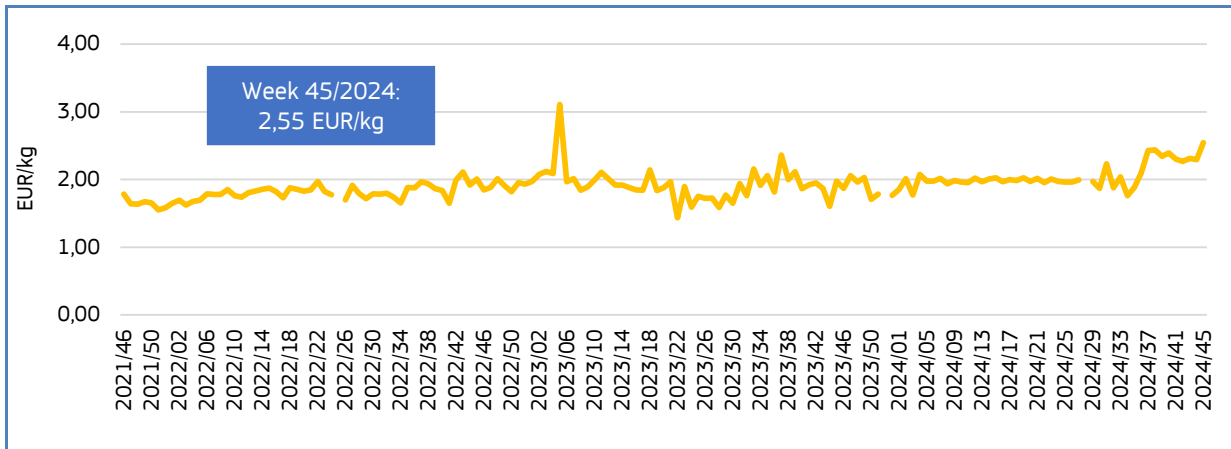
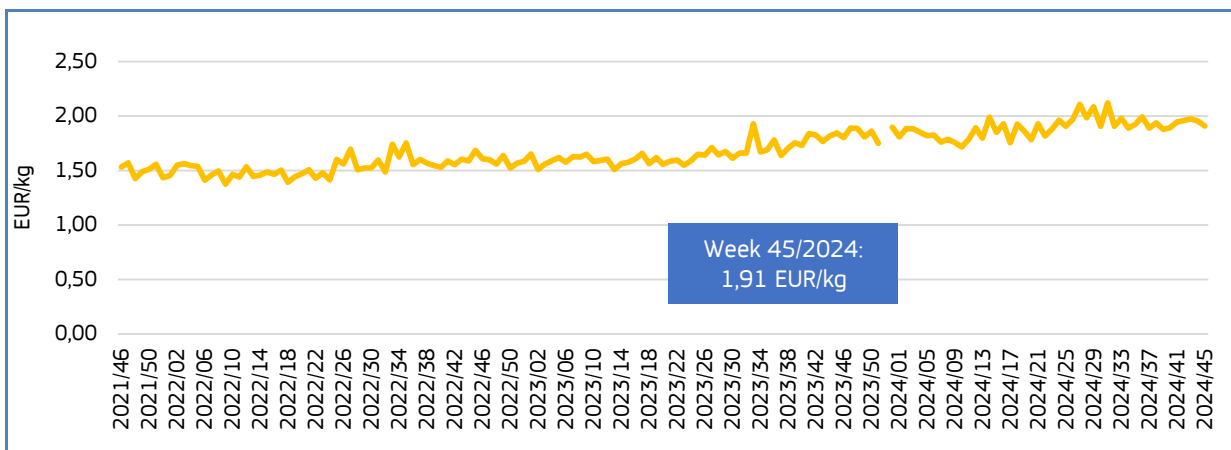


Figure 43. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN HERRING FROM NORWAY, 2021 - 2024**



Between weeks 01/2024 and 45/2024, the price of frozen **sardines** from **Morocco** showed some fluctuations and an increasing trend. Price ranged between 0,63 EUR/kg and 1,40 EUR/kg, and volume fluctuated between 2 tonnes and 981 tonnes.

Between weeks 01/2024 and 45/2024, the price of frozen **mackerel** from the **Faroe Islands** increased ranging between 1,76 EUR/kg and 2,55 EUR/kg. Supply fluctuated between 17 tonnes and 1.281 tonnes.

In 2024, the price of frozen meat of **herring** from **Norway** ranged between 1,72 EUR/kg and 2,12 EUR/kg, and volume fluctuated between 99 kg and 1.834 tonnes.

Table 27. **EVOLUTION OF WEEKLY PRICE AND VOLUME OF EU IMPORTS OF THREE OTHER FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS RELEVANT TO THE EU MARKET**

Extra-EU Imports		Week 45/2024	Preceding 4-week average	Week 45/2023	Notes
Frozen yellowfin tunas (excl. for industrial manufacture of products of 1604) from Seychelles (" <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ", CN code 03034290)	Price (EUR/kg)	3,17	2,41 (+31%)	NA	Between weeks 46/2021 to 45/2024 prices fluctuated between 1,62 EUR/kg (week 04/2023) and 3,87 EUR/kg (week 19/2022). 34% of the weekly prices were between 2,50 EUR/kg and 3,00 EUR/kg.
	Volume (tonnes)	46	636 (-93%)	NA	Supply fluctuated strongly ranging between 64 kg (week 04/2023) and 1.424 tonnes (week 20/2022). 36% of the weekly supply was less than 100 tonnes with highest peaks in prices recorded in year 2022.
Prepared or preserved skipjack , whole or in pieces, in vegetable oil (excl. minced) from Ecuador (CN code 16041421)	Price (EUR/kg)	4,86	4,71 (+3%)	5,26 (-8%)	In the period analysed prices fluctuated increasing from the minimum price of 3,61 EUR/kg (week 46/2021) to the maximum price of 5,78 EUR/kg (week 45/2022), to then decrease again. 65% of the weekly prices were between 4,00 EUR/kg and 5,00 EUR/kg.
	Volume (tonnes)	1.718	881 (+95%)	1.394 (+23%)	Volumes ranged between 220 tonnes (week 07/2022) and 2.246 tonnes (week 33/2024). No clear seasonality is detected while highest peaks in supply were recorded in 2024. 51% of the weekly supply was above 900 tonnes.
Fresh or chilled fillets of Pacific, Atlantic and Danube salmon from Norway ²⁶ (" <i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus gorbuscha</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus keta</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus masou</i> and <i>Oncorhynchus rhodurus</i> , <i>Salmo salar</i> , <i>Hucho hucho</i> ", CN code 03044100)	Price (EUR/kg)	10,27	10,39 (-1%)	10,68 (-8%)	Between weeks 46/2021 to 45/2024 prices fluctuated ranging between 8,72 EUR/kg (week 51/2021) and 13,43 EUR/kg (week 12/2023). Highest peaks in prices occurred between week 12 and 18. 50% of weekly prices were between 10,00 EUR/kg and 12,00 EUR/kg.
	Volume (tonnes)	1.303	1.078 (+21%)	1.063 (+23%)	Volumes showed strong fluctuations ranging between 92 tonnes (week 25/2022) and 1.969 tonnes (week 11/2024). 68% of the weekly supply was above 1.000 tonnes.

Figure 44. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN YELLOWFIN TUNA FROM SEYCHELLES, 2021 - 2024**

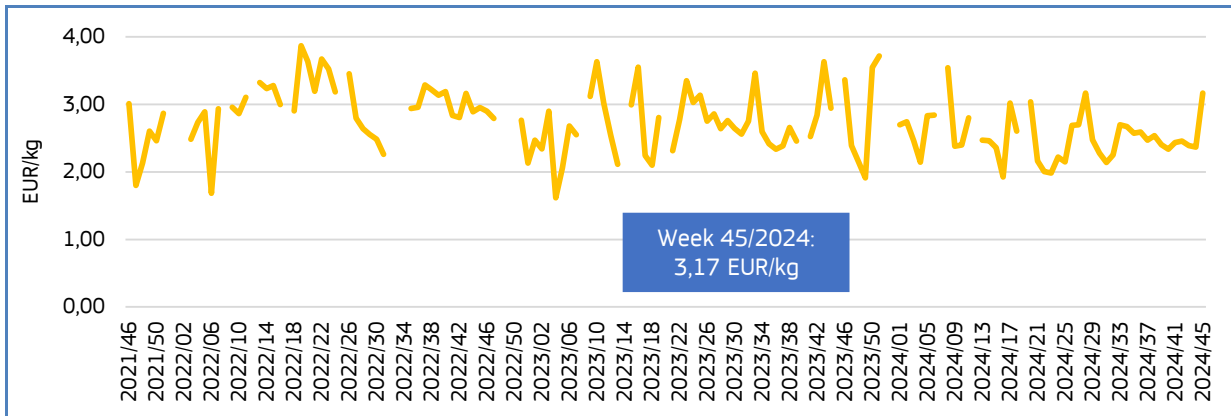


Figure 45. **IMPORT PRICE OF PREPARED OR PRESERVED SKIPJACK TUNA FROM ECUADOR, 2021 - 2024**

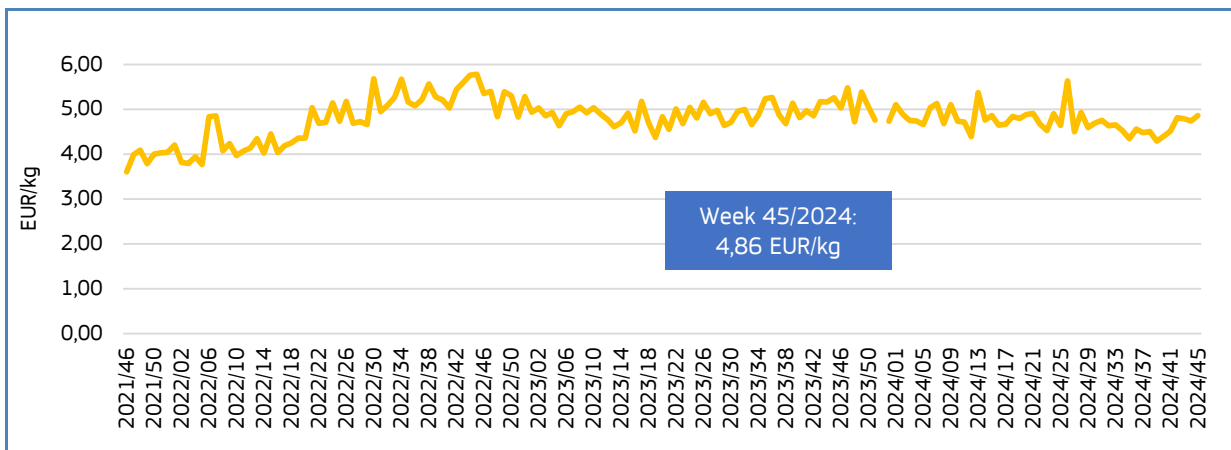
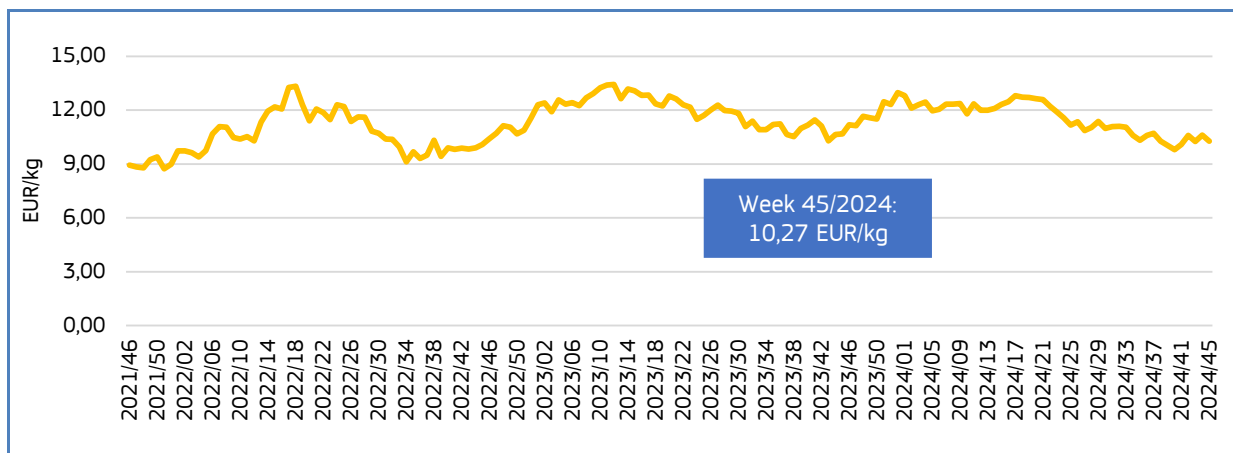


Figure 46. **IMPORT PRICE OF FRESH OR CHILLED FILLETS OF PACIFIC, ATLANTIC AND DANUBE SALMON FROM NORWAY, 2021 - 2024**



Between weeks 01/2024 and 45/2024, the price of frozen **yellowfin tuna** from the **Seychelles** showed an increasing trend. The price ranged between 1,93 EUR/kg and 3,54 EUR/kg, and volume fluctuated ranging between 6 tonnes and 1.309 tonnes.

Between weeks 01/2024 and 45/2024, the price of prepared or preserved **skipjack tuna** from **Ecuador** fluctuated and decreased. The price ranged between 4,29 EUR/kg to 5,63 EUR/kg. Supply fluctuated between 625 tonnes and 2.246 tonnes.

In 2024, the price of fresh or chilled fillets of Atlantic **salmon** from **Norway** decreased and fluctuated between 9,80 EUR/kg and 12,81 EUR/kg, and volume varied between 843 tonnes and 1.969 tonnes.

3. Consumption

3.1. HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION IN THE EU

Data analysed in the section “Consumption” are extracted from EUMOFA, as collected from Europanel²⁸.

