

# Monthly Highlights

No. 9 / 2018

## E U M O F A

European Market Observatory for  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Products

### In this issue

In August 2018, first-sales value and volume increased in Sweden, Portugal, Denmark and Norway over August 2017. In the same period, they dropped in Belgium, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and the UK.

During the past 36 months, average first-sales prices of European pilchard increased only in France by 3%, whereas in Italy they remained stable. The UK experienced an average prices' decline by 4%. Average first-sales prices of European sprat decreased in all surveyed countries, with the highest decline recorded in Sweden (-15%).

Prices of frozen crab from Norway and frozen mackerel from the Faroe Islands have been on long-run upward trends. Frozen sardines from Morocco have been falling for most of 2018, while Moroccan prepared or preserved sardines have been erratic week-to-week but unchanged over the past three years.

In January–July 2018, the average retail price of fresh hake for household consumption in Portugal and Spain was 6,43 EUR/kg and 7,38 EUR/kg, respectively. In France, it was much higher at 10, 62 EUR/kg.

In 2017, the EU imported EUR 451 million and 59.102 tonnes of fish and seafood products from Canada, dominated by shrimp and lobster.

In 2016, octopus landed in the EU reached 30.000 tonnes worth EUR 161 million. This was mostly driven by landings in Spain, Portugal and Italy.

In October 2018, a landmark international agreement to prevent unregulated commercial fishing in the Arctic high seas was signed.



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# 1 First sales in Europe

In January–August 2018, 11 EU Member States (MS) and Norway reported first-sales data for 11 commodity groups<sup>1</sup>.

## 1.1 Compared to the same period last year

**Increases in value and volume:** The Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark and Estonia experienced growth in first-sales value and volume. The Netherlands first sales grew by 46% in value and 108% in volume, due mainly to a high supply of blue whiting and Atlantic horse mackerel.

**Decreases in value and volume:** In Latvia, the UK, Belgium and France a drop was observed in both volume and value terms. The drop in Latvia's first sales of fresh fish resulted from a reduction in the annual quota for herring in 2018 compared to 2017. In the UK, sales decreased due to lower supplies of important species such as lobster *Homarus*, scallop, and various species of molluscs among other top species.

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

Country	January–August 2016		January–August 2017		January–August 2018		Change from January–August 2017	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
BE	11.119	43,37	10.268	40,76	9.041	39,26	-12%	-4%
DK	151.677	225,16	148.444	212,37	158.774	219,59	7%	3%
EE	33.187	7,77	29.550	6,92	31.109	7,43	5%	7%
FR	129.597	433,37	128.059	433,16	126.741	420,41	-1%	-3%
IT	57.491	220,40	64.187	233,28	56.745	214,88	-12%	-8%
LV	31.575	6,82	36.229	7,35	25.381	4,81	-30%	-35%
LT	1.415	0,99	1.109	1,05	1.170	0,91	5%	-13%
NL	37.898	153,78	114.436	244,09	238.213	355,22	108%	46%
NO	1.727.244	1.410,88	1.853.432	1.379,34	2.023.491	1.390,54	9%	1%
PT	64.735	127,43	62.978	131,63	62.004	131,77	-2%	0%
SE	76.928	56,85	49.199	41,55	86.676	50,01	76%	20%
UK	281.279	513,63	209.796	384,14	163.341	294,83	-22%	-23%

Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018); volume data is reported in net weight.

\*Partial data. First-sales data for Italy covers 229 ports (approximately 50% of the total landings).

<sup>1</sup> Bivalves and other molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, cephalopods, crustaceans, flatfish, freshwater fish, groundfish, miscellaneous aquatic products, other marine fish, salmonids, small pelagics, tuna and tuna-like species.

## 1.2 In August 2018

**Increases in value and volume:** First sales grew in Sweden, Portugal, Denmark and Norway over a year earlier. The increase in first sales was particularly high for Sweden and Denmark, mainly due to increase in catch of herring.

**Decreases in value and volume:** Total first sales dropped in Belgium, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and the UK. The decreases were particularly high in Latvia due largely to low supplies of small pelagics. In Lithuania, lower supply of European flounder was the main factor that contributed to overall decrease in volume.

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

Country	August 2016		August 2017		August 2018		Change from August 2017	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
BE	1.280	5,10	1.206	5,40	1.086	4,61	-10%	-15%
DK	30.532	39,45	32.513	37,48	38.623	38,80	19%	4%
EE	80	0,14	400	0,21	401	0,31	0%	47%
FR	16.540	59,08	15.978	57,98	16.401	55,09	4%	-5%
IT	6.132	26,33	6.505	27,68	6.238	26,48	-4%	-4%
LV	2.187	0,42	2.303	0,41	1.463	0,26	-36%	-36%
LT	1	<0,01	10	0,01	6	0,01	-42%	-11%
NL	5.791	24,01	34.647	55,41	30.306	49,95	-13%	-10%
NO	125.122	102,29	105.786	90,43	111.600	101,56	5%	12%
PT	11.848	22,81	12.867	21,51	14.284	21,99	11%	2%
SE	8.789	9,95	7.484	6,37	11.877	8,14	59%	28%
UK	47.157	79,41	28.792	44,15	27.882	41,75	-3%	-5%

Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018); volume data is reported in net weight.

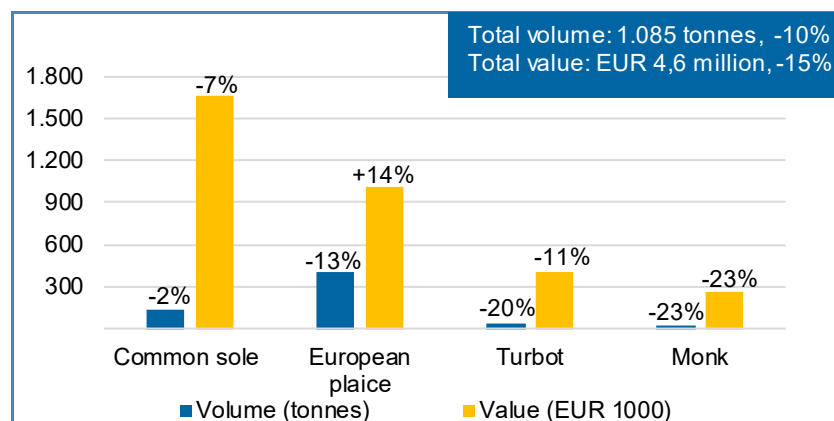
\*Partial data. First-sales data for Italy covers 229 ports (approximately 50% of the total landings).

The most recent first-sales data for **September 2018** available in EUMOFA can be accessed [here](#).

### 1.3 First sales in selected countries

 In **Belgium** in **January–August 2018**, first sales fell by 4% in value and 12% in volume, compared with January–August 2017. The species most responsible for the fall in value was monk (–36%), whereas volume decreased mainly due to European plaice (–13%) and gurnard (–31%). In **August 2018**, both first-sales value and volume decreased compared with August 2017. Common sole and turbot were among the main contributors to such decreases. Average prices decreased the most for shrimp *Crangon* (–50%) and ray (–27%).

Figure 1. **FIRST SALES OF MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN BELGIUM, AUGUST 2018**



Percentages show change from previous year.  
Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).


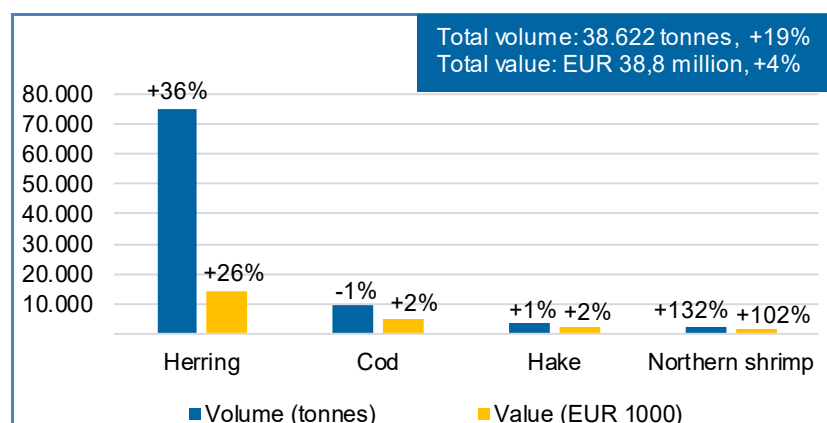
 In **Denmark** in **January–August 2018**, first sales inclined by 3% in value due to herring, cod and saithe, whereas volume grew by 7%, because of herring, mussel, European plaice and saithe compared to the same period in 2017. In **August 2018**, first-sales increased thanks to high supply of herring. Due to the increased volume, the average price of herring decreased by 7%. European plaice and Norway lobster registered price increases of 46% and 10%, respectively, as their landings fell by 34% and 23%.

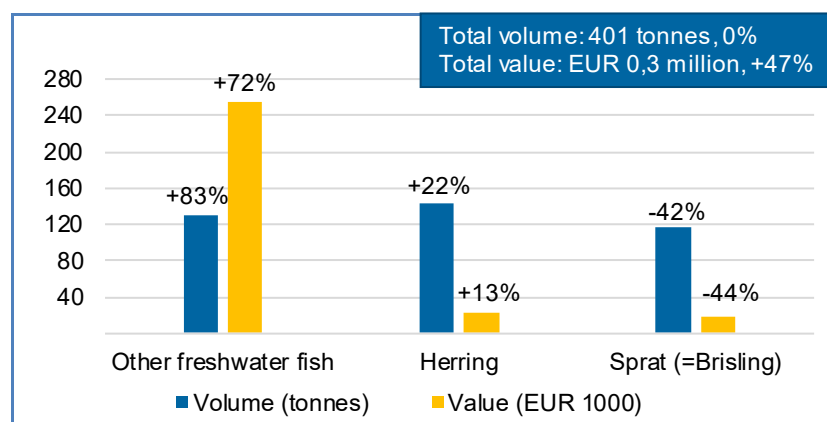
Figure 2. **FIRST SALES OF MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN DENMARK, AUGUST 2018**



Percentages show change from previous year.  
Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

 In **January–August 2018**, **Estonia** saw increases in both first-sales value (+7%) and volume (+5%) due to high landings of sprat compared with the same period a year before. In **August 2018**, first-sales value increased due to freshwater fish (mainly European perch), whereas volume remained stable. Average prices decreased by 7% for herring and 3% for sprat.

Figure 3. **FIRST SALES OF MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN ESTONIA, AUGUST 2018**



Percentages show change from previous year.  
Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).


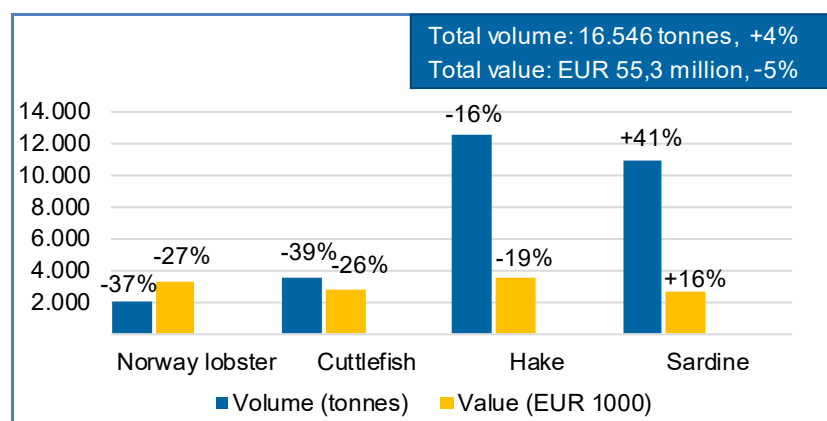
 In **France** in **January–August 2018**, first sales fell slightly in both value (-3%) and volume (-1%) from January 2017. Lower supplies of hake, monk and Norway lobster were the main contributors for these decreases. In **August 2018**, first-sales value decreased 5% because of Norway lobster, hake, and cuttlefish, while volume increased because of sardines. The average price of sardines fell by 17% (to 0,89 EUR/kg), while cuttlefish prices went up by 21% (to 6,26 EUR/kg) compared to August 2017.

Figure 4. **FIRST SALES OF MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN FRANCE, AUGUST 2018**



Percentages show change from previous year.  
Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).


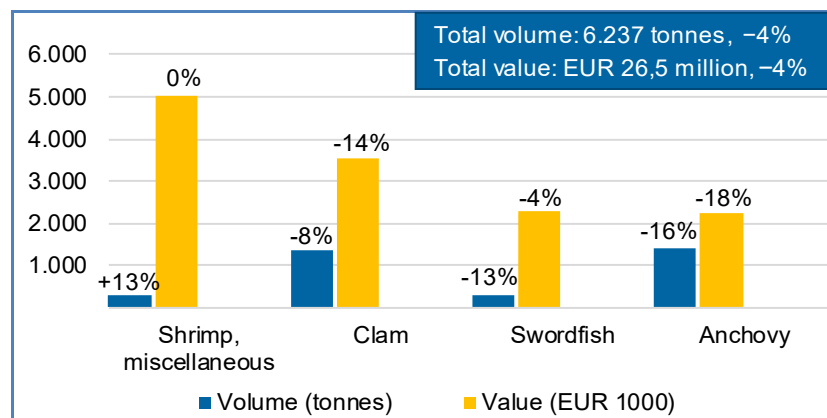
 In **Italy** in **January–August 2018**, first sales decreased by 8% in value and 12% in volume. Clam, swordfish and anchovy were the main species responsible for such trends. In **August 2018**, both first-sales value and volume declined by 4% also because of swordfish, clam, and anchovy. The first-sales average prices of all species were stable compared to the same period in 2017. Among the main species, average prices of anchovy fell by 2% to 1,58 EUR/kg, whereas mackerel prices went up by 10% at 1,74 EUR/kg.

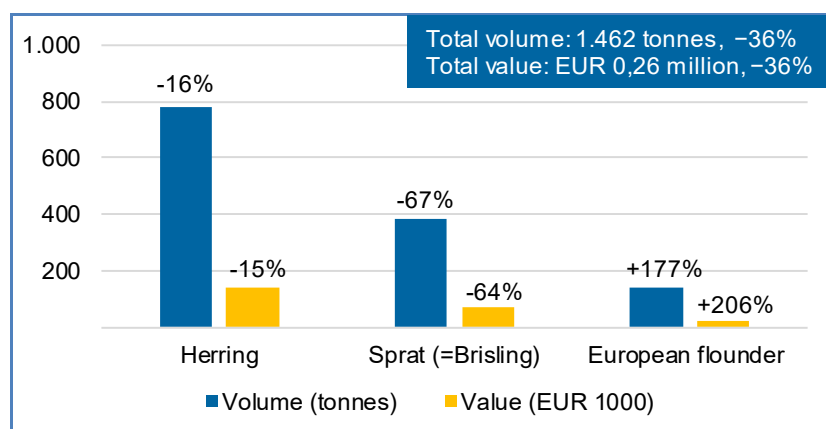
Figure 5. **FIRST SALES OF MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN ITALY, AUGUST 2018**



Percentages show change from previous year.  
Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

**In Latvia in January–August 2018**, first sales decreased in value (–35%) and volume (–30%) from January–August 2017. This was due to lower supplies of small pelagics (herring and sprat), which were the most important species in terms of value and volume. **August 2018** saw continued decreases of 36% in both value and volume due to the same species. Overall, the average prices increased by 1%. Of the main species, herring and sprat average prices grew by 2% and 11%, respectively, over August 2017.

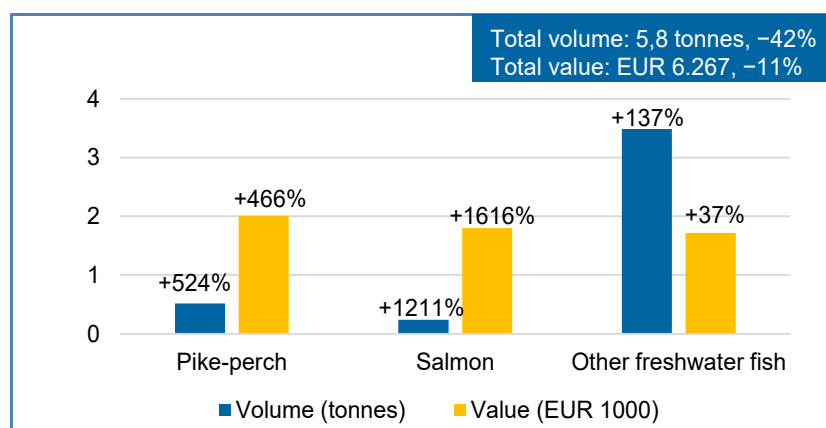
Figure 6. **FIRST SALES OF MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN LATVIA, AUGUST 2018**



Percentages show change from previous year.  
Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

**In Lithuania in January–August 2018**, first-sales value decreased by 13% due to cod, whereas volume increased by 5% because of higher supplies of smelt (+50%) and herring (+173%) compared with January–August 2017. In **August 2018**, higher supplies of pike-perch, salmon and other freshwater fish did not compensate for a decrease in overall first-sales value and volume, which occurred due to European flounder and cod. Average prices of all top species increased, especially for salmon, whose price rose by 31%.

