



ATLANTIC SALMON (*SALMO SALAR*)



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BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

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

Native to the Atlantic Ocean, the Atlantic salmon has been introduced throughout the world for aquaculture purposes.

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

The wild Atlantic salmon lives in the Northern Atlantic Ocean, in rivers flowing into the North Atlantic, and, due to human introduction, in the North Pacific Ocean.

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

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

Minimum conservation size is established at 60 cm in all fishing areas, and 50 cm only in Bothnian Bay (Finland).

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

The main fishing gears used are drifnets, gillnets and similar nets, hooks and lines, and pots and traps. The species is also massively produced by aquaculture.

Atlantic salmon

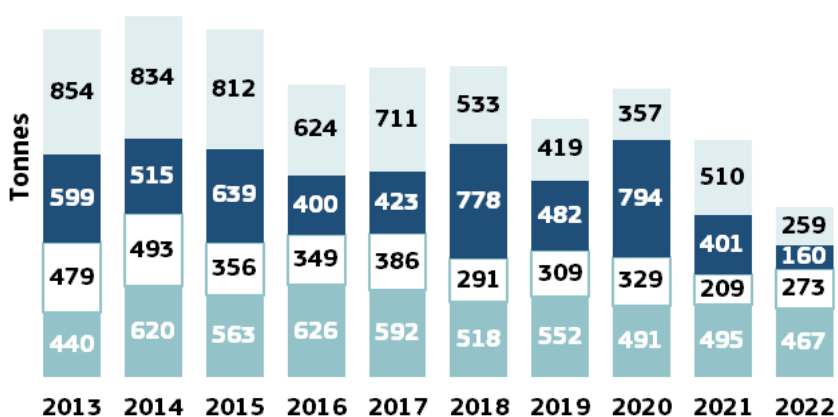


CATCHES

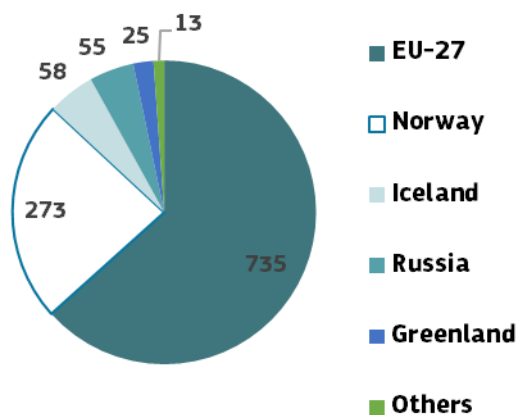
- Catches of wild Atlantic salmon have decreased significantly in the last decades. In 2022, global catches of Atlantic salmon reached 1.160 tonnes (i.e. 0,001% of the total global catches).
- Between 2013 and 2022, Atlantic salmon catches have dropped by 51%.

Evolution of world catches

Finland Sweden Norway Others



Catches (2022, tonnes)

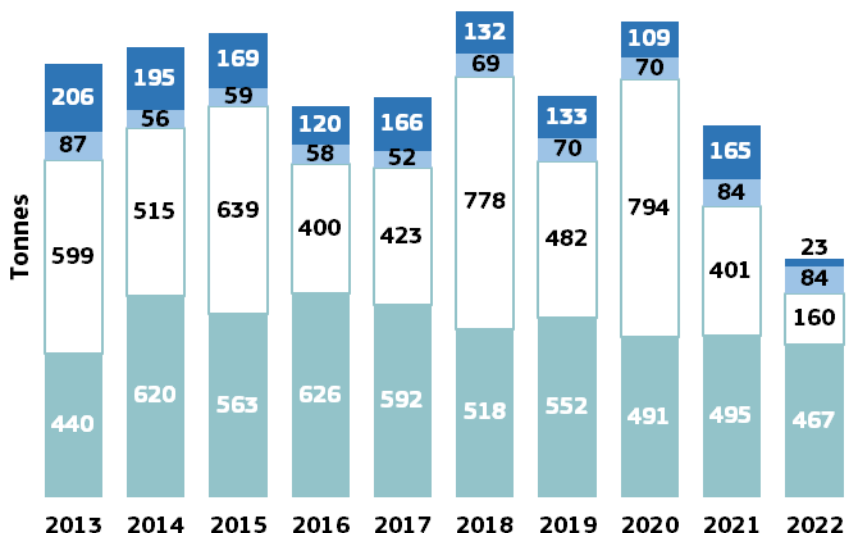


Evolution of EU catches

Source: FAO

- In 2021, the EU provided **63%** of the global Atlantic salmon catches (vs. 49% in 2012). Finland is the main EU producer, contributing to 64% of the EU production of Atlantic salmon in 2022, followed by Sweden (22% of the EU catches) and Ireland (11%).