In October 2024 compared with October 2023, household consumption in volume and value of fresh fisheries and aquaculture products fell in Germany, Ireland, Italy and Sweden, while an increase was observed in Denmark, France, Hungary, Portugal and Spain. The highest increase in absolute terms was observed in Hungary where the volume of consumption increased by 50% and the value by 26%. The highest decrease was reported in Ireland, mainly due to mackerel (volume 55%, value 51%), hake (volume 28%, value 27%) and shrimp (volume 24%, value 32%).

Table 28. **OCTOBER OVERVIEW OF THE HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION OF FRESH FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS IN THE REPORTING COUNTRIES (volume in tonnes and value in million EUR)**

Country	Per capita apparent consumption 2022 (live weight equivalent, LWE) kg/capita/year	October 2022		October 2023		May 2024		October 2024		Change from October 2023 to October 2024	
		Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Denmark*	20,00-25,00	988	18,21	973	18,98	1.160	21,46	1.111	21,21	14%	12%
France	32,58	17.944	215,20	15.649	200,21	17.014	182,05	16.102	205,69	3%	3%
Germany	12,49	5.405	77,46	4.720	74,47	3.932	69,22	4.443	73,54	6%	1%
Hungary	6,73	339	2,42	272	2,60	206	1,99	408	3,28	50%	26%
Ireland*	20,00	960	15,85	1.006	18,09	988	17,60	794	14,48	21%	20%
Italy	30,01	18.262	218,83	18.322	216,89	22.929	298,48	16.022	208,34	13%	4%
Netherlands	18,88	2.299	41,73	2.349	43,41	2.975	55,67	2.268	44,73	3%	3%
Poland*	13,68	3.139	24,77	3.376	34,62	2.942	32,89	3.248	36,52	4%	5%
Portugal	54,54	5.215	39,57	4.675	36,13	4.698	37,78	5.007	40,94	7%	13%
Spain	41,92	40.589	379,85	39.126	385,58	39.125	392,32	41.422	432,61	6%	12%
Sweden	22,46	787	11,39	999	14,70	675	10,23	881	12,82	12%	13%

* Estimating apparent consumption at EU and Member State levels are different, the first based on data and estimates as described in the Methodological background, the latter also requiring the adjustment of abnormal trends due to the higher impact of stock changes. Where EUMOFA estimations on per capita apparent consumption continued to show high annual volatility even with these adjustments, national contact points were contacted to confirm these estimates or to provide their own figures. These are marked with a *, where data were provided by the following National sources: Dutch Fish Marketing Board (Netherlands) and Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics - National Research Institute (Poland). The estimate for Denmark was provided by the University of Copenhagen, for Ireland it was the estimate of EUMOFA.

Over the past three years, the average household consumption of fresh fisheries and aquaculture products in October has been below the annual average in both volume and value in Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and Poland. In Denmark and Sweden consumption has been above average; volume increased by 5% and 36% and value by 13% and 31%, respectively.

The most recent monthly consumption data (up to **October 2024**) are available on the EUMOFA website and can be accessed [here](#).

²⁸ Last update: 27. 12. 2024.

3.2. Fresh squid

Habitat: It is a benthopelagic species found at depths of 0-500 m, but prefers to stay at 20-250 m. It exhibits benthic behaviour during the spawning season and pelagic behaviour at other times, e.g. during hunting.

Catch areas: It mainly inhabits the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, from the North Sea and British Isles to southwest Africa and the Mediterranean²⁹.

Catching countries in the EU: France, Spain, Italy³⁰.

Production method: Caught.

Main consumers in the EU: Italy, Spain, France.

Presentation: Cut or in rings.

Preservation: Fresh, frozen, defrosted and chilled.

3.2.1. Overview of household consumption in Italy

Based on EUMOFA estimates, in 2022 per capita apparent consumption of fishery and aquaculture products in Italy was 30,01 kg per capita LWE, 28% higher than the EU average of 23,51 kg LWE. After Portugal, Spain, France and Luxemburg, Italy had the fifth highest seafood consumption among EU Member States. It was 45% lower than that of Portugal with the highest consumption and was 409% higher than that of Czechia with the lowest volume of consumption.

In October 2024, the average monthly household consumption of fresh/chilled squid was 585 tonnes in Italy and households paid on average 17,52 EUR per kg of squid. Highest sales are in December. In 2023 the volume of squid consumed in December accounted for 19% of total annual consumption. In the past three years, the consumption of squid in Italy has shown a 44% decrease in volume, with a 35% increase in average price since 2021.

We have covered **squid** in previous *Monthly Highlights*:

First sales: **MH 1 2024** (NL, ES, FR); **MH 1 2022** (ES, IT, PT); **MH 1 2020** (IT, PT, ES); **MH 1 2017** (IT); **MH 10 2015** (UK); **MH 1 2015** (FR); **MH 1 2014** (UK).

Consumption: **MH 6 2022** (IT); **MH 10 2017** (IT); **MH 5 2014** (IT, PT, UK).

Extra-EU imports: **MH 2 2024**, Morocco; **MH 1 2024**, China, Morocco; **MH 2 2023**, Falkland Islands; **MH 8 2022**, US, Morocco; **MH 7 2022**, Morocco; **MH 5 2022**, India; **MH 1 2022**, China; **MH 3 2021**, Morocco; **MH 1 2021**, Morocco, India; **MH 10 2020**, China; **MH 7 2020**, US; **MH 1 2020**, Falkland Islands; **MH 8 2019**, Morocco; **MH 4 2019**, US; **MH 8 2018**, Morocco; **MH 6 2018**, US.

Topic of the month: Squid **MH 3 2022**.

²⁹ <https://www.sealifebase.ca/summary/Loligo-vulgaris.html>

³⁰ <https://eumofa.eu/documents/20124/58117/MH+6+2022.pdf/389182b4-f123-47c6-81e5-b3980a296120?t=1657617605874>

Figure 47. **PRICES OF SQUID PURCHASED BY ITALIAN HOUSEHOLDS**

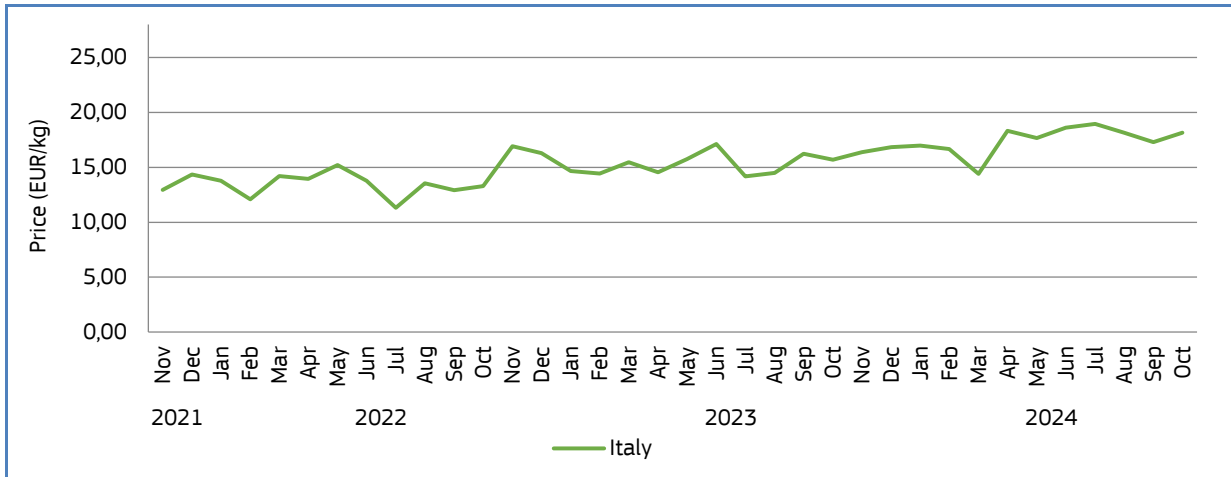
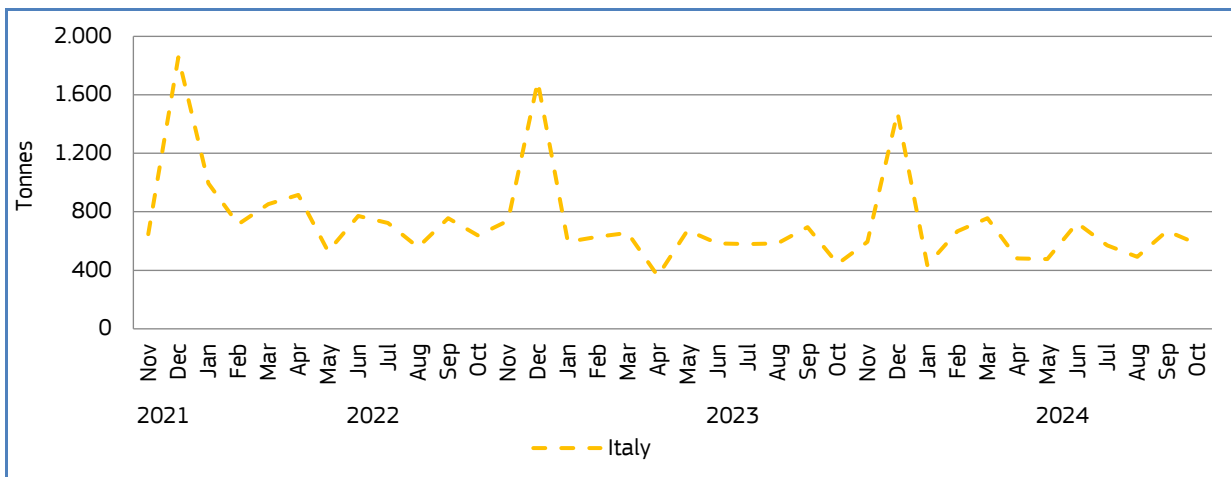


Figure 48. **HOUSEHOLD PURCHASES OF SQUID IN ITALY**



3.2.2. Household consumption trends in Italy

Long-term trend (November 2021 to October 2024): Downward trend in volume concentrated in December and upward trend in price.

Yearly average price: 13,07 EUR/kg (2021), 13,94 EUR/kg (2022), 15,48 EUR/kg (2023).

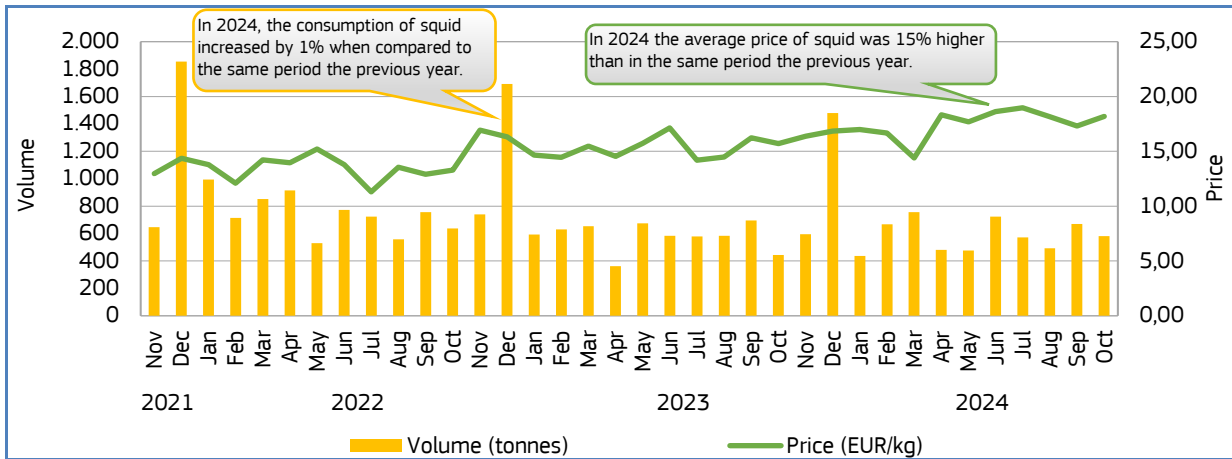
Yearly consumption: 13.038 tonnes (2021), 9.881 tonnes (2022), 7.870 tonnes (2022).

Short-term trend (January-October 2024): Downward trend in volume and a slight upward trend in price.

Price: 17,52 EUR/kg.

Consumption: 5.853 tonnes.