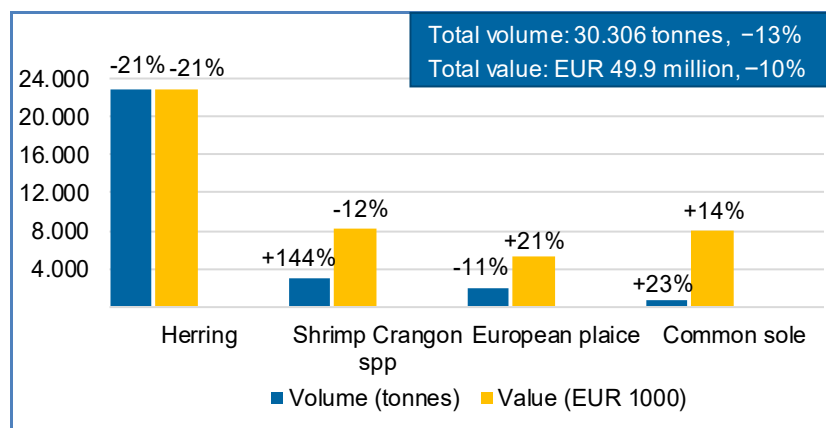
Figure 7. **FIRST SALES OF MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN LITHUANIA, AUGUST 2018**



Percentages show change from previous year.  
Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

**In the Netherlands in January–August 2018**, first-sales value and volume significantly increased by 46% and 108%, respectively, due to blue whiting (an over-4-fold increase). **August 2018** saw a reversal in these measures as first-sales value and volume decreased from the same month in 2017. The lower supply of herring was the main reason for such changes. Of the top species, shrimp *Crangon* registered average prices decrease by 64%, whereas European plaice' prices went up by 35%.

Figure 8. **FIRST SALES OF MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN THE NETHERLANDS, AUGUST 2018**






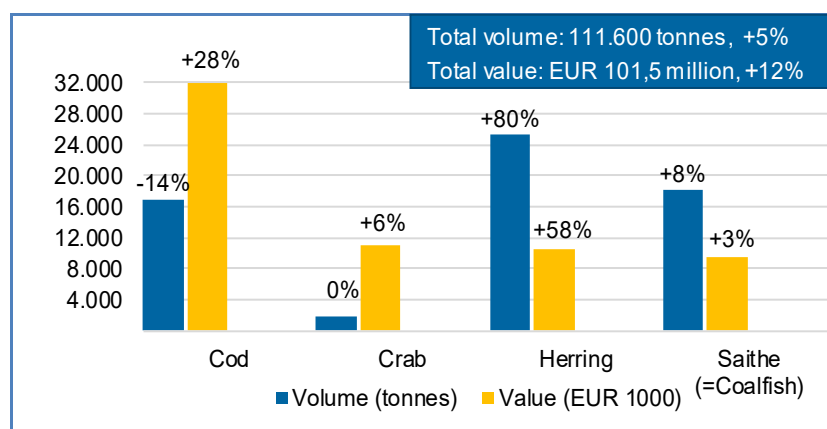
 In **Norway** in **January–August 2018**, first-sales value and volume increased by 1% and 9%, respectively, mainly because of herring, blue whiting and mackerel. In **August 2018**, both value and volume increased over August 2017. The increases in value were due to herring, saithe (coalfish), crab and cod. With 11.200 tonnes more than in August 2017, herring was the main factor for first-sales volume increases. Overall average prices increased by 6% – with blue whiting (+58%) and cod (+49%) among the top species.

Figure 9. **FIRST SALES OF MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN NORWAY, AUGUST 2018**



Percentages show change from previous year.  
Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).


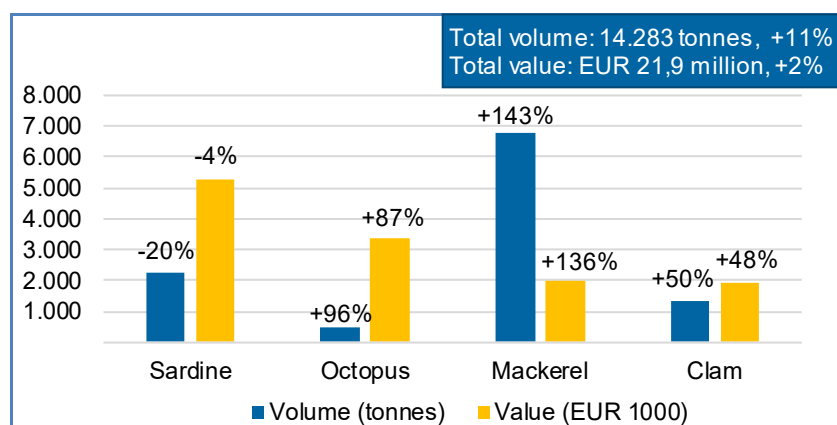
 In **Portugal** in **January–August 2018**, first-sales value was stable, whereas volume decreased by 2% because of horse mackerel, sardine and anchovy. In **August 2018**, first-sales value and volume increased due to octopus, mackerel and clam. A decrease in average prices of mackerel (-3%) and anchovy (-19%) contributed to the overall average price decrease of 8% from August 2017. Among other top species, Atlantic horse mackerel and sardine recorded increases in average prices of 62% and 20%, respectively.

Figure 10. **FIRST SALES OF MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN PORTUGAL, AUGUST 2018**



Percentages show change from previous year.  
Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).


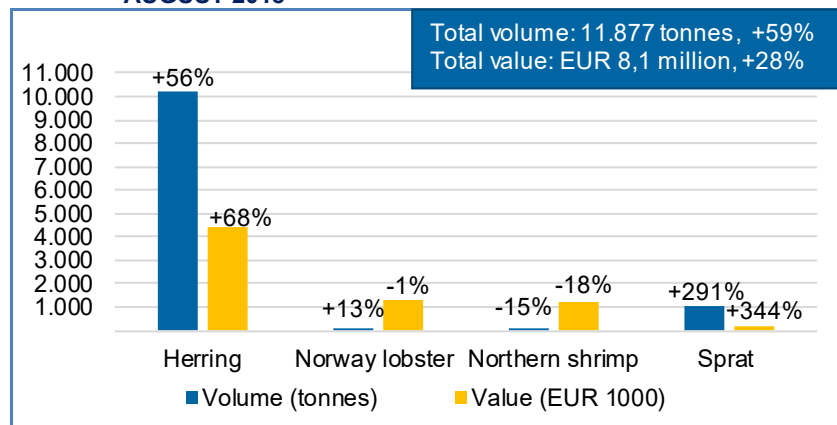
 In **Sweden**, first sales grew in both value (+20%) and volume (+76%) during **January–August 2018**. The growth occurred due to herring and sprat, which recorded increases in catches. In **August 2018**, higher first-sales value and volume of herring and sprat, contributed to the overall increases. Other top species in term of first sales were Norway lobster and Northern shrimp. Of the top species, cod average prices increased by 55% (3,27 EUR/kg).

Figure 11. **FIRST SALES OF MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN SWEDEN, AUGUST 2018**



Percentages show change from previous year.  
Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).


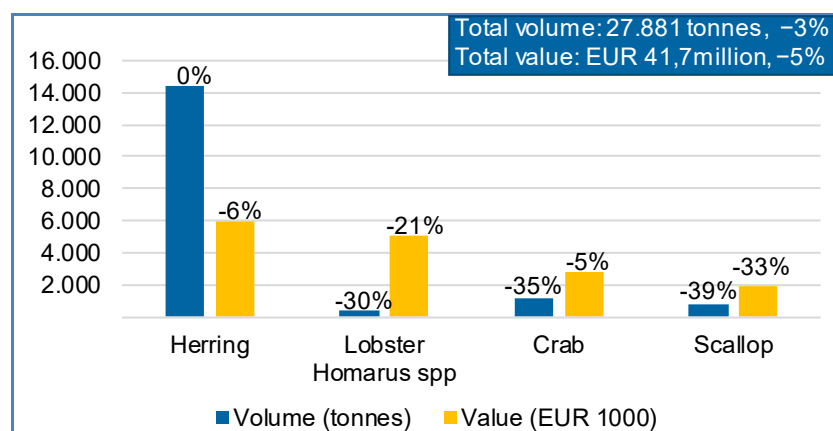
 In the UK in **January–August 2018**, both first-sales value and volume decreased by more than 20% due to mackerel, scallop and hake. In **August 2018**, first sales continued the negative trend but to a lesser extent compared with August 2017. Lobster *Homarus* spp., scallop, crab and herring were the main species behind the decreases. Overall, the average price of all species fell by 2%, especially for haddock and hake – both down by 16%.

Figure 12. **FIRST SALES OF MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN THE UK, AUGUST 2018**

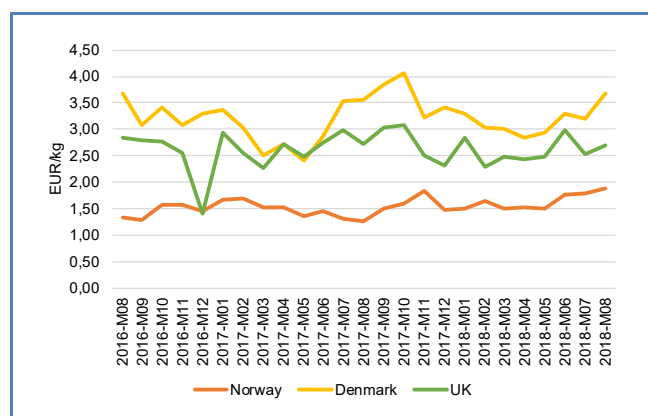


Percentages show change from previous year.  
Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).



## 1.4 Comparison of first-sales prices of selected species in selected countries

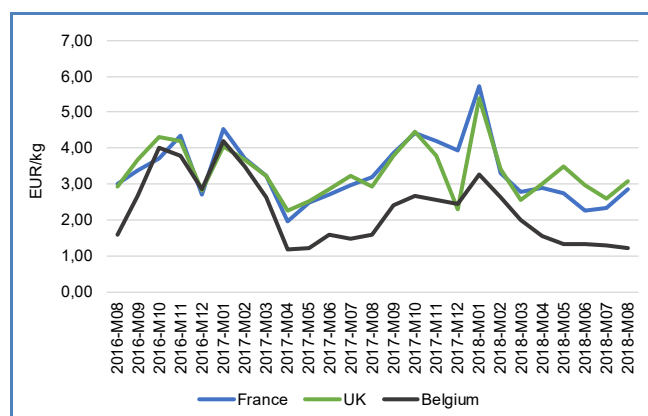
Figure 13. FIRST-SALES PRICES OF COD IN DENMARK, NORWAY AND THE UK



Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

Cod first sales in Europe occur mainly in **Norway**, followed by **Denmark** and the **UK**, together accounting for 98,7% of the volume of the total reported landings through August 2018. The average first-sales prices in these countries in **August 2018** were 1,89 EUR/kg in Norway (up by 6% from July 2018 and by 49% from August 2017), 3,68 EUR/kg in Denmark (up by 15% from the previous month and by 3% from the same month in 2017), and 2,69 EUR/kg in the UK (up by 7% from July 2018 and down by 1% from August 2017). First-sales prices have generally risen in Norway in the last two years and have shown no strong trend in Denmark or the UK during this period.

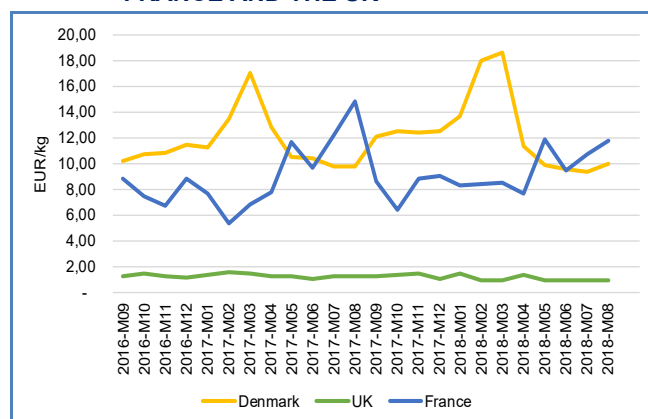
Figure 14. FIRST-SALES PRICES OF MEGRIM IN BELGIUM, FRANCE AND THE UK



Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

First sales of **megrim** in the EU take place mainly in **France**, the **UK**, and **Belgium**, which combined have had a 96,4% share of total first sales in 2018. The average first-sales prices in these countries in **August 2018** were 2,85 EUR/kg in France (up by 22% from July 2018 but down by 11% from August 2017), 3,07 EUR/kg in the UK (up by 19% from the previous month and by 5% from the same month in 2017), and 1,21 EUR/kg in Belgium (down by 8% from July 2018 and by 25% from August 2017). Although the price of megrim in Belgium is almost always considerably lower than in nearby countries, price trends in all three markets have been similar, generally peaking in the winter and finding bottom levels in summer, corresponding roughly to supply. Over the last two years there has been a general decline in prices in each of surveyed countries.

Figure 15. FIRST-SALES PRICES OF EEL IN DENMARK, FRANCE AND THE UK



Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

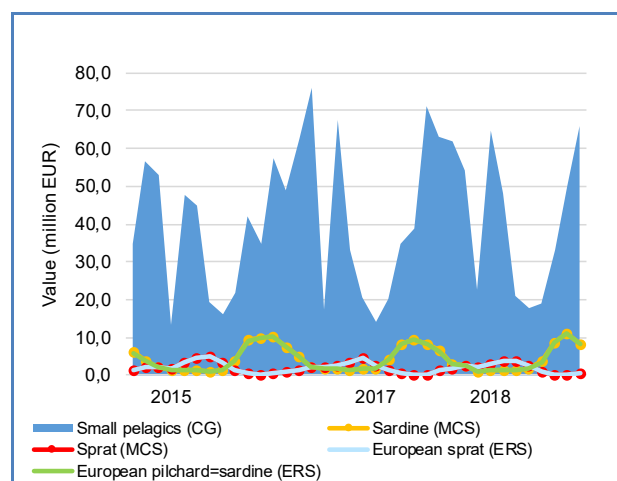
First sales of **eel** in Europe occur mainly in **Denmark**, followed by the **UK** and **France**, together accounting for 84% by volume of total 2018 reported first sales through August. The average first-sales prices in these countries in **August 2018** were 9,94 EUR/kg in Denmark (down by 7% from July 2018 and by 2% from August 2017), 0,90 EUR/kg in the UK (down by 5% from the previous month and by 29% from the same month in 2017), and 11,72 EUR/kg in France (up by 10% from July 2018 but down by 21% from August 2017). Supplies in Denmark, by far the largest EU supplier, peak in October–December of each year, but prices are not closely correlated to supply. The supply of eel, an extremely endangered species, is subject to strict EU regulations.

## 1.5. Commodity group of the month: Small pelagics

The **small pelagics** commodity group (CG) ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in value and 1<sup>st</sup> in volume among 11 commodity groups in August 2018<sup>2</sup>. First sales of small pelagics reached EUR 65,8 million and 99.089 tonnes – a decline of 7% in value and incline by 3% in volume over first sales in August 2017. In the past 36 months, the highest value of small pelagics was registered in November 2016, when it reached more than EUR 75 million.

The small pelagics commodity group includes eight main commercial species (MCS): anchovy, herring, Atlantic horse mackerel, other horse mackerel, mackerel, miscellaneous small pelagics, sardine and sprat. At the species (ERS)<sup>3</sup> level, European pilchard and European sprat together made up 17% of total first-sales value of small pelagics during January–August 2018<sup>4</sup>.

Figure 16. **FIRST-SALES VALUE COMPARISON AT CG, MCS, AND ERS LEVEL FOR REPORTING COUNTRIES**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

\*Norway excluded due to a limited level of data for species at ERS level.

## 1.6. Focus on European pilchard (sardine)



European pilchard (*Sardina pilchardus*) - the most common species distributed in European waters, is a migratory pelagic species that is typically found at depths of 25–55 m during the day and closer to the surface at night (10–35 m). It is fast-growing and starts to reproduce in the first or second year of life. It has a high fecundity, can reach 25 cm and lives 10–12 years on average. The species feeds mainly on plankton and crustaceans. Sardine is distributed in the Northeast Atlantic from Norway and Scotland to Senegal. It is also found in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

The species breeds at 20–25 m near shore, or as far as 100 km out to sea during different months, e.g. from April–June (English Channel), August (North and Black seas), September–May (off the European coasts of the Mediterranean Sea) and November–June (off the African coasts of the Mediterranean Sea)<sup>5</sup>.

Sardine is caught mostly by purse-seiners and pelagic trawlers, as well as by small-scale fishery fleets. In EU Atlantic waters, two stocks are relevant to fisheries management: the Northern stock (ICES Subareas VII and VIIIa, b, d), fished mainly by France and Spain, and the Southern stock (ICES Subarea VIIIc and Division IXa) fished by Spain and Portugal. The species is important for fisheries and the processing industry (canning) in these countries<sup>6</sup>.

Sardine stocks are not subject to TACs and quotas. 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. In the EU, the minimum landing size is 11 cm. Sardine is caught year-round, with peaks in summer<sup>7</sup>.

On the market, sardine is found mostly fresh and canned, as well as frozen. It is also sold dried, salted, and smoked.

<sup>2</sup> More data on commodity groups can be found in table 1.2 in the Annex.

<sup>3</sup> Species reported at Electronic Reporting System (ERS) level, based on FAO 3-alpha codes.

