



ALASKA POLLOCK (*GADUS CHALCOGRAMMUS*)



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

BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

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

Alaska pollock belongs to the family of Gadidae.

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

Alaska pollock lives in the Arctic Sea, and in Northwest, Northeast and Eastern Central Pacific.

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

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

The main fishing gears used are bottom pair trawls, gillnets and similar nets, hooks and lines, seines and trawls.

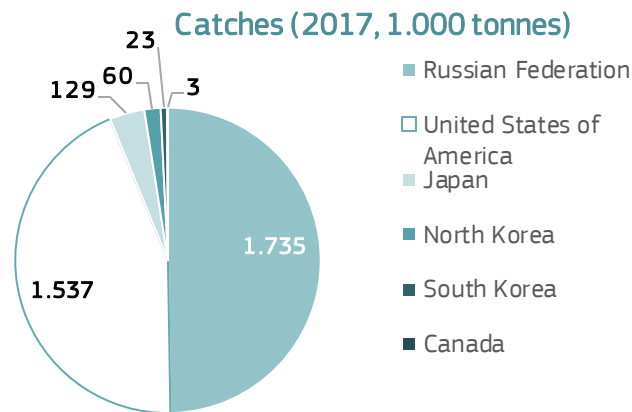
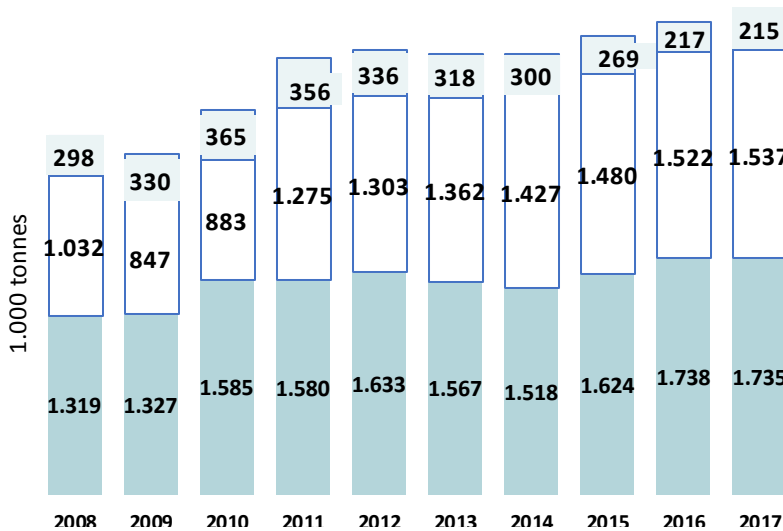


CATCHES

- The share of Alaska pollock in the global catches is 4% (FAO, 2017).
- Catches have been increasing over the last decade (+32% from 2008 to 2017).
- In 2017, Russia and the United States of America provided 94% of world catches.

Evolution of world catches

■ Russian Federation □ United States of America □ Other



Source: FAO

Evolution of EU catches

- No catch of Alaska pollock is recorded in the EU.



AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

- No aquaculture production has been developed for Alaska pollock in the EU.

PROCESSING

- Alaska pollock is the second most processed fish in the EU, after Atlantic cod. It is imported in frozen fillet blocks and frozen minced meat.
- Alaska pollock is mostly used in the processed industry to produce fish fillets in batter and fish fingers, surimi and prepared meals, fresh or frozen.
- In the EU, surimi production is mostly based on Alaska pollock and blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*). Raw surimi-material (called surimi-base) is imported, mostly from the United States of America. Surimi processing takes place mainly in Spain (67.000 tonnes in 2018), France (52.000 tonnes) and Lithuania (40.000 tonnes)*.

(*) EUMOFA estimates based on the import-export balance of surimi-base, assuming that all the surimi-base imported is used for the production of prepared surimi, with an incorporation rate of 33%.



TRADE

- [Combined nomenclature](#)

EU trade of Alaska pollock products (tonnes - 2018)

CN code	Product	EU imports		EU exports	
		Intra-EU	Extra-EU	Intra-EU	Extra-EU
03 02 55 00	Alaska pollock (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), whole, fresh	754	0	230	0
03 03 67 00	Alaska pollock (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), whole, frozen	1.873	319	2.169	58
03 04 75 00	Alaska pollock (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), fillets, frozen	61.192	284.569	80.759	611
03 04 94 10	Alaska pollock (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), surimi, frozen	2.616	24.270	1.225	50
03 04 94 90	Alaska pollock (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), other meat (whether or not minced), frozen	4.162	20.648	2.635	259
16 04 19 95*	Alaska pollock (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>) and pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>), prepared or preserved, whole or in pieces (excl. finely minced and fillets, raw, merely coated with batter or breadcrumbs, whether or not prefried in oil, frozen)	64.314	51	62.064	2.745

* This category of product include prepared-preserved pollack, in addition to Alaska pollock.

- **Main extra-EU suppliers are:**
 - for frozen fillets: China (147.974 tonnes) and USA (91.375 tonnes),
 - for frozen whole: Russia (196 tonnes) and USA (89 tonnes),
 - for frozen surimi: USA (24.270 tonnes),
 - for frozen meat (other than fillets and surimi): USA (11.221 tonnes) and Russia (6.253 tonnes).
- **Main extra-EU destinations are:**
 - for frozen fillets : Switzerland (232 tonnes) and China (120 tonnes),
 - for prepared or preserved Alaska pollock and pollack: Switzerland (1.947 tonnes).



PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

First-sale

Alaska pollock is not caught by the EU fleet, therefore there is no landing of Alaska pollock in the EU.

Wholesale

Wholesale prices are reported for Mercamadrid, major wholesale market in the EU.

Most frequent price	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Source
Alaska pollock (fresh)	n.a.	4,21	3,72	3,61	5,32	6,12	5,7	5,37	Mercamadrid
Alaska pollock (frozen)	n.a.	3,01	n.a.	n.a.	3,91	n.a.	n.a.	3,91	Mercamadrid

Import (frozen fillets)

Alaska pollock is mainly imported as frozen fillets (93% and 94% of imports' volume and value, respectively). Germany, France and Poland are the main importers in the EU (66% of EU imported volumes).

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
Germany	2,49	2,3	2,37	2,24	2,15	2,54	2,5	2,26	2,28	EUMOFA
France	2,53	2,34	2,43	2,36	2,31	2,68	2,64	2,4	2,38	EUMOFA
Poland	1,72	1,73	1,86	1,77	1,86	2,18	2,12	2	2,1	EUMOFA

Export (frozen fillets)

Alaska pollock is exported mainly as frozen fillets (94% of exports' volume and value).

Germany and the Netherlands are the main exporters in the EU (together, they cover 82% of EU exported volumes).

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
Germany	2,81	2,52	2,56	2,59	2,59	2,77	2,89	2,55	2,52	EUMOFA
Netherlands	2,78	2,35	2,42	2,43	2,18	2,52	2,60	2,44	2,49	EUMOFA



MARKETING ASPECTS

- Commercial designation in all EU official languages ([Read more](#))

CONSUMPTION

- Fourth most consumed species in the EU after tuna, cod and salmon (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2019 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Apparent consumption per capita in 2017: **1,59 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2019 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Nutritional value (Alaska pollock, North East Atlantic, fresh fillet, values per 100 g source : [USDA](#))

Nutritional value	Alaska pollock
kilo calories (kcal)	56
Total fat (g)	0,41
Saturates (g)	0,124
Carbohydrate (g)	0
Sugars (g)	0
Protein (g)	12,19
Salt (mg)	333