Figure 49. **RETAIL PRICE AND VOLUME OF SQUID PURCHASED BY HOUSEHOLDS IN ITALY, NOVEMBER 2021 – OCTOBER 2024**

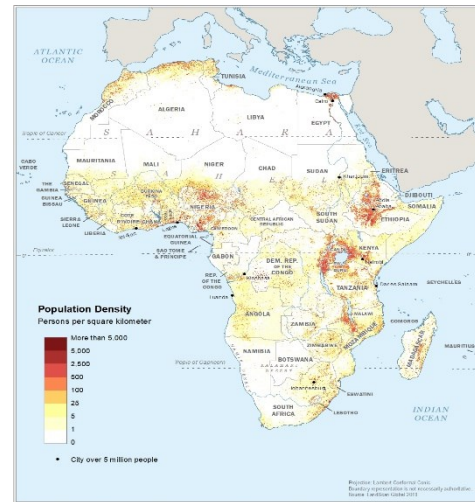


4. Case study: Aquaculture in Africa

Africa is the world's second largest and second most populous continent after Asia. It comprises 54 sovereign states³¹. The continent is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea to the north, the Arabian Plate and the Gulf of Aqaba to the northeast, the Indian Ocean to the southeast and the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

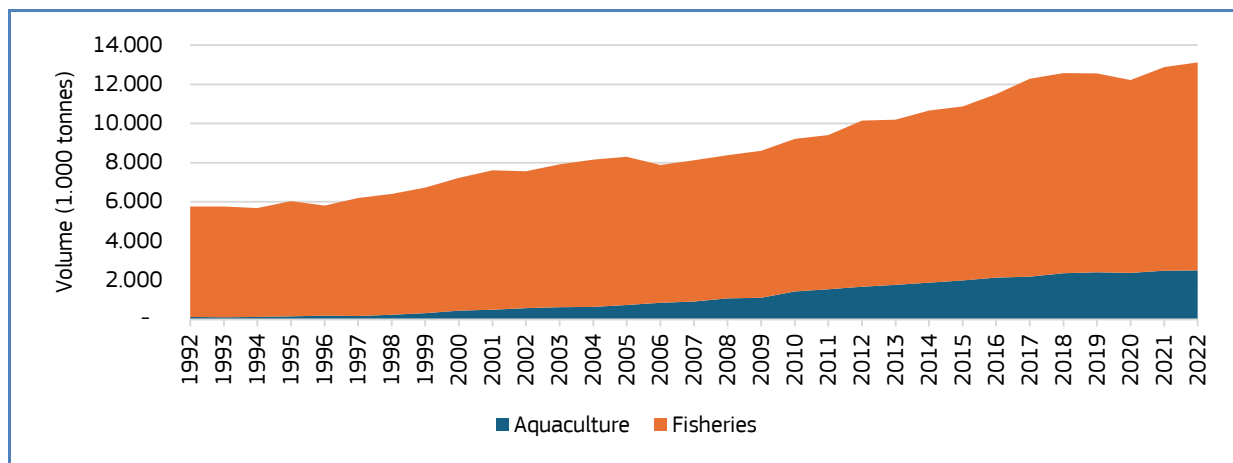
4.1. Aquaculture production in Africa

In 2022, Africa produced around 2,5 million tonnes of aquatic animals and algae, accounting for 1,9 percent of world total aquaculture production in 2022 which was 131 million tonnes at a value of EUR 355 billion EUR³². The region is far behind Asia (119 million tonnes), the Americas (5 million tonnes), and Europe (3,5 million tonnes) in its share of global production. It is expected that in the coming years fish supplies from marine catches (10,6 million tonnes in 2022) will remain more or less stable³³, so future growth will have to come from increased aquaculture production. To be successful in increasing aquaculture production in Africa, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has stated the need for technology transfer, capacity building, responsible investments, and targeted policies. Many low-income countries in Africa are not using their full potential, while Egypt is one of the largest aquaculture producers in the world (top 10). The strong position achieved by Egypt is due greatly to interventions by the Egyptian government over the past years, as well as growing private sector-driven investment³⁴. Tanzania and Rwanda are important players in small- to medium-scale commercial aquaculture. This is largely attributable to investment models that seem to be working in East Africa, supported by a favourable policy environment. Other emerging countries performing well include Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Mali and a few others³⁵.



Source: www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/maps/world-regional/

Figure 46. TOTAL AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES PRODUCTION IN AFRICA



Source: FAO.

³¹ Africa consists of the following countries: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

³² FAO. *FAO Report: Global fisheries and aquaculture production reaches a new record high, untapped potential remains in Africa*. <https://www.fao.org/africa/news-stories/news-detail/fao-report--global-fisheries-and-aquaculture-production-reaches-a-new-record-high--untapped-potential-remains-in-africa/en>

³³ *The Future of Marine Fisheries in the African Blue Economy* | African Development Bank Group

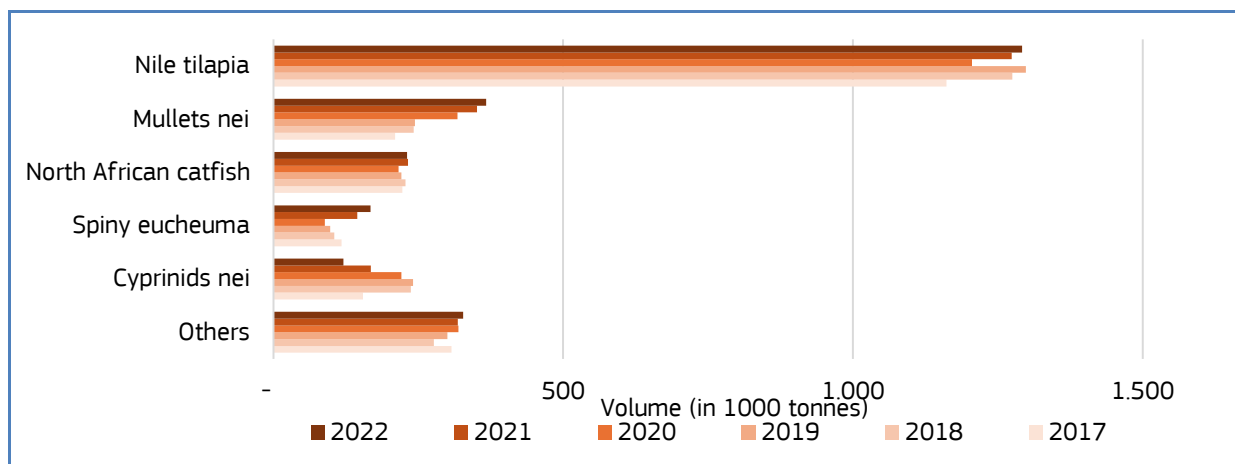
³⁴ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23308249.2020.1795615>

³⁵ <https://www.was.org/AC/detail/presidents-column-june-2023.aspx>

Aquaculture has seen a steady growth in production in Africa, growing from 120.471 tonnes in 1992 to 2,5 million tonnes (+1980%) valued at EUR 6,3 billion in 2022. Total production excluding aquatic plants is around 2,4 million tonnes. In contrast, fisheries production has grown from 5,6 million tonnes in 1992 to 10,6 million tonnes in 2022 (+88%). In the past 7 years, supply from fisheries has slowed down and ranked between 9,3 to 10,6 million tonnes.

In 2022, the largest farmed fish group in terms of volume was tilapias and other cichlids accounting for 54% of total African aquaculture production, followed by miscellaneous coastal fishes (20%), miscellaneous freshwater fish (13%), seaweeds (7%), and carps and barbels (5%). Other species accounted for 1%. According to FAO, aquaculture production in the main African countries (Egypt, Nigeria, Ghana etc.) will continue to increase in the next 10 years and reach over 2,8 million tonnes in 2032³⁶. The predicted growth in aquaculture in Africa is expected to come from the greater farming capacity established in recent years, as a result of national policies promoting aquaculture, combined with increasing local demand. The predicted growth of African aquaculture production is expected to come mainly from Egypt (19,8%), Nigeria (7,5%) and South Africa (66,5%).

Figure 47. **TOP FIVE FARMED SPECIES IN AFRICA BY VOLUME (tonnes)**



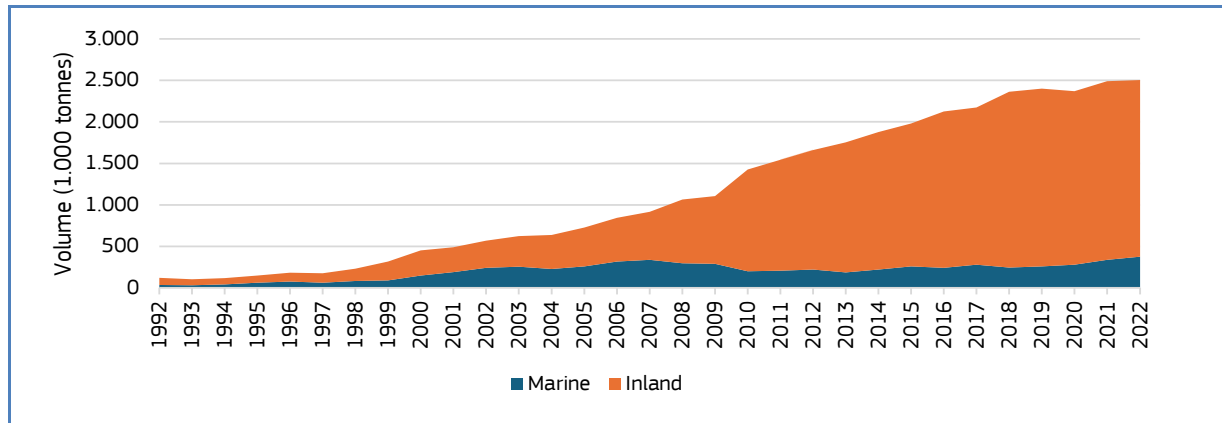
Source: FAO.

The main species farmed in Africa are Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*), mulletts nei³⁷ (*Mugilidae*), North African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*), spiny euclidean (*Euclidean denticulatum*), and cyprinids nei (*Cyprinidae*). In 2022, the production volume of Nile tilapia reached nearly 1,3 million tonnes, an increase of 1% from 2021. Mulletts and spiny euclidean also increased from 2021 to 2022 by 4,5%, and 15%, reaching 367.000 tonnes and 167.400 tonnes, respectively. There are several types of mulletts produced in Africa, such as flat-head grey mullet (*Mugil cephalus*), thin-lipped mullet (*Liza ramada*), thick-lip grey mullet (*Chelon labrosus*), black keeled mullet (*Liza carinata*), golden grey mullet (*Liza aurata*), leaping mullet (*Liza saliens*) and bluespot mullet (*Valamugil seheli*). The third largest species group, North African catfish, saw its production volume decline by 0,6% in 2022, to 231.000 tonnes. The fifth largest species group, cyprinids showed a 28% decrease from 2021 to 2022 to 120.600 tonnes. The most common cyprinids farmed in Africa are the common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), silver carp and bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys spp.*) and mud carp (*Cirrhinus molitorella*).

³⁶ FAO. *Fisheries and Aquaculture projections, 2022-2032*. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/66538eba-9c85-4504-8438-c1cf0a0a3903/content/sofia/2024/fisheries-aquaculture-projections.html>

³⁷ Not elsewhere included

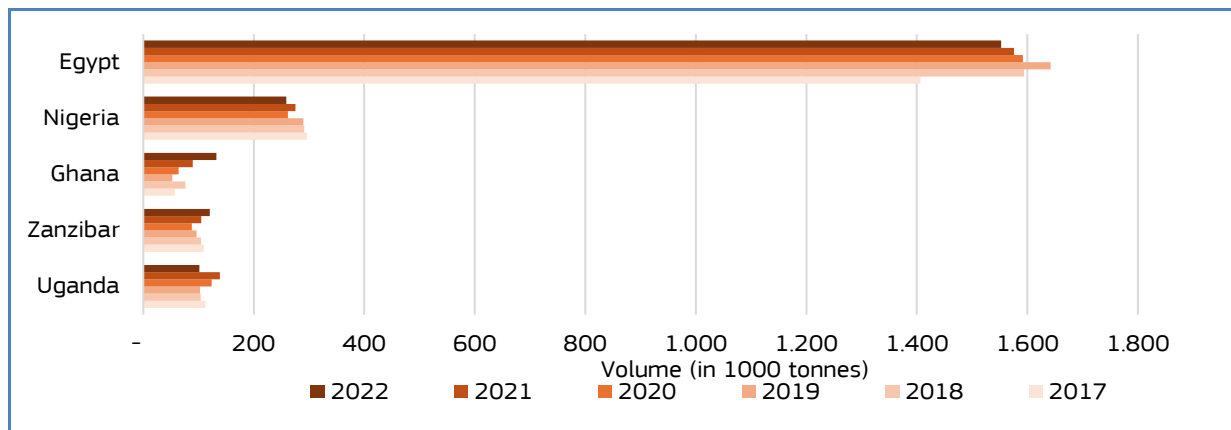
Figure 48. **TOTAL AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION IN INLAND AND MARINE WATERS**



Source: FAO.

Most of the aquaculture species in Africa are farmed in freshwater in inland waters (85% in 2022), while the rest are farmed in marine areas³⁸. Marine aquaculture in Africa is largely represented by spiny Eucheuma, seabass and seabream, together representing 71% of the volumes in 2022. Inland aquaculture species are largely represented by Nile tilapia, mullets nei and North African catfish, which together amounted to 1,85 million tonnes in 2022, accounting for 87% of the farmed species in inland waters. Egypt is by far the largest producer in inland waters, producing 1,4 million tonnes in 2022, accounting for 66% of the total, followed by Nigeria (12%) and Ghana (6%). The largest producers in marine areas were Egypt, Zanzibar and Tanzania. In 2022, 91% of the fish farming in Egypt occurred in inland waters. Aquaculture production has increased by 62% since 2010, but with a decreasing trend during the past few years. The recent decline in the tilapia production has been due to Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine. Egypt is one of the world’s largest wheat importers and was hit hard by increased price level and unstable supply. This caused a lack of raw material needed for tilapia and production decreased³⁹. The general rapid growth during the past 10 to 20 years is due to technological development in Egyptian fish farming. This includes better and more customized feed, water circulation systems and improved farm management systems. Access to large freshwater resources is also of vital importance⁴⁰. Nigerian fish farming is mainly small-scale production of catfish, cyprinids and tilapias. The industry has become important as an additional income in rural areas operated with limited resources by local farmers. With its inland waterways and access to large fresh water sources, Nigeria has the potential to lead and grow in aquaculture⁴¹.

Figure 49. **TOP FIVE AQUACULTURE PRODUCING COUNTRIES IN AFRICA BY VOLUME**



Source: FAO.

³⁸ FAO. FishStat.

³⁹ IntraFish. Simply not enough foreign exchange to pay for raw material. <https://www.intrafish.com/whitefish/simply-not-enough-foreign-exchange-to-pay-for-raw-material-egyptian-tilapia-production-crashes-as-costs-currency-and-inflation-come-to-a-head/2-1-1530465>

⁴⁰ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2468550X20301106>

⁴¹ Nigeria’s Hidden Aquaculture Boom: How Small-Scale Fish Farming is Transforming Rural Communities

Among the aquaculture producing countries in Africa, Egypt was the leading producer of aquaculture in 2022 with over 1,55 million tonnes in output, a 1,5% decrease from 2021. Nigeria followed with close to 260.000 tonnes, a 6% decrease from 2021. Both countries are among the top aquaculture producers worldwide (Egypt is top 10, Nigeria amongst the 25 largest).

