



OYSTERS (OSTREIDAE)



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Magallana gigas

BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

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

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

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

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

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

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

- **Production methods and fishing gears** ([Read more](#))

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

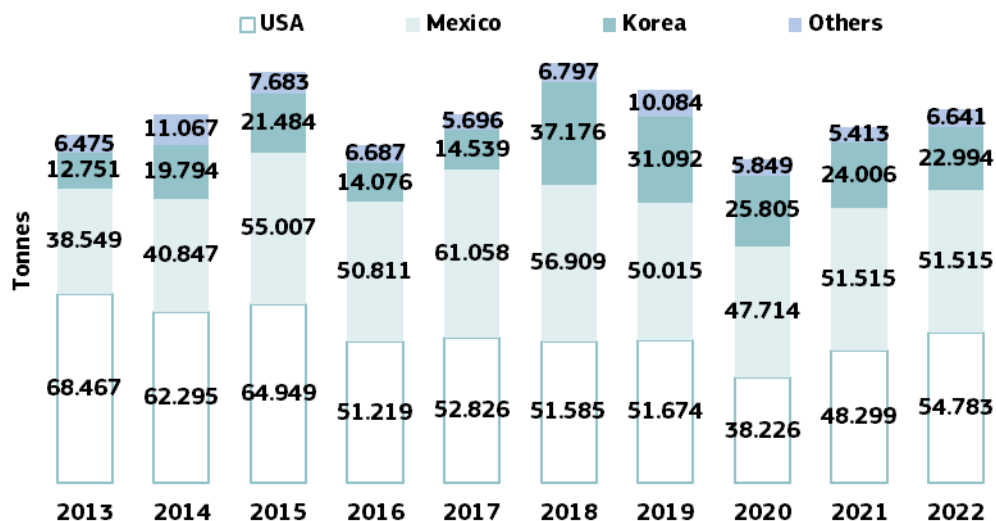


Oysters

CATCHES

Evolution of world catches

- Production of all oysters' species amounted to circa 135.000 tonnes in 2022, i.e. **0,1%** of the total global fisheries production. The leading producers are the USA and Mexico (Gulf of Mexico) amounting to respectively 41% and 38% global production. In fact, most of the world's remaining wild capture of native oysters comes mainly from ecoregions on the East and Gulf coasts of North America (mainly Virginian to Southern Gulf of Mexico).

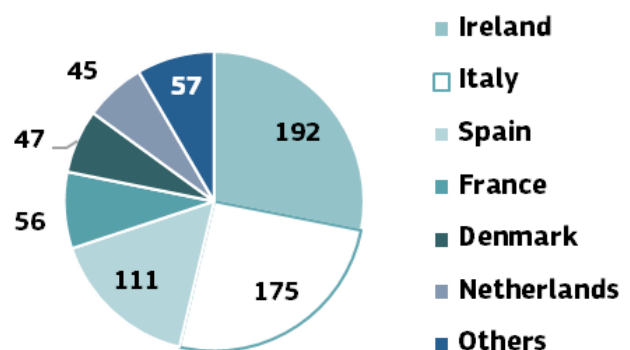


Source: FAO

Evolution of EU catches (tonnes)

- EU catches, which were above 10.000 tonnes at the end of the 1960s, followed then a decreasing trend to less than 1.000 tonnes since 2017. In 2022, EU catches amounted to 684 tonnes and represented only 0,5% of global oyster catches. The **European flat oyster** (*Ostrea edulis*) is the main caught species within the EU. It represented 68% of the total EU oyster catches in 2022. Italy, Ireland, France and Spain were the main producers. These countries produced 87% of the EU catches.

