



Last update: 29-01-2025

## THE NETHERLANDS IN THE WORLD AND IN THE EU

2022, sources: Eurostat and FAO

In 2022, the Netherlands ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the EU-27 in terms of fishery production and 8<sup>th</sup> for farmed production.

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-27	Netherlands	% world	% EU-27
Catches	92.050	3.466	300	0,33%	9%
Aquaculture	130.885	1.089	39	0,03%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>222.936</b>	<b>4.554</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>0,15%</b>	<b>7%</b>

## FISHING FLEET

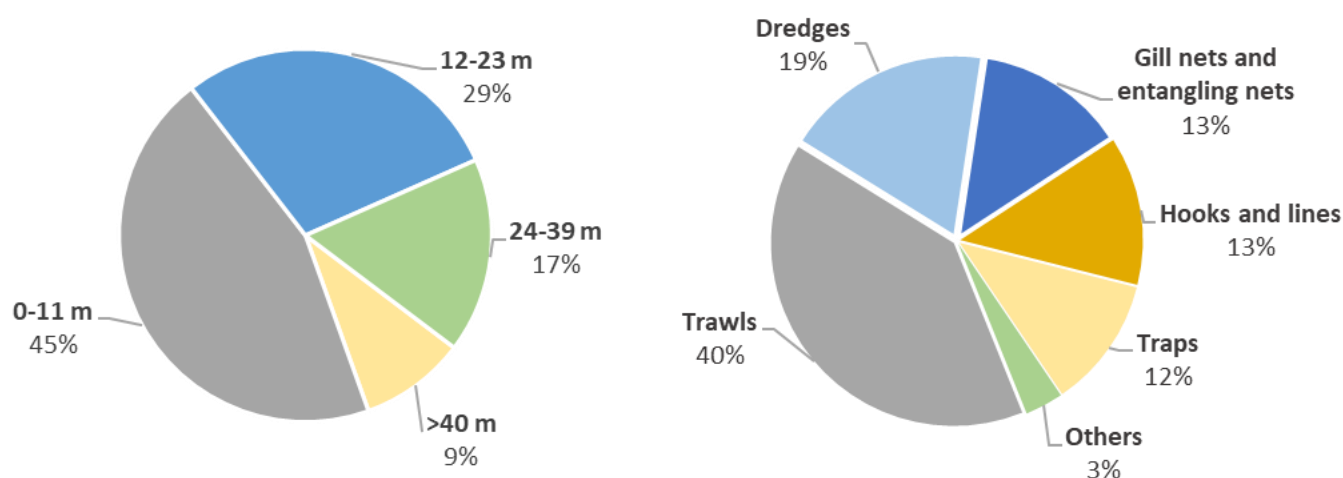
Fleet: 2023, source: EU fishing fleet register - Eurostat    Employment: 2022, source: JRC

Vessels (2023)	Capacity (2023)	Power (2023)	
Number: 769	GT: 99.276	KW: 246.016	
TOTAL FTE: 1.362 (2022, source: JRC)			
0-11 m	12-23 m	24-39 m	>40 m
Jobs (FTE): 3%	Jobs (FTE): 33%	Jobs (FTE): 18%	Jobs (FTE): 46%

GT: Gross tonnage - KW: Kilowatt - FTE: Full Time Equivalent

### The Dutch fishing fleet by length and gear

(% of total number of vessels)