Among the top five producers, Ghana showed the largest growth in 2022 with a 48% increase reaching nearly 133.000 tonnes. The main species produced in Ghana are Nile tilapia and North African catfish, both showing a strong growth from 2021 to 2022. The fourth largest African producer Zanzibar (Tanzania) increased its production volume by 14% to 121.000 tonnes, of which spiny euclidean accounted for nearly 100% of the volume. In Uganda, the main aquaculture species are Nile tilapia and North African catfish both showing a decrease in 2022 compared to the year before.

4.2. Consumption of seafood in Africa

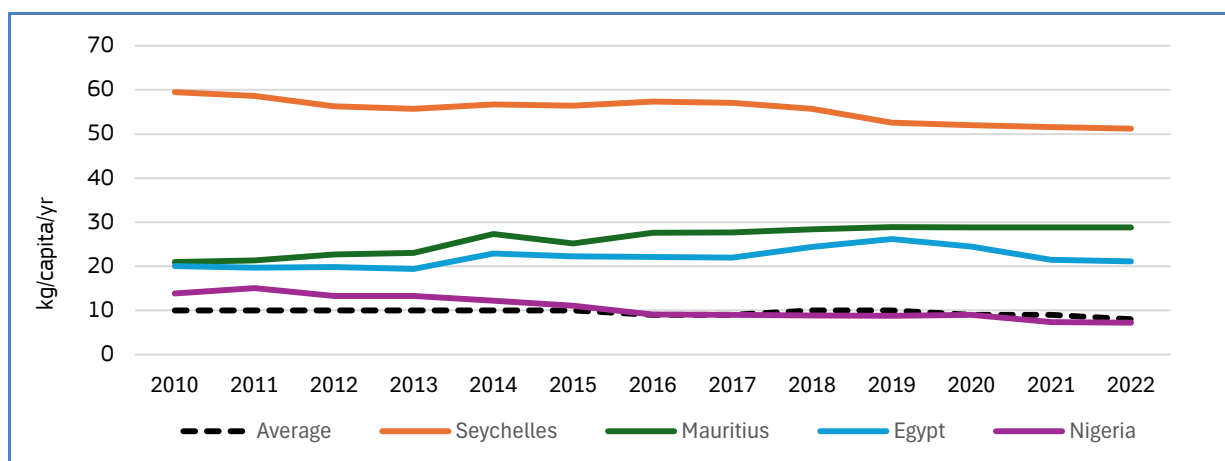
Despite increasing fish supply from fisheries and aquaculture production, fish consumption per capita on the African continent is decreasing. In 2022, average fish consumption per capita was 8 kg. Back in 2010, the per capita fish consumption was 10 kg. There are large differences in fish consumption between country and regions. While inland areas show low levels of fish consumption, it is more common in coastal regions. Factors such as local dietary habits, product availability, pricing, and consumer purchasing power all play a role in shaping fish consumption patterns.

The highest per capita fish consumption is found on Seychelles with above 50 kg per person per year. Other Islands and coastal states with small populations also have relatively high per capita consumption. Among them are Mauritius, Gabon and São Tomé and Príncipe with more than 25 kg per person. Consumption here is highly dependent on local fishery and several species.

Among the populous nations, Egypt and Ghana rank high in per capita consumption with 24 kg and 21 kg per year. Both have increased slightly compared to 10 years ago. Nigeria, the most populous country on the African continent (229 million in 2024), has strong preferences for eating fish. Besides its own coastal fisheries, which are important for food security, the country is a large importer of mainly low-priced species from all over the world with mackerel, herring and jack mackerel the most important. The Nigerian market is price sensitive, and the population is growing rapidly, so per capita consumption is decreasing. Though fish supply is expected to grow the coming years, the growth cannot match the growth in population in a degree that maintain the per capita consumption. In general, the growth of Africa's population is outpacing growth in supply from both domestic fisheries and production as well as imports of seafood. Nigerian aquaculture production (catfish, tilapias etc) is mainly consumed in the domestic market. The same issues can also be mentioned for the seafood consumption in Ghana as demand far exceeds domestic supply, leading to a reliance on imports. In 2022, Ghana's total fish requirement was some 1,3 million tonnes. However, domestic production was some 657.000 metric tonnes, necessitating the import of some 650.000 tonnes of fish⁴².

FAO consumption data do not distinguish between seafood from aquaculture and fisheries. The consumption data are therefore a mix of both.

Figure 50. **CONSUMPTION OF FISH AND SEAFOOD ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT (2010-2022)**
(kg/capita/year)



Source: FAO.

⁴² <https://thefishsite.com/articles/ghana-to-fund-10-000-new-fish-farms>

4.3. International trade

Currently, 44 African countries are members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), with another nine countries holding "observer status"; only two are not affiliated to the WTO (Algeria, Sudan). African countries currently account for 27% of full members. WTO membership was established in 1994 and replaced the earlier GATT agreement on Trade and Tariffs.

In 2023, the African continent accounted for 2,7% of world exports. Back in 1973, that share was 4,8%. As regards the import, the continent's share of world imports is higher than exports today at 2,9%⁴³.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a trade agreement, the main goal of which is to eliminate trade barriers on the African continent and create a single market. The purpose is to enable free flow of goods and services between the African countries and to strengthen the position in the global market. The AfCFTA was established in 2019⁴⁴. Currently, Africa accounts for around 2,7% of global trade and only 17% of African exports are intra-continental, compared with 59% for Asia and 68% for Europe. The potential for transformation across Africa is therefore significant. The agreement covers the largest free trade area in the world measured by the number of countries participating (37 members, October 2024)⁴⁵.

Export of aquaculture products from Africa

In 2023, Africa exported 1,14 million tonnes of fishery and aquaculture products (excluding intra-African exports) to a value of EUR 4,3 billion. This was a 6% increase in volume compared to 2018 and a 30% increase in export value. A substantial volume is being traded between the African countries. According to FAO, the intra-African trade of fishery and aquaculture products reached 1,34 million tonnes in 2022. Fishmeal⁴⁶ was the largest product exported from Africa (extra-African exports) with a volume of 219.068 tonnes. Other important species were miscellaneous small pelagic⁴⁷, other marine fish⁴⁸, miscellaneous tuna⁴⁹ and hake.

The largest farmed species group⁵⁰ in terms of extra-African exports in 2023 was tilapia with 54.162 tonnes⁵¹. This was a noticeable increase from 2022 when the volume was only 5.618 tonnes. Egypt was the largest supplier of this species with 99,95% of the volume. A minor volume of the tilapia exported came from South Africa. This increase came from an increase in exports of HS6 Tilapia (*Oreochromis* spp.), excluding edible fish offal of subheading 0302 91 - 0302 99, fresh or chilled from Egypt. However, the overall export value of tilapia declined in 2023 from EUR 11,6 million in 2022 to EUR 9,1 million in 2023. Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates were the three largest markets for tilapia in 2023 with 40%, 36% and 22% of the volume.

Seaweed and other algae⁵² (fit for human consumption) were the second largest main commercial species group, where a large share of the volume comes from aquaculture in Madagascar. In 2023, this volume reached 678 tonnes at an export value of EUR 592.000. The main exporter of seaweed and other algae in 2023 was Madagascar, which supplied 653 tonnes. The main markets in 2023 were France and Denmark, with 340 tonnes and 182 tonnes, respectively. According to FAO statistics, Tanzania and Madagascar also exported a large volume of seaweed and other algae (unfit for human consumption) in 2022, reaching 10.749 tonnes and 2.652 tonnes.

Freshwater catfish was the third largest main commercial species group, with a volume of 140 tonnes and a value of EUR 95.000. Senegal, Egypt and Ghana were the main suppliers with 80 tonnes, 66 tonnes and 43 tonnes. The main export markets for African freshwater catfish were China, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait with 43 tonnes, 43 tonnes and 20 tonnes.

⁴³ <https://african.business/2024/01/trade-investment/its-time-for-african-countries-to-shape-the-wto-not-just-sit-in-it>

⁴⁴ African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement

⁴⁵ <https://au.int/en/treaties/agreement-establishing-african-continental-free-trade-area>

⁴⁶ The MCS "Fishmeal" consist of Flours, meals and pellets, of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates

⁴⁷ "Sardines, sardinella and brisling or sprats, whole or in pieces, but not minced, prepared or preserved" and "Sardines (*Sardina pilchardus*, *Sardinops* spp.), sardinella (*Sardinella* spp.), brisling or sprats (*Sprattus sprattus*), excluding edible fish offal of subheading 0303 91 - 0303 99, frozen" made up the largest shares of the volume of Miscellaneous small pelagics

⁴⁸ The majority of the MCS "Other marine fish" consisted of other fish (excl. 0303 11 - 0303 84), excluding edible fish offal of subheading 0303 91 - 0303 99, frozen

⁴⁹ The majority of the MCS "Miscellaneous tuna" consist of Tunas, skipjack and bonito (*Sarda* spp.), whole or in pieces, but not minced, prepared or preserved

⁵⁰ The data do not allow for a division between production source (fisheries versus aquaculture). The groupings above include typical farmed species in Africa, however, some of the volume is likely a combination of wild-caught and farmed.

⁵¹ TDM reports a noticeable increase in tilapia exports in 2023 compared to previous years. However, as the export value remains the same, it could be that there is a discrepancy in the data.

⁵² Seaweeds and other algae, fit for human consumption

Seabream was the fourth largest group exported in 2023, with 117 tonnes at an export value of EUR 733.000. Morocco was the main supplier of this species with 116 tonnes in 2023, mainly exported to Portugal with 115 tonnes. While the trade statistics do not specify which specific species, besides the Sparidae family, most of this volume probably consists of gilthead seabream (*Sparus aurata*). Seabass was the fifth largest species with 53 tonnes exported to a value of EUR 370.000 tonnes. The trade statistics specify these volumes under *Dicentrarchus*. All of the volumes reported came from Morocco, the main market being Portugal.

Table 29. **EXPORT OF TOP AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS FROM AFRICA BY MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES (volume in tonnes, value in 1.000 EUR)**

MCS	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Tilapia	7.784	7.541	9.420	7.539	5.020	10.730	5.618	11.560	54.162	9.153
Seaweed and other algae	0	0	696	623	854	507	561	386	678	592
Freshwater catfish	116	353	162	267	66	215	96	314	140	95
Seabream, other than gilthead seabream	0	10	3	34	1	8	3	26	117	733
Seabass, other	25	112	1	18	1	23	1	6	53	370

Source: TDM

4.4. African aquaculture products in the EU

EU imports of aquaculture products from Africa

The overall EU import volume of fisheries and aquaculture products from Africa in 2023 reached 894.230 tonnes to a value of EUR 4,6 million. This was an 8% increase in volume and a 23% increase in value compared to 2019. Most of the large species' group imported to the EU from Africa comes from fisheries. The largest main commercial species groups are hake, fishmeal, octopus, skipjack tuna and sardine. The largest farmed species group imported to the EU from Africa are shrimp⁵³. Shrimp imported from Africa is a combination of farmed shrimp and wild-caught shrimp with a significant share coming from wild-caught species. The import data do not distinguish between shrimp from aquaculture and fisheries. The data are therefore a combination of both.

The farmed species is probably a combination of Whiteleg shrimp (*L. Vannamei*) and Black tiger shrimp (*P. Monodon*). In 2023, the import volume of shrimp reached 12.101 tonnes to a value of EUR 163 million. The main importers in the EU of this species group in 2023 were France, the Netherlands and Spain with 6.009 tonnes, 2.655 tonnes and 1.862 tonnes, respectively. Madagascar was by far the largest supplier of shrimp with 5.340 tonnes to a value of EUR 77 million. The second largest supplier was Nigeria with 2.719 tonnes, followed by Mozambique, Morocco and Senegal with 1.281 tonnes, 1.155 tonnes, and 1.094 tonnes. Shrimp imports from Morocco are probably brown shrimp (Crangon) re-imported to the EU after being exported for processing in Morocco. The second largest species group is seaweed and other algae⁵⁴ with 5.882 tonnes to a value of EUR 6 million. However, as the data are not divided between farmed and wild-caught species, some of the volume probably comes from wild-caught. The largest supplier of seaweed and other algae from Africa was Tanzania with 5.282 tonnes, followed by Madagascar with 469 tonnes. Tanzania is one of the key producers of farmed seaweed, so it is likely that most of the volume is from seaweed and algae aquaculture⁵⁵. Denmark was the largest importer in the EU of seaweed and other algae from Africa with a volume of 5.819 tonnes in 2023, noticeably up from 2022 when the volume was at 2.062 tonnes.

Gilthead seabream and European seabass were the third and fourth largest farmed main commercial species. In 2023, the import volume of these species to the EU was 877 tonnes and 63 tonnes, respectively. The largest suppliers of gilthead seabream in 2023 were Tunisia and Morocco with 215 and 659 tonnes, respectively. The largest EU importers of this species were Italy and Spain, with 600 tonnes and 108 tonnes. Also, for European seabass, Morocco was the largest supplier with 62 tonnes to a value of EUR 546.000. Portugal imported 51 tonnes, while Spain imported 11 tonnes. Of freshwater catfish,

⁵³ Frozen shrimps of the genus "Penaeus", even smoked, whether in shell or not, incl. shrimps in shell, cooked by steaming or by boiling in water

⁵⁴ Seaweeds and other algae, fresh, chilled, frozen or dried, whether or not ground, fit for human consumption

⁵⁵ <https://reefresilience.org/case-studies/tanzania-aquaculture/>

Tanzania was in 2023 the only supplier with 24 tonnes, with all of it going to Italy. While tilapia is the main farmed species in Africa, it supplies very low volumes to the EU, and in 2023, this is only reported at 1 tonne, coming from Mauritania and supplied to France.

