



TURBOT (*SCOPHTHALMUS MAXIMUS*)



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BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

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

The turbot (*Scophthalmus maximus*), also called called *Psetta maxima*, belongs to the family of *Scophthalmidae*. It is a demersal flatfish found in sandy shallow waters.

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

Turbot (*Scophthalmus maximus*) is found in the Atlantic Northeast and Eastern Central, the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, and the Southwest Pacific.

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

- **Stock and resource status/conservation measures** ([Read more](#))

The Minimum conservation size for turbot is 45 cm in the Black Sea, and 30 cm in others fishing areas. Stocks are managed via TACs and quotas for EU countries.

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

The species is mainly produced in aquaculture, mostly in onshore tanks. Fishing gears include hooks and lines, as well as trawls.

Source: [Information system on commercial designations](#)

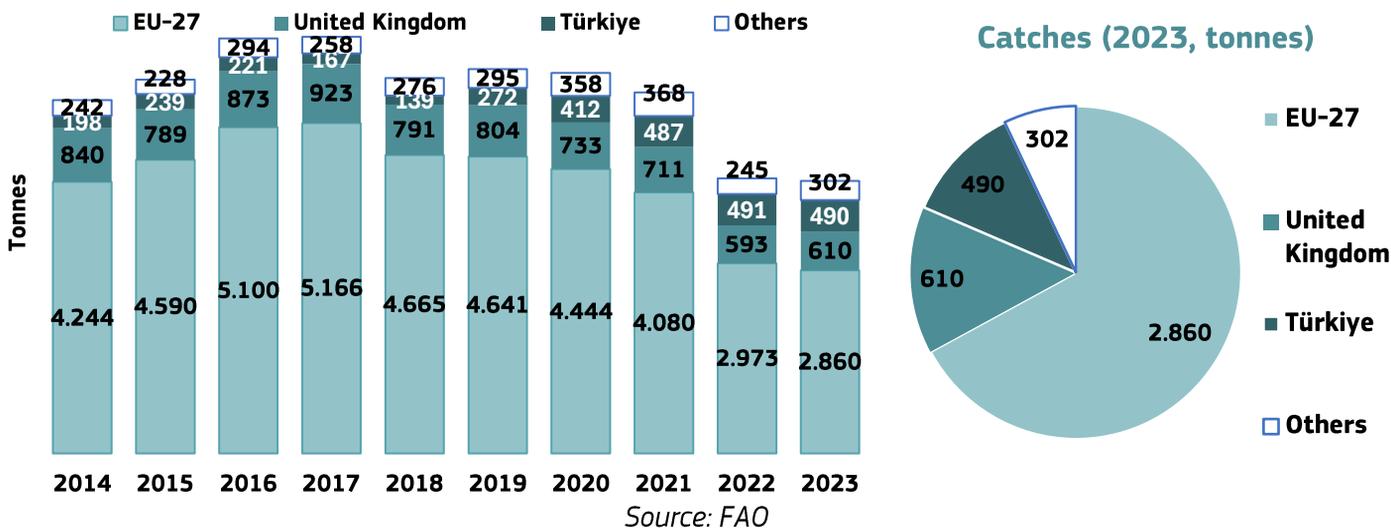
Turbot



CATCHES

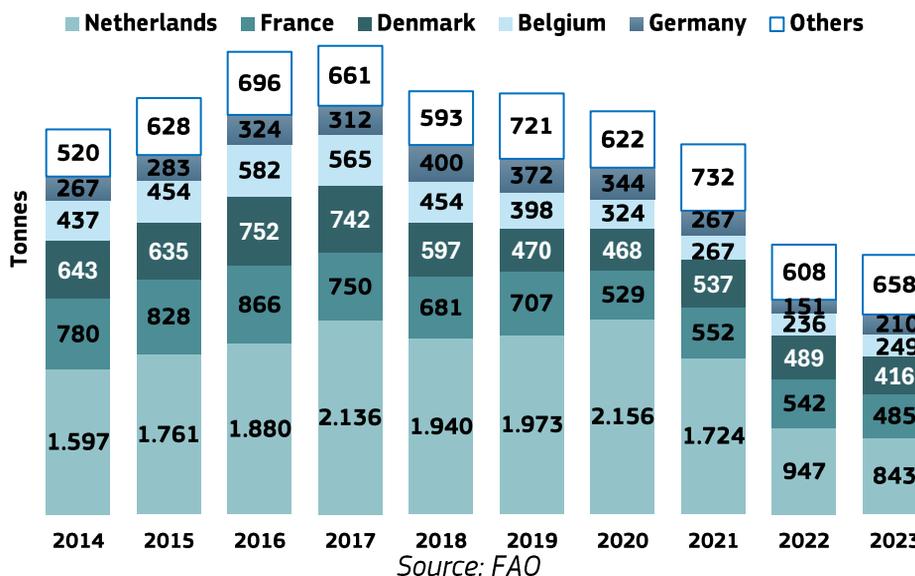
Evolution of world catches

- Turbot catches reached 4.262 tonnes in 2023, i.e. **0,005%** of the global catches. The majority of this is caught by the EU fleet (67% of the global catches), followed by the British and the Turkish fleets, with 14% and 11%, respectively. During the last decade (2014-2023), turbot catches have increased between 2014 and 2017 and have decreased since. Overall, catches decreased by 23% at global level in relation to the decrease of the EU catches (-33%).