<sup>4</sup> Ranking of the main commercial species in the Small pelagics commodity group can be found in table 1.3 in the Annex.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2910/en>

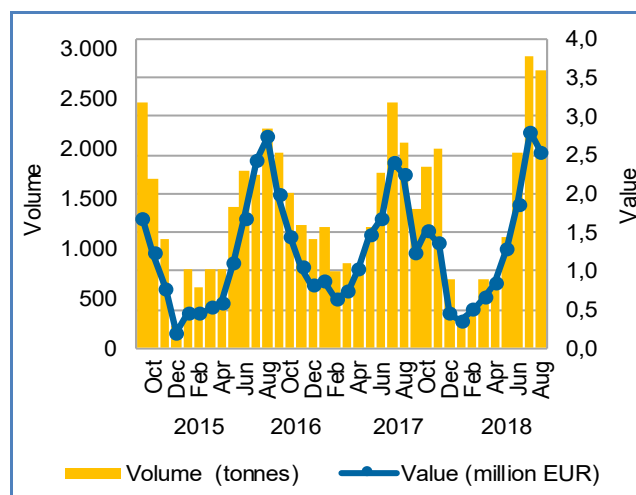
<sup>6</sup> <http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2910/en>

<sup>7</sup> COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 850/98 <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:01998R0850-20140101&from=EN>

## Selected countries

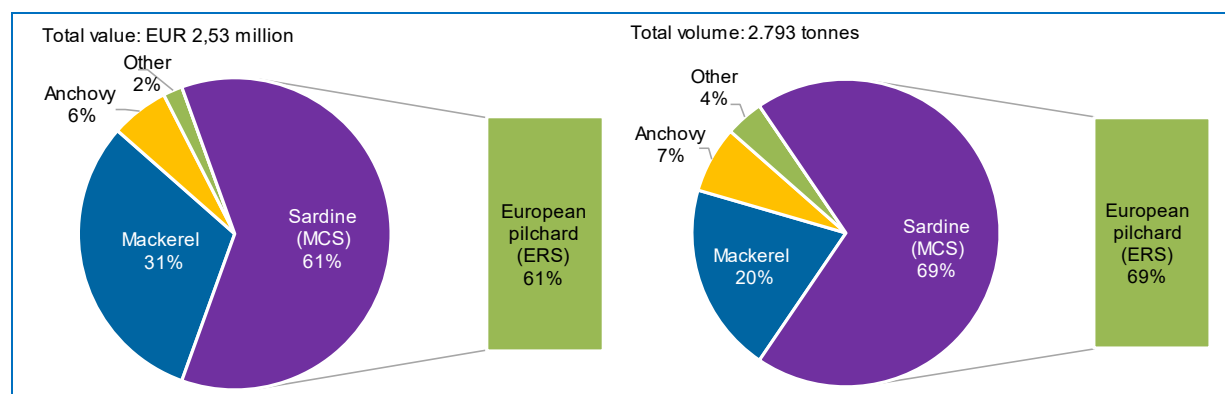
In **France** during January–August 2018, first sales of European pilchard slightly decreased by 2% in value and 3% in volume compared to the same period in 2017. Compared with January–August 2016 value increased by 9%, whereas volume went up by 6%. In August 2018, first-sales value increased by 13% and volume by 35% compared to the same month a year earlier. More than 50% of European pilchard' sales were registered at ports of Douarnenez, Lorient and Saint-Guénolé.

Figure 17. **EUROPEAN PILCHARD: FIRST SALES IN FRANCE**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

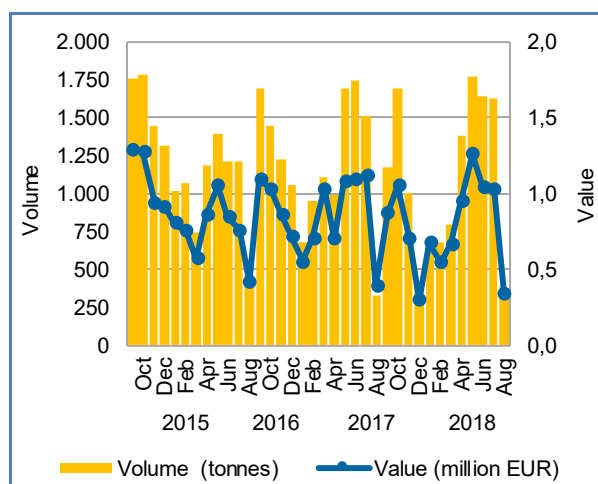
Figure 18. **FIRST-SALES COMPARISON OF SMALL PELAGICS IN FRANCE IN VALUE AND VOLUME, AUGUST 2018**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

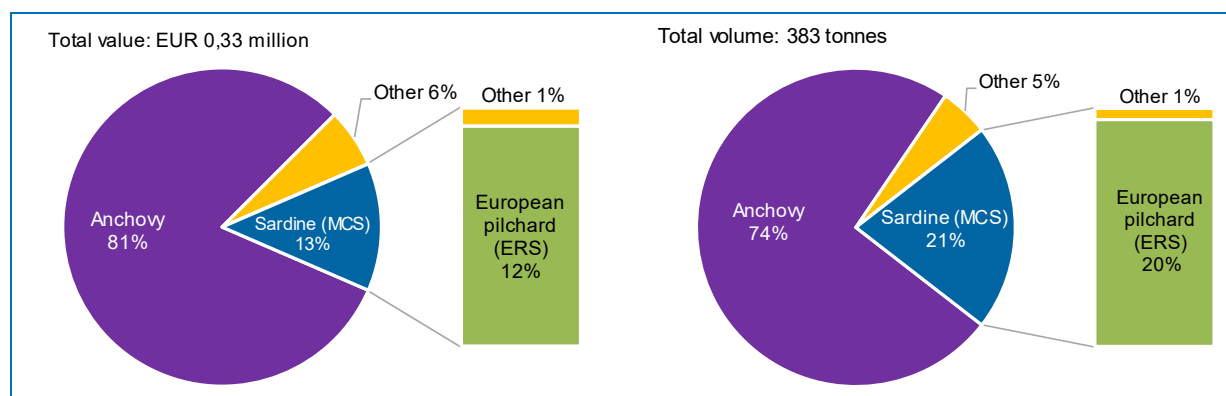
In **Italy** in January–August 2018, first sales of European pilchard declined by 3% in value and 1% in volume from the same period in 2017. Compared with 2016, the trend was reversed as both first sales value and volume increased by 7%. In August 2018, value increased by 8% as well as volume that went up 39% over August 2017. Among the important ports with the highest first sales are Chioggia, Cesenatico and Porto Garibaldi. In 2018, 57% of first sales occurred at these ports.

Figure 19. **EUROPEAN PILCHARD: FIRST SALES IN ITALY**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

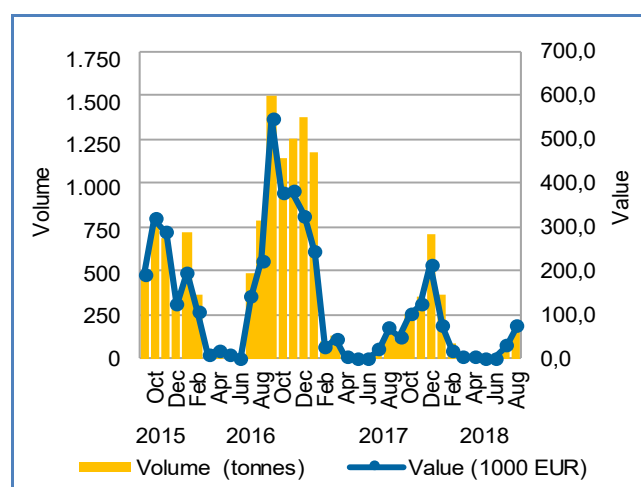
Figure 20. **FIRST-SALES COMPARISON OF SMALL PELAGICS IN ITALY IN VALUE AND VOLUME, AUGUST 2018**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

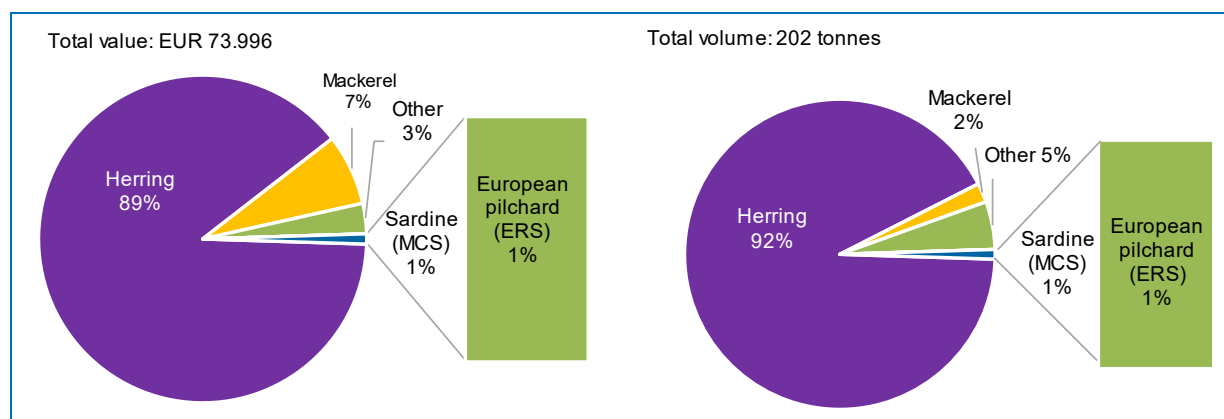
In the **UK** in January–August 2018, first-sales value and volume of European pilchard recorded sharp decreases from the same periods in 2017 (–51% in value, –55% in volume) and 2016 (–71% in value and –70% in volume). Total volume of first sales sold in the UK is the smallest among the analysed countries. The highest first-sales volume was registered in September 2016, when 1.542 tonnes were sold. August 2018 recorded increases by 8% in value and 39% in volume compared to August 2017. Ports of Newlyn, Mevagissey and Plymouth are the most important in terms of first-sales value in the UK.

Figure 21. **EUROPEAN PILCHARD: FIRST SALES IN THE UK**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

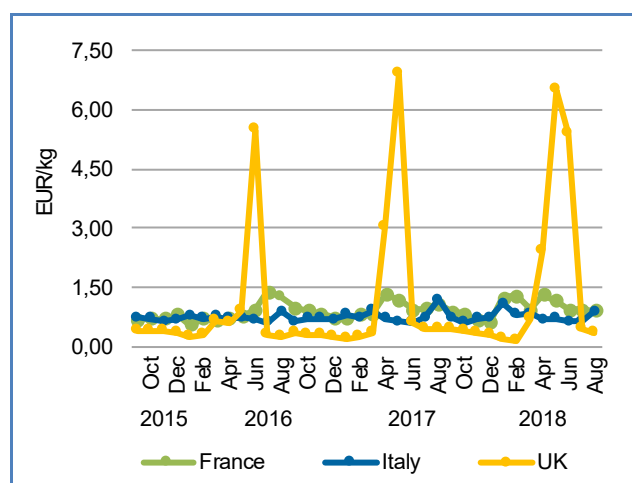
Figure 22. **FIRST-SALES COMPARISON OF SMALL PELAGICS IN THE UK IN VALUE AND VOLUME, AUGUST 2018**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

## Price trends

Figure 23. **EUROPEAN PILCHARD: FIRST-SALES PRICE IN SELECTED COUNTRIES**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

We have covered **European pilchard** in previous *Monthly Highlights*:

**First sales:** France (8/2017), Greece (MH8/2017, 3/2016, July 2013), Italy (8/2017), Portugal (5/2015, February 2013).

**Consumption:** France (1/2018), Greece (3/2015), Portugal (1/2018, 1/2016, 3/2015), Spain (1/2018, 1/2016, 3/2015), the UK (3/2015).

**Topic of the month:** Sardine market in the EU (6/2016).

During the past 36 months, average first-sales prices of European pilchard slightly increased only in France by 3%, whereas in Italy they remained stable. The UK experienced average prices decline by 4%. Prices were the highest in the UK (1,15 EUR/kg), followed by France (0,92 EUR/kg), and Italy (0,75 EUR/kg).

In **France**, in the first eight months of 2018, the average prices at 1,00 EUR/kg were 1% higher compared to January–August 2017, and 2% more than in 2016. During the past three-year period, the price peaked in July 2016 (1,39 EUR/kg), when 1.745 tonnes were sold. The highest volume was recorded in July 2018 when 2.924 tonnes were sold for 0,96 EUR/kg. The lowest average price occurred in January 2016, when 786 tonnes were valued at 0,56 EUR/kg.

In **Italy**, the average prices in January–August 2018 were lower than in the same period in 2017 (–1%) and they remained similar as in January–August 2016. The highest recorded price in three-year period was in August 2017, when the price reached 1,20 EUR/kg for 326 tonnes. The lowest price was recorded in October 2017 at 0,62 EUR/kg.

In the **UK** in January–August 2018, the average price at 0,27 EUR/kg was the lowest among the analysed countries. Prices peaked in May 2017, when they reached 6,91 EUR/kg for 200 kg, whereas the lowest price at 0,17 EUR/kg was observed in February 2017 when 92 tonnes were sold.

## 1.7. Focus on European sprat



The European sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) is a marine pelagic species found in inshore schools. It is a short-lived species with a tolerance to low-salinity waters. It feeds on zooplankton. Sprat migrates to spawning grounds in spring and summer and moves to the water surface at night. Some spawning may take place throughout the year, however, near the coast or up to 100 km from the shore<sup>8</sup>. Sprat is distributed in the Northeast Atlantic (from the North Sea and Baltic Sea, south to Morocco) and in the Mediterranean and Black seas.

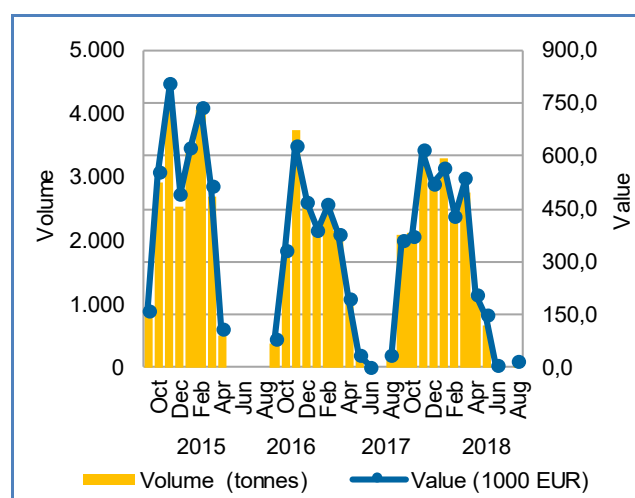
The species is important in the North Sea and Baltic Sea fisheries. Catches are done with pelagic trawlers using small-meshed nets. The sprat stock in the Baltic Sea is longer-lived than the North Sea stock. Sprat is subject to total allowable catches (TACs), which are shared among 12 Member States (in the North and Baltic seas)<sup>9</sup>.

Sprat accounts for most of the raw materials used by the processing sector. On the market, it is found mainly canned and smoked and to a lesser extent fresh (whole). In Denmark and Sweden, it is used mainly for production of fishmeal and fish oil.

### Selected countries

In **Estonia** in January–August 2018, European sprat first-sales value and volume increased by 28% and 24%, respectively, compared to the same period in 2017. In January–August 2016 first sales were higher by 4% in value and 3% in volume compared to 2018. In August 2018, first-sales value and volume decreased nearly 50%, compared to the same month a year earlier. There are no recorded catches during summer period in May–August due to fisheries seasonality. When water is warmer, the flesh of the fish gets very soft and it lowers the quality significantly. There are no targeted sprat fisheries in that period. All European sprat first sales were registered at the ports of Liu Kalatsehh, Paldiski Lõunasadam and Haapsalu.

