



## THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE WORLD

2022, sources: Eurostat and FAO

In 2022, the EU-27 was the 8<sup>th</sup> largest producer of fishery products in the world and the 11<sup>th</sup> in terms of aquaculture production.

| (1.000 tonnes) | World          | EU-27        | % EU-27 / world |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Catches        | 92.050         | 3.466        | 3,8%            |
| Aquaculture    | 130.885        | 1.089        | 0,8%            |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>222.936</b> | <b>4.554</b> | <b>2,0%</b>     |

## FISHING FLEET

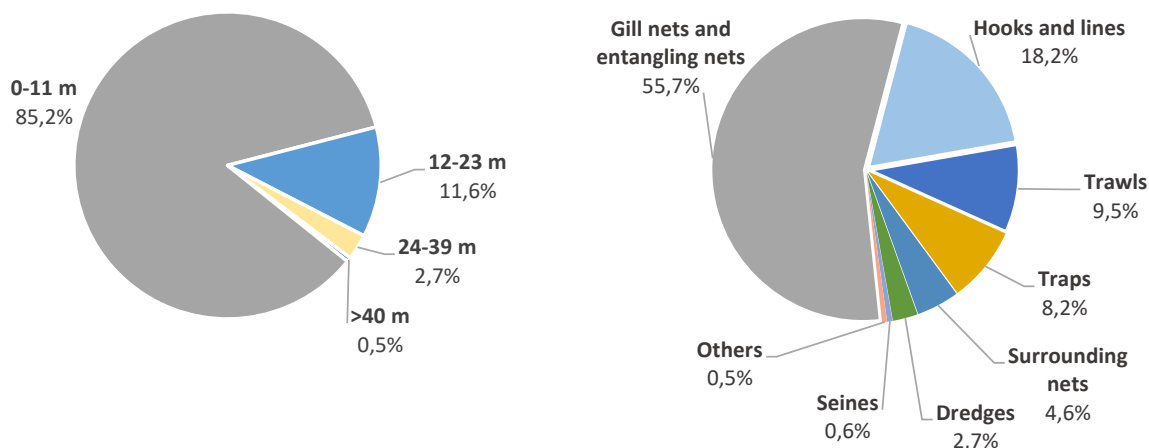
Fleet: 2023, source: EU fishing fleet register – Eurostat. Employment: source: JRC. Data refer to 2022 for all Member States.

| Vessels<br>(2023)                     |  | Capacity<br>(2023) |  | Power<br>(2023) |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Number: 70.408                        |  | GT: 1.269.394      |  | KW: 5.143.590   |  |
| TOTAL FTE: 75.812 (2022, source: JRC) |  |                    |  |                 |  |
| 0-11 m                                |  | 12-23 m            |  | 24-39 m         |  |
| Jobs (FTE): 43%                       |  | Jobs (FTE): 29%    |  | Jobs (FTE): 20% |  |
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GT: Gross tonnage - KW: Kilowatt - FTE: Full Time Equivalent

### The EU-27 fishing fleet by length and gear

(% of total number of vessels)





Last update: 04-03-2025

## LANDINGS

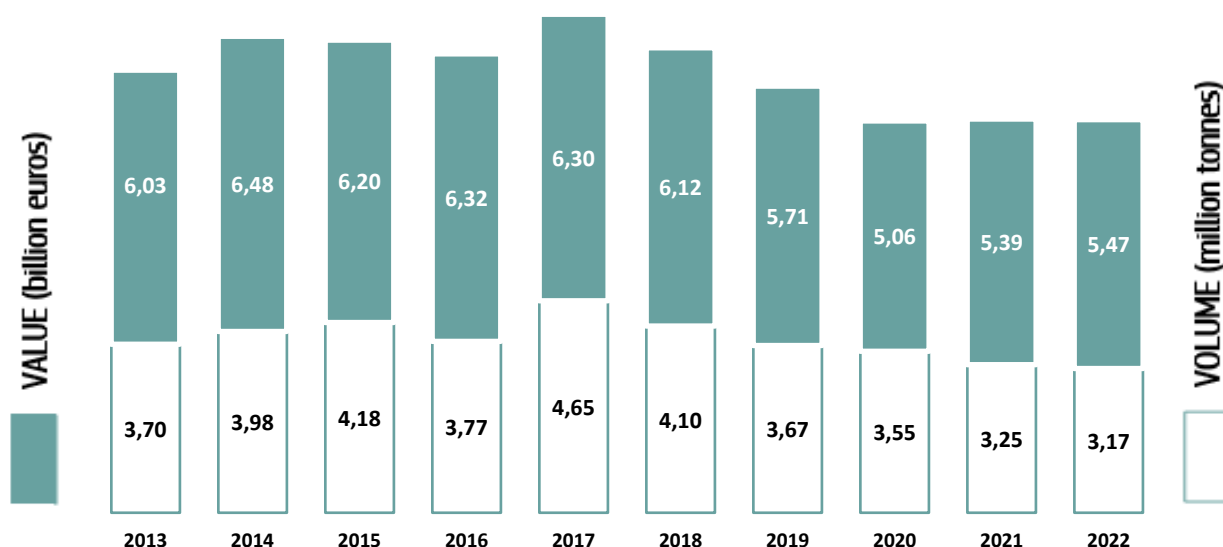
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat and national sources' data.