Evolution of EU catches

- In 2023, the EU turbot catches reached 2.860 tonnes. The EU catches peaked in 2017 and decreased since. Overall catches have decreased by 33% during the last decade. The Netherlands was the main EU producer reaching 843 tonnes in 2023 (29% of EU production), followed by France and Denmark (representing 17% and 15% respectively). Catches from all fleets decreased over the last decade.

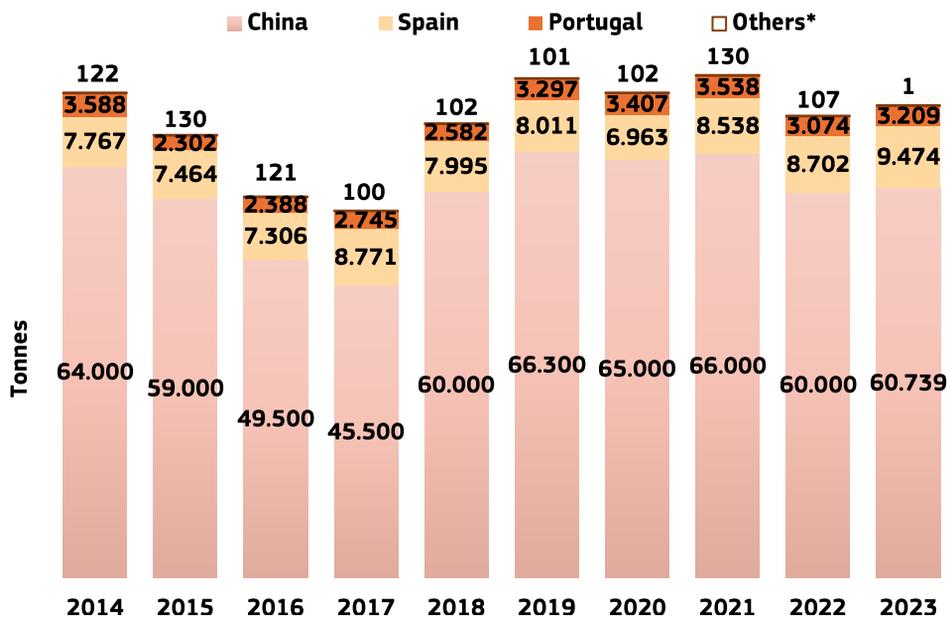




AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

Evolution of world production

The global turbot aquaculture production of turbot reached 73.423 tonnes in 2023. Turbot was farmed in three countries in 2023. China was the main producer, accounting for 83% of the production, Spain accounted for 13% and Portugal for 4% of the global production. Aquaculture production of turbot decreased between 2014 and 2017 (parallely to increasing turbot catches over the same period). Production then increased, peaking in 2019 and remained relatively stable since 2019. Overall, aquaculture turbot production slightly decreased over the last decade (-3%), in relation to the decrease of the Chinese production (-5%), and despite the 22% rise of the Spanish production.



Source: FAO

*production under the category 'Others' represents small volumes, hardly identifiable on the bar chart

PROCESSING

There is no [PRODCOM](#) code referring to turbot processed products.