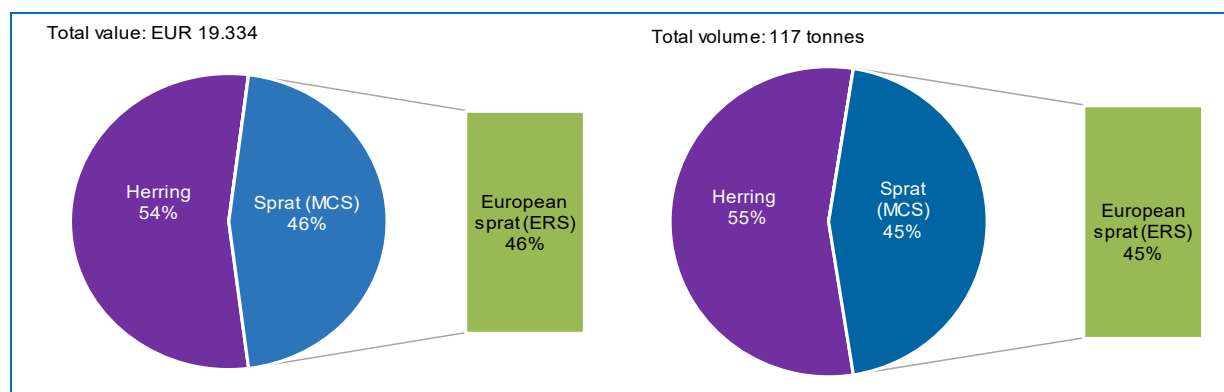
Figure 24. **EUROPEAN SPRAT: FIRST SALES IN ESTONIA**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

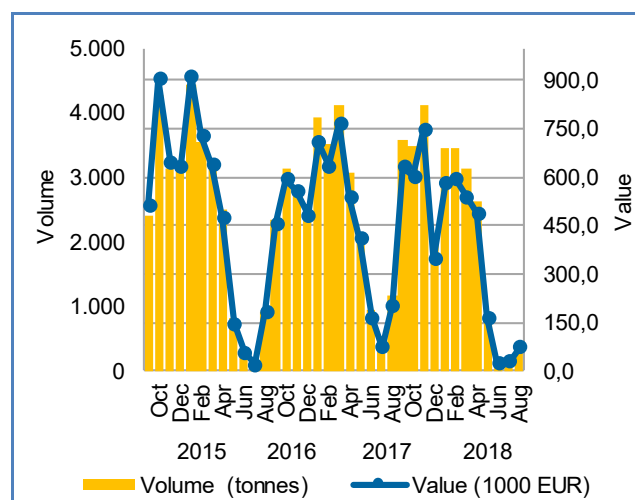
<sup>8</sup> <http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2102/en>

<sup>9</sup> COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2017/127 <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017R0127&from=EN>

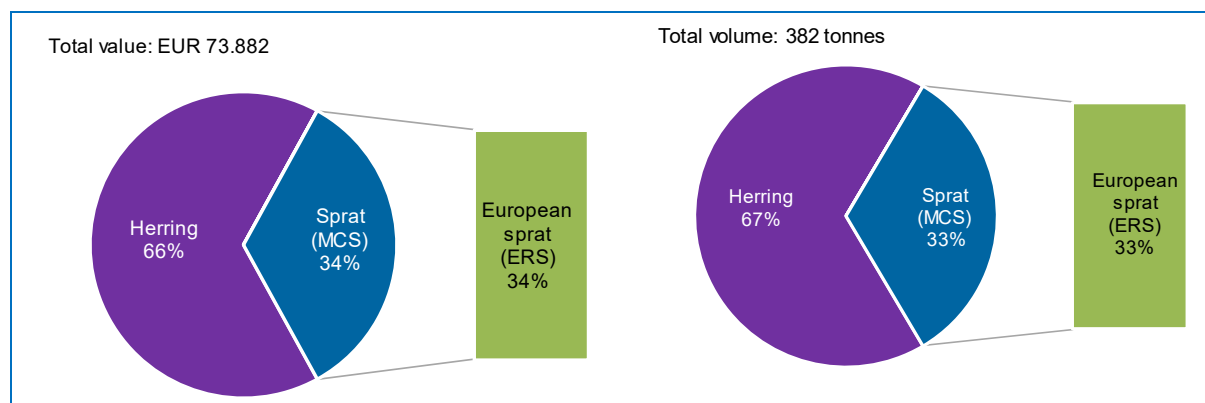
Figure 25. **FIRST-SALES COMPARISON OF SMALL PELAGICS IN ESTONIA IN VALUE AND VOLUME, AUGUST 2018**

Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

In **Latvia** in January–August 2018, first sales of European sprat went down in both value (–29%) and volume (–26%) from the same period in 2017. A similar trend occurred in 2016 but to a lesser extent. In August 2018, first-sales value and volume were over 60% lower from August 2017. There are no catches during the summer period due to fisheries seasonality as similar as in Estonia. Over 90% of European sprat first-sales value was registered at the port of Liepaja and Ventspils in the Baltic Sea.

Figure 26. **EUROPEAN SPRAT: FIRST SALES IN LATVIA**

Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

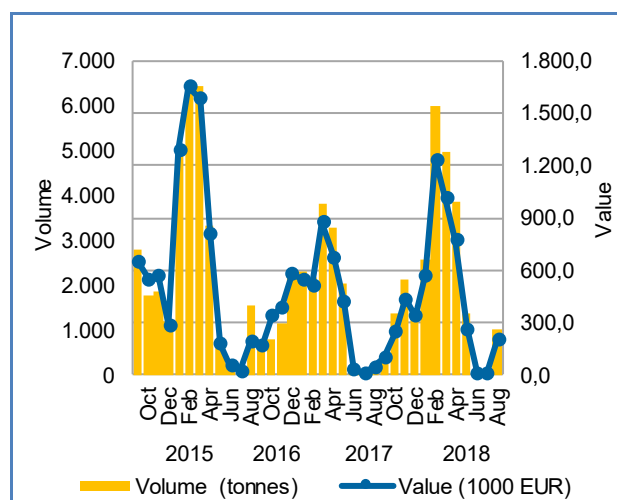
Figure 27. **FIRST-SALES COMPARISON OF SMALL PELAGICS IN LATVIA IN VALUE AND VOLUME, AUGUST 2018**

Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).



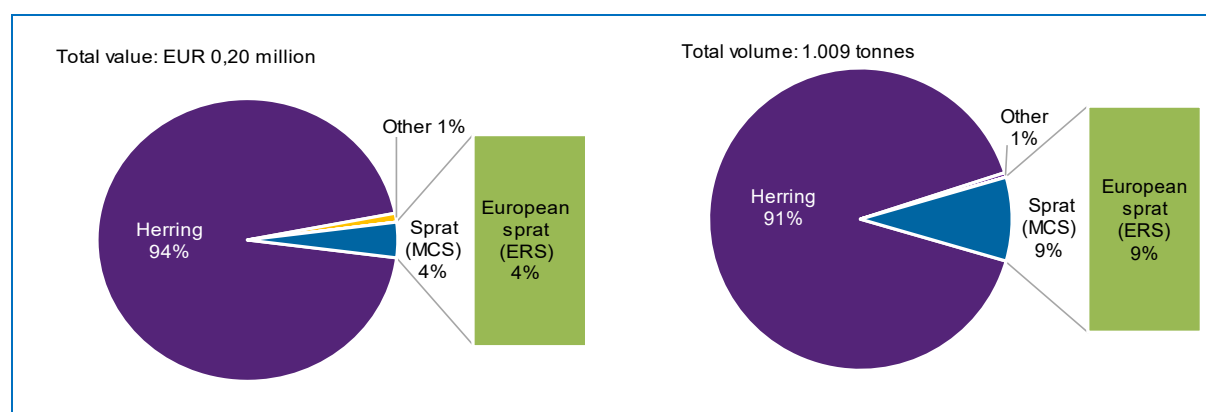
In **Sweden** in January–August 2018, first sales of European sprat increased in value by 31% and in volume by 41%. The trend was reversed compared to 2016, when first sales were lower by nearly 30% in value and 16% in volume. In August 2018, first sales increased sharply by three times due to earlier start of sprat fisheries compared to August 2017. The largest landings of 6.411 tonnes were recorded in March 2016. Sprat fisheries in Sweden is seasonal, with a low season during the summer period and a peak in winter.

Figure 28. **EUROPEAN SPRAT: FIRST SALES IN SWEDEN**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

Figure 29. **FIRST-SALES COMPARISON OF SMALL PELAGICS IN SWEDEN IN VALUE AND VOLUME, AUGUST 2018**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

## Price trends

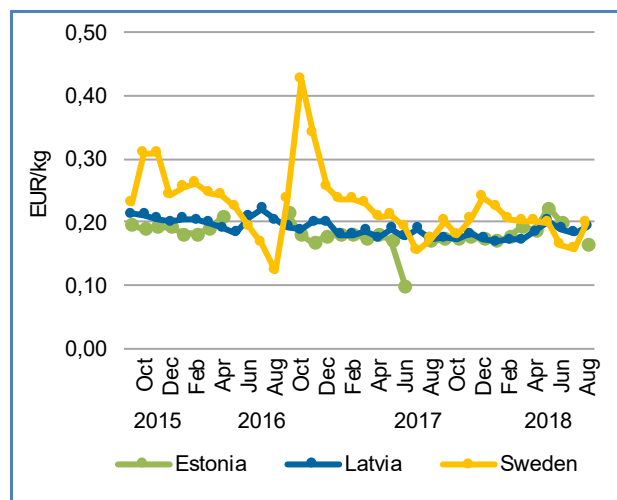
In the past three years, average first-sales prices of European sprat generally decreased in all surveyed countries, with the highest decline recorded in Sweden (~15%). Prices were slightly higher in Sweden (0,22 EUR/kg), compared to Latvia (0,19 EUR/kg) and Estonia (0,18 EUR/kg).

In **Estonia**, volume of catches was the lowest among the surveyed countries. In the eight-month period of 2018, the average first-sales price (0,18 EUR/kg) increased by 3% over 2017 but decreased 1% from 2016. The highest price occurred in May 2018 at 0,22 EUR/kg, with landings of 654 tonnes, whereas the lowest price was registered in June 2017, when the volume of only 4 tonnes of sprat was sold for as little as 0,10 EUR/kg due to low quality of fish in that period.

In **Latvia** in January–August 2018, the average price of European sprat at 0,18 EUR/kg was down by 3% from the same period in 2017, and 12% from 2016. The peak season in sprat fisheries is winter. They peaked in January 2016 when 4.437 tonnes were sold at price of 0,21 EUR/kg, while the lowest first-sales volume occurred in July 2016, when 99 tonnes were sold at the highest price registered (0,22 EUR/kg).

In **Sweden**, the volume of catches is the highest among the surveyed countries during the first eight months of 2018. The average price of European sprat at 0,20 EUR/kg was 7% lower than the previous year and 15% lower from 2016. In the three-year period, prices reached a peak in October 2016 at 0,42 EUR/kg, the result of low volume (796 tonnes) in the observed period. The lowest price occurred in July 2017, when volume of 55 tonnes was sold for as little as 0,15 EUR/kg.

Figure 30. **EUROPEAN SPRAT: FIRST-SALES PRICE IN SELECTED COUNTRIES**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 12.10.2018).

We have covered European sprat in previous *Monthly Highlights*:

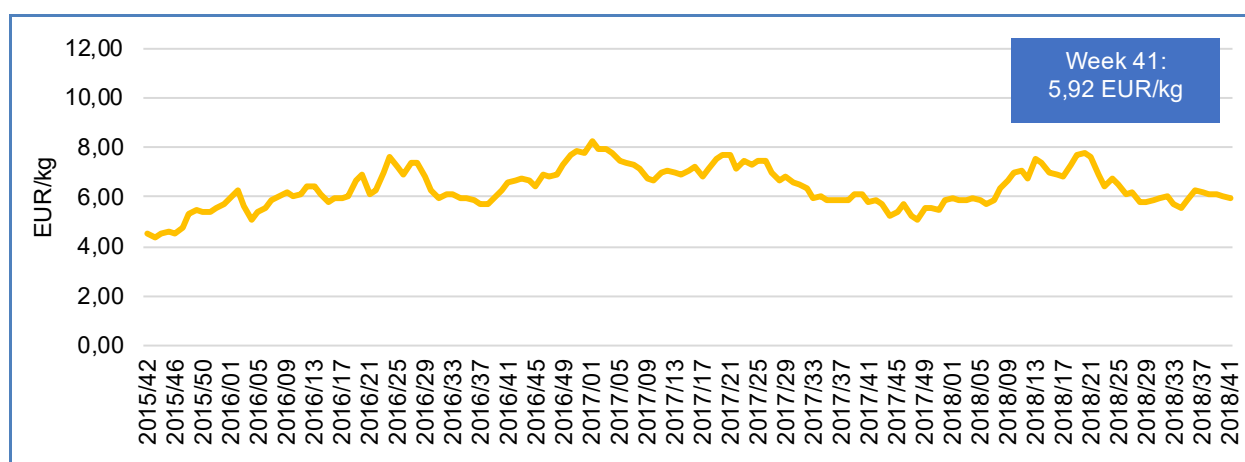
First sales: Estonia (4/2017) Latvia (4/2017, 5/2016, 5/2015, 5/2014), Sweden (4/2017, 3/2015, February 2013).

## 2 Extra-EU imports

Each month, weekly extra-EU import prices (average unit values per week, in EUR per kg) are examined for nine species. Three of them, which are the most relevant in terms of value and volume are examined every month: fresh Atlantic salmon from Norway, frozen Alaska pollock from China, and frozen tropical shrimp (genus *Penaeus*) from Ecuador. Three other species change every month, and this issue of Monthly Highlights looks at prepared or preserved sardines, “other” frozen livers, roes, and milt, and frozen crabs. Another three species products are examined each month as part of the month’s selected commodity group, which this month are frozen mackerel, fresh herring, and prepared or preserved sardines.

For fresh whole **Atlantic salmon** (*Salmo salar*, CN code 03021400) imported from **Norway**, the EU import price has remained low in recent weeks, down considerably from peak 2018 levels in May. The price in **week 41** (the second week of October) of 5,92 EUR/kg was down by 1,5% from the previous week and 24% below the 2018 peak price of 7,75 EUR/kg in week 20. The import price is highly correlated to changes in import volumes: the average weekly volume during weeks 25 to 41 of 13.696 tonnes was 15% higher than that during weeks 9 through 24, while the average weekly price between those two periods was exactly 15% lower.

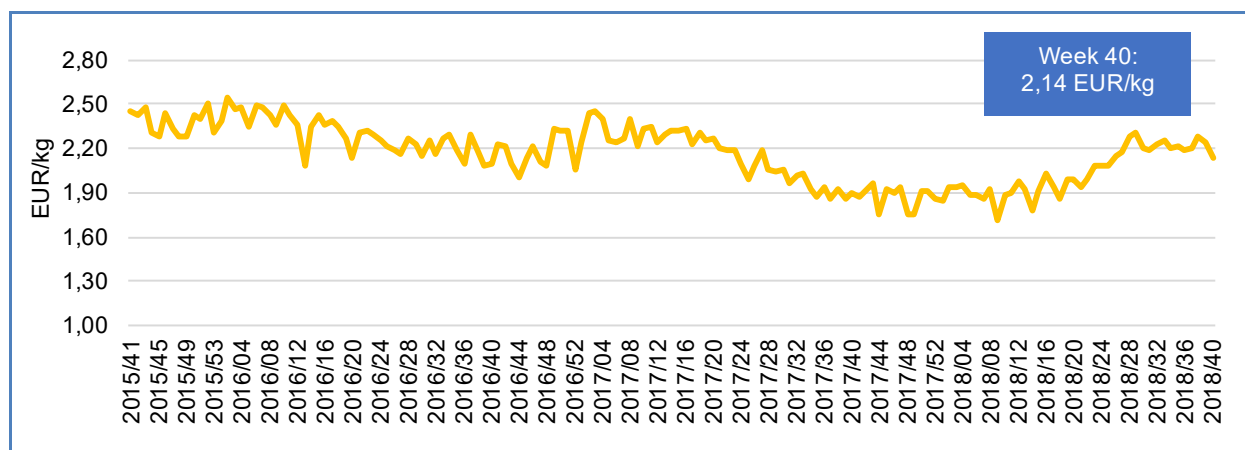
Figure 31. IMPORT PRICE OF ATLANTIC SALMON, FRESH WHOLE FROM NORWAY



Source: European Commission (updated 12.10.2018).

The weekly price of frozen fillets of **Alaska pollock** (*Theragra chalcogramma*, CN code 03047500) imported from **China** fell to 2,14 EUR/kg in **week 40** (the first week of October) of 2018 (the latest full week), down by 5% from the previous week and down by 8% from a recent high of 2,31 EUR/kg in week 29. However, recent prices remain significantly higher than during the winter months of 2017-2018, when the weekly average fell to as low as 1,71 EUR/kg in week 9 of 2018. During the first 41 weeks of each year, both average weekly prices and average volumes have fallen since the year 2016. But there appears to be a long-run upturn in prices which, if it continues through 2018, would signal the first significant turn-around since at least 2015.

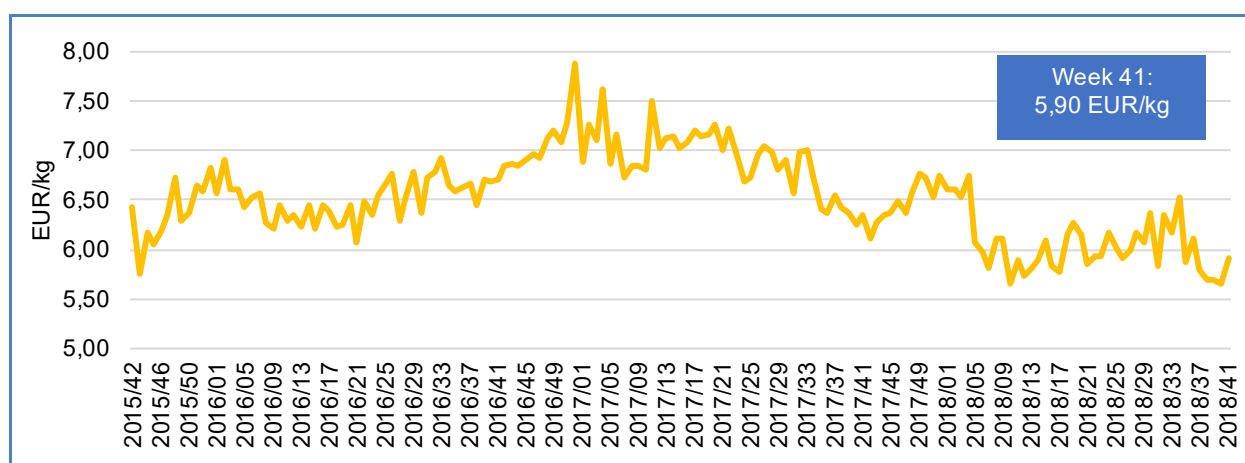
Figure 32. IMPORT PRICE OF ALASKA POLLOCK, FROZEN FILLETS FROM CHINA



Source: European Commission (updated 12.10.2018).