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## LANDINGS

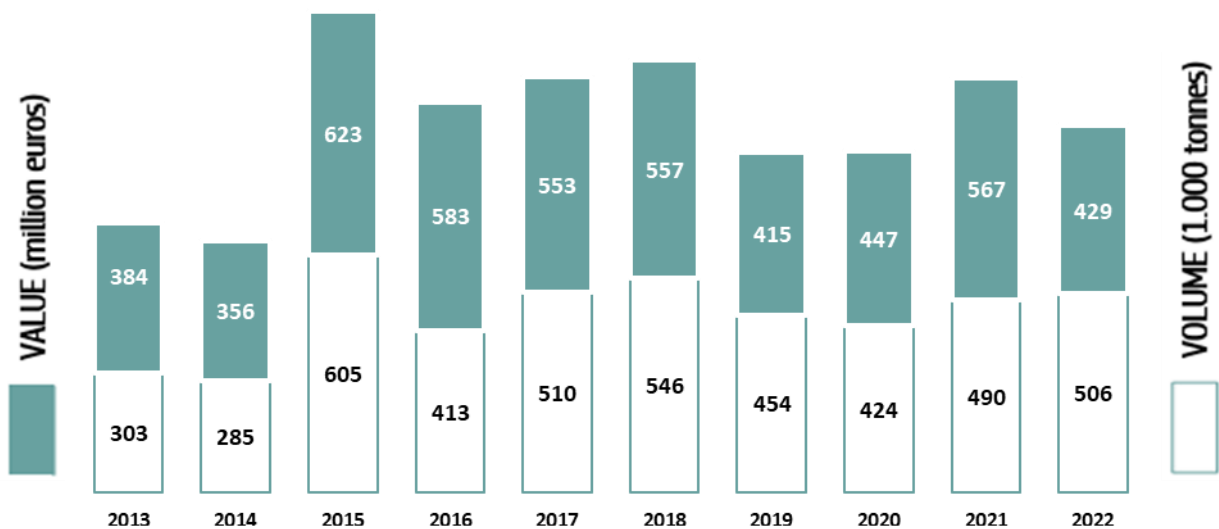
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat data.

Landings comprise the initial unloading of any fisheries products from on board a fishing vessel in a given Member State. They include aquatic plants and species not destined for human consumption. Landings are recorded in net weight and value, and concern landings made by vessels from EU Member States, Iceland, Norway and the UK.

Landings in the Netherlands are destined for human consumption only. In 2022, 82% of landings included frozen whole/gutted products, 15% included fresh whole/gutted products and 3% included cooked products.

There are 53 fishing ports registered in the Netherlands (source: EU Master Data Register, 31 October 2024).

**Total landings.** Values are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2015)



### Main commercial species landed and % of total 2022, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes



Species	Value (million euros)	% of total value	Volume (1,000 tonnes)	% of total volume	Species
SHRIMP CRANGON SPP.	83	16,3%	155	30,5%	HERRING
COMMON SOLE	73	14,3%	121	23,9%	BLUE WHITING
HERRING	46	9,0%	80	15,8%	MACKEREL
EUROPEAN PLAICE	43	8,4%	32	6,4%	ATLANTIC HORSE MACKEREL
MACKEREL	41	8,1%	25	5,0%	CLAM
OTHERS	224	43,9%	93	18,4%	OTHERS