Turbot



TRADE

- [Combined nomenclature](#)

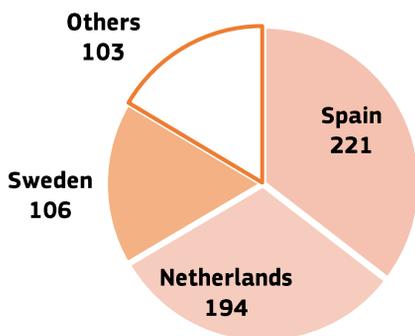
EU trade of turbot products (tonnes – 2024)

Data concern *Psetta maxima*

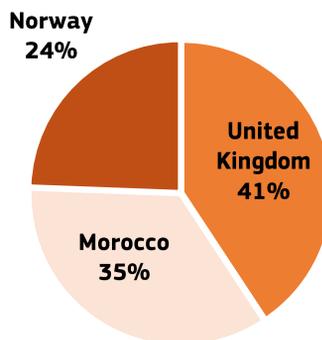
CN code	Product	EU imports	EU exports
03 02 24 00	Fresh or chilled turbot " <i>Psetta maxima</i> "	611	433
03 03 34 00	Frozen turbot " <i>Psetta maxima</i> "	12	57
Total		624	490

- **Extra-EU imports** of turbot are relatively low, reaching over 624 tonnes in 2024, almost all fresh (98%). In 2024, EU imports originated mostly from the United Kingdom (41% of the volume for 254 tonnes), Morocco (35% for 218 tonnes), and Norway (24% for 152 tonnes). The main importing countries within the EU in 2023 were Spain, the Netherlands, and Sweden, which together imported 84% of the imported volumes.

EU importers (2024, tonnes)



Main EU suppliers (2024, % in volume)



Source: EUROSTAT-COMEXT

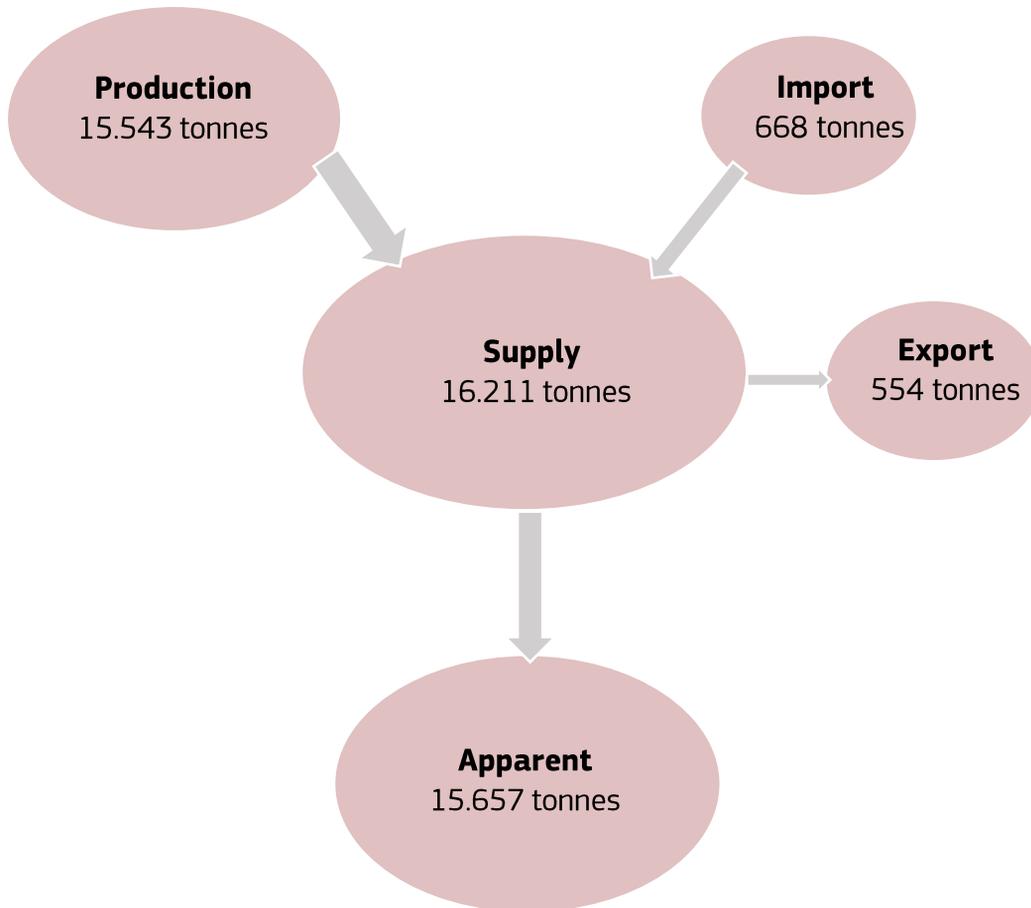
- **Extra-EU exports:**

In 2024, export volumes of turbot totaled 490 tonnes. The majority of turbot was exported fresh (88%), while the rest is exported frozen. France and Spain were the largest exporters, representing 53% and 30% of the exports respectively. In 2024, the United Kingdom, Morocco and Norway were the only destination markets of extra-EU exports.