Catches (2022, tonnes)



Source: FAO

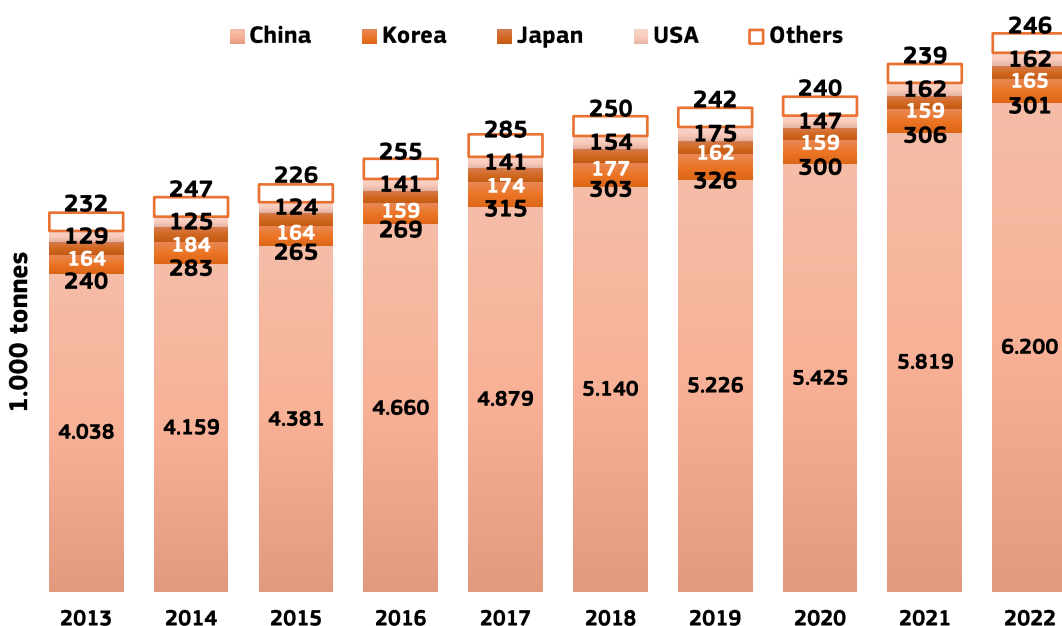


Oysters

AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

Evolution of world aquaculture production

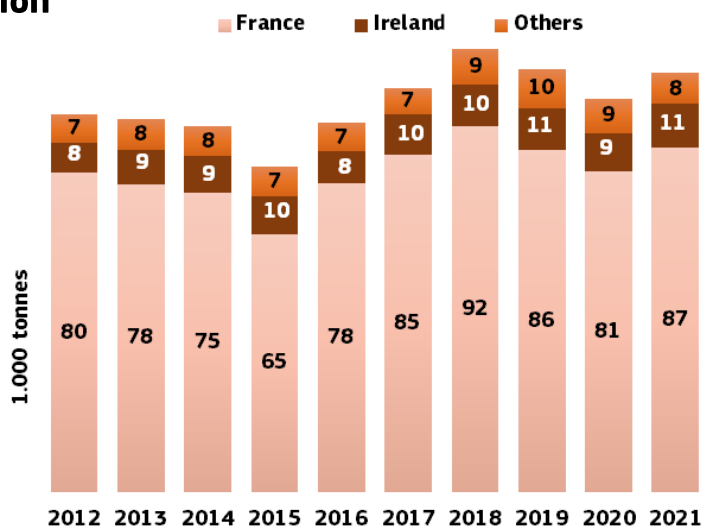
- The global production reached over 7 million tonnes in 2022. From 2013 to 2022, the world oyster's production experienced an increase by **47%**, mostly attributable to Chinese production which provided 88% of the global production in 2022. Other major producers worldwide include to lesser extent the Republic of Korea (4%), Japan (2%), and the United States (2%).



Source: FAO

Evolution of EU aquaculture production

- With a total EU production of 104.117 tonnes, the EU provided only 1% of the global oyster's aquaculture in terms of volume in 2022. Although small, the EU production from aquaculture has increased by **14%** over the last decade (2013-2022).
- The main species produced in the EU is the **Pacific cupped oyster** (*Magallana gigas*), with 97% of volumes in 2022). The same year, France alone represented 81% of EU production.



Source: FAO



Oysters

PROCESSING

- No significant processing activity exists for oysters. Yet canned and smoked oysters' industry is developed in Asia and America.

TRADE

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

Most of the oyster trade is intra-EU, and it mostly concerns live products. France and Ireland (the main producers) are the main intra- and extra-EU exporters of live oysters. Main importers of live oysters are France and Ireland, for products originating from Ireland and France, respectively.