Finland Sweden Ireland Others



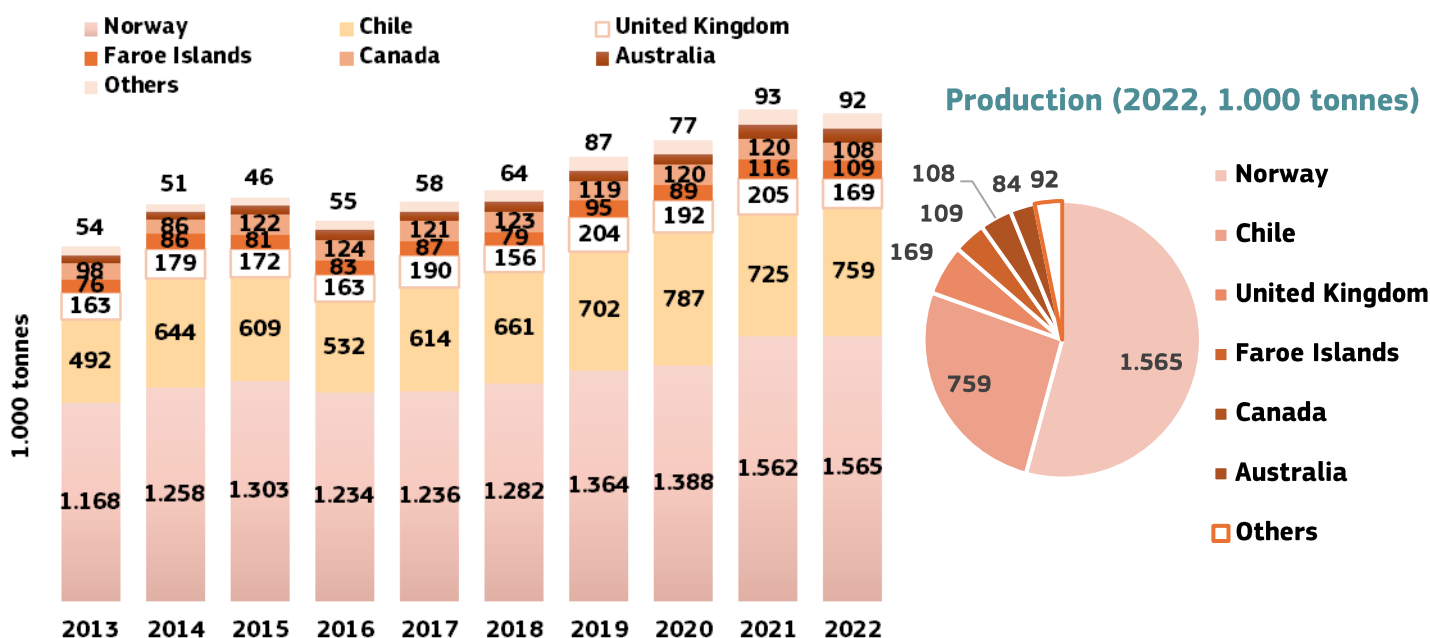
Source: FAO



AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

Evolution of world production

The global production of Atlantic salmon has been increasing since the early 1900s. During the last decade, it has increased by 38% and has almost reached 2,9 million tonnes in 2022. Norway and Chile were the leaders of salmon production, accounting for 81% of the global production. Both have significantly increased their production (by respectively 34% and 54% between 2013 and 2022).



Source: FAO

Evolution of EU production

After Brexit, the EU production of Atlantic salmon become very limited (12,000 tonnes in 2022) (UK was the largest producer within the EU). EU production occurs mainly in Ireland (91% of the EU production in 2022) and to lesser extent in Denmark (9%).