Supply balance

EU supply balance (2023¹) – Tonnes of live weight equivalent² – Turbot:



Source: FAO/ EUROSTAT-COMEXT

¹ Supply balance is provided for the year 2023 (trade data for 2023 were taken into account). Detailed trade data provided in the slide 5 concern the year 2024.

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

Turbot



PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

Ex-farm/First-sale (fresh)

Ex-farm and first sale prices are provided for the main EU producers (Portugal and Spain).

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Source
Spain - farmed	7,46	6,75	6,99	7,71	6,91	8,22	8,73	8,89	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA
Portugal - farmed	7,66	6,80	8,06	6,77	5,07	8,15	10,86	11,29	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA
Netherlands, wild - fresh, gutted	12,03	13,08	13,59	13,74	11,61	14,28	19,67	20,18	19,97	19,70	EUMOFA

(*) From January to October 2025

Wholesale (fresh)

Wholesale prices are reported for Mercamadrid (Madrid, Spain) and Rungis (France).

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Source
Spain - farmed	9,94	8,94	10,65	10,63	8,55	10,83	12,77	14,66	13,16	14,08	Mercamadrid
Spain - wild	21,98	21,76	21,95	21,03	16,90	20,07	23,08	22,53	25,86	26,94	Mercamadrid
France- wild, 2-3 kg	23,29	20,57	19,50	20,94	18,45	17,84	31,53	25,54	24,61	27,25	Rungis (RNM)
France - imported EU, 3-4 kg	25,22	23,89	21,13	25,94	21,15	29,00	25,99	25,83	25,28	29,25	Rungis (RNM)

(*) From January to October 2025

Retail/Consumption

Retail prices are reported for Spain and France.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Spain - fresh	10,24	10,38	10,82	11,31	11,49	10,74	13,12	13,34	14,64	MAPA
France - fresh	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	20,8	19,3	19,2	23,7	22,4	22,2	FranceAgriMer

(*) Latest available year

Turbot



PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

Extra-EU import (fresh whole)

EU imports from third countries concern mainly fresh whole/gutted turbot. Main importers were Spain, the Netherland, and Sweden in 2024.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Source
Spain	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10,11	19,11	16,98	17,72	18,62	21,74	EUMOFA
Netherlands	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	11,98	11,24	14,97	13,42	14,09	15,95	EUMOFA
Sweden	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8,60	10,06	12,14	10,25	11,20	13,11	EUMOFA

(* From January to September 2025)

Extra-EU export (fresh whole)

France and Spain were the main EU exporter of turbot to third countries. EU exports are mainly composed of fresh whole/gutted turbot.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Source
France	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	43,15	22,49	22,43	25,01	30,11	26,57	EUMOFA
Spain	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10,18	12,07	16,55	16,37	21,65	17,79	EUMOFA

(* From January to September 2025)

Turbot



MARKETING

- National lists of commercial designations ([Read more](#))
- Information system on commercial designations and scientific names in all EU languages ([Read more](#))
- The minimum conservation reference sizes for turbot (*Scophthalmus maxiumus*) constitute minimum marketing sizes ([Read more](#))
- There is no name protected under **Protected Geographical Indication** (PGI) for turbot

CONSUMPTION

- Turbot is not among the 15th most consumed species in the EU (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2025 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Apparent consumption per capita of turbot in 2023: **0,04 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [Supply balance - 2023](#) EUMOFA)
- Nutritional value (Turbot, nutrition values per serving 100g) ([Read more](#))

Nutrition values	Turbot
Energy (kcal)	95,00
Total fat (g)	2,95
Saturates (g)	0,75
Carbohydrate (g)	0,00
Sugars (g)	0,00
Protein (g)	16,05
Salt (mg)	375,00