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.

In 2022, 72% of landings in the EU-27 included fresh whole/gutted products, 26% included frozen mainly whole/gutted products, 1% included cooked products and the remaining share included salted, smoked, dried products as well as products for which no detail is available in terms of preservation state. As for destination use, around 85% of the total was for human consumption, while the rest included products mainly destined for industrial uses.

There are 2.968 fishing ports registered in the EU-27 (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

|               | Value (million euros) | Volume (1.000 tonnes) |       |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| HAKE          | 435                   | 7,0%                  | 456   |
| SKIPJACK TUNA | 255                   | 4,1%                  | 336   |
| MACKEREL      | 251                   | 4,0%                  | 324   |
| SQUID         | 235                   | 3,8%                  | 237   |
| COMMON SOLE   | 228                   | 3,7%                  | 167   |
| OTHERS        | 4802                  | 77,4%                 | 1647  |
|               |                       |                       | 14,4% |
|               |                       |                       | 10,6% |
|               |                       |                       | 10,2% |
|               |                       |                       | 7,5%  |
|               |                       |                       | 5,3%  |
|               |                       |                       | 52,0% |



Last update: 04-03-2025

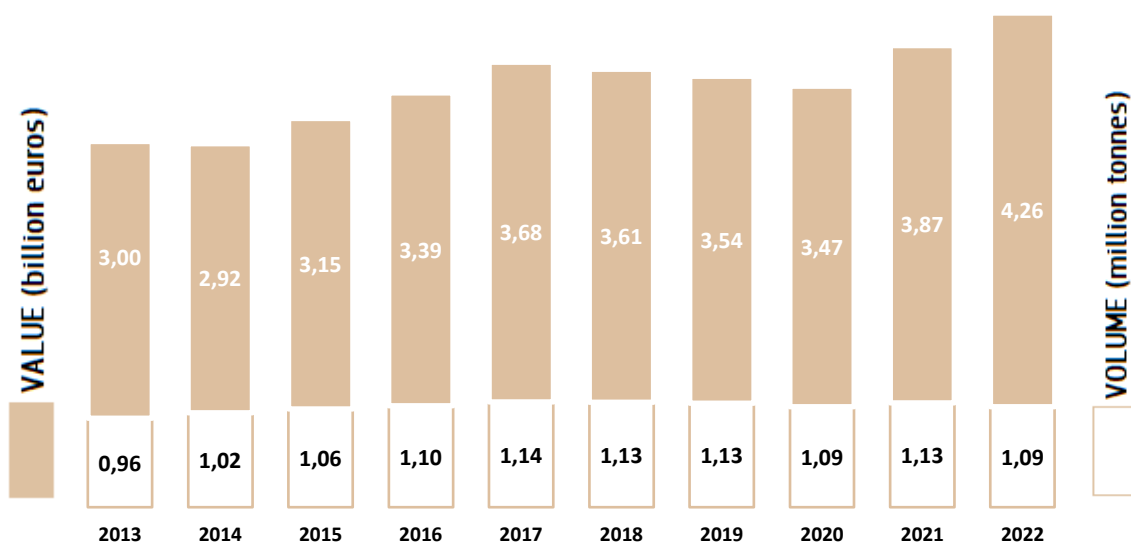
## AQUACULTURE

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat, FAO and FEAP 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.