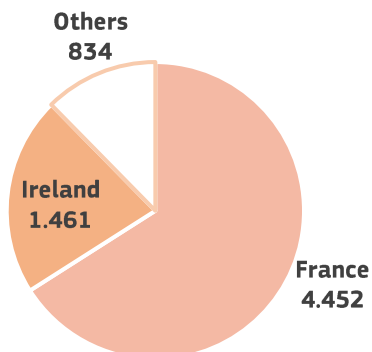
EU-27 trade of oyster products (tonnes - 2023)

CN code	Product	EU imports	EU exports
03 07 11 10	Flats oysters (of the genus <i>Ostrea</i>), live and weighing (shell included) not more than 40 g each	46	1.186
03 07 11 90	Other oysters, live	764	5.235
03 07 12 00	Oysters, even in shell, frozen	48	37
03 07 19 00	Oysters, even in shell, smoked, dried, salted or in brine	32	84
16 05 51 00	Oysters, prepared or preserved (excl. smoked)	23	205
Total		914	6.747

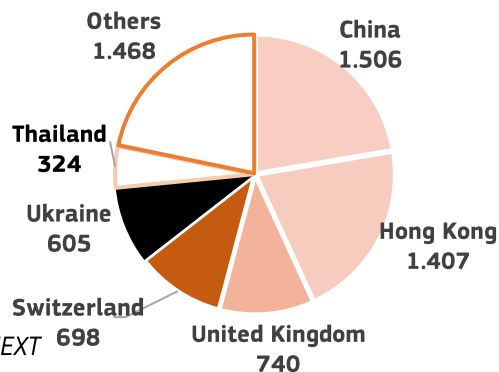
Extra-EU imports of oysters were not significant and marked a significant decrease from 1.567 tonnes in 2022 to 914 tonnes in 2023, in relation to the 41% decrease of imports from the UK (91% of the EU imports).

Extra-EU exports of oysters reached circa 6.747 tonnes, mainly from France and Ireland (together, they contributed to 88% of the EU exports). Main destinations were China, Hong Kong, and to lesser extent the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Ukraine.

EU exporters (2023, tonnes)



Main destinations (2023, tonnes)