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## AQUACULTURE

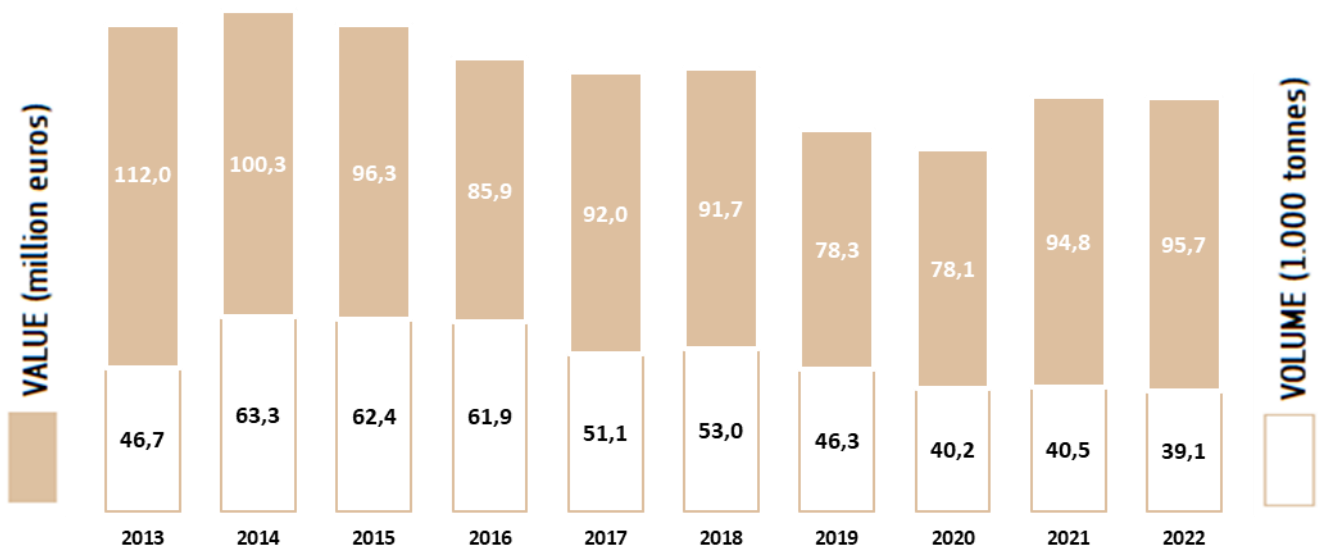
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat and FAO data.

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

In 2022, 89% of Dutch production occurred in sea and brackish waters (almost entirely in marine waters) and 11% in freshwater. The following main production methods were used:

- 77% of production: on bottom in sea and brackish waters;
- 15% of production: in recirculation systems, almost entirely in freshwater;
- 8% of production: off bottom in sea and brackish waters.

**Total production.** Values are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2015)



**Main commercial species farmed and % of total**  
2022, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes



Species	Value (million euros)	% of total
MUSSEL MYTILUS SPP.	51,2	45%
EEL	25,0	22%
OYSTER	9,1	8%
FRESHWATER CATFISH	4,9	4%
OTHERS	23,5	21%



Species	Volume (1.000 tonnes)	% of total
MUSSEL MYTILUS SPP.	29,6	76%
OYSTER	3,5	9%
FRESHWATER CATFISH	2,4	6%
EEL	2,0	5%
OTHERS	1,6	4%



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## PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

Data as of 11-12-2024, source: DG MARE, [link](#)

In the Netherlands, **10 producer organisations (POs)** and **1 association of POs** are formally recognized. Their role is to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and of the Common organisation of the markets (CMO) through the collective management of their members' activities.

Of the 10 POs, 9 operate in the fishery sector and 1 in aquaculture. The association of POs operates in the fishery sector.

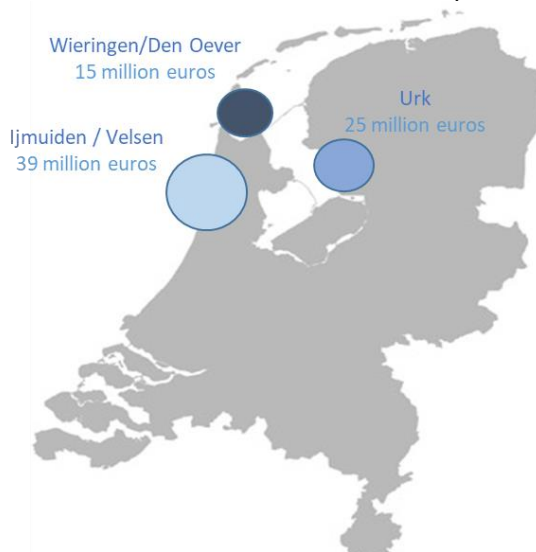
## FIRST SALES

2024, source: EUMOFA

First sales concern the fish that is sold or registered at an auction center or to registered buyers or to producer organizations (PO). First sales may differ from landings since the former do not cover fish that is landed by vessels owned by processing companies or direct sales to processors.