Table 30. **IMPORT OF TOP AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS TO THE EU FROM AFRICA BY MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES (volume in tonnes, value in 1.000 EUR)**

MCS	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Warmwater shrimp	12.075	144.922	12.343	147.876	13.032	167.295	13.316	174.468	12.101	163.244
Seaweed and other algae	28	124	2	55	1	61	2.064	2.383	5.822	5.995
Gilthead seabream	320	2.224	173	1.641	304	3.035	118	1.348	877	5.132
European seabass	226	2.453	229	2.277	331	2.958	5	112	63	562
Freshwater catfish				0	1	0	0		24	113
Tilapia	1	4	7	17	1	5	1	5	1	4

Source: EUMOFA elaboration of Eurostat-Comext data

5. Case study: Algae in the EU

Algae⁵⁶ covers a wide range of diverse species of marine algae (seaweed; red, green or brown) and freshwater algae, that grow along the seashore⁵⁷ or in freshwater. In 2022, the global production of seaweed (all marine species combined) reached 37,8 million tonnes, including aquaculture (97%) and wild catches (3%), with the main producers in East and Southeast Asia (China, Indonesia, South Korea). EU production is dynamic (+17% in volume between 2014 and 2022), mainly driven by wild harvesting (99% of the production volume) and accounts for 0,25% of global production. In 2023, the EU imported 141.660 tonnes (net weight) of seaweed and other algae from third countries for a value of EUR 124,4 million, with an increasing trade deficit. Almost all (93% in volume) of EU imports of seaweed and other algae are intended for industrial purposes (including processing into food ingredient). However, there is an increasing interest in direct consumption of seaweed. The main suppliers were Iceland and Norway. EU exports to third countries consisted mostly of seaweed and algae for industrial purposes and reached 48.174 tonnes for a value of EUR 37,6 million in 2023. The main destinations were Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. There is an increasing interest and demand for seaweed and other algae in the EU as illustrated by the increase in EU production and imports, as well as the increasing number of projects and innovations based on seaweed and algae.

5.1. Biology exploitation and management

Marine macroalgae⁵⁸, or seaweeds, are aquatic plants that generally anchor to the sea bottom or other solid structures by rootlike "holdfasts," which function solely as attachment and do not extract nutrients as do the roots of higher plants. Several seaweed species are edible, and many are also of commercial importance to humans. These important bioresources play a major role in the maintenance of the ecosystem, by providing food and shelter to marine life, helping to sequester carbon from the atmosphere, producing oxygen, reducing damage from storms, filtering harmful pollutants, improving water quality and attracting tourists to their rich biodiversity⁵⁹. Algae are used for multiple purposes such as for food, fodder, polysaccharide extraction, biofertilizers, cosmetics, papermaking, and are of increasing interest for the biofuel production^{60,61}.

Marine algae are divided into three different groups, empirically distinguished based on thallus (the algal body) colour: **brown** algae also known as kelp (phylum *Ochrophyta*, class *Phaeophyceae*), **red** algae (phylum *Rhodophyta*) and **green** algae *Bryopsidophyceae*, (phylum *Chlorophyta*, classes *Chlorophyceae*, *Dasycladophyceae*, *Prasinophyceae*, and *Ulvophyceae*). Red and brown algae are almost exclusively marine, whereas green algae can also be found in inland freshwater, and even in terrestrial situations, like rocks, walls and trees⁶².

Asian production is mostly based on aquaculture of marine and freshwater algae, whereas European production relies largely on harvesting. In Europe, the main exploited algae species are *Ascophyllum nodosum* (North Atlantic rockweed), *Laminaria hyperborea* (North European kelp), and *Laminaria digitata* (tangle). These species, and especially kelp forests, are considered among the world's most ecologically dynamic and biologically diverse habitats. Other species are found on the European Atlantic coast, but currently few of them are commercially valuable. The most important species in terms of landings are tangle and North European kelp, which are harvested mechanically by French and Norwegian fishing vessels.

Mechanical harvesting is done by fishing vessels and is practised mainly in Norway (Rogaland to Sør-Trøndelag), France (Brittany), Spain (Galicia and Asturias) and to a lesser degree in the French Basque Country and Ireland. Manual harvesting of seaweed and gathering of storm-cast seaweed are important in France, Ireland, Spain and Portugal. Harvesters gather the cast or cut seaweed at low tide. Diving is another way to harvest seaweed manually and is practised mostly in Portugal.

Management tools differ according to the country, the species, and the harvesting technique. Seaweed harvesting is regulated with different tools: licences or harvesting authorisations, quotas by harvesting zone, individual quotas by boat, harvesting size, and rotation systems. In most harvesting areas, the biomass is not well known, and several current projects aim to assess the importance of the resource in order to adjust the harvesting effort.

However, the preservation of kelp has become a strong environmental concern, and some countries have decided to protect these habitats by restricting the use of mechanical harvesting or by creating protected areas around them. Kelp harvesting

⁵⁶ European standard EN 17399:2020 defines algae as a functional group of organisms consisting of microalgae, macroalgae, cyanobacteria and labyrinthulomycetes

⁵⁷ <https://www.britannica.com/science/seaweed>

⁵⁸ Refers to several species of macroscopic, multicellular, marine algae, as opposed to phytoplankton (microalgae).

⁵⁹ <https://www.unep.org/topics/ocean-seas-and-coasts/blue-ecosystems/seaweeds-kelp#:~:text=Seaweeds%20play%20a%20crucial%20role%20in%20aquatic%20ecosystems,quality%20and%20attracting%20tourists%20to%20their%20rich%20biodiversity.>

⁶⁰ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/B9780128027721000038?via%3Dihub>

⁶¹ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969723023355>

⁶² <http://www.seaweed.ie/algae/seaweeds.php>

is blamed for harming the ecosystem because of the damage it can cause to substrata and the habitats of certain species. For example, seaweed harvesting was recently forbidden in the Spanish Basque Country owing to the implementation of a Natura 2000 marine area⁶³.

5.2. Production

Global catches

In 2022, global catches of wild seaweed (all species combined) reached 1,3 million tonnes LWE. It was mostly caught in the Southeast Pacific (41% of volumes), Northeast Atlantic (23%) and Northwest Pacific (21%). Three main producers gathered two thirds of global catches: Chile (37%), China (15%) and Norway (14%). During 2013-2022, volumes decreased by 4% but stayed mainly stable, apart from a drop in 2018.

Over the decade, caught species were numerous and diverse. In addition to an important share of unnamed catches, Chilean and North European kelp accounted for 16% and 12% respectively of global production, followed by North Atlantic rockweed, red seaweed and North European kelp (6% for each). Kelp species thus accounted for about 40% of production.

Although relatively stable in total, catches have varied significantly among species over the last decade (2013-2022), with a decline in the most important species (-26% for Chilean kelp, -62% for brown seaweed) and a big development of minor species (710% for Northern European kelp, 128% for green seaweed, 117% for *Lessonia trabeculata*). Global catches of seaweed averaged 1,2 million tonnes a year, decreasing up to 2018, then increasing again after 2018. The species listed below account each for at least 3% of global catches, while other minor species are classified as 'Others'.

Table 31. **EVOLUTION OF WORLD CATCHES OF SEAWEED BY SPECIES GROUP (volume in tonnes LWE)**

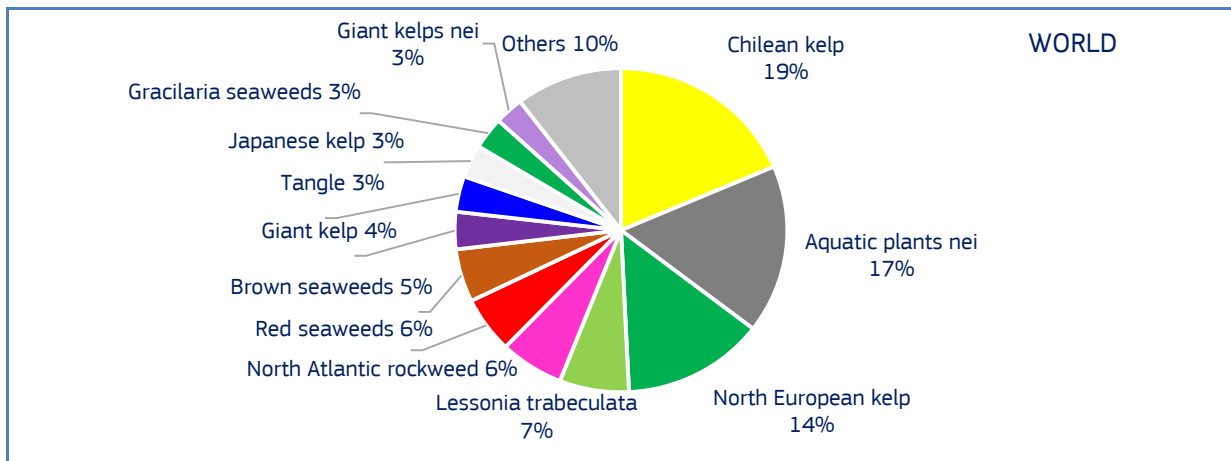
Species	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Chilean kelp	314.185	220.238	115.452	156.431	211.299	66.436	184.048	189.211	197.088	232.643
Aquatic plants nei ⁶⁴	314.189	274.093	285.821	294.951	264.017	226.082	197.231	239.482	222.625	210.693
North European kelp	21.384	30.158	18.192	10.185	10.261	18.993	47.781	151.125	162.028	173.199
<i>Lessonia trabeculata</i>	38.947	60.860	72.317	51.466	73.284	36.562	63.264	68.925	70.471	84.573
North Atlantic rockweed	63.149	60.604	55.766	77.819	83.144	89.649	75.746	75.812	78.145	77.948
Red seaweeds	53.262	90.843	77.886	85.691	78.780	65.699	67.566	75.283	65.968	70.258
Brown seaweeds	174.121	174.218	169.152	137.915	134.290	144.462	188.805	79.955	70.051	66.204
Giant kelp	20.135	23.932	14.232	28.220	24.899	35.656	32.794	46.253	45.494	46.662
Tangle	53.590	23.085	33.229	36.380	36.362	31.793	26.576	35.153	42.182	44.559
Japanese kelp	56.948	66.766	71.629	58.052	45.526	55.891	46.558	45.060	45.178	40.915
Gracilaria seaweeds	46.053	32.352	45.344	26.423	47.653	58.167	53.955	46.265	42.256	39.710
Giant kelps nei	30.612	25.714	28.620	31.911	29.948	32.886	34.053	42.961	36.612	35.058
Others	123.167	112.695	117.016	98.477	82.781	85.256	110.251	107.594	96.460	129.876
Total	1.309.742	1.195.558	1.104.656	1.093.921	1.122.244	947.533	1.128.628	1.203.078	1.174.558	1.252.297

Source: FAO.

Figure 51. **GLOBAL CATCHES OF SEAWEED BY SPECIES IN 2022 (% of volume)**

⁶³ Netaglae project

⁶⁴ "not elsewhere included"; when is not possible to identify to the species and more than one species is included in the same group



Source: FAO.

In 2022, three countries (Chile, China and Norway) accounted for 66% of global catches, although new countries emerged over the decade. Minor countries saw important increases (India, +137%; Peru, +130%), whilst Indonesia (+426%) recorded the biggest development going from 10th to 5th place in world catches volumes between 2013 and 2022. The main producers experienced more heterogenous developments (Chile, -10%; China, -31%; Norway, +11%). The countries described below each account for at least 1% of global catches, while other minor countries are classified as 'Others'.

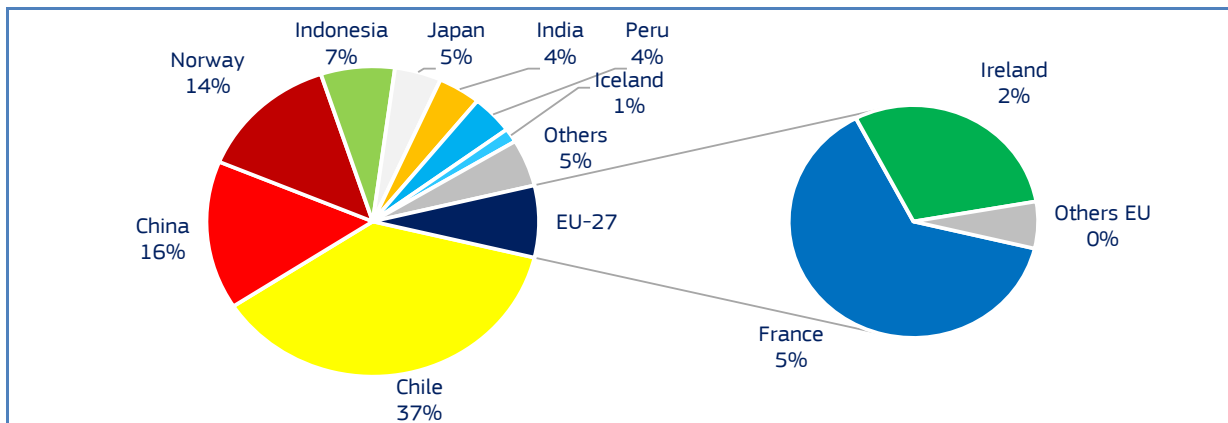
Table 32. **WORLD'S MAIN HARVESTERS OF WILD SEAWEED (volume in tonnes LWE)**

Country	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Chile	517.929	417.331	345.704	329.707	415.463	247.025	404.926	409.258	394.860	464.024
China	283.010	245.550	261.770	231.707	203.490	183.490	174.450	219.780	204.380	193.980
Norway	154.150	154.322	147.391	169.407	164.550	170.693	163.545	152.810	160.432	171.142
EU-27	102.129	80.470	80.324	78.640	78.578	74.475	68.972	81.911	90.787	93.774
Indonesia	17.136	70.514	48.740	41.194	42.000	42.000	109.483	106.030	89.357	90.111
Japan	84.498	91.601	94.084	80.721	69.970	78.901	66.842	63.394	61.780	56.600
India	22.000	18.890	18.650	20.576	19.640	15.930	18.400	28.545	33.345	52.107
Peru	22.146	25.682	19.810	31.773	27.779	38.592	37.859	50.424	49.491	50.896
Iceland	17.168	18.427	16.830	17.985	21.546	20.501	17.533	15.725	16.407	18.300
Others	89.576	72.771	71.353	92.211	79.228	75.926	66.618	75.200	73.720	61.364
Total	1.309.742	1.195.558	1.104.656	1.093.921	1.122.244	947.533	1.128.628	1.203.078	1.174.558	1.252.297

Source: FAO.