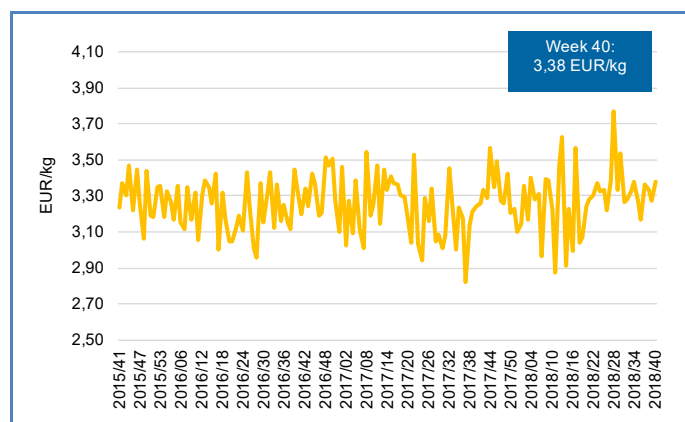
The price of frozen **tropical shrimp** (genus *Penaeus*, CN code 03061792) imported from **Ecuador** in **week 41** moved up slightly to 5,90 EUR/kg, a 4% increase from the previous week. However, prices through week 41 remain considerably lower, an average of 6,05 EUR/kg in 2018 compared with 6,92 EUR/kg during the same period in 2017. Average weekly volumes between the two periods were almost unchanged.

Figure 33. IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN TROPICAL SHRIMP FROM ECUADOR



Source: European Commission (updated 12.10.2018).

Figure 34. **IMPORT PRICE OF SARDINE, WHOLE OR IN PIECES, PREPARED OR PRESERVED FROM MOROCCO**

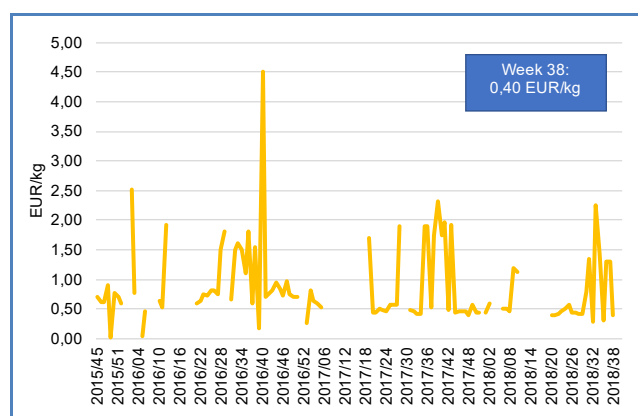


Source: European Commission (updated 12.10.2018).

For **sardines**, whole or in pieces, prepared or preserved (CN code 16041319, excluding products of code 16041311) imported from **Morocco**, the EU import price was 3,38 EU/kg in **week 40** (the latest full week), up by 3% from the previous week. The import price of this product is erratic from week to week, and volumes are quite volatile, but over the long run (three years in this analysis), there has been no noticeable upward or downward trend.

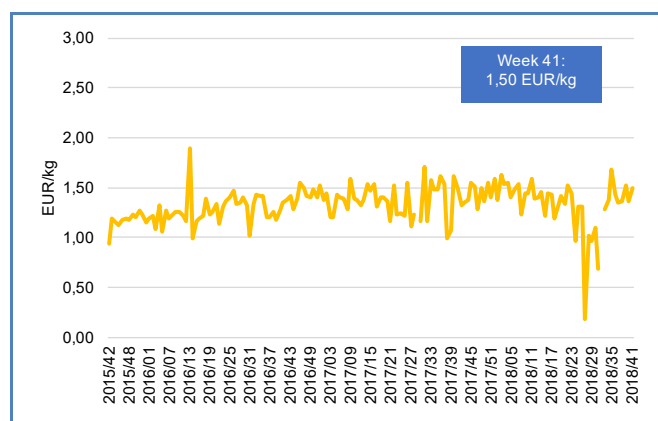
EU imports of **herring**, fresh or chilled (*Clupea harengus* or *C. pallasii*, CN code 03024100) from **Norway**, are very erratic, with the latest recorded trade in week 38, with a volume of 116,7 tonnes at an average price of 0,40 EUR/kg. This was a fairly large and sudden volume increase, and the price was 70% below that in the previous week. The price of this product is highly correlated to volume changes: the average price during weeks 30-38 was 1,05 EUR/kg, up by 139% from the average price during weeks 20-29, while average weekly volumes between these two periods fell by 99%, from 1.497 tonnes to 16 tonnes.

Figure 35. **IMPORT PRICE OF FRESH OR CHILLED HERRING FROM NORWAY**



Source: European Commission (updated 12.10.2018).

Figure 36. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN MACKEREL FROM THE FAROE ISLANDS**

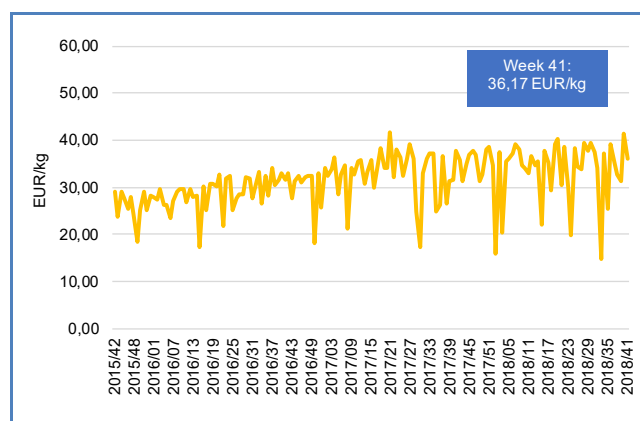


Source: European Commission (updated 12.10.2018).

For frozen **mackerel**, excluding livers and roes (*Scomber scombrus* or *Scomber japonicus*, CN code 03035410) imported from the **Faroe Islands**, the import price has experienced an irregular long-run increase in the last three years. The price in **week 41** was 1,50 EUR/kg, up by 9% from the previous week. A recent sharp drop in price culminated in a low of 0,18 EUR/kg in early July. The broader trend in price, however, is a slow increase during the three years under review.

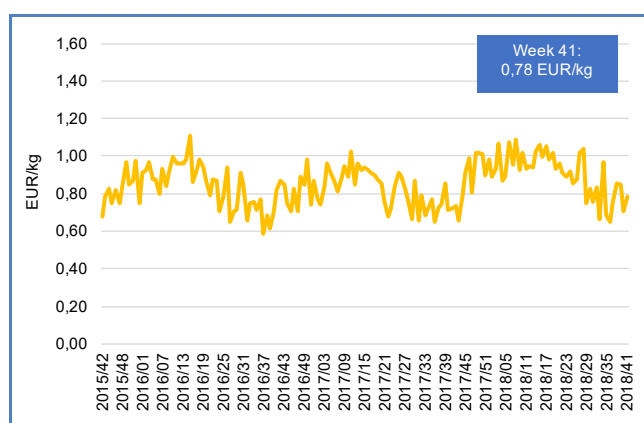
The price of frozen **crabs** (*Paralithodes camtschaticus*, *Chionoecetes*, spp., and *Callinectes sapidus*, CN code 03061410) imported from **Norway** was 36,17 EUR/kg in **week 41**, down by 13% from the previous week. The price of this product is highly elastic on the bottom side, with sharp declines periodically, typically in weeks with sudden increases in volumes. The opposite, however, is not common: prices do not generally rise sharply with large cuts in volumes. There is a clear general upward trend in price, from an average of 24,56 EUR/kg during weeks 1-41 of 2015 (not shown) to 28,93 EUR/kg during weeks 1-41 in 2016, to 33,06 EUR/kg in the same period in 2017, and finally to 33,64 EUR/kg during weeks 1-41 in 2018, an overall increase of 37% in three years.

Figure 37. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN CRABS FROM NORWAY**



Source: European Commission (updated 12.10.2018).

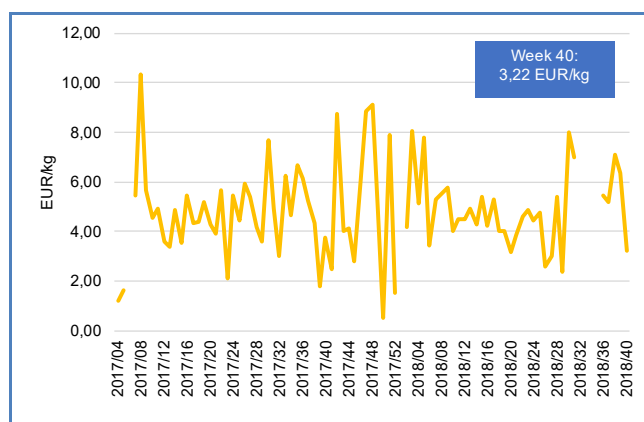
Figure 38. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN SARDINES FROM MOROCCO**



Source: European Commission (updated 12.10.2018).

The import price of frozen **sardines** of the species *Sardina pilchardus*, excluding livers and roes (CN code 03035310) from **Morocco** reached 0,78 EUR/kg in **week 41**, part of the most recent longer-run downturn in price that began in week 8 of 2018. This product's price shows a highly seasonal pattern, despite the fact the product is frozen and storable, with a strong correlation with changes in import volumes that tend to peak in August and September. More broadly, however, there is little longer-run trend in either prices or volumes for this product.

Figure 39. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN LIVERS, ROES AND MILT FROM ICELAND**



Source: European Commission (updated 12.10.2018).

EU imports of **livers, roes and milt, other** (CN code 03039190) frozen from **Iceland** are slightly irregular and the latest imports arrived in **week 40**: 5,6 tonnes at a price of 3,22 EUR/kg. This price was nearly 50% below the price in the previous week but not nearly as low as a recent bottom of 0,50 EUR/kg set in week 50 of 2017. That low price followed by 2 weeks of high prices (9,14 EUR/kg) is illustrating the extreme volatility of this product's price – due in large part to changing product mixes in this basket of livers, roes, and milt, all with different specific prices. Volumes of this product are somewhat seasonal, tending to peak in late March and early April, but prices are not clearly tied to weekly volumes. There is no clear longer-term trend in prices either upward or downward.

## 3 Consumption

### 3.1. HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION IN THE EU

In July 2018, consumption of fresh fisheries and aquaculture products increased in both volume and value in Germany and Ireland compared with July 2017. In both Poland and the UK, value increased by +3%, however, volume decreased by -2%. In the rest of the Member States surveyed, consumption declined in both volume and value. The largest drop occurred in Hungary, -36% in volume and -46% in value.

Table 3. JULY OVERVIEW OF THE REPORTING COUNTRIES (volume in tonnes and value in million EUR)

Country	Per capita consumption 2015* (live weight equivalent) kg/capita/year	July 2016		July 2017		June 2018		July 2018		Change from July 2017 to July 2018	
		Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Denmark	22,9	691	10,96	656	10,08	483	7,91	608	9,72	7%	4%
Germany	13,4	4.991	74,37	4.535	71,57	5.045	76,37	4.797	72,57	6%	1%
France	33,9	17.023	179,73	16.582	180,12	15.153	176,27	14.237	159,65	14%	11%
Hungary	4,8	262	1,07	324	1,93	223	1,16	206	1,05	36%	46%
Ireland	22,1	964	13,78	964	13,59	1.221	17,64	1.021	15,20	6%	12%
Italy	28,4	22.519	181,49	22.757	185,15	32.455	279,20	21.722	178,49	5%	4%
Netherlands	22,2	2.773	35,41	2.908	35,41	2.652	44,12	2.238	34,54	23%	2%
Poland	13,6	3.165	17,79	2.817	16,12	2.672	16,39	2.757	16,68	2%	3%
Portugal	55,9	5.792	35,64	5.394	34,90	4.080	25,79	4.163	25,90	23%	26%
Spain	45,2	51.763	380,04	51.591	393,92	51.186	384,47	49.049	366,03	5%	7%
Sweden	26,9	584	10,34	604	10,21	839	10,78	577	8,87	4%	13%
UK	24,3	22.028	232,29	22.773	235,19	22.307	247,38	22.346	241,95	2%	3%

Source: EUMOFA, based on Europanel (updated 17.10.2018).

\*Data on per capita consumption of all fish and seafood products for all EU Member States can be found at: <http://www.eumofa.eu/documents/20178/108446/The+EU+fish+market+2017.pdf>

The consumption trend of fisheries and aquaculture products in the month of July during the past three years declined in both volume and value in most of the Member States analysed. Only in Ireland and the UK, did volume and value increase.

In July of each of the past three years, household consumption of fresh fish products was below the annual average in both volume and value in most of the countries analysed. Only in Denmark, household consumption was above the average in July: 7% higher in value and 1% higher in volume. In Portugal, value was also above the average, however, consumed volume in July remained at the yearly average. In Spain, value also remained at the annual average level but volume was 6% below the average for July.

The most recent consumption data available in EUMOFA for **August 2017** can be accessed [here](#).



## 3.2. Fresh hake

**Habitat:** a demersal species, inhabiting waters between 75 and 400 m, living close to the seabed <sup>10</sup>.

**Catch area:** North Sea, Skagerrak, and off the Atlantic coasts of the UK, Ireland and France, Spain and Portugal, western North Africa, the Mediterranean Sea, and the south coast of the Black Sea<sup>11</sup>.

**Main producing countries in Europe:** Spain, France, the UK, Portugal.

**Production method:** caught.

**Main consumers in the EU:** Spain, France, the UK, Portugal.

**Presentation:** whole, gutted, filleted.

**Preservation:** fresh, frozen.

**Ways of preparation:** grilled, baked.



### 3.2.1 General overview of household consumption in France, Portugal and Spain

France, Portugal and Spain are the countries with the highest per capita consumption of fish and seafood products in the EU. In 2015, Portugal registered the highest per capita consumption (55,9 kg), more than two times the EU average (25,1 kg). France registered per capita consumption of 33,9 kg, 35% higher than the EU average; however, it was 39% lower than the per capita consumption in Portugal. In Spain, per capita consumption was 45,2 kg, or 80% higher than the EU average and 33% higher than in France. Compared with Portugal, it was 24% lower. See more on per capita consumption in the EU in Table 3.

Apparent consumption of hake in the EU registered 1,00 kg per capita. Hake comes entirely from wild catches. It has a 4% share of the most important species consumed in the EU<sup>12</sup>. Retail prices of fresh hake fluctuated in all the three countries surveyed following an increasing trend during January 2015–July 2018. The highest prices were registered in France. Volumes also saw considerable monthly variations with the biggest volumes sold in Spain.

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

**First sales:** Denmark (October 2013), France (2/2018, 1/2016), Greece (7/2016, 3/2014), Italy (2/2018), Portugal (5/2015, May 2013), Spain (2/2018).

**EU Trade:** Extra-EU Imports (5/2018, 11/2016), Extra-EU Exports (5/2018), Intra-EU Trade (5/2018).

**Topic of the month:** Hake in Spain (8/2015), Hake in France (2/2015).

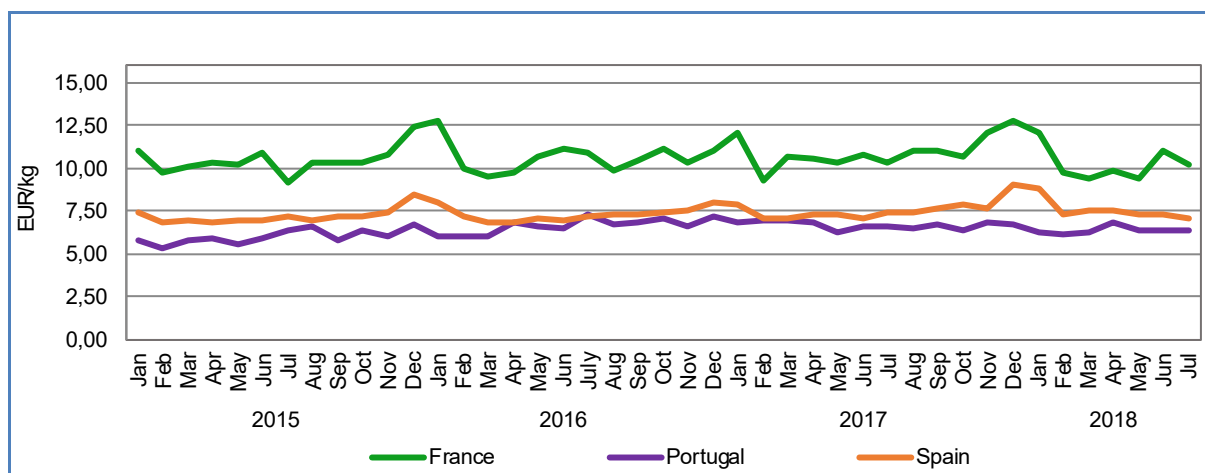
**Consumption:** France (9/2016, 4/2016, 7/2015, 6/2014), Greece (9/2016, 4/2016, 7/2015), Ireland (9/2016), Italy (7/2015, 6/2014), Portugal (9/2016, 4/2016, 6/2014), Spain (9/2016, 4/2016, 7/2015, 6/2014, October 2013), Sweden (6/2014, October 2013), the UK (6/2014, October 2013).