Atlantic salmon

PROCESSING

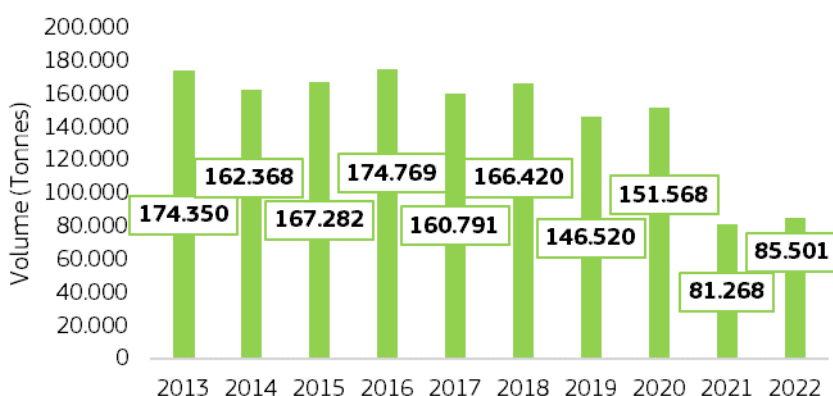
- A significant processing activity of Atlantic salmon exists (mainly smoking).
- 2 [PRODCOM](#) codes refer to Atlantic salmon:
 - 10202425: “Smoked Pacific, Atlantic and Danube salmon (including fillets, excluding heads, tails and maws)”.
 - 10202510: “Prepared or preserved salmon, whole or in pieces (excluding minced products and prepared meals and dishes)”.

Smoked salmon:

The annual EU production of smoked salmon has been around 147.000 tonnes on average over the period between 2013 and 2022. In 2022, the EU production reached 85.501 tonnes (EU-27).

Lithuania, France, and Denmark were the main producers of smoked salmon in the EU in 2022, covering 35%, 26% and 18% of the EU production, respectively.

EU production of smoked salmon

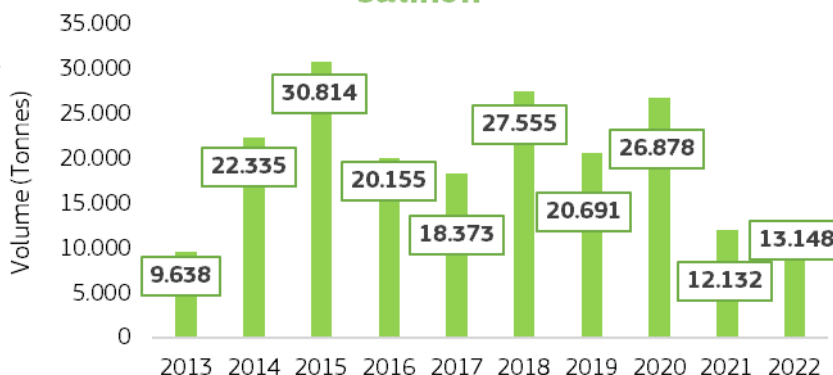


Prepared or preserved salmon:

Between 2013 and 2022, the EU production (EU-27) of prepared or preserved salmon has fluctuated, with an overall increasing trend over this period (by +36%).

France, Lithuania and Sweden were the main producers. In 2022, they provided 75% of the EU production.

EU production of prepared or preserved salmon





Atlantic salmon

TRADE

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

EU trade of salmon (2023, EU-27)

CN code	Product	EU imports	EU exports
03 01 99 11	Live Pacific salmon (whole) , Atlantic salmon and Danube salmon	13	3
03 02 13 00	Fresh or chilled (whole) , Pacific salmon	147	26
03 02 14 00	Fresh or chilled (whole) , Atlantic salmon and Danube salmon	776.946	7.964
03 03 11 00	Frozen whole sockeye salmon	8.573	625
03 03 12 00	Frozen whole Pacific salmon (excl. sockeye salmon)	8.161	342
03 03 13 00	Frozen (whole) , Atlantic salmon and Danube salmon	11.979	2.847
03 04 41 00	Fish fillets and other fish meat, fresh or chilled , Pacific salmon, Atlantic salmon and Danube salmon	56.099	8.724
03 04 81 00	Fish fillets and other fish meat, frozen , Pacific salmon, Atlantic salmon and Danube salmon	67.945	22.764
03 05 39 10	Salted or in brine salmon (Pacific salmon, Atlantic salmon, and Danube salmon)	8	68
03 05 41 00	Smoked salmon (including fillets, other than edible fish offal)	3.450	11.083
03 05 69 50	Salted Salmon but not dried or smoked and fish in brine, other than edible fish offal	0	18
16 04 11 00	Prepared or preserved salmon , whole or in pieces	2.755	5.590
16 04 20 10	Prepared or preserved salmon, other	139	1.645
Total		936.215	61.700