The data available for the environment production for 2022 is, according to Eurostat, only available in aggregated terms. However, the following main production methods were used: on bottom, tanks and raceways, ponds, enclosures in sea and brackish water and unspecified methods.

**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



|                     |       |       |     |       |                     |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-----|-------|---------------------|
| TROUT               | 753   | 15,6% | 396 | 36,4% | MUSSEL MYTILUS SPP. |
| EUROPEAN SEABASS    | 680   | 14,1% | 174 | 16,0% | TROUT               |
| GILTHEAD SEABREAM   | 641   | 13,2% | 108 | 9,9%  | GILTHEAD SEABREAM   |
| OYSTER              | 488   | 10,1% | 97  | 8,9%  | OYSTER              |
| MUSSEL MYTILUS SPP. | 455   | 9,4%  | 92  | 8,5%  | EUROPEAN SEABASS    |
| OTHERS              | 1,819 | 37,6% | 222 | 20,3% | OTHERS              |



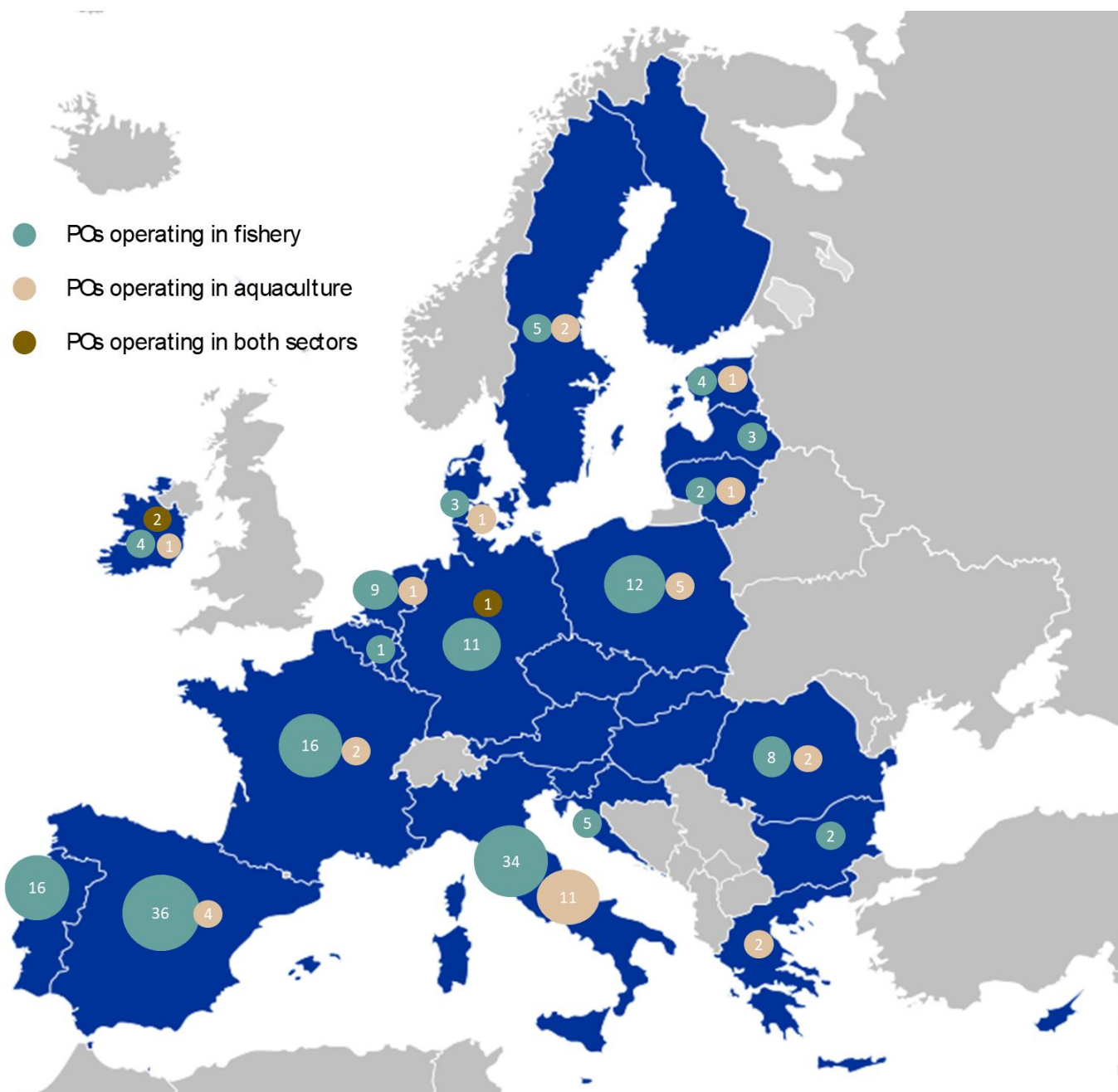
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## PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

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

In the EU-27 **207 producer organisations (POs)** and **10 associations 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.