<sup>10</sup> <http://eumofa.eu/documents/20178/110994/MH+2+2018.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2238/en>

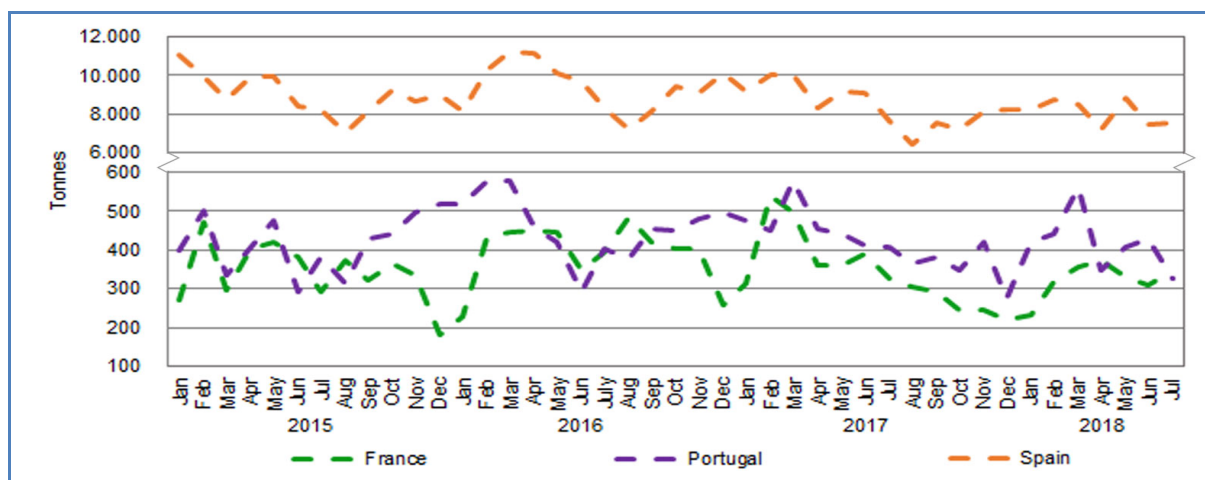
<sup>12</sup> <http://www.eumofa.eu/documents/20178/108446/The+EU+fish+market+2017.pdf>

Figure 40. RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH HAKE



Source: EUMOFA, based on Europanel (updated 17.10.2018).

Figure 41. VOLUME SOLD OF FRESH HAKE



Source: EUMOFA based on Europanel (updated 17.10.2018).

### 3.2.2 Consumption trend in France

**Long-term trend, January 2015–July 2018:** decreasing in volume and increasing slightly in price.

**Yearly average price:** 10,46 EUR/kg (2015), 10,65 EUR/kg (2016), 10,97 EUR/kg (2017).

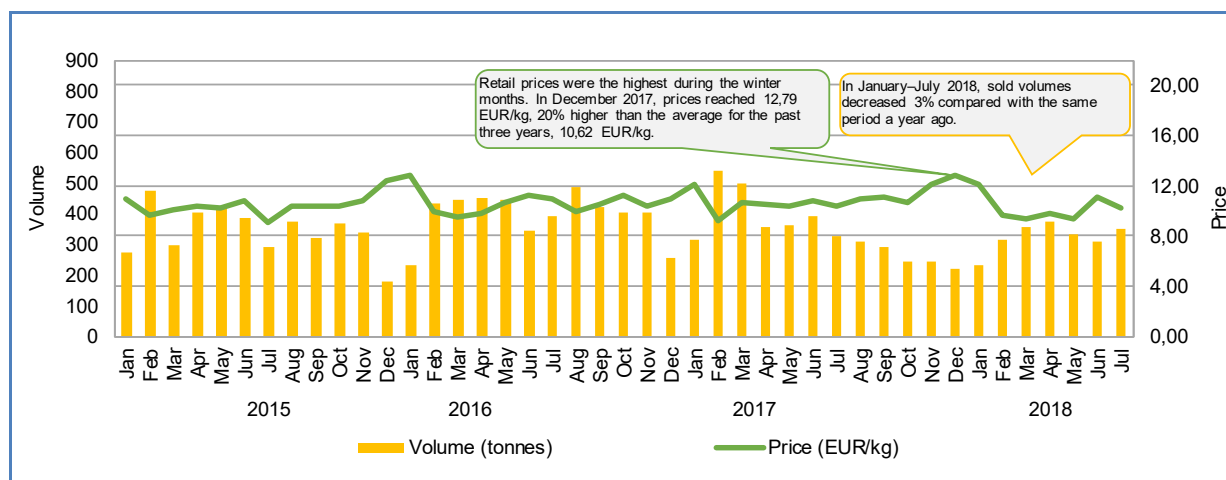
**Total yearly consumption:** 4.118 tonnes (2015), 4.716 tonnes (2016), 4.098 tonnes (2017).

**Short-term trend, January–July 2018:** increasing in volume and decreasing in price.

**Average price:** 10,23 EUR/kg.

**Total consumption, January–July 2018:** 2.265 tonnes.

Figure 42. RETAIL PRICE AND VOLUME SOLD OF FRESH HAKE IN FRANCE



Source: EUMOFA, based on Europanel (updated 17.10.2018).

### 3.2.3 Consumption trend in Portugal

**Long-term trend, January 2015–July 2018:** decreasing in volume and increasing in price.

**Yearly average price:** 6,01 EUR/kg (2015), 6,63 EUR/kg (2016), 6,68 EUR/kg (2017).

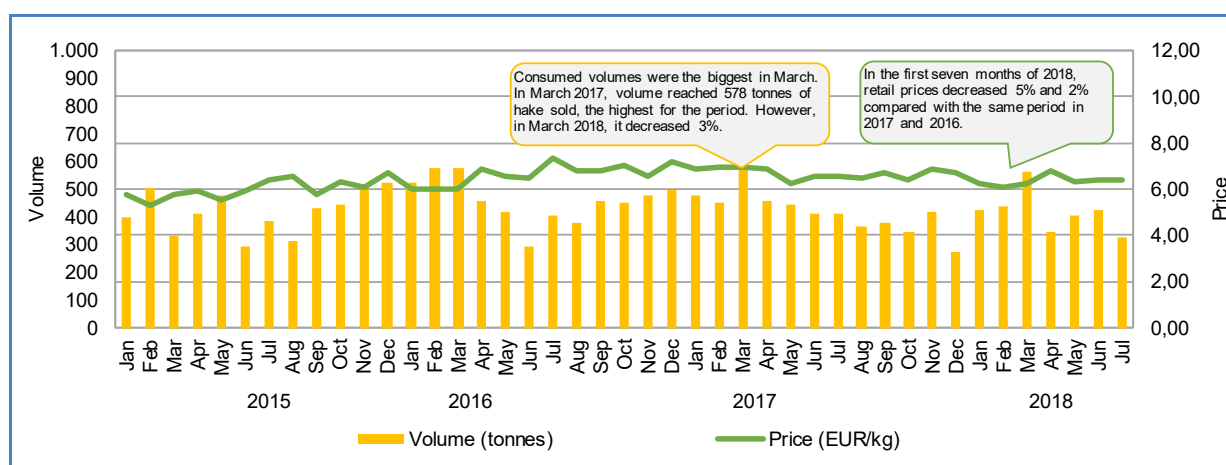
**Total yearly consumption:** 5.000 tonnes (2015), 5.516 tonnes (2016), 5.007 tonnes (2017).

**Short-term trend, January–July 2018:** decreasing in volume and increasing slightly in price.

**Average price:** 6,36 EUR/kg.

**Total consumption, January–July 2018:** 2.934 tonnes.

Figure 43. RETAIL PRICE AND VOLUME SOLD OF FRESH HAKE IN PORTUGAL



Source: EUMOFA, based on Europanel (updated 17.10.2018).

### 3.2.4 Consumption trend in Spain

**Long-term trend, January 2015–July 2018:** decreasing in volume and increasing slightly in price.

**Yearly average price:** 7,18 EUR/kg (2015), 7,29 EUR/kg (2016), 7,56 EUR/kg (2017).

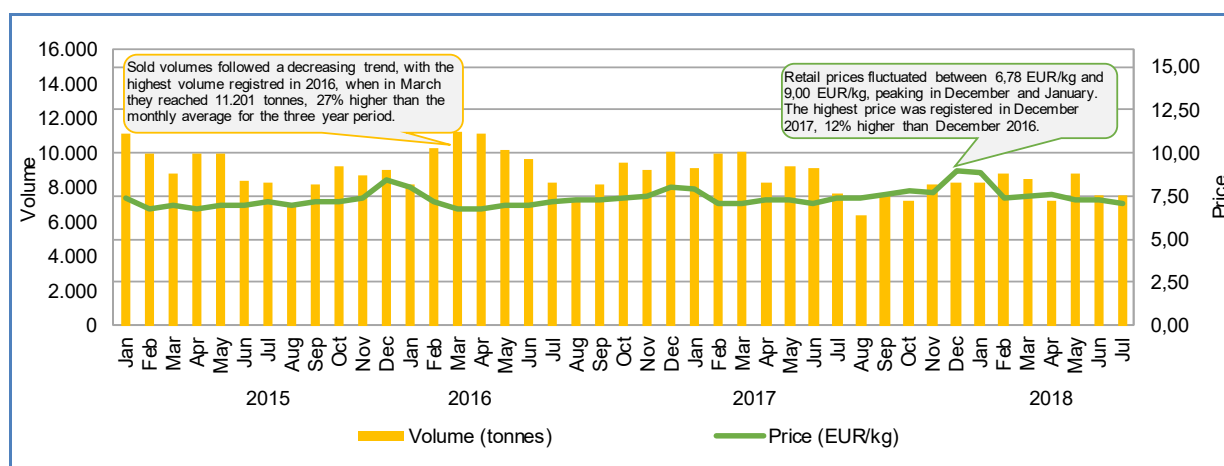
**Total yearly consumption:** 108.426 tonnes (2015), 112.809 tonnes (2016), 101.032 tonnes (2017).

**Short-term trend, January–July 2018:** decreasing in both volume and price.

**Average price:** 7,57 EUR/kg.

**Total consumption, January–July 2018:** 56.615 tonnes.

Figure 44. RETAIL PRICE AND VOLUME SOLD OF FRESH HAKE IN SPAIN



Source: EUMOFA, based on Europanel (updated 17.10.2018).

## 4 Case study – Aquaculture and fisheries in Canada



Map of Canada

Source: World Factbook

Canada is one of the world's major fishing nations, catching almost 900.000 tonnes and farming 200.000 tonnes of fish and shellfish on a yearly basis<sup>13</sup>. The sector benefits from a considerable coastline in both Pacific and Atlantic coasts and large inland water bodies.

The Canadian fish and seafood sector is highly export oriented, exporting about 75% of its production, the majority of exports going to the US market. Also, Canada is a major EU trade partner for fisheries and aquaculture products.

In 2017, the EU imported EUR 451 million and 59.102 tonnes of fish and seafood products, dominated by shrimp and lobster.

Moreover, the trade agreement<sup>14</sup> in force since September 2017 between Canada and the EU is expected to boost fish and seafood trade flows and reduce prices for most traded species.

### 1. Production

Canada is located in the northern part of North America. Its ten provinces and three territories extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific and northward into the Arctic Ocean, covering 9,98 million square km, making Canada the world's second largest country by total area. In addition, Canada has the world's longest coastline (more than 200.000 km) and is responsible for 2,76 million square km of ocean (for comparison, this is in the same range as countries such as Denmark or Norway. The EU Exclusive Economic Zone is of 25,6 million square km).

Canada has fisheries in the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic oceans as well as in inland freshwater lakes. Landings in the Atlantic are by far the largest, followed by those in the Pacific and in freshwater lakes. The aquaculture sector is also important, most of the production being salmonids and to a lesser extent shellfish species such as mussels.

### Fisheries

Canada's commercial fisheries operate in three broad regions: along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and inland (mainly near the Great Lakes and Lake Winnipeg). Fisheries on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Canada are very different in terms of landed volumes and species. However, while the fisheries sector is locally important on both coasts, it is a relatively minor part of the economic activity regionally and nationally.

The fisheries of the Atlantic coast have historically been dominated by large volumes of demersal species (mostly cod, haddock and flatfishes) and small pelagics (mostly herring). In 2016, Atlantic landings exceeded 665.000 tonnes, dominated by shellfish (59%) and pelagic species (25%), for a value of almost CAD 3 billion (EUR 2 billion)<sup>15,16</sup>.

Fisheries on the Canadian Pacific coast are more diversified in terms of species. The Pacific coast also has important salmon fisheries. In 2016, Pacific landings reached almost 183.000 tonnes, dominated by groundfish (65%) and pelagic species (27%) for a value of CAD 352 million (EUR 239 million).

<sup>13</sup> FAO Fishstat.

<sup>14</sup> The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/stats/facts-info-17-eng.htm>

<sup>16</sup> CAD: Canadian dollar (in 2016, EUR 1 = CAD 1,47).

The structure of the Canadian fishing industry ranges from a multitude of small operators to a relatively small number of large vertically-integrated companies. More than 17.700 fishing vessels operated in marine waters in 2016, the great majority of them (over 86%) in the Atlantic.

Inland or freshwater commercial fisheries in Canada are relatively small in terms of catches and value. With lakes ranging in size from a few square km to more than 82.000 square km (Lake Superior), the vessels are equally diverse – from tracked snow vehicles and small open boats (5 to 8 m) powered by outboard engines, to larger vessels (12 to 25 m) which fish in the Great Lakes, other large bodies of water in western Canada and the Northwest Territories<sup>17</sup>. In 2016, there were still 114 active vessels involved in inland fisheries, landing more than 30.000 tonnes for a value of CAD 74 million (EUR 50 million).

Table 4. **COMMERCIAL SEA AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES IN CANADA IN 2016**

Commercial sea and freshwater fisheries	Pacific	Inland	Atlantic	Canada
Number of registered vessels	2.427	114	15.256	17.817
Total volume of landings (tonnes)	182.983	30.382	665.182	878.547
<b>Total value of landings (in CAD 1000)</b>	<b>351.670</b>	<b>74.220</b>	<b>2.949.702</b>	<b>3.375.592</b>

Source: Economic Analysis and Statistics, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Fisheries in Canada are highly regulated. A licence is required to fish commercially, and recreational fishing for commercial species is also regulated. Most commercial marine fisheries are managed by Total Allowable Catch (TAC) allocated to various gear/area sectors by quotas. Individual transferable quotas (ITQs) have been found to be useful in reducing overcapacity in several fisheries<sup>18</sup>.

According to FAO, Canadian catches exceeded 874.000 tonnes in 2016. The main species in terms of volume were herring, shrimps and lobster accounting for 14%, 12% and 10%, respectively, of the total catches. To a lesser extent Queen crab and hake (both 10%), scallops and flatfishes (5%) also represented significant volumes.

Over the 2007–2016 period, Canadian catches have experienced a decreasing trend (–16%), with very contrasted changes among the main species: strong declines for herring (–29%) and shrimps (–42%) and significant increasing trend for lobster (+85%).

Table 5. **CANADIAN CATCHES BY MAIN SPECIES (volume in tonnes)**

Species	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Atlantic herring	167.782	140.237	155.178	149.883	134.468	113.989	126.102	114.610	114.200	118.492
Coldwater shrimp	188.216	167.071	138.549	164.784	151.293	149.307	148.816	131.801	140.771	108.877
American lobster	48.870	58.984	58.342	67.277	66.978	74.790	74.686	92.779	90.875	90.624
Queen crab	90.672	93.868	97.308	84.642	84.372	92.849	98.065	96.103	93.519	82.519
North Pacific hake	73.448	73.750	55.885	48.013	45.687	46.913	53.887	37.437	41.604	78.289
Scallops, pectens	65.337	67.621	62.921	60.306	59.902	53.306	64.684	69.745	61.061	53.764
Flounders, halibuts, soles	36.125	42.181	36.786	39.685	39.059	35.362	45.449	47.860	44.327	45.330
Other	374.536	324.168	388.206	364.931	298.351	266.137	255.235	286.390	276.335	296.832
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.044.986</b>	<b>967.880</b>	<b>993.175</b>	<b>979.521</b>	<b>880.110</b>	<b>832.653</b>	<b>866.924</b>	<b>876.725</b>	<b>862.692</b>	<b>874.727</b>

Source: FAO - Fishstat.

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.fao.org/fishery/facp/CAN/en>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.fao.org/fishery/facp/CAN/en>

## Aquaculture

In Canada, various attempts to develop aquaculture have been undertaken from as early as the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but it is only during the last 40 years that this sector has taken significant importance<sup>19</sup>. Since the 1980s, production and value increased linearly, almost without interruption, to 200.000 tonnes worth CAD 1,3 billion (EUR 0,9 million) in 2016.

The largest contributors to production and value are salmon and trout, followed by mussels and oysters. At province level, British Columbia is by far the most important player in the Canadian aquaculture industry. In 2016, it was estimated that the Canadian aquaculture production sector included 917 companies and 3.340 jobs.