Twelve auctions exist in the Netherlands, covering demersal species and mussels. Seven of them are PEFA-auctions (PEFA is an electronic fresh fish auction for the European market). The action in Yerseke covers mussels only and is the only auction of its kind in the world. The sellers at the demersal auctions are the fishermen, and the members of the Urk/Harlingen auctions are organised into a cooperative. In the pelagic sector, the seller (the owner of the vessel) is often the buyer as well, meaning that the value may only reflect payment to the fishermen or a set price.

In 2024, total first sales in Dutch auctions amounted to 23.430 tonnes and 149 million euros. The top-3 places of sale covered 52% and 53% of total first sales, respectively in volume and value terms.



Top-3 auctions	Volume (tonnes)	Value (million euros)	Top-3 main commercial species (in value)
Ijmuiden / Velsen	5.443	39	Common sole, squid, European plaice
Urk	4.323	25	Common sole, turbot, European plaice
Wieringen/Den Oever	2.456	15	Shrimp <i>crangon</i> spp., Norway lobster, turbot



## WHOLESALE

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

There are not many "pure wholesalers" in the Netherlands, as many of the processing companies, especially dealing with pelagic species, have ownership in the boats landing the fish and in the wholesalers purchasing the first sales.

A large part of the seafood sold at auctions or imported go straight to the processing plants, situated mostly in and around the auctions.

There are no mixed or redistribution markets (wholesale markets) either. Information on companies' volume sold and market shares are not publicly available.

Source: Dutch Fish Marketing Board

## PROCESSING

According to Eurostat-SBS, 2.754 persons were employed in the Dutch fish processing industry in 2022. The sector recorded a value added of 183 million euros, covering 1,3% of the value added of total manufacture of food products.

In 2023, the main products sold were "Prepared meals and dishes based on fish, crustaceans and molluscs" and "Fish fillets in batter or breadcrumbs including fish fingers (excluding prepared meals and dishes)" (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

**181 companies**

**Net turnover: 1,5 billion euros**

(2023, source: Eurostat - SBS)

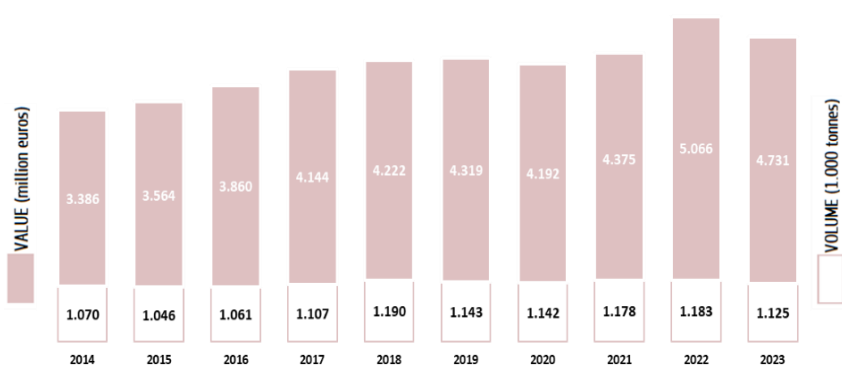


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## IMPORT – EXPORT

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat-COMEXT data. Values in the bar charts are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2015).

### IMPORT

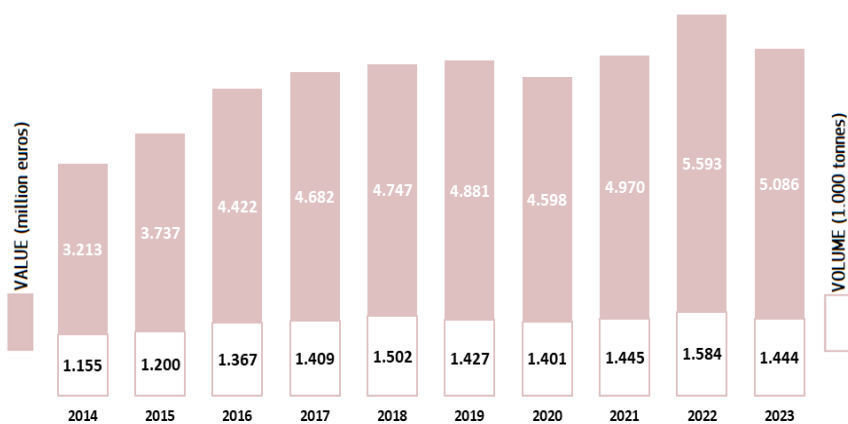


#### Main commercial species imported and % of total imports

2023, million euros (nominal value)