Among the producers, shares per species show specificities in line with national productions. Based on their most widespread ecosystems, countries tended to catch similar and specific seaweeds over the decade, except for one major shift in Indonesian production, which went from monospecific production of red seaweed (100%) to brown seaweeds from 2019 (52% in 2022). However, most of the countries generally represent specific catches: Chilean kelp for Chile (50% in 2022), tangle and North Atlantic rockweed for EU-27 (respectively 45% and 30%), Japanese kelp for Japan (72%) and giant kelp for Peru (92%).

Figure 52. **GLOBAL CATCHES OF SEAWEED IN 2022, BY COUNTRY (% of volume)**



Source: FAO.

EU production

In 2022, the EU-27 catches of seaweed represented 7% of world catches, and reached 93.774 tonnes, an 8% decrease compared to 2013. However, these catches represented 99% of production in 2022, and have been increasing in volume during 2019-2022. They almost exclusively occurred in the Northeast Atlantic (99% in 2022, and from 98% to 99% each year), and rarely in the Mediterranean Sea (1% - 2%). The main EU producers were France and Ireland, together accounting for 94% of EU catches (63% and 31% respectively). Although catches declined significantly between 2013 and 2019 (-32%), they have subsequently rebounded (+36% in 2022). That trend is mainly driven by France, the major producer and accounting for more than half of EU-27 catches every year (except 2019) with a 2022 growth rate of 5%.

Table 33. EU CATCHES OF SEAWEED (volume in tonnes live weight)

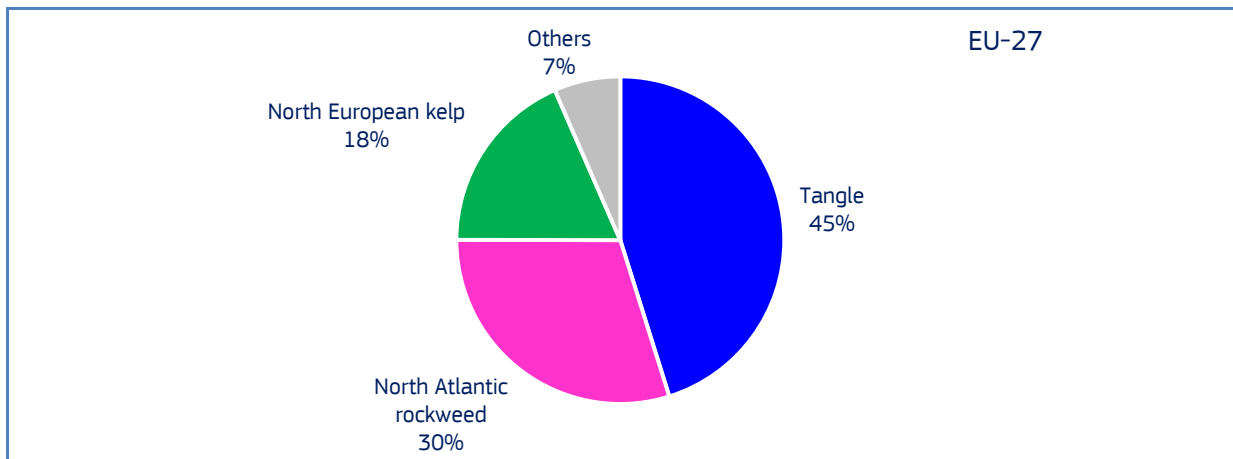
Country	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
France	69.126	46.211	45.251	41.771	41.570	38.672	33.948	47.435	57.037	59.670
Ireland	29.500	29.500	29.500	29.500	29.500	29.500	29.500	29.500	28.000	28.000
Spain	1.215	2.151	2.386	3.493	3.415	3.255	3.152	2.402	2.603	3.316
Portugal	839	782	1.574	2.328	2.857	1.848	1.111	1.175	1.766	1.207
Italy	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200
Estonia	249	626	413	348	36	0	60	200	181	381
Total	102.129	80.470	80.324	78.640	78.578	74.475	68.972	81.911	90.787	93.774

Source: FAO.⁶⁵

Three species were prominent in EU-27 catches in 2022: tangle (45%), North Atlantic rockweed (30%) and North European kelp (18%). The countries specialise: France mainly catches tangle (*Laminaria digitata*) (71% in 2022) and North European kelp (*Laminaria hyperborea*) (29%) and Ireland is highly specialized in North Atlantic rockweed (*Ascophyllum nodosum*) (100% in 2022). Other minor countries also tend to specialise (Portugal and Estonia with 100% red seaweeds, Italy with 67% green seaweeds). In total, EU-27 catches in 2022 were composed of 45% tangle, 30% North Atlantic rockweed, 18% North European kelp and 7% other species.

Figure 53. EU-27 CATCHES OF SEAWEED BY SPECIES IN 2022 (% of volume)

⁶⁵ FAO. Fishstat, dataset 'Global capture production - Quantity (1950-2022)'. Species filter: seaweed



Source: FAO.

Global aquaculture production

Aquaculture of seaweed is much larger than catches of wild seaweed (aquaculture volumes 29 times higher than catches in 2022) and has experienced steady sustained growth rates of 30% over the decade 2013-2022, and 4% in 2022. The overwhelming majority of the production is in East and Southeast Asia (>99% in 2022). Over 2013-2022, the fastest developments of seaweed aquaculture among the main producers were in China (53%) and South Korea (52%).

Figure 54. **WORLD AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION OF SEAWEED AND OTHER ALGAE BY COUNTRY (volume in thousand tonnes LWE)**

Country	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
China	14.690	15.022	15.619	16.501	17.534	18.575	20.177	20.863	21.584	22.504
Indonesia	9.298	10.077	11.269	11.050	10.548	10.320	9.776	9.618	8.957	9.220
South Korea	1.131	1.087	1.197	1.351	1.762	1.711	1.813	1.762	1.852	1.730
Philippines	1.558	1.550	1.566	1.405	1.415	1.478	1.500	1.469	1.344	1.545
North Korea	446	502	502	553	553	603	603	603	603	603
Japan	418	374	400	391	408	391	346	398	336	325
Malaysia	269	245	261	206	203	174	188	182	179	308
Tanzania	117	140	174	119	118	106	98	89	145	167
Others	63	70	75	65	64	70	80	89	97	103
Total	27.993	29.067	31.064	31.641	32.603	33.428	34.582	35.073	35.097	36.505

Source: FAO

In 2022, farming took place mainly in the Northwest Pacific (69%) and Western Central Pacific (30%), in marine waters (95%). Eight seaweed types accounted for 98% of the world aquaculture production (see below). Over the period 2013-2022, the growth of seaweed aquaculture was mainly driven by *Gracilaria* seaweeds (126%), Japanese kelp (46%) and Nori seaweeds (100%). Specificities appear in national productions: *Euclima* seaweeds in Indonesia (84% of the total national production in 2022) and spiny *Euclima* in Tanzania (99%), Nori in Japan (71%), Elkhorn Sea moss in the Philippines and Malaysia (96% and 100% respectively), and Japanese kelp in North Korea (99%). China and South Korea presented more diversified production with a prominence of Japanese kelp (43% in China, 32% in South Korea), wakame (34% in South Korea). In sum, the three biggest volumes of farmed seaweed concerned Japanese kelp (10,9 million tonnes LWE in 2022), *Euclima* (7,8 million tonnes) and *Gracilaria* seaweeds (7,6 million tonnes) (source: FAO).

EU aquaculture production

Overview | [1. First sales in Europe](#) | [2. Extra-EU imports](#) | [3. Consumption](#)

| [4. Aquaculture in Africa](#) | [5. Algae in the EU](#) | [6. Global highlights](#) | [7. Macroeconomic context](#)

In 2022, with 1.019 tonnes of farmed algae, EU-27 aquaculture production represented less than 0,01% of the world's farmed volumes. EU aquaculture production experienced a 50% decrease over the decade (mainly driven by Denmark), though relaunching with a 47% annual growth in 2022 mainly in Ireland and France. Aquaculture mostly took place in marine (67%) and fresh (31%) waters, located in the Atlantic (69%), or in inland waters (11%) with no production in the Mediterranean Sea. Once again, in 2022, the main producers were Ireland (48% of EU-27) and France (41%, including La Réunion island), and mostly contributed to drive the EU-27 production. Denmark however used to be the major top producer in the EU, but farmed volumes fell from 2014.

Figure 55. **EU AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION OF SEAWEED AND OTHER ALGAE (volume in tonnes LWE)**

Country	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Ireland	42	100	70	50	41	40	42	42	214	493
France	100	100	100	100	100	367	383	343	353	416
Greece	93	126	148	96	103	130	142	92	62	58
Spain	2	3	1	4	9	17	17	35	30	23
Portugal	0	4	2	2	33	35	35	17	17	17
Denmark	1800	100	101	100	10	12	0	22	9	8
Bulgaria	0	0	0	8	4	1	3	5	10	5
Total	2.036	433	422	360	301	602	622	556	695	1.019

Source: FAO

Over 2013-2022, EU aquaculture diversified, shifting from a quasi-monospecific brown seaweeds-based aquaculture located on Denmark (categorized in "Others" due to the eventual weak volumes in 2022) to a production in diverse countries (see above) based on new species, though with different volumes. Spirulina was in 2022 the main aquaculture production in Greece and Bulgaria (100%), Spain (78%), and France (57%) which though concentrated 74% of this EU production.

Figure 56. **EU AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION OF SEAWEED AND OTHER ALGAE BY SPECIES (volume in tonnes LWE)**

Species	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Seaweeds nei	2	1	71	52	48	48	119	99	268	547
Spirulina nei	93	126	148	97	104	390	353	348	323	315
Wakame	0	0	0	0	0	68	105	70	78	133
Others	1.942	305	202	211	149	96	45	39	26	24
Total	2.036	433	422	360	301	602	622	556	695	1.019

Source: FAO

5.3. Processing

More than 400 companies are active in the production and processing of algal biomass in the EU. Almost all of EU production originate from wild harvesting, done manually or mechanically to a smaller extent (10% of macroalgae companies)⁶⁶. The production from aquaculture consists mainly of coastal and offshore aquaculture systems (68% of the total companies) and to a lesser extent of on land systems. Production and processing companies are located in coastal areas, close to the harvesting areas or the aquaculture systems in order to limit the deterioration of seaweed between harvesting and processing. In France, 28 companies producing macroalgae are located in Brittany, except for one company which is located on the South coast on the Mediterranean Sea⁶⁷. In Ireland, where 27 companies produce macroalgae, the majority are located on the west coast, similarly to Spain and Portugal.

⁶⁶ Vazquez Calderon, F. and Sanchez Lopez, J., An overview of the algae industry in Europe, Guillen Garcia, J. and Avraamides, M. editor(s), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022

⁶⁷ Vazquez Calderon, F. and Sanchez Lopez, J., An overview of the algae industry in Europe, Guillen Garcia, J. and Avraamides, M. editor(s), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022

In 2023, 78% of the European harvested volumes were used for industrial purposes. The seaweed processing industry is composed of two categories: the processing of seaweed and algae for the food industry (food ingredient and food supplement) and to a lesser extent the processing of algae for other industrial uses (applications in cosmetics, fertilizers and biostimulants). Industrial uses rely on the extraction of specific compounds from seaweed: alginates (biopolymers extracted from brown algae primarily used in food industry for their stabilizing and thickening properties in dairy products, for their gelling properties and to improve textures in confectionery, as well as for stabilization and water retention in processed food, and as dietary supplements), agar-agar (biopolymer extracted from red algae with gelling properties, used in the food industry and in microbiology as cell culture media), and carrageenan (biopolymer extracted from red algae presenting gelling, thickening and stabilizing properties used in the food industry).

While algae sector in the EU is small and growing in few coastal countries, algae have been harvested and used as traditional food for decades in France, Spain (Galicia), and Ireland. New types of industry have developed recently, following increasing demand from European consumers, in line with health and sustainability trends. All edible algae (direct consumption without extraction of specific compounds) are harvested and dried manually. The sector will benefit from the recent addition (2024) of more than twenty species of algae to [the EU novel food catalogue](#). The species added were traditionally used as food in EU Member States and can from now on be marketed as food and food supplement without having to obtain a novel food authorisation.

Moreover, thanks to their biological properties, algae display a wide range of potential uses in several sectors. Their properties are already used for applications in the pharmaceutical and cosmetic sectors and are of real interest for more emerging sectors such as animal feed industry, biofuels and bio-based plastics⁶⁸. However, there are still high difficulties for reaching market requirements.

Identified as a sustainable and renewable resource in Europe, the algae sector now benefits from European Commission support to ensure coherence in actions and measures, supporting the development and upscaling of this promising field for the EU blue bioeconomy⁶⁹. Such actions include improvement of the governance framework and legislation, improvement of the business environment (through support for innovations, new businesses and scale-up initiatives, for example the **BlueInvest Platform**) as well as strengthening links between actors of the sector (for example via the implementation of the **European Blue Forum** of sea users, enabling discussion between stakeholders and scientists). Through Horizon Europe projects and other research projects which bring together researchers and stakeholders from the algae sector, the EC supports the development of new production methods and processing systems, including the development of the algae biofuel sector which faces several technological and systemic challenges. Such projects include for example the **ALG-AD project**, a Interreg NEW funded project which aims at producing animal feed and products of value based on the cultivation of algal biomass on food and farm waste, as well as the **EU4Algae platform** which aims at accelerating the development of the EU algae industry by bringing together European algae stakeholders.

