



ATLANTIC HERRING (*CLUPEA HARENGUS*)



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

BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

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

Atlantic herring belongs to the family of Clupeidae.

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

Atlantic herring lives in the North-East Atlantic (from Norwegian waters in the North to the Bay of Biscay in the South) and in the North-West Atlantic (from Greenland to South Carolina in the USA).

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

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

Minimum conservation sizes are: 18 cm of total length in Skagerrak and Kattegat and 20 cm in other fishing areas.

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

The main fishing gears used are gillnets and similar nets, pots and traps, seines and trawls.

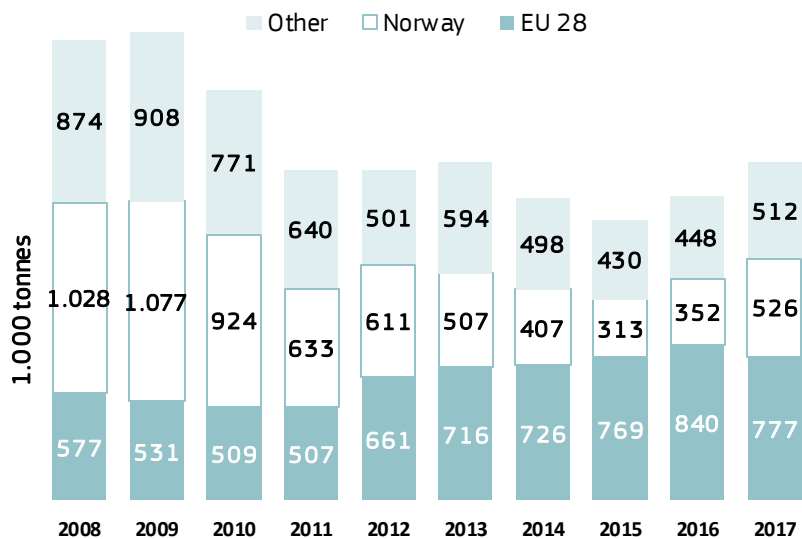
Atlantic herring



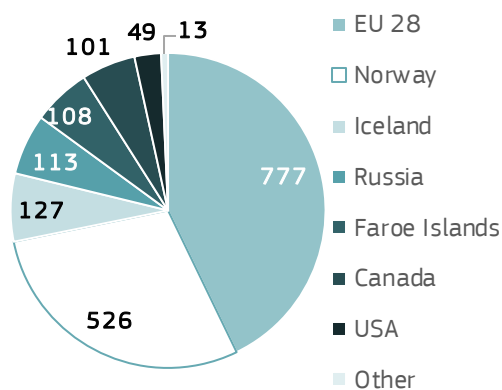
CATCHES

- The share of Atlantic herring in the global catches is **2%** (FAO, 2017).
- During the last decade (2008-2017), Atlantic herring catches have decreased by **-27%** at global level (related to the decrease of catches in Iceland by **-66%** over the same period) but have significantly increased at EU level (**+35%**).

Evolution of world catches



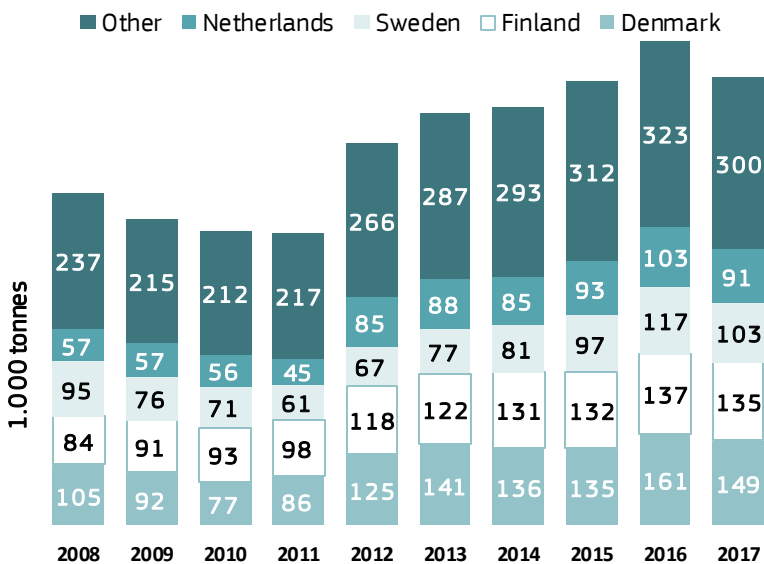
Catches (2017, 1.000 tonnes)