All associations of POs operate in the fishery sector. Of the 207 POs, 171 operate in the fishery sector, 33 in aquaculture and 3 are involved in both sectors.





## FIRST SALES

2024, source: EUMOFA

First sale concerns the fish that is sold or registered at an auction center or to registered buyers, or to producer organisations (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.

In 2024, total first sales in EU countries as transmitted to EUMOFA\* amounted to 2 million tonnes and 4 billion euros.

In terms of value, the top-5 places of sale were Vigo (ES), Killybegs (IE), Bermeo (ES) A Coruña (ES) and Boulogne-sur-Mer (FR). They covered together 12% and 11% of total first sales, respectively in terms of volume and value.

\* Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the Netherlands.

| Top-5 places of sale  | Volume<br>(1.000 tonnes) | Value<br>(million euros) | Top-3 main commercial species<br>(in value) |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Vigo (ES)             | 32.767                   | 140                      | Monk, swordfish, megrim                     |
| Killybegs (IE)        | 133.062                  | 83                       | Mackerel, blue whiting, crab                |
| Bermeo (ES)           | 35.651                   | 83                       | Yellowfin tuna, skipjack tuna, bigeye tuna  |
| A Coruña (ES)         | 26.316                   | 78                       | Hake, swordfish, monk                       |
| Boulogne-sur-Mer (FR) | 25.986                   | 72                       | Squid, cuttlefish, mackerel                 |

## 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.

In the European Union, the wholesale stage is diversified. In most countries, fishery and aquaculture products are sold wholesale in cash & carry shops. In some countries with long-standing tradition of fresh fish consumption (France, Italy, Spain), they might be sold in dedicated wholesale marketplaces. In some other countries, which do not have such specialised wholesale infrastructures, the wholesaling activities are performed by companies operating as wholesalers.

## PROCESSING

According to Eurostat-SBS, 110.000 persons were employed in the EU-27, fish processing industry in 2022. The sector recorded, in 2022 a value added of 5 billion euros, covering 2,3% of the value added of total manufacture of food products. In 2023, the main products sold were "Frozen whole salt water fish", "Prepared or preserved tuna, skipjack and Atlantic bonito, whole or in pieces (excluding minced products and prepared meals and dishes)", "Fish fillets in batter or breadcrumbs including fish fingers (excluding prepared meals and dishes)" and "Flours, meals and pellets of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates, unfit for human consumption" (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

**3.300 companies**

**Net turnover: 34,7 billion euros**

(2023, source: Eurostat - SBS)