In EUROSTAT-COMEXT, Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) is combined with Pacific salmon, Danube salmon and other species.

Source: EUROSTAT-COMEXT

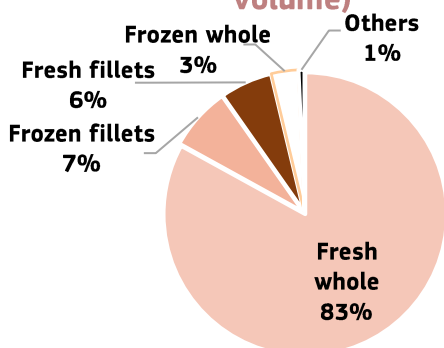


TRADE

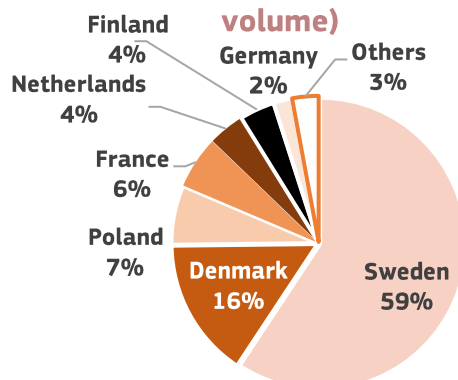
EU imports of Salmon products (tonnes - 2023)

EU imports from third countries reached over 936.000 tonnes in 2023, from which 777.106 tonnes of fresh whole salmon, i.e. 83% of the EU imports. Norway was by far the main supplier of the EU market. In 2022, Norway contributed to 82% of the EU imports from third countries. Sweden and Denmark were the main importers, accounting for 75% of EU imports. Both act as hubs and re-export almost all products to the main EU markets for salmon (Poland, Germany and France).

Imports by product type (2023, % in volume)



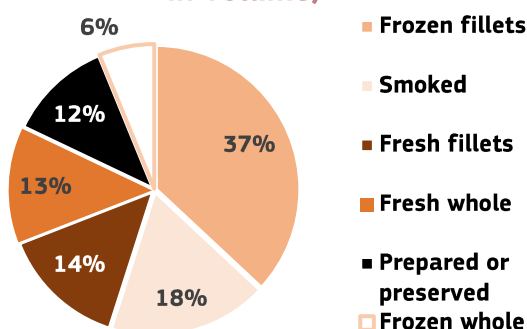
EU importers (2023, % in volume)



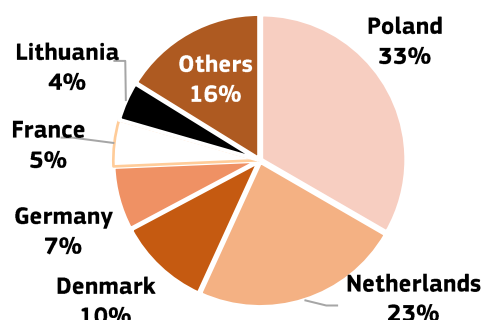
EU exports of Salmon products (tonnes - 2023)

Extra-EU exports reached over 61.700 tonnes in 2023. 37% of exports concerned frozen fillets salmon, while lesser volumes were exported smoked (18%) or in fresh fillets (14%). Main destinations were the United States, Austria, the United Kingdom and Switzerland (29%, 19%, 13%, and 11% of EU exports in volume terms, respectively). Main exporters were Poland (33% of EU exports to third countries), the Netherlands (23%), and Denmark (10%).