Species	Value (million euros)	% of total imports
SALMON	1464	25%
COD	1069	18%
SHRIMPS (MOSTLY WARMWATER)	645	11%
TUNA (MOSTLY SKIPJACK)	342	6%
FISH SOUPS AND PREPARATIONS (ALSO INCLUDING VEGETABLES AND MEAT)	196	4%
OTHERS	2113	36%

### EXPORT

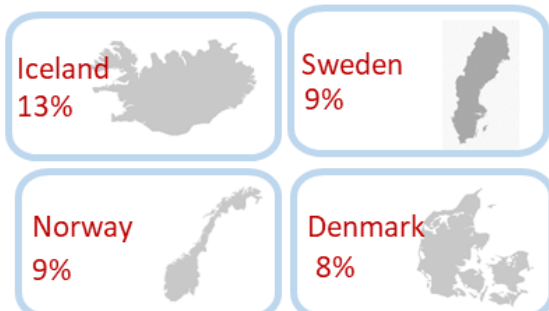


#### Main commercial species exported and % of total exports

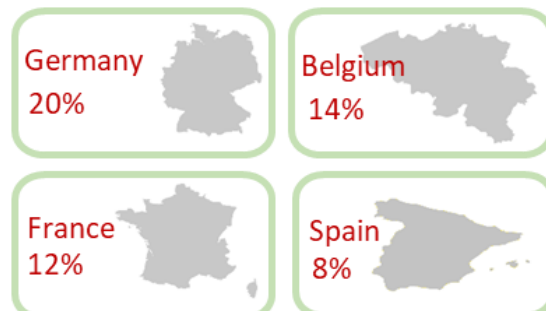
2023, million euros (nominal value)

Species	Value (million euros)	% of total exports
SALMON	1189	18%
COD	891	14%
SHRIMPS	820	13%
TUNA (MOSTLY SKIPJACK)	357	5%
MACKEREL	203	3%
OTHERS	3055	47%

#### Main countries of ORIGIN (in value, 2023)



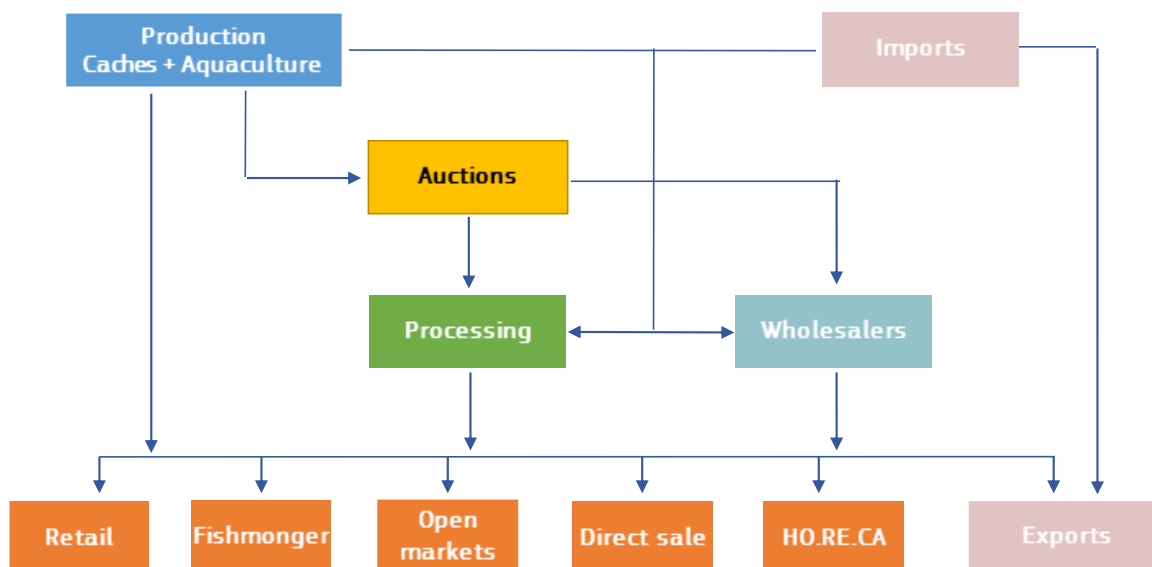
#### Main countries of DESTINATION (in value, 2023)