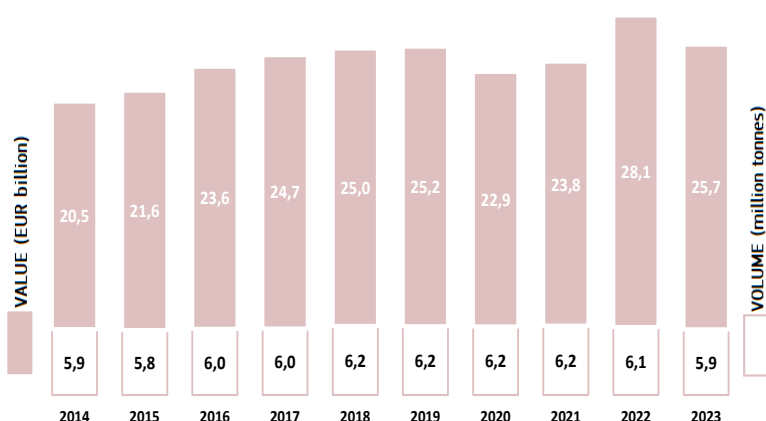


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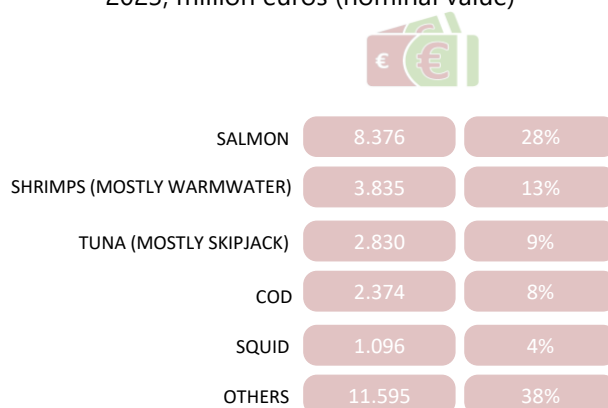
## IMPORT – EXPORT

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

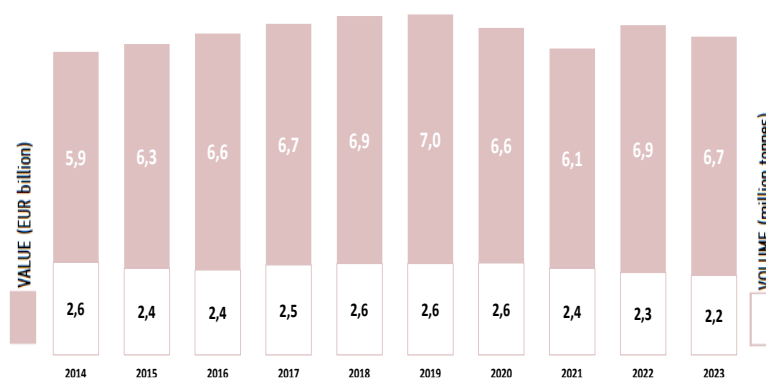
## IMPORT



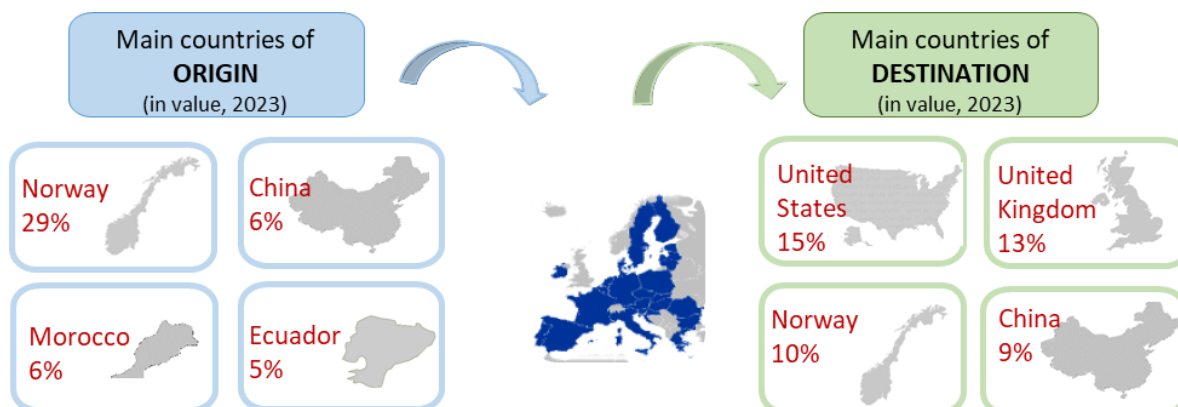
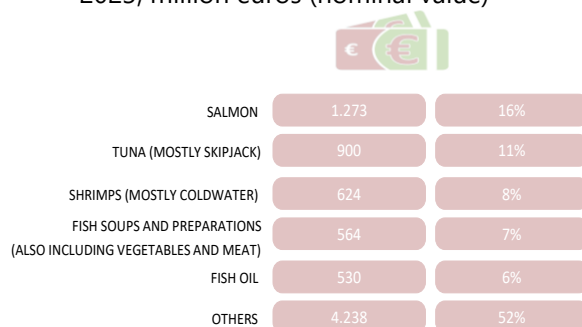
**Main commercial species imported  
and % of total imports**  
2023, million euros (nominal value)



## EXPORT



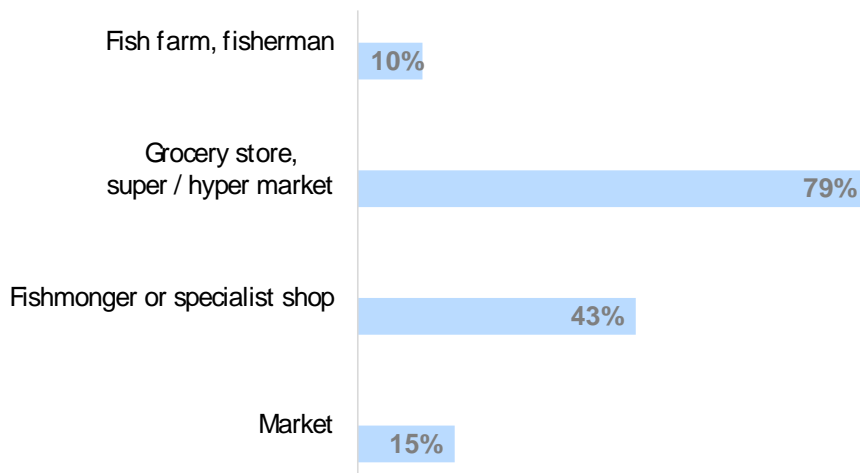
**Main commercial species exported  
and % of total exports**  
2023, million euros (nominal value)





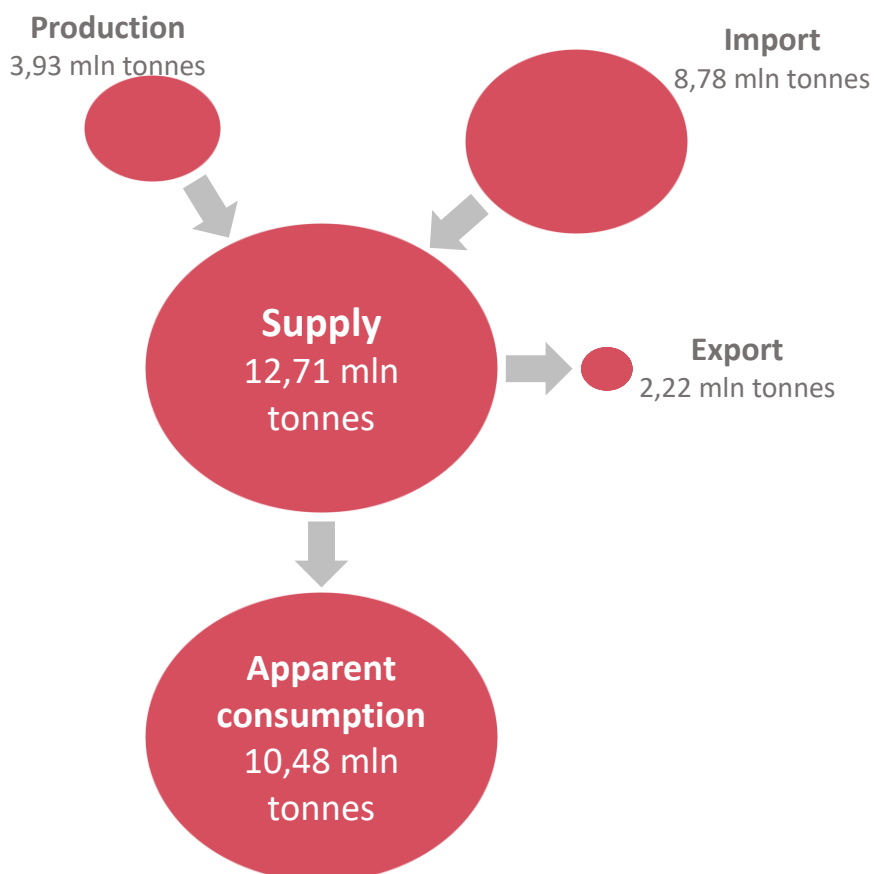
## DISTRIBUTION

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



## SUPPLY BALANCE

2022 (EU-27), data in live weight equivalent. Source: EUMOFA





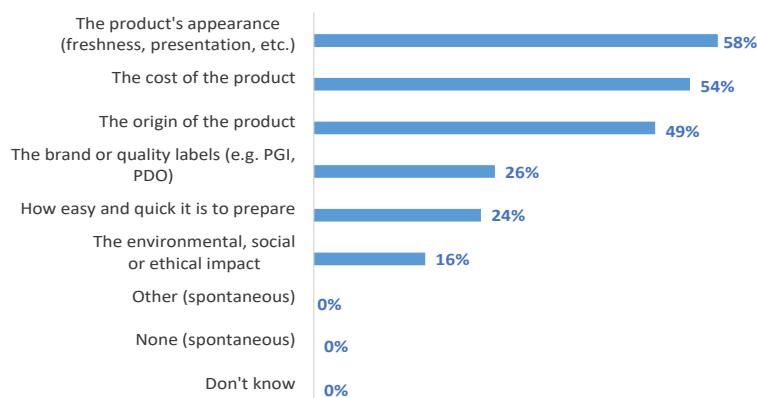
## CONSUMPTION

In 2022, apparent consumption in the EU-27, was estimated at 23,51 kg per capita, a 1% decrease compared with 2021. The most consumed species were tuna, cod, salmon, Alaska pollock, herring, hake and mussel (source: EUMOFA).

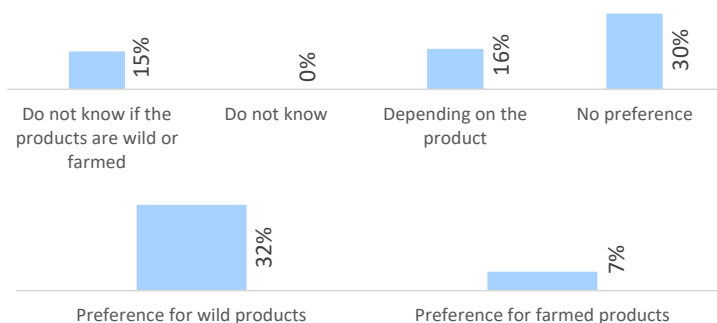
The consumption frequency is positively correlated with age: elderlies show the highest frequency, while young people (15-24) are the age group with the highest percentage of non-consumers. One third of consumers buys fresh fish often. The frequency of purchase of frozen and tinned products is also high (one out of four consumers buys frozen products often, and one out of five buys tinned products often). Smoked, salted, dried or in brine products are purchased less frequently, with huge variations across countries due to traditional products and eating habits. Breaded products and ready-meals are popular among young consumers thanks to their convenience and ease of preparation. Proximity to the sea plays an important role: loose products are preferred in Southern EU countries, and in countries with long coastlines (except the UK) while pre-packed products prevail in landlocked countries (or with short coastlines), central EU countries as well as in the UK and Belgium. Source: EUMOFA, "EU consumer habits regarding fishery and aquaculture products", 2017.)

**23,51 kg**  
**per capita in live weight equivalent**  
(2022, source: EUMOFA)

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



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







## EU DATA IN EUMOFA



### LANDINGS

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – Fishery and integrated with national sources' 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 from national authorities on a weekly and monthly basis. Weekly data are monitored for a selection of main commercial species and places of sale / auctions. Monthly data cover all species sold in the EU places of sale / auctions. Both are accessible through simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility. As for monthly first sales, data at disaggregated level are also accessible, through a dedicated advanced table and the bulk download facility.

### 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.

### 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 a selection of countries, 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. Average weekly prices are accessible through simple and advanced tables, and through the bulk download facility. In addition, retail prices for a selection of countries and main commercial species are collected on a weekly and monthly basis from national authorities. Retail prices from online shops are also available, as collected via price-scraper.

### AQUACULTURE

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

### WHOLESALE

Data are collected from national authorities and private providers (Fish Market Development Association) on a weekly basis, and, for Greece, also on a monthly basis. Weekly prices (and for Greece, also volumes and values) are monitored for a selection of main commercial species and markets. Monthly volumes and values cover all species sold in the port of Piraeus. Both weekly and monthly data are accessible through simple and advanced tables, and 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.

### SUPPLY BALANCE

The supply balance sheet gives an estimate of the annual supply of fishery and aquaculture products available for human consumption. Data of the supply balance sheet are in live weight equivalent. The supply balance sheet is broken down by commodity group and main commercial species; for each species, details in terms of production method are provided (wild/farmed). Sources of data are:

- For catches, Eurostat - Fishery. Amounts of catches not destined for human consumption are estimated using proxies based on destination use of landings (as available in Eurostat);
- For aquaculture, Eurostat - Fishery, FAO and FEAP;
- For import-export, Eurostat – COMEXT.