5.4. Import – Export

Since 2012, the Combined Nomenclature used for registering EU import-export data has distinguished between seaweed and other algae⁷⁰ fit for human consumption (direct consumption of macroalgae) and those unfit for human consumption, intended for further industrial purposes including the production of food ingredients or applications in cosmetic and fertilizer sectors. In 2023, the EU had a **trade deficit** of EUR 36,4 million for algae fit for **direct human consumption** and EUR 50,2 million for algae intended **for further industrial purposes**. Since 2015, these deficits have increased by 195% and 31% respectively (EUR 13 million and EUR 40 million). The deficits may be attributable to increased imports of macroalgae for the processing industry (+143% in volume over the 2014-2023 period, mainly from Chile and Iceland) and the relatively low share of EU production dedicated to direct food consumption.

In 2023, **extra-EU-27 imports** amounted to 141.660 tonnes (net weight) of seaweed and other algae, at a value of EUR 124,4 million. Imports consisted mostly of seaweed and other algae for further industrial purposes, accounting for 65% of the total value and 93% of total volume of imports. For seaweed and algae for industrial uses, the main extra-EU suppliers

⁶⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the regions, *Towards a Strong and Sustainable EU Algae Sector*, 2022

⁶⁹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the regions, *Towards a Strong and Sustainable EU Algae Sector*, 2022

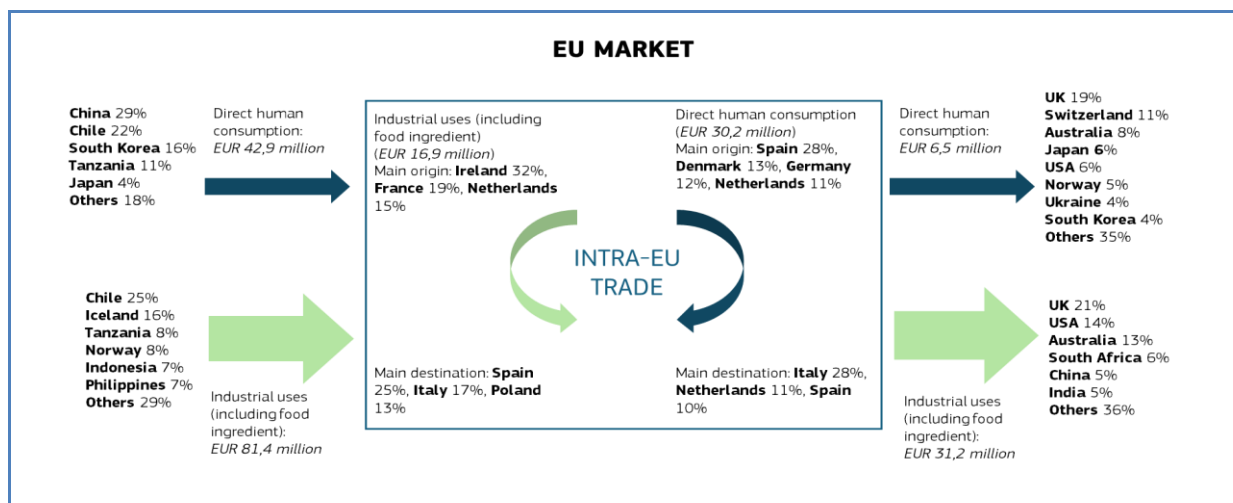
⁷⁰12122100: Seaweed and other algae, fresh, chilles, frozen or dired, whether ground or not, fit for human consumption
12122900: Seaweed and other algae, fresh, chilles, frozen or dired, whether ground or not, unfit for human consumption

in volume in 2023 were Iceland (61.346 tonnes, amounting to EUR 13,3 million) and Norway (41.179 tonnes, amounting to EUR 6,1 million). For seaweed and algae for direct human consumption, in 2023, the main extra-EU suppliers in volume were Tanzania (5.282 tonnes, amounting to EUR 4,9 million), Chile (1.957 tonnes, amounting to EUR 9,4 million), and China (1.049 tonnes, amounting to EUR 12,3 million). Between 2014 and 2023 extra-EU imports increased by 117% in volume and by 70% in value (+80% in volume between 2017 and 2020 alone), mainly driven by increased imports of seaweed and other algae for industrial uses (+143% in volume and +89% in value). As the EU production of seaweed and other algae has also increased during the last years (+19,3% between 2017 and 2022, but remained below the 2014 level), the significant increasing trend of imports since 2017 may be explained by an increasing demand in the EU for algae that local production is unable to meet.

Intra-EU trade is active for both uses. In 2023, Ireland and France were the main intra-EU suppliers of seaweed and algae for industrial purposes (7.788 tonnes and 3.499 tonnes exported respectively). Italy, Poland, Netherlands, Belgium and Spain were the main destinations of these intra-EU exports. In 2023, intra-EU supply of algae for direct human consumption originated almost exclusively from Denmark (9.086 tonnes in 2023) and was imported mostly by Spain (8.796 tonnes).

Extra-EU exports amounted to 48.174 tonnes, for a value of EUR 37,6 million in 2023. Exports of seaweed and algae for direct human consumption are relatively low (574 tonnes, amounting to EUR 6,5 million in 2023), and have decreased by 62% since 2014 in relation to the fall in exports from Ireland (-95%). The main destinations in 2023 were the United Kingdom (150 tonnes) and South Korea (80 tonnes). Türkiye, which was the main destination of EU-exports in 2014 (1.100 tonnes), did not import algae for direct human consumption in 2023. EU-Exports of seaweed and algae for industrial uses amounted to 47.600 tonnes in 2023 for a value of EUR 31,1 million. EU exports originated almost exclusively from Ireland (43.542 tonnes amounting to EUR 25,6 million) and the main destinations were Australia (10.715 tonnes), the United Kingdom (8.281 tonnes), the United States (6.819 tonnes), and South Africa (4.262 tonnes).

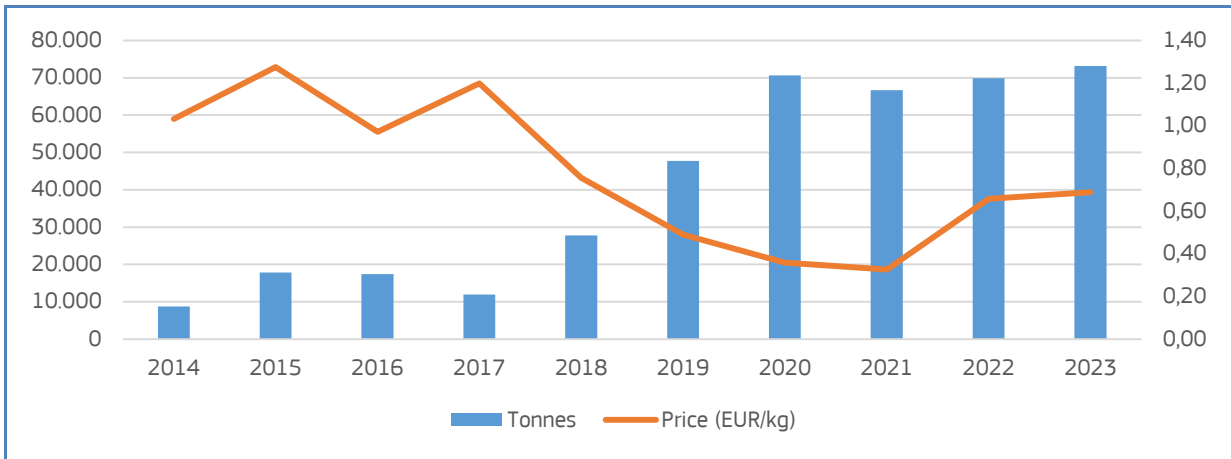
Figure 57. **SEAWEED AND ALGAE TRADE MARKET IN 2023 (VALUE)**



Source: EUMOFA elaboration of Eurostat-COMEXT data.

In France, the largest producer and processor of seaweed and algae in the EU, imports of seaweed and algae for industrial uses have experienced a strong increase in volume between 2014 and 2020 (705%) and have remained relatively stable since then. The value of these imports also experienced an increase but to a lower extent (457% between 2014 and 2023), explaining the 33% fall in the price of seaweed and other algae imports over the period from 1,03 EUR/kg in 2014 to 0,69 EUR/kg in 2023.

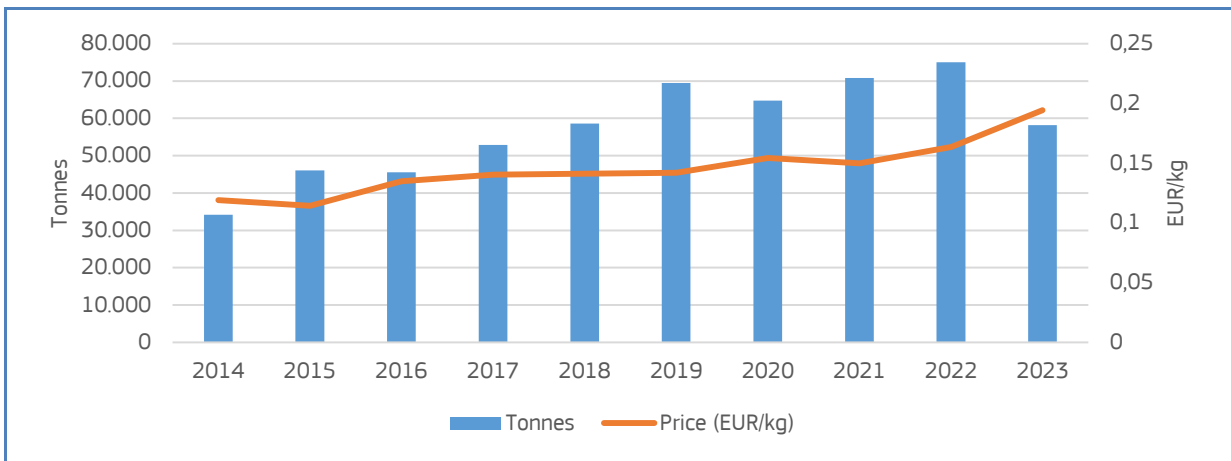
Figure 58. **FRENCH IMPORTS OF SEAWEED AND ALGAE FOR INDUSTRIAL USES**



Source: EUMOFA elaboration of Eurostat-COMEXT data.

Ireland is the second producer and processor of seaweed and algae in the EU. Imports of algae for industrial purposes have gradually increased since 2014, reaching 75.020 tonnes in 2022. Overall imported volumes have increased by 71% over the period (2014-2023) with a slight decrease of 22% over the last year. Imports have increased in value by 178%. Price therefore followed a similar trend with an overall increase of 63% over the decade, from 0,12 EUR/kg in 2014 to 0,19 EUR/kg in 2023.

Figure 59. IRISH IMPORTS OF SEAWEED AND ALGAE FOR INDUSTRIAL USES

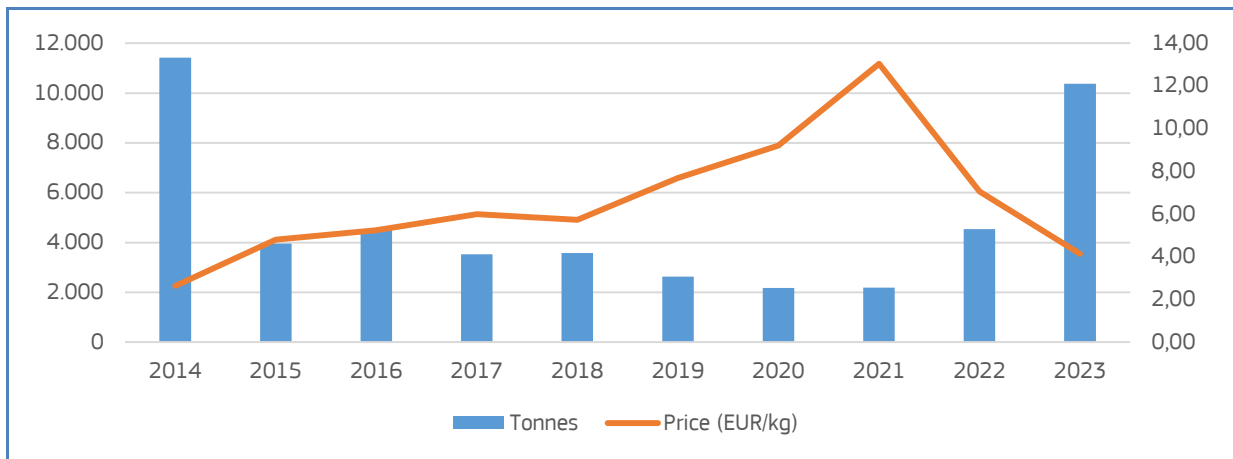


Source: EUMOFA elaboration of Eurostat-COMEXT data.

In both France and Ireland, we could have expected that the decrease of the production from 2014 to 2019 would be compensated by increasing imports of seaweed and algae for industrial purposes. However, parallelly to the decrease of the production between 2014 and 2019, the imports remained relatively stable over the same period. Since 2019, imports increased in both countries, following the same trend as the production. This may be explained by dynamic sectors and markets that the local production cannot supply entirely.