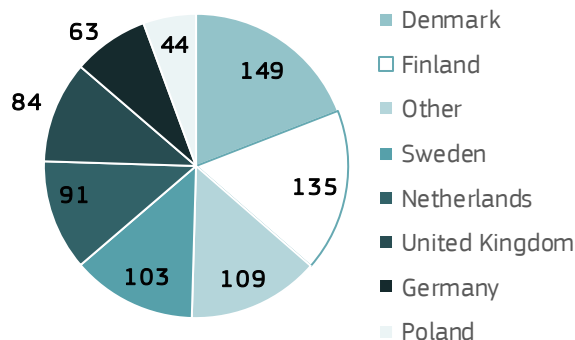
Source: FAO

Evolution of EU catches

- In 2017, the EU provided **43%** of the global Atlantic herring catches (vs. **23%** in 2008). The species is caught by several EU Member States but mainly by Denmark, Finland and Sweden.



Catches (2017, 1.000 tonnes)



Source: FAO



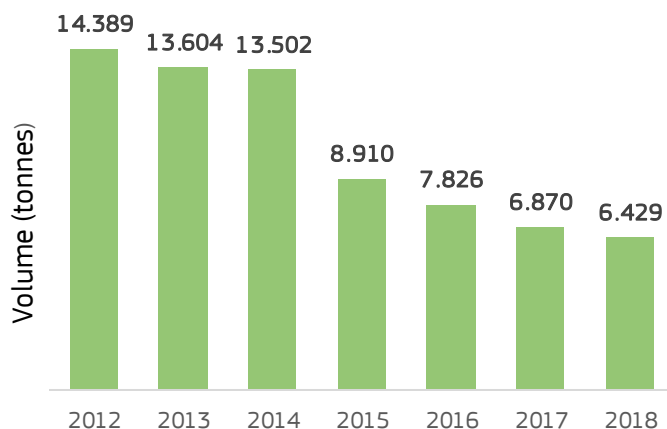
AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

- No aquaculture production of Atlantic herring has been developed, as it would not be competitive (low sale prices).

PROCESSING

- A significant processing activity for the Atlantic herring exists in the EU.
- 2 [PRODCOM](#) codes refer to herring:
 - 10 20 24 55: smoked herrings,
 - 10 20 25 20: preserved or prepared herrings.

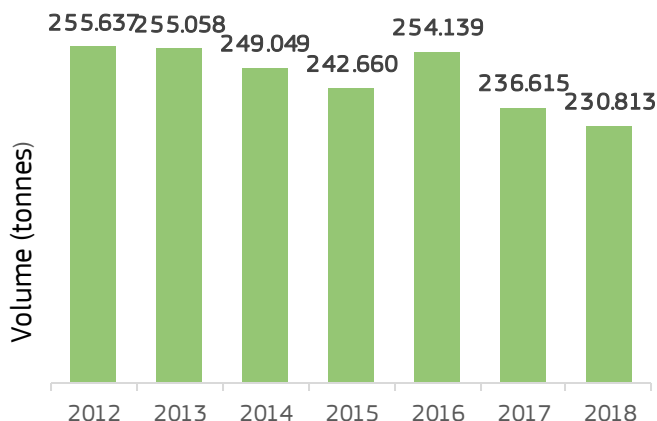
EU production of smoked herrings



- Smoked herring**

EU production of smoked herring dropped substantially since 2012, in some countries by more than -80% (France and Finland). UK, France and Poland are the major producers (64% of the EU production in 2018).

EU production of prepared and preserved herring



- Prepared/preserved herring**

The EU production of prepared/preserved herring slightly decreased since 2012 (-10%). Poland and Germany are the major EU producers (108.659 and 59.684 tonnes in 2018, respectively). These countries provided 73% of EU production in 2018.