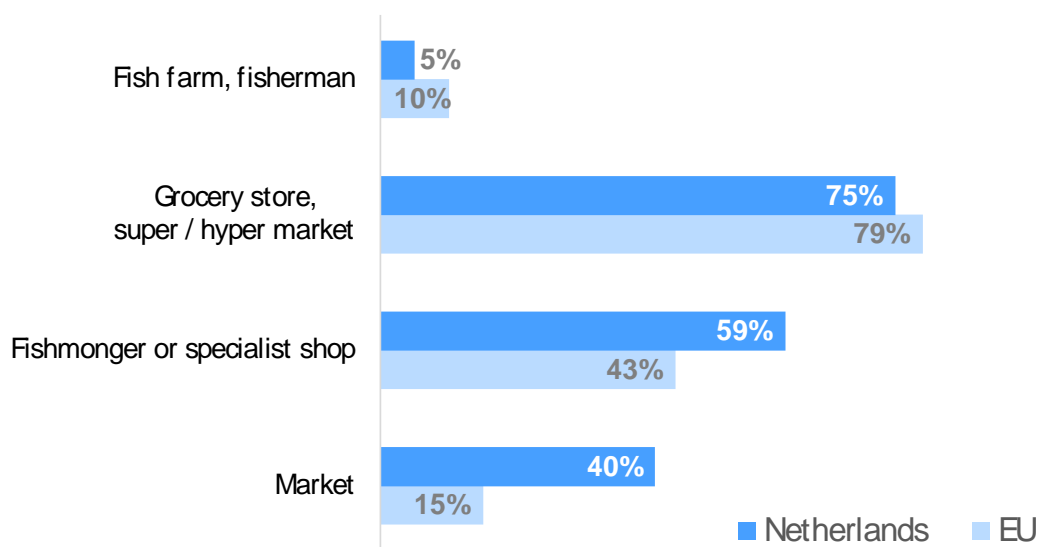


## DISTRIBUTION

The supply chain of fisheries and aquaculture products in the Netherlands (source: Dutch Fish Marketing Board):



Consumer preferences on purchasing channels (source: Eurobarometer, 2021):





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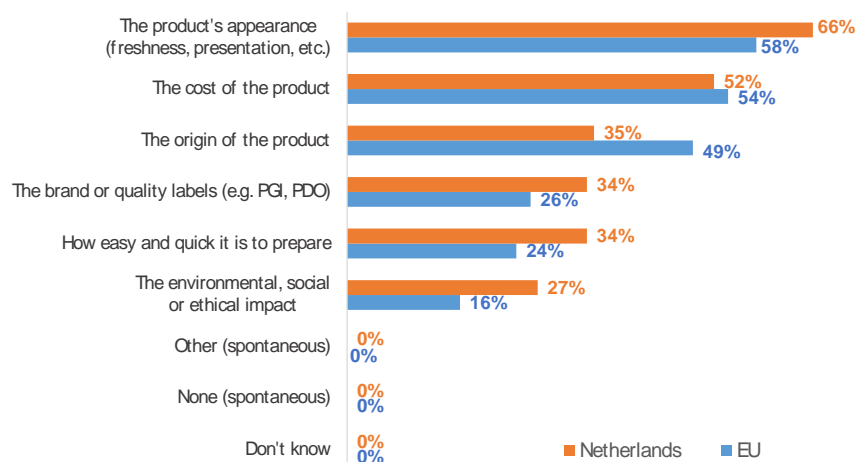
## CONSUMPTION