Exports by product type (2023, % in volume)



EU exporters (2023, % in volume)



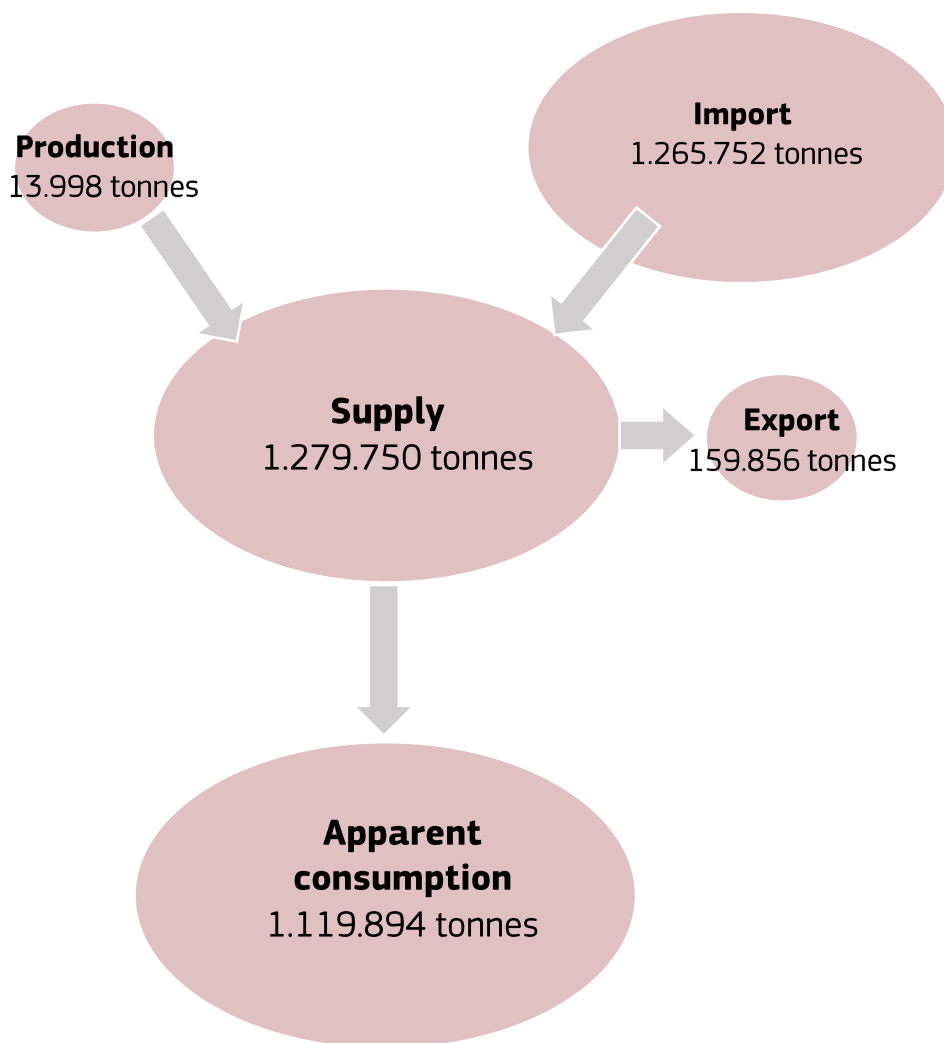


Atlantic salmon

Supply balance

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

Data concern Atlantic salmon and other species of salmon.



Source: FAO/ EUROSTAT-COMEXT

¹ Supply balance is provided for the year 2022 (trade data for 2022 were taken into account). Detailed trade data provided in the slides 5 and 6 concern the year 2023.

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



Atlantic salmon

PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

Ex-farm (fresh farmed)

Ex-farm prices are provided for Ireland, the main and only major EU producer of Atlantic salmon.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*	Source
Ireland	6,85	6,41	7,28	9,56	9,44	9,24	8,03	8,49	EUMOFA

(*) last year available

Wholesale

Wholesale prices are provided for Rungis (Paris, France).

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Salmon fresh whole gutted (2-3 kg) from Scotland	5,79	8,66	8,61	8,1	7,18	7,26	7,16	9,98	11,78	11,53	Rungis (RNM)
Salmon fresh whole gutted (2-3 