As for seaweed and algae for direct human consumption, volumes imported in the EU experienced a strong decrease between 2014 and 2021 (from 11.425 tonnes to 2.184 tonnes) before increasing in the following years, reaching 10.379 tonnes in 2023. Overall, there was a 9% decline in imported volumes. Over the period, however, prices experienced a strong increasing trend, from 2,64 EUR/kg to 4,14 EUR/kg (with a maximum of 13,04 EUR/kg in 2021). Since 2021, the increasing imports might indicate growing direct consumption in the EU of seaweed and algae that local production is unable to supply.

Figure 60. EU IMPORTS OF SEAWEED AND ALGAE FOR DIRECT HUMAN CONSUMPTION



Source: EUMOFA elaboration of Eurostat-COMEXT data.

5.5. Consumption

Human consumption of algae has always been important in Asian countries, especially Japan and China, where algae farming is intensive, but also traditionally in European coastal communities (for example in France, Norway, Wales, and Ireland).

The most important Asian species for human consumption are Nori (*Porphyra* species), Kombu (*Laminaria* and *Saccharina* species), and Wakame (*Undaria pinnatifida*). Nori is especially used in many sushi dishes, for rice balls and as a condiment for various noodle, soup and other dishes.

In addition to being eaten in Asian restaurants, there is renewed interest in European countries in the consumption of seaweeds, because of their rich protein and mineral content and because they are considered healthy and natural⁷¹.

⁷¹ https://www.seaweed.ie/uses_general/humanfood.php

6. Global highlights

EU / Aquaculture: The European Commission has released three staff working documents to advance sustainable aquaculture in the EU, addressing access to **space and water for freshwater and land-based aquaculture, climate-change adaptation, and energy transition**. These documents provide practical guidance, good practices, and examples of EU-funded projects to support climate adaptation plans and decarbonization efforts in the sector. Developed collaboratively with stakeholders, they build on strategic guidelines to enhance the sustainability and competitiveness of EU aquaculture.⁷²



EU / Bulgaria: A family-run business in Bulgaria has transformed the invasive *Rapana venosa* sea snail from a nuisance into a culinary local delicacy and export product, supported by EU funding through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). With investments in processing facilities, shock-freezing technology and local sales outlets, the company has boosted the local economy, created a sustainable market, and mitigated the ecological impact of the invasive species on native Black Sea ecosystems. The company success, processing over 750 tonnes of seafood, has inspired other businesses in the region to explore innovative uses for underutilized marine species while promoting environmental sustainability.⁷³

EU / Baltic Sea: The EU adopted legislation to improve the selectivity of flatfish fisheries in the Baltic Sea, aiming to reduce incidental catches of cod, a severely depleted stock, by at least 55% in ICES subdivisions 22-26. Mandatory measures include the use of more selective fishing gears, such as a roofless selection device and larger-mesh nets, allowing cod to escape while enabling flatfish harvesting. Operators have until 9 April 2025 to comply with these rules, supported by funding from the European Maritime, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF).⁷⁴

EU / Trade: The EU Commission is responding to the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) "Stop finning – Stop the trade" by enhancing shark trade monitoring through 13 new tariff codes starting in January 2025, enabling better tracking of sharks and their fins. Following a public consultation in 2024, which revealed strong public support for enhanced shark protection, the Commission completed the first phase of its impact assessment on a trade ban on detached fins and alternative measures. While further assessments and an external study are planned for 2025, the Commission is simultaneously enforcing existing EU measures, improving traceability, and advocating for global shark conservation and a worldwide ban on shark finning.⁷⁵

EU / Greenland / SFPA: The European Union and Greenland have signed the renewed protocol implementing the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA), ensuring that EU vessels can fish species like cod, redfish and shrimp in Greenland from 2025 to 2030. The agreement, based on scientific advice, adjusts quotas to enhance sustainability, with increased cod and redfish quotas, reduced west halibut and east prawn quotas, and an annual EU contribution of EUR 17,3 million, including EUR 3,2 million for Greenland's fisheries development. The new protocol will provisionally take effect from the date of its signing and enter into full force once ratified by both parties.⁷⁶

EU / Sustainability: EU Member States have agreed on ambitious new targets for offshore renewable energy deployment, aiming for approximately 111 GW of installed capacity by 2030, nearly doubling the previous objective. These targets are tailored to each of the EU's five sea basins, with intermediate goals set for 2030 and 2040. The agreement underscores the EU's commitment to sustainable energy expansion and climate change mitigation.⁷⁷

Iceland / Fisheries: In November, fish catch totalled nearly 94.000 tonnes, a 7% increase year-on-year, with demersal fish accounting for over 32.000 tonnes, including 19.000 tonnes of cod. Pelagic catch reached nearly 60.000 tonnes, a 24% rise, mainly comprising herring and blue whiting. Over the past 12 months, total catch reached 979.000 tonnes, a 29% drop compared to the previous year, primarily due to the absence of capelin.⁷⁸

⁷² https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-releases-recommendations-and-good-practices-sustainable-aquaculture-2024-12-17_en

⁷³ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/news/invasive-innovative-delicious-sea-snails-black-sea-2024-12-12_en

⁷⁴ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/news/new-selective-gears-baltic-help-rebuild-cod-stocks-2024-12-13_en

⁷⁵ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-improves-shark-trade-monitoring-part-follow-european-citizens-initiative-2024-12-16_en

⁷⁶ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/news/european-union-and-greenland-renew-their-sustainable-fisheries-partnership-2024-12-12_en

⁷⁷ <https://thefishingdaily.com/eu-fishing-industry-news/eu-member-states-agree-on-ambitious-offshore-renewable-energy-expansion/>

⁷⁸ <https://statice.is/publications/news-archive/fisheries/fish-catch-in-november-2024/>

7. Macroeconomic Context

7.1. Marine fuel

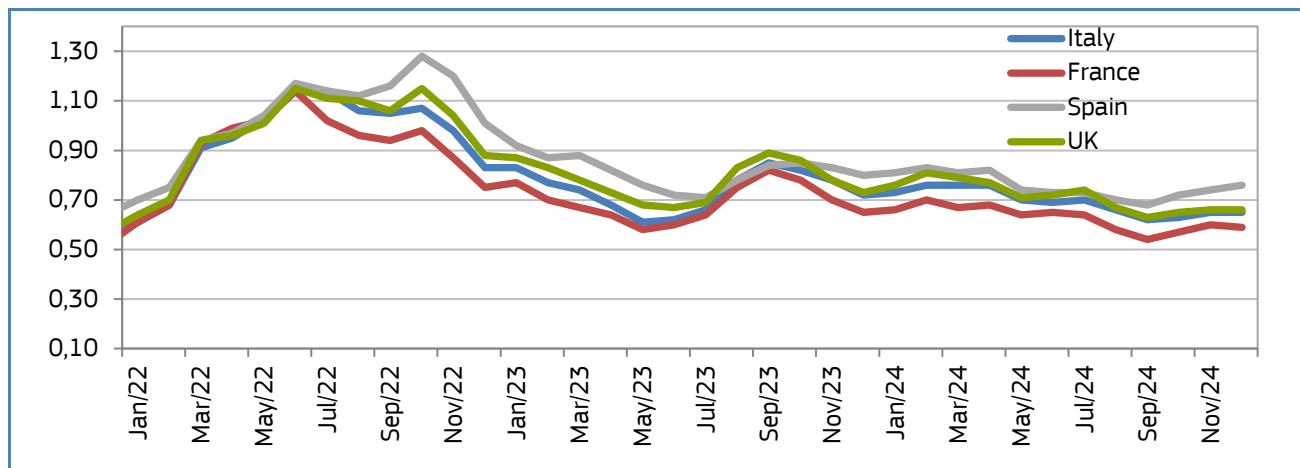
Average prices for Marine fuel in **December 2024** ranged between 0,59 and 0,76 EUR/litre in ports in **France, Italy, Spain** and the **UK**. Prices increased by an average of 0,4% compared with the previous month and decreased by an average of 8,3% compared with the same month in 2023.

Table 36. **AVERAGE PRICE OF MARINE DIESEL IN FRANCE, ITALY, SPAIN, AND THE UK (EUR/litre)**

Member State	Nov 2024	Change from Oct 2024	Change from Nov 2023
France <i>(ports of Lorient and Boulogne)</i>	0,59	-2%	-9%
Italy <i>(ports of Ancona and Livorno)</i>	0,65	0%	-10%
Spain <i>(ports of A Coruña and Vigo)</i>	0,76	3%	-5%
The UK <i>(ports of Grimsby and Aberdeen)</i>	0,66	0%	-10%

Source: Chamber of Commerce of Forlì-Cesena, Italy; DPMA, France; MABUX.

Figure 56. **AVERAGE PRICE OF MARINE DIESEL IN ITALY, FRANCE, SPAIN, AND THE UK (EUR/litre)**

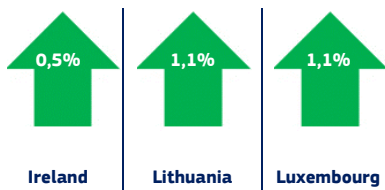


Source: Chamber of Commerce of Forlì-Cesena, Italy; DPMA, France; MABUX.

7.2. Consumer prices

The EU annual inflation rate was 2,5% in November 2024, up from 2,3% in October 2024. A year earlier, the rate was 3,1%.

Inflation: lowest rates in October 2024, compared with October 2024.



Inflation: highest rates in October 2024, compared with October 2024.

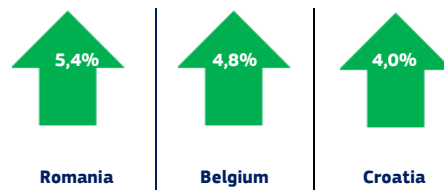


Table 37. HARMONISED INDEX OF CONSUMER PRICES IN THE EU (2015 = 100)

	Nov 2022	Nov 2023	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Change from Oct 2024		Change from Nov 2023	
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	132,33	141,29	144,41	144,82	↑	0,3%	↑	2,5%
Fish and seafood	131,65	139,33	141,45	141,23	↓	-0,2%	↑	1,4%

Source: Eurostat.

7.3. Exchange rates

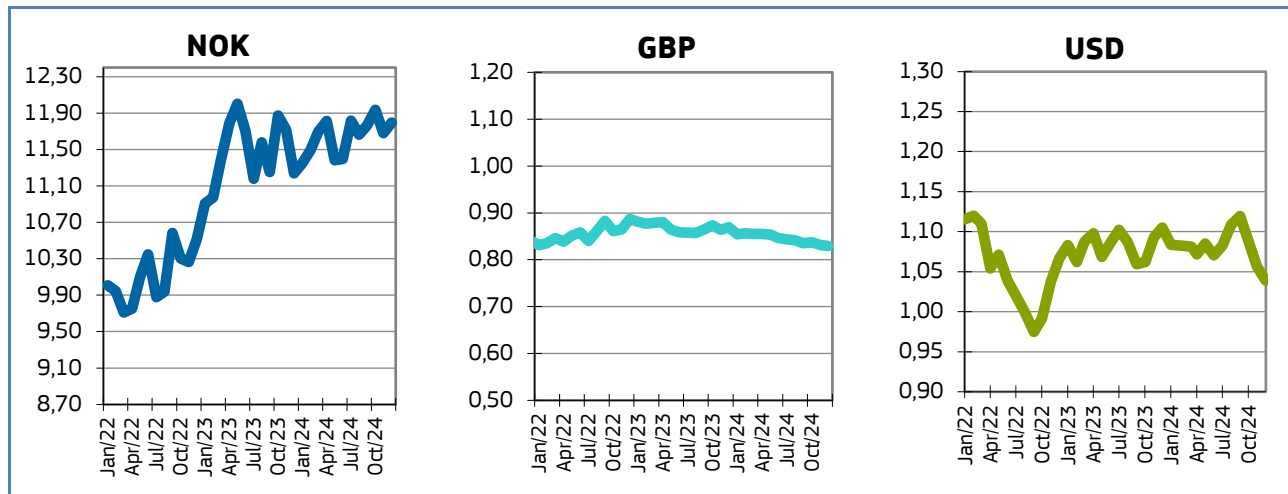
Table 38. EURO EXCHANGE RATES FOR SELECTED CURRENCIES

Currency	Dec 2022	Dec 2023	Nov 2024	Dec 2024
NOK	10,5138	11,2405	11,6805	11,7950
GBP	0,8869	0,8691	0,8321	0,8292
USD	1,0666	1,1050	1,0562	1,0389

Source: European Central Bank.

In December 2024, the euro appreciated against the Norwegian krone (1,0%) and depreciated against the US dollar (1,6%) and the British pound sterling (0,3%) relative to the previous month. For the past six months, the euro has fluctuated around 1,0824 against the US dollar. Compared with December 2023, the euro has appreciated 4,9% against the Norwegian krone and depreciated 4,6% against the British pound sterling and 6,0% against the US dollar.

Figure 57. TREND OF EURO EXCHANGE RATES



Source: European Central Bank.

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This report has been compiled using EUMOFA data and the following sources:

First sales: ICES, GFCM, FAO, fishsource.org, EUR-lex, DG Mare European Commission,

Consumption: FishBase.

Case studies: Taylor & Francis Group, African Development Bank Group, The World Aquaculture Society, FAO, IntraFish, The African Union Commission, Science Direct, The Fish Site, African Business, World Fish Center, Reef Resilience Network, Eurostat COMEXT, European Commission Communication, Britannica, UNEP, Seaweed.ie, Netalgae project.

Global highlights: Oceans and fisheries, The Fishing Daily, Statistics Iceland.

Macroeconomic context: EUROSTAT, Chamber of Commerce of Forlì-Cesena, Italy: DPMA, France: ARVI, Spain: MABUX, European Central Bank.

The underlying first-sales data are in an annex available on the EUMOFA website. Analyses are made at aggregated (main commercial species) level and according to the EU Electronic recording and reporting system (ERS).

In the context of this Monthly Highlight, analyses are led in current prices and expressed in nominal values.

The European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products (EUMOFA)

was developed by the European Commission, representing one of the tools of the new Market Policy in the framework of the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. [Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 art. 42].

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