TRADE

- [Combined nomenclature](#)

EU trade of herring products (tonnes – 2018)

CN code	Product	EU imports		EU exports	
		Intra-EU	Extra-EU	Intra-EU	Extra-EU
03 02 41 00	Herrings, fresh	127.725	27.838	153.697	11.533
03 03 51 00	Herrings, frozen	175.861	49.409	197.723	258.912
03 04 59 50	Flaps of herrings, fresh	7.501	24	6.320	6
03 04 86 00	Fillets of herrings, frozen	18.636	51.417	24.602	341
03 04 99 23	Meat of herrings, frozen	18.988	51.293	20.819	448
03 05 42 00	Herrings, smoked	7.159	297	1.708	161
03 05 61 00	Herrings, salted or in brine	5.875	320	7.265	910
16 04 12 10	Fillets of herrings, coated, frozen	4.243	0	3.953	119
16 04 12 91	Herrings, prepared or preserved, in airtight containers	68.807	512	61.163	5.299
16 04 12 99	Herrings, prepared or preserved, other	28.404	23.571	48.380	2.374

- **Main extra-EU suppliers are:**

- for fresh products: Norway (27.244 tonnes),
- for frozen whole herrings: Norway (28.763 tonnes), Faroe Islands (11.839 tonnes) and Russia (6.925 tonnes),
- for frozen fillets: Norway (41.300 tonnes), Iceland (8.658 tonnes) and Faroe Islands (1.430 tonnes),
- for frozen meat of herrings: Norway (40.251 tonnes), Iceland (9.105 tonnes), and Greenland (1.294 tonnes),
- for prepared/preserved herrings: Norway (22.703 tonnes).

- **Main extra-EU destinations are:**

- for fresh whole herrings: Norway (11.162 tonnes),
- for frozen whole herrings: Nigeria (125.701 tonnes), Egypt (57.516 tonnes) and Ukraine (40.617 tonnes),
- for prepared/preserved herrings: Norway (1.771 tonnes), USA (2.961 tonnes) and Australia (610 tonnes).

Atlantic herring



PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

First-sale (fresh whole)

First-sale prices are provided for the main EU producers (Denmark and Sweden).

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
Denmark	0,44	0,71	0,74	0,55	0,47	0,58	0,72	0,51	0,48	EUMOFA
Sweden	n.a.	0,44	0,49	0,47	0,42	0,38	0,43	0,41	0,38	EUMOFA

Wholesale (fresh)

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

Most frequent price	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
Spain (Madrid)	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,1	Mercamadrid

Retail/consumption (fresh)

Retail prices refer to Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden, the major consumer countries of herring in the EU.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
Germany	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10,08	10,86	10,34	10,93	EUMOFA
Netherlands	15	14,98	14,85	14,94	14,84	13,77	13,72	EUMOFA
Sweden	6,55	6,54	6,62	6,15	6,23	6,58	6,18	EUMOFA

Import

Import prices are reported for Denmark and Germany, the main herring importers in the EU.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
Germany (frozen whole)	0,83	1,27	1,36	0,98	0,98	0,98	1,29	1,07	0,77	EUMOFA
Germany (frozen fillets)	1,57	2,11	2,27	2,12	1,92	2,08	2,15	2,31	1,92	EUMOFA
Denmark (fresh whole)	0,46	0,72	0,74	0,59	0,47	0,5	0,61	0,4	0,38	EUMOFA
Denmark (frozen whole)	1,63	1,93	1,88	1,74	1,59	1,47	1,45	1,07	1,24	EUMOFA

Export

Export prices refer to Denmark and the Netherlands, the main herring exporters in the EU.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
Denmark (fresh whole)	0,48	0,63	0,72	0,54	0,5	0,61	0,74	0,55	0,52	EUMOFA
Netherlands (frozen whole)	0,65	0,88	1,04	0,85	0,62	0,78	0,74	0,69	0,71	EUMOFA

Atlantic herring



MARKETING ASPECTS

- Commercial designations in all EU languages ([Read more](#))
- Common marketing standard ([Read more](#))

CONSUMPTION

- 7th most consumed species in the EU after tuna, cod, salmon, Alaska pollock, shrimps and mussel.
- Apparent consumption per capita in 2017: **1,18 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2019 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Nutritional value (Atlantic herring, North East Atlantic, fresh fillet, values per 100 g – source : NUTRAQUA/AQUIMER)

Nutritional value	Fat herring	Lean herring
kilo calorie (kcal)	174	108
Kilojoule (kj)	727	454
Water (g)	68,3	76,2
Ashes (g)	1,4	1,5
Proteins (g)	18,7	18,3
Carbohydrates (g)	1,1	0,4
Lipids (g)	10,6	3,7
Cholesterol (mg)	54,7	49,9
Omega 6 (mg)	246	110
Omega 3 (mg)	1683	583
EPA (mg)	449	161
DHA (mg)	827	323