Table 6. **AQUACULTURE IN CANADA IN 2016**

Commercial sea and freshwater fisheries	Pacific	Inland	Atlantic	Canada
Number of aquaculture establishments	243	166	508	<b>917</b>
Total volume of production (tonnes)	102.325	5.440	90.540	<b>200.565</b>
<b>Total value of production (in CAD 1000)</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>32.500</b>	<b>224.375</b>	<b>1.347.311</b>

Source: Economic Analysis and Statistics, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Table 7. **AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION IN CANADA BY SPECIES IN 2016**

Main farmed species	Volume (tonnes)	Value (CAD 1000)	Main producing province
Salmon	123.522	1.022.127	British Columbia
Trout	9.507	56.275	Ontario
Other finfish	1.237	14.705	Nova Scotia
Clams	1.962	7.076	British Columbia
Oysters	13.824	39.693	British Columbia
Mussels	24.584	37.736	Prince Edward Island
Scallops	38	392	Quebec
Other shellfish	103	2.702	Nova Scotia
<b>Total aquaculture</b>	<b>200.565</b>	<b>1.347.311</b>	

Source: Economic Analysis and Statistics, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

In 2016, according to FAO, total aquaculture production amounted to more than 200.000 tonnes, of which Atlantic salmon accounted for 62%. Other major farmed species were other salmonids (17%), blue mussel (12%) and oysters (7%). Over the 2007–2016 period, aquaculture production has experienced a slight decline in volume (–12%). The main trends have been the overall development of the Atlantic salmon production (+20%, despite strong fluctuations) and the significant increase of trout production (+88%).

Table 8. **CANADIAN AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION BY TOP SPECIES IN 2007–2016 (volume in tonnes)**

Species	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Atlantic salmon	102.509	104.075	100.212	101.544	110.328	116.101	97.629	86.347	121.926	123.522
Other salmonids	-	11.545	13.625	12.899	14.536	17.174	22.362	6.230	19.948	25.588
Blue mussel	23.835	19.835	21.461	25.675	25.897	29.033	26.119	25.231	22.725	24.584
Oysters	11.075	8.984	8.813	11.114	9.779	10.497	10.835	10.662	11.153	13.824

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.fao.org/fishery/facp/CAN/en>



Other	15.067	11.110	11.817	11.109	9.166	12.105	11.070	11.262	11.622	13.247
<b>Total</b>	<b>152.486</b>	<b>155.549</b>	<b>155.928</b>	<b>162.341</b>	<b>169.706</b>	<b>184.910</b>	<b>168.015</b>	<b>139.732</b>	<b>187.374</b>	<b>200.765</b>

Source: FAO - Fishstat.

## 2. Processing

The Canadian processing industry for the preparation and packaging of seafood products is of importance, with CAD 6,2 billion (EUR 4,2 billion) of gross added value, representing 28.718 jobs. It is highly export-oriented<sup>20</sup>. In 2012, 722 seafood processing establishments operated in Canada with the majority located in Nova Scotia (188), Newfoundland and Labrador (148), British Columbia (137), and New Brunswick (83)<sup>21</sup>.

## 3. Trade

### Canadian fish and seafood trade

Canada is a net exporter of fish and seafood products, with a trade surplus of CAD 3 billion (EUR 2 billion) in 2017<sup>22</sup>.

In 2017, seafood exports reached 597.000 tonnes for a value of CAD 6,9 billion (EUR 4,7 billion), representing a 7% decrease in volume but a +5% increase in value compared to 2016. In 2017, Canadian fish and seafood imports amounted to 534.000 tonnes for CAD 3,9 billion (EUR 2,7 billion), an increase of 0,6% in volume and 2,4% in value over 2016.

In 2017, the main exported species were lobster, Queen crab and salmon, accounting for 31%, 15% and 13%, respectively, of total fish and seafood exports value. Main imported species were shrimp, salmon and lobster, accounting for 18%, 8% and 8%, respectively, of total fish and seafood import value.

The main markets for Canadian fish and seafood are the United States, China, Japan and the EU. The United States remains by far the largest among these markets. Main origins for Canadian imports were the United States and China.

Table 9. CANADIAN EXPORTS OF FISH AND SEAFOOD BY TOP SPECIES IN 2016 AND 2017

	Volume (tonnes)		Value (CAD 1000)	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
<b>Top products exports, by species</b>				
Lobster	83.757	84.390	2.148.504	2.125.996
Snow/Queen Crab	47.732	48.924	809.670	1.011.432
Atlantic salmon	95.215	84.586	966.850	908.847
Shrimp	66.325	39.829	466.170	472.035
Crab	17.536	22.905	285.301	461.711
<b>Total exports, all species</b>	<b>640.043</b>	<b>597.492</b>	<b>6.553.488</b>	<b>6.864.988</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian International Merchandise Trade Database.

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/stats/facts-Info-17-eng.htm>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/industry-markets-and-trade/canadian-agri-food-sector-intelligence/processed-food-and-beverages/profiles-of-processed-food-and-beverages-industries/canada-s-seafood-product-preparation-and-packaging-industry/?id=1449759885273>

<sup>22</sup> Annual exchange rate in 2017 : 1 EUR=1,46 CAD.

Table 10. IMPORTS OF FISH AND SEAFOOD IN CANADA BY TOP SPECIES IN 2016 AND 2017

	Volume (tonnes)		Value (CAD 1000)	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
<b>Top products imports, by species</b>				
Shrimps	51.097	55.991	633.315	708.482
Salmon	19.337	20.304	272.075	312.015
Lobster	31.715	24.628	436.438	304.498
Skipjack/bonito tuna	34.598	32.183	190.650	199.207
Sockeye salmon	16.755	14.877	162.671	171.680
<b>Total imports, all species</b>	<b>530.882</b>	<b>534.000</b>	<b>3.770.472</b>	<b>3.860.796</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian International Merchandise Trade Database.

## Trade between Canada and the EU

In 2017, EU imports of Canadian fisheries products totaled EUR 451 million and 59.102 tonnes. In value terms, prepared/preserved products and frozen products accounted for 40% and 35%, respectively, of the total EU imports from Canada, while fresh products accounted for 19% of the import value. The most important species imported were miscellaneous shrimps (34% of total import value), and lobster (29%), and, to a lesser extent, scallop and salmon<sup>23</sup> (both 8%).

The main EU destinations for Canadian exports were the UK (28% of total EU import value) and Denmark (21%). Other important EU importers of Canadian fisheries products were France (14%), Belgium (9%), Spain (7%), and the Netherlands (5%).

Table 11. TOP EU MARKETS FOR SEAFOOD IMPORTS FROM CANADA (value in million EUR, volume in tonnes)

Country	2015		2016		2017	
	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume
United Kingdom	206	18.264	139	15.389	126	15.889
Denmark	116	15.099	79	10.809	94	13.640
France	57	5.915	56	6.415	65	6.592
Belgium	42	3.220	43	3.093	41	2.809
Spain	23	3.696	29	4.289	29	3.788
Other	97	17.770	104	17.539	96	16.386
<b>Total</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>63.964</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>57.535</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>59.102</b>

Source: EUMOFA.

<sup>23</sup> Mostly Pacific salmon (wild-caught).

Table 12. **TOP MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IMPORTED FROM CANADA** (value in million EUR and volume in tonnes)

Species	2015		2016		2017	
	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume
Shrimp, miscellaneous	256	22.052	154	16.261	151	16.636
Lobster <i>Homarus</i> spp.	121	8.690	134	9.061	130	8.731
Scallop	38	1.685	29	1.388	37	1.635
Salmon	32	4.693	38	6.509	36	5.803
Shrimp, coldwater	36	8.843	24	5.798	23	6.071
Cod	8	1.795	10	2.220	15	3.486
Hake	8	4.127	9	5.095	10	5.746
Other	43	12.080	51	11.202	48	10.995
<b>Total</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>63.964</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>57.535</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>59.102</b>

Source: EUMOFA.

In comparison to imports, EU exports to Canada are much lower but still significant. In 2017, EU exports of fish and seafood to Canada totaled EUR 98 million for 26.644 tonnes of products. Fresh and prepared/preserved products accounted for 32% and 26%, respectively, of the total export value. Main species exported were salmon (25% in value), fishmeal (14%) and other marine fish (10%). Main EU countries exporting to Canada were the UK and Denmark (18% of total EU export value each) and to a lesser extent the Netherlands and Portugal (10% each).

## Trade agreement

On 21 September 2017, between the EU and Canada a free trade agreement – the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) came into force, which the EU Parliament had approved on 15 February 2017 after more than eight years of negotiations. CETA eliminates virtually all tariffs on imports between the two economies, harmonizes and reduces trade regulations and related structural barriers, and provides a mechanism to resolve disputes concerning, trade, investment, and other economic matters. For fish and seafood products, CETA eliminates tariffs that were already zero or low (many under 5% ad valorem) on most products. However, some important items such as lobsters from Canada and herrings from the EU faced significant import tariffs. With the removal of these tariffs, prices of such products are expected to fall leading to increased demand, consumption, and trade<sup>24</sup>.

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.eurofishmagazine.com/sections/trade-and-markets/item/442-new-eu-canada-trade-agreement-implemented>

## 5 Case study – Octopus in the EU

### 1. Introduction

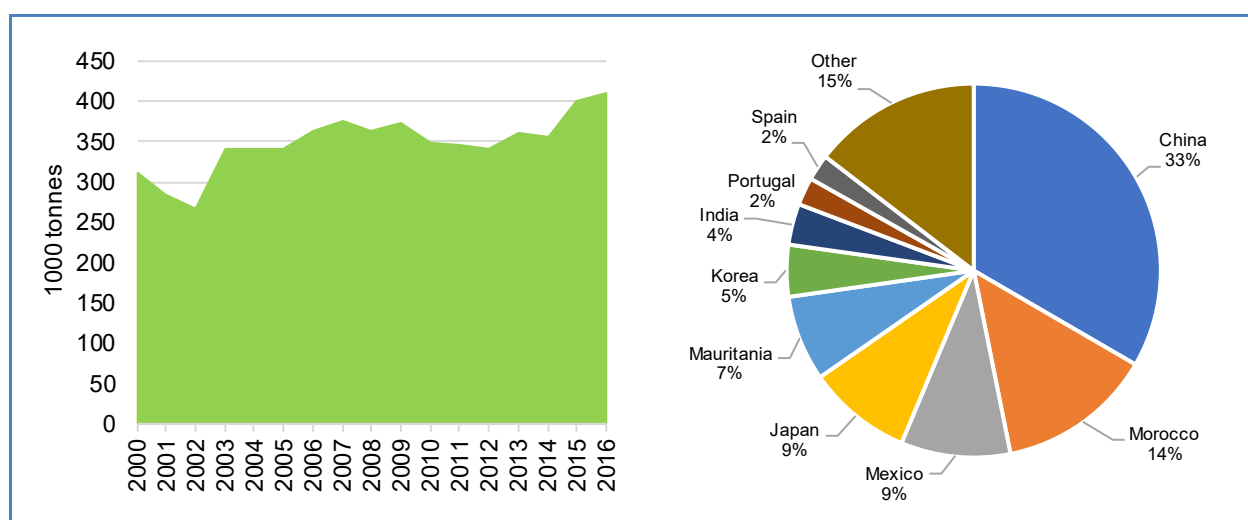
Octopus belongs to the group called cephalopods along with squids and cuttlefish among others. These species have their feet or tentacles connected to their head, not their body. Most of the species within this group have an ink bag that they empty when they feel threatened. The size varies from a few centimetres to the giant cephalopod which can reach 18 meters long. The octopus has a well-developed nervous system and is considered to be the most intelligent among the invertebrate animals. The most obvious difference between the three groups mentioned is that octopuses have no shell at all, while cuttlefishes have an internal shell and squids have the horny remains of a shell.



All species are carnivores, and they mostly feed on fish, molluscs and crustaceans. There are 800 species of octopus/cuttlefish/squid and they are common in all ocean areas. No species live in freshwater, but some can live in brackish waters.

During the past 15 years, global catches of octopus has varied between 267.000 and 410.000 tonnes a year. Over 50% of the global catches of octopus comes from Asia. China is the largest catching country constituting between 100.000 and 150.000 tonnes a year. Morocco is the second largest catching country accounting for 64.000 tonnes in 2015 and 55.000 tonnes in 2016. Mexico, Mauritania and Japan caught more than 30.000 tonnes each in 2016. From 2015 to 2016, there was a small increase in global catch volume of 2,5 %.

Figure 45. **GLOBAL CATCHES OF OCTOPUS (LEFT) AND CATCHES BY COUNTRY IN 2016 (RIGHT)**  
(volume in tonnes)



Source: FAO.

## 2. Octopus in the EU

### Fisheries

EU landings of octopus accounted for only 7% of worldwide landings in 2016, they reached 30.000 tonnes worth EUR 161 million. This was mostly driven by landings in Spain, Portugal and Italy. Landings in the three main countries constituted 79% of total EU volume and 80% of total value. In total, volumes increased by 14% and value 20% compared to 2015. In 2016, Spain was the most important country in terms of landed volumes with 9.000 tonnes worth EUR 44 million. Octopus is not subject to fishing quotas in the EU, but there is a general minimum conservation reference size set at 750 g <sup>25</sup>.

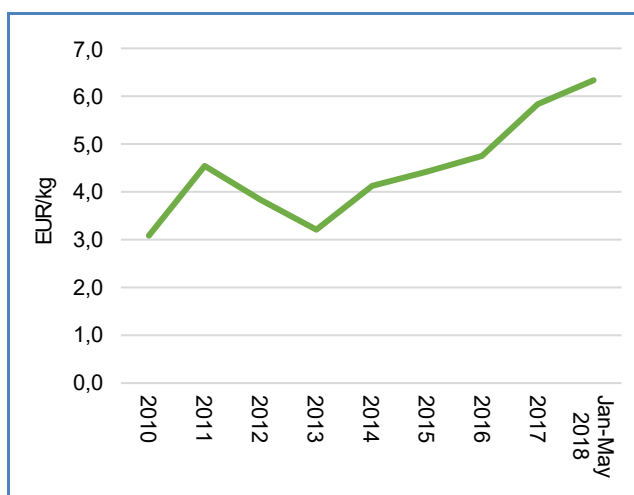
Table 13. **LANDINGS OF OCTOPUS IN THE EU BY MEMBER STATE** (volume in 1000 tonnes, value in million EUR)

Country	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Spain	11	46	12	37	8	34	9	36	9	44
Portugal	7	29	10	28	8	33	6	27	8	36
Italy	7	45	7	49	7	42	7	50	7	49
Greece	2	10	2	9	2	11	2	12	4	21
France	2	6	2	6	2	6	2	6	2	7
Croatia	0	0	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	2
Other	1	1	1	3	1	4	1	4	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>161</b>

Source: EUMOFA.

During the past eight years, octopus prices have ranged from 3,07 EUR/kg to 6,36 EUR/kg, a nearly continuous increase of 107%. In 2017, EU first-sales prices increased significantly, and the growth has continued throughout the first months in 2018. In 2017, the average price increased by 22%.

Figure 46. **EU FIRST-SALES PRICE OF OCTOPUS**



Source: EUMOFA.

<sup>25</sup> Annex II of Council Regulation (EC) No 850/98.

## Extra-EU Imports

In 2017, imports of octopus in the EU totalled 101.000 tonnes in volume worth EUR 790 million. There was a small increase in volume and a 22% increase in value from 2016 to 2017. After a large decline in 2013, the import value increased in the following years up to and including 2017.

Spain is the leading importer of octopus in the EU. Since 2013, import value has increased every year and exceeded EUR 450 million in 2017, a 49% increase from 2016. The three main importing countries, Spain, Italy and Portugal, dominated EU imports and represented 92% of total import volume and 94% of value in 2017.

Imports of frozen octopus products dominated the EU market with 98% import share in 2017. Some fresh octopus are also imported to the EU, especially to Italy and Spain, mainly from Senegal and Morocco<sup>26</sup>.

Table 14. **EU IMPORTS OF OCTOPUS BY MEMBER STATE (volume in 1000 tonnes, value in million EUR)**

EU Member State	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Spain	28	182	33	133	36	207	45	275	44	308	50	458
Italy	36	183	34	121	37	166	39	197	40	209	36	230
Portugal	5	29	7	25	6	32	9	52	8	50	7	53
Greece	4	22	4	16	3	19	3	20	4	25	3	25
France	2	8	2	6	2	6	2	7	2	8	2	8
Netherlands	0	2	1	2	1	3	1	4	1	4	1	4
Other	3	13	2	6	3	9	2	10	2	10	2	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>790</b>

Source: EUMOFA.

Table 15. **EU IMPORTS OF OCTOPUS BY PRESERVATION STATE (value in million EUR)**

Preservation state	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Frozen	428	304	434	559	606	778
Live/Fresh	9	5	7	6	7	8
Smoked	0	0	0	0	0	4
Prepared/Preserved	2	0	0	1	1	1
Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>790</b>

Source: EUMOFA.

<sup>26</sup> EUMOFA.

Table 16. **EU IMPORTS OF OCTOPUS BY MAIN SUPPLIERS TO THE EU MARKET** (volume in 1000 tonnes, value in million EUR)

Country	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Morocco	23	164	41	179	31	202	46	309	46	336	43	399
Mauritania	9	60	8	29	12	71	16	95	13	96	20	187
Indonesia	6	27	3	11	6	21	7	31	7	32	7	36
Senegal	8	46	4	13	5	23	5	27	5	26	5	39
Mexico	7	29	6	19	9	36	9	34	9	43	5	30
Viet Nam	5	13	3	8	5	14	4	12	3	10	4	16
Other	21	101	16	50	20	75	15	58	17	70	16	84
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>790</b>

Source: EUMOFA.