In 2022, apparent consumption was estimated at 18,88 kg per capita, a 10% decrease compared with 2021. The most consumed species were sardine, tuna, freshwater catfish and warmwater shrimps (source: EUMOFA).

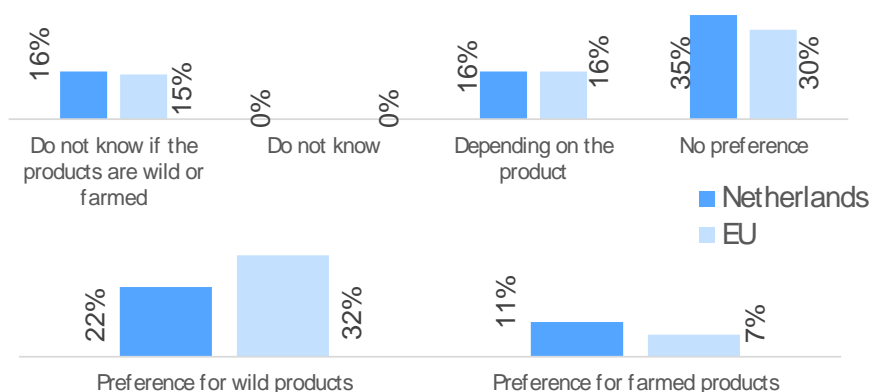
Regular consumers, namely those who eat fishery and aquaculture products at least once a month, mainly belong to age groups 40-54 and over 55. Young people (15-24) are less inclined to consume fish in the Netherlands and at EU-28 level. However, in this category, regular consumers cover 75% of the total, which is much higher than at EU level (67%, UK included). Dutch consume especially fresh and frozen products; loose fish (71%) is more frequently consumed than at EU level (68%, UK included) (source: EUMOFA, "EU consumer habits regarding fishery and aquaculture products", 2017).

**18,88 kg**  
**per capita in live weight**  
**equivalent**  
(2022, source: Dutch Fish Marketing Board)

### Purchasing factors (source: Eurobarometer, 2021)



### Preferences regarding wild or farmed product (source: Eurobarometer, 2021)







## THE COUNTRY IN EUMOFA



### LANDINGS

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – Fishery. They are available on a yearly basis and accessible through simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility.

### AQUACULTURE

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – Fishery and integrated with FAO data. They are available on a yearly basis and accessible through simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility.

### FIRST SALES

Volumes and values are collected on a monthly basis from the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) - Fishery regulations. Data cover all species sold in the 12 Dutch auctions. They are accessible through simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility. Data at disaggregated level are also accessible, through a dedicated advanced table and the bulk download facility.

### WHOLESALE

No data available

### IMPORT - EXPORT

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – COMEXT. Data concern trade flows of all fisheries and aquaculture products as recorded by national customs. They are available on a monthly and yearly basis and accessible through simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility.

### PROCESSING

Data are collected from Eurostat – PRODCOM. They concern ex-farm quantities and values of fisheries and aquaculture products sold in the country after being transformed from raw material into final products. They are available on a yearly basis and accessible through simple tables, as well as through the bulk download facility.

### CONSUMPTION

Volumes and values of household consumption of fresh fisheries and aquaculture products are collected from Europanel based on panel reporting. Data are monitored for 10 main commercial species + the item "Others", aggregating all other species. Data are available on a monthly and yearly basis and accessible through simple tables and the bulk download facility. Retail prices from online shops are also available, as collected via price-scrapers.