Source: EUROSTAT-COMEXT

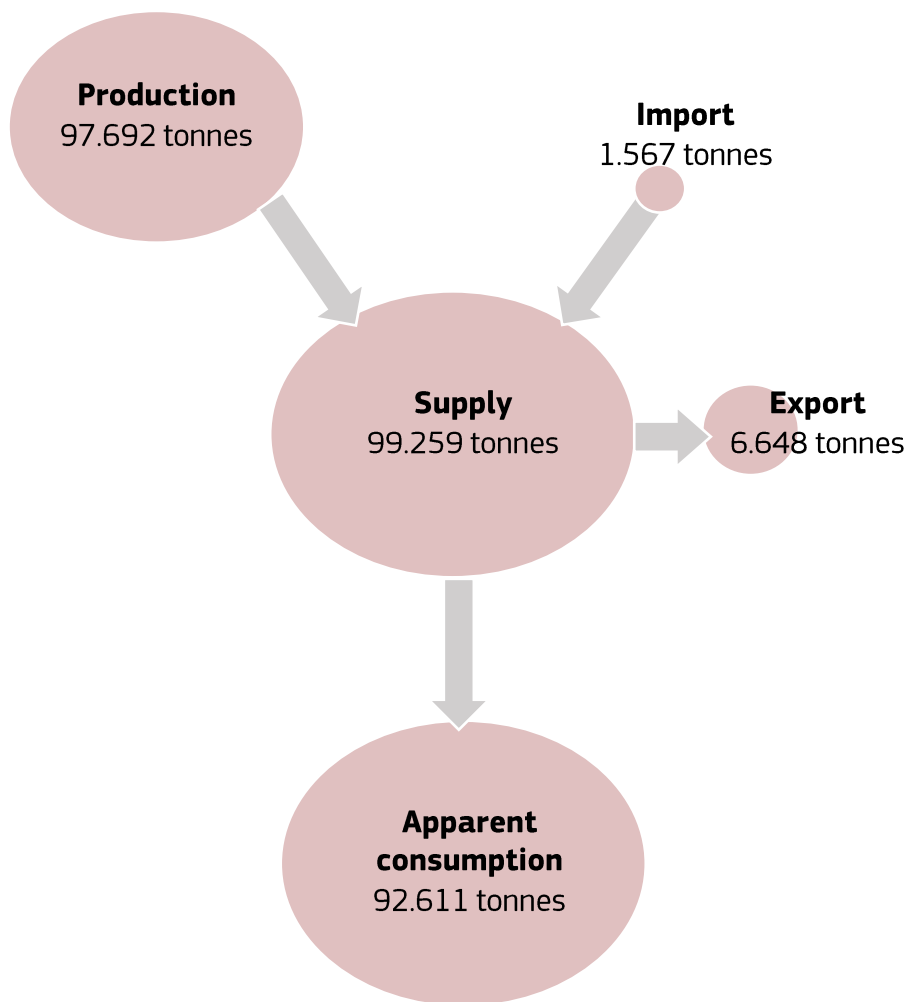


Oysters

Supply balance

EU supply balance (2022¹) – Tonnes of live weight equivalent² – Oysters

Data concern all species of oyster



Source: FAO/ EUROSTAT-COMEXT

¹ Supply balance is provided for the year 2022 (trade data for 2022 were taken into account). Detailed trade data provided in the slide 4 concern the year 2023.

² The [conversion factors](#) were used to convert net weight of imports and exports of fishery and aquaculture products into live weight equivalents.



Oysters

PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

Ex-farm (live/fresh - Farmed)

Ex-farm prices are presented for France and Ireland, the main EU producers.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*	Source
France	6,37	6,97	6,33	6,03	5,33	4,84	5,64	6,49	EUMOFA
Ireland	4,75	5,14	5,07	4,95	4,60	3,89	4,74	5,50	EUMOFA

(*) last year available

Wholesale (live/fresh)

Wholesale prices are presented for Mercabarna (Barcelona, Spain) and Rungis (Paris, France).

Average price	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Spain	12,37	12,43	11,79	11,83	12,8	13,42	14,42	15,54	18,19	n.a.	Mercabarna
France (creuse fine calibre G2)	6,67	6,67	6,67	6,67	6,67	6,32	7,17	7,05	7,53	8,33	Rungis (RNM)

(*) From January to November 2024

Retail/consumption (live/fresh)

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

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
France	8,88	8,41	8,36	7,3	7	7	7,3	7,8	8,3	FranceAgriMer

(*) last year available

Import (live/fresh)

Prices are provided for the main EU importer, France.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
France	n.a.	12,8	10,41	11,7	11,87	5,33	7,43	5,89	7,68	2,90	EUMOFA

(*) From January to August 2024

Export (live/fresh)

Extra-EU export prices refer to fresh/live oysters in France and Ireland, the two main exporters in the EU.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
France	8,5	8,41	8,48	8,81	8,76	11,80	11,46	13,27	14,66	15,15	EUMOFA
Ireland	8,4	7,9	8,27	8,66	8,59	8,76	9,55	11,02	10,08	10,64	EUMOFA

(*) From January to August 2024

Oysters



MARKETING

- National lists of commercial designations ([Read more](#))
- Information system on commercial designations and scientific names in all EU languages ([Read more](#))
- In the EU, there is one name protected under **Protected Geographical Indication** (PGI) for fresh oysters: PGI “**Huîtres Marennes Oléron**” in France.

CONSUMPTION

- Apparent consumption of oysters, per capita in 2022: **0,21 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [Supply balance – 2022](#), EUMOFA).
- Nutrition values (Oyster – *Magallana gigas*, nutrition values per serving 100 g) ([Read more](#))

Nutrition values	Oyster
Energy (kcal)	81
Total fat (g)	2,3
Saturates (g)	0,51
Carbohydrate (g)	4,95
Protein (g)	9,45
Salt (mg)	265