## Extra-EU Exports

In 2017, the EU exported 13.189 tonnes of octopus with a value of EUR 118 million to markets worldwide. The average price was 8,90 EUR/kg in 2017. From 2016 to 2017, the export price of octopus increased by 24%.

The export volume has increased each year since 2013. The main EU Member State exporting octopus is Spain, representing 75% of the total export volume.

Octopus is exported from EU Member States to countries worldwide. The main destination market is the United States which imports 68% of the total export volume. In 2017, 13 countries imported more than 50 tonnes of octopus from the EU, including Switzerland, Japan, Argentina, and Brazil.

Table 17. **EU EXPORT OF OCTOPUS BY MEMBER STATE** (volume in tonnes, value in million EUR)

Member State	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Spain	7.666	53	5.153	26	5.279	34	6.429	44	8.100	59	9.919	88
Portugal	1.251	8	2.568	11	2.993	17	3.075	18	2.450	17	2.753	25
Italy	435	3	346	2	213	2	290	3	276	2	282	3
Netherlands	50	0	31	0	46	0	40	0	101	1	60	0
Other	160	1	151	1	124	1	125	1	149	1	175	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.562</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>8.250</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>8.655</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>9.959</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>11.075</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>13.189</b>	<b>118</b>

Source: EUMOFA.



Table 18. **EU EXPORTS OF OCTOPUS TO FOREIGN MARKETS** (volume in tonnes, value in million EUR)

	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
United States	3.192	21	4.901	23	5.815	35	7.023	45	7.637	54	9.064	81
Switzerland	807	7	1.040	6	849	7	988	8	1.051	10	1.020	11
Japan	1.485	11	236	1	14	0	8	0	245	2	502	3
China	2.092	13	254	1	3	0	123	1	5	0	26	0
Argentina	276	2	259	1	305	2	309	2	406	2	445	4
Brazil	131	1	96	1	394	3	221	2	138	1	461	4
Canada	147	1	98	0	130	1	113	1	207	1	245	2
Russia	340	3	348	2	221	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1.094	7	1.018	5	924	6	1.174	8	1.387	10	1.427	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.562</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>8.250</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>8.655</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>9.959</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>11.075</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>13.189</b>	<b>118</b>

Source: EUMOFA.

## Processing

Octopus is mainly imported to the EU as frozen products and are sent to processing facilities in Europe for secondary processing and value-addition. European processors buy the frozen raw materials which they process before reaching consumers at the end market<sup>27</sup>.

They are usually sent to processing facilities in Europe for secondary processing and value-addition.

The main EU processors of octopus follow the same ranking as the main importers with Spain in the lead. In Spain and Portugal, processors are the main suppliers for retailers and food service. Main processed products are raw packed octopus, whole cooked, cooked tentacles and cooked sliced octopus. Processors in Italy are the main suppliers of processed products to wholesalers and retailers (large scale). Octopus is also processed into canned products.

In supermarkets in Mediterranean countries, a wide range of products are offered to customers. The products range from whole raw frozen products to value-added products that are cut and sold as fresh, fried, marinated or cooked.

In 2017, PRODCOM<sup>28</sup> data shows that Spain, Italy and the UK<sup>29</sup> were the largest producers of processed scallops, mussels, cuttlefish, squid and octopus, frozen, dried, salted or in brine, amounting to 203.000 tonnes worth EUR 772 million. Total volumes showed a 37% increase in volume and a 20% increase in value over 2016.

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.cbi.eu/market-information/fish-seafood/octopus/>

<sup>28</sup> PRODCOM is a service in Eurostat that provides statistics on production of manufactured goods.

<sup>29</sup> Mostly for scallops, very little for cephalopods

Table 19. **SCALLOP, MUSSEL, CUTTLEFISH, SQUID AND OCTOPUS, FROZEN, DRIED SALTED OR IN BRINE BY EU MEMBER STATE (volume in tonnes, value in million EUR)**

Member State	2016		2017	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Spain	118.159	510.568	173.362	616.691
Italy	14.111	49.714	18.027	84.872
United Kingdom	8.117	57.923	12.205	70.796
Portugal	9.433	43.170	9.394	49.861
France	5.009	39.767	5.712	41.633
Greece	6.571	38.237	5.740	33.273
Other	8.650	32.759	7.718	31.993
<b>Total</b>	<b>170.050</b>	<b>772.139</b>	<b>232.157</b>	<b>929.119</b>

Source: PRODCOM.

## Consumption

Octopus products are mostly consumed in southern Europe, especially in Spain, Italy and Portugal. In the rest of Europe, consumption is much lower. In northern Europe, octopus are more often sold in certain niche markets such as restaurants with an Asian or Mediterranean cuisine. In general, the consumption of octopus in Europe is relatively stable<sup>30</sup>. Recently, octopus has gained popularity in Germany and eastern European countries<sup>31</sup>.

In 2016, the annual consumption of octopus in the EU was 0,29 kg per capita. Since the EU Member States in northern Europe consume smaller amounts of octopus, this number is not representative for the Mediterranean countries where octopus is more common to eat. The consumption has been stable in the last couple of years and there are only small variations in both consumption per capita in the EU and household consumption in Italy and Portugal.

Table 20. **HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION (volume in tonnes and value in EUR 1000)**

Member State*	2015		2016		2017	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Italy	18	170	17	169	19	188
Portugal	3	23	3	22	2	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>206</b>

Source: EUMOFA.

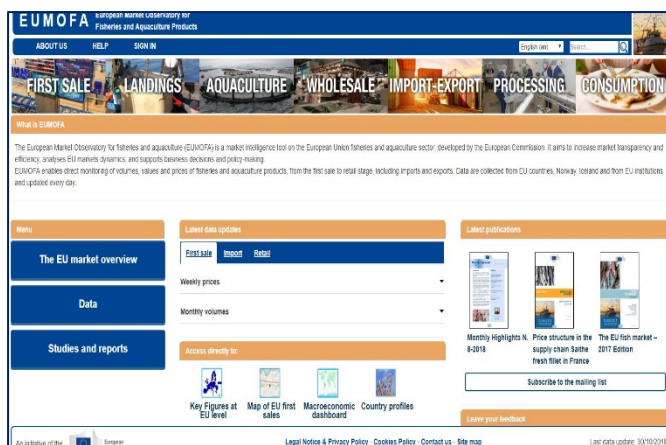
\*Household consumption data for octopus is only available for Italy and Portugal in the EUMOFA database.

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.cbi.eu/market-information/fish-seafood/octopus/><sup>31</sup> <https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2018/03/26/record-high-moroccan-octopus-prices-force-smaller-players-out-of-market/>

## 6 Global highlights

**EU / ARCTIC / SUSTAINABILITY:** In October, a landmark international agreement to prevent unregulated commercial fishing in the Arctic high seas was signed by the EU, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Denmark (in respect of Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Iceland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States. The Agreement states that no commercial fisheries should begin in the Arctic high seas before a science-based and precautionary management regime is in place. The Agreement is a key deliverable under the EU's Ocean Governance policy and under the EU's Arctic policy<sup>32</sup>.

**EUMOFA / WEBSITE:** The European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products (EUMOFA) website was revamped in October. Its new framework offers a more intuitive and user-friendly access to information and data, and smoother, speedier searches. It is available in all 24 EU languages and open to the public. It contains the latest industry data, studies and reports, market overviews at EU and Member State level and much more<sup>33</sup>.



**EU / FLEET / PUBLICATION:** The 2018 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet shows record-peak levels in the economic performance of the EU fishing fleet in 2016 and closely links this achievement to the use of sustainable fishing methods. The EU fleet registered record-high net profits of EUR 1,3 billion in 2016, a 68% increase compared to 2015. In 2016, the EU fleet's gross added value totalled to EUR 4,3 billion, a 15% increase compared to 2015<sup>34</sup>.

**RFMO / NAFO:** The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) took place from 17–21 September in Tallinn, Estonia. In addition, to the traditional Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and quota decisions, other decisions included revision to the NAFO Observer Program measures to prohibit the directed fishing of Greenland shark and extended scientific monitoring, among others<sup>35</sup>.

**GFCM / EU:** The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (GFCM) held a high-level Conference on “Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea” in Malta, on 25-26 September. Ministers from EU Member States and riparian third countries adopted an ambitious 10-year Regional Action Plan for sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The plan sets out detailed measures to ensure a sustainable use of fish stocks, whilst restoring long-term economic and social prosperity for small-scale coastal fishermen and coastal communities<sup>36</sup>.

**Slovenia / Fisheries:** In 2017, less than 300 persons were employed in fisheries economic activities or 6% less than in 2016. The number of persons in employment in marine fisheries decreased by 5% and in freshwater aquaculture by 9% while only in mariculture it increased by 3%. Nearly 100 persons were engaged in marine fisheries in 2017 and 200 persons in marine or freshwater and aquaculture in 2017<sup>37</sup>.

**Seafood / Consumption / JRC:** Joint Research Center (JRC) scientists have examined the impact of seafood supply chains across national boundaries - the global seafood consumption footprint. They developed a model (Multi-Region Input-Output, MRIO) for the world seafood supply chain to investigate the impact of seafood consumption across national boundaries. The model explores the interactions between capture fisheries and aquaculture, fishmeal and trade at the global level, and accounts for trade flows and interdependencies between different countries along the international supply chain<sup>38</sup>.

<sup>32</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/content/eu-and-arctic-partners-enter-historic-agreement-prevent-unregulated-fishing-high-seas\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/content/eu-and-arctic-partners-enter-historic-agreement-prevent-unregulated-fishing-high-seas_en)

<sup>33</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/eumofa-everything-you-want-know-about-eu-fisheries-and-aquaculture-one-place\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/eumofa-everything-you-want-know-about-eu-fisheries-and-aquaculture-one-place_en)

<sup>34</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/record-high-profits-eu-fleet-shows-economic-benefits-sustainable-fishing-methods\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/record-high-profits-eu-fleet-shows-economic-benefits-sustainable-fishing-methods_en)

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.nafo.int/>

<sup>36</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/increased-opportunities-small-scale-fishermen-mediterranean-and-black-sea\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/increased-opportunities-small-scale-fishermen-mediterranean-and-black-sea_en)

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/en/News/Index/7600>

<sup>38</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/how-much-fish-do-we-consume-first-global-seafood-consumption-footprint-published>

## 7 Macroeconomic Context

### 7.1 Marine fuel

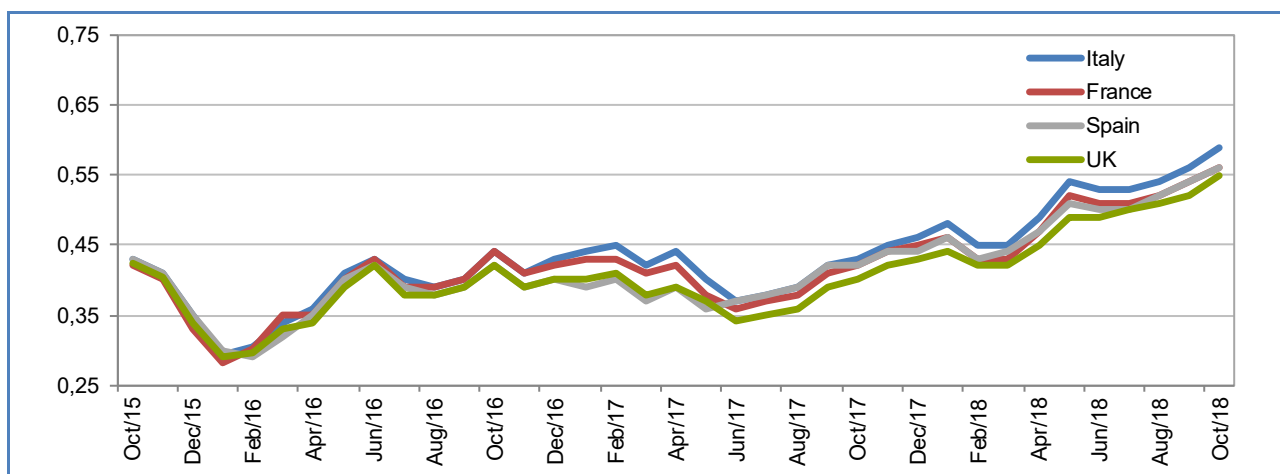
Average prices for marine fuel in **October 2018** ranged between 0,55 and 0,59 EUR/litre, in ports in **France, Italy, Spain,** and the **UK**. These prices were about 5% higher than in the previous month, but from October 2017, the increase was much larger, as much as 37% higher in the ports in Italy and 38% in the UK.

Table 21. **AVERAGE PRICE OF MARINE DIESEL IN ITALY, FRANCE, SPAIN, AND THE UK (EUR/litre)**

Member State	Oct 2018	Change from Sep 2018	Change from Oct 2017
France (ports of Lorient and Boulogne)	0,56	4%	33%
Italy (ports of Ancona and Livorno)	0,59	5%	37%
Spain (ports of A Coruña and Vigo)	0,56	4%	33%
The UK (ports of Grimsby and Aberdeen)	0,55	6%	38%

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

Figure 47. **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 at 2,2% in September 2018, stable compared to August 2018. A year earlier, it was 1,8%.

**Inflation: lowest rates in September 2018, compared with August 2018.**



**Inflation: highest rates in September 2018, compared with August 2018.**

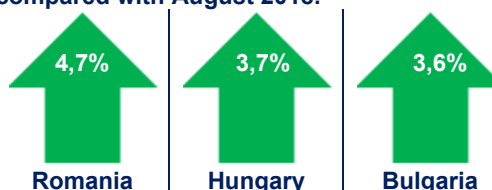


Table 22. HARMONISED INDEX OF CONSUMER PRICES IN THE EU (2015 = 100)

HICP	Sep 2016	Sep 2017	Aug 2018	Sep 2018	Change from Aug 2018	Change from Sep 2017
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	99,85	102,13	103,99	104,43	↑ 0,42%	↑ 2,25%
Fish and seafood	103,24	107,45	109,29	109,37	↑ 0,07%	↑ 1,79%

Source: Eurostat.

### 7.3 Exchange rates

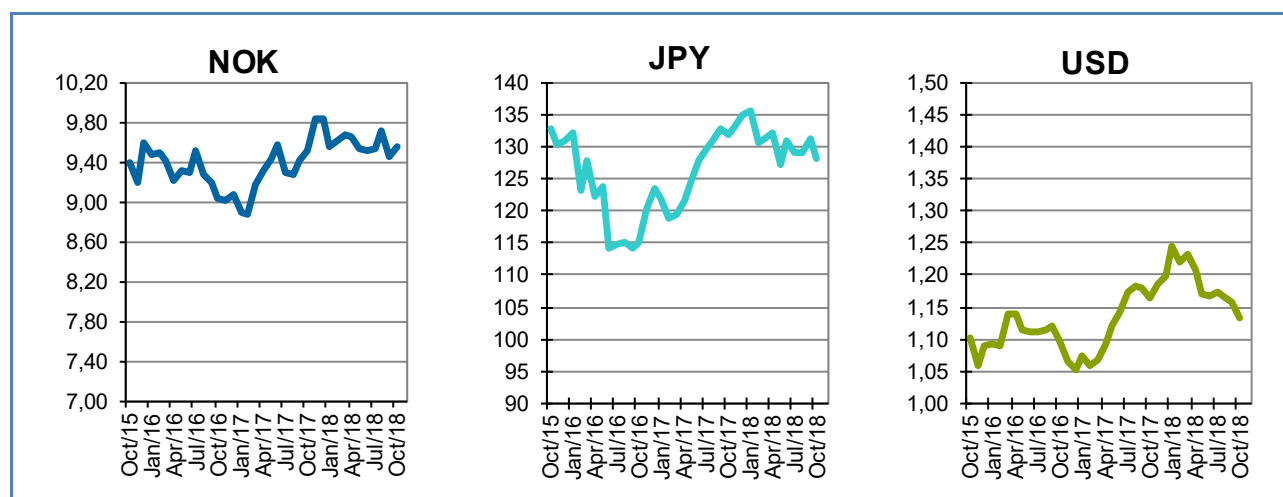
Table 23. EXCHANGE RATES FOR SELECTED CURRENCIES

Currency	Oct 2016	Oct 2017	Sep 2018	Oct 2018
NOK	9,0345	9,5238	9,4665	9,5528
JPY	114,97	132,00	131,29	128,15
USD	1,0946	1,1638	1,1576	1,1318

Source: European Central Bank.

In October 2018, the euro appreciated against the Norwegian krone (+0,9%) and depreciated against the Japanese yen (-2,4%) and the US dollar (-2,2%) from September 2018. For the past six months, the euro has fluctuated around 1,16 against the US dollar. Compared with October a year earlier, the euro has depreciated 2,9% against the Japanese yen and 2,2% against the US dollar and appreciated 0,3% against the Norwegian krone.

Figure 48. 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:** European Commission, FAO.

**Consumption:** EUROPANEL.

**Case studies:** Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, FAO, EUROFISH Magazine, European Council, CBI,

**Global highlights:** DG MARE, NAFO, JRC Statistical Office of Slovenia.

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

The underlying first-sales data is in a separate 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 Highlights, analyses are led in current prices, 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].

As a **market intelligence tool**, EUMOFA provides regular weekly prices, monthly market trends, and annual structural data along the supply chain.

The database is based on data provided and validated by Member States and European institutions. It is available in 24 languages.

EUMOFA website is publicly available at the following address: [www.eumofa.eu](http://www.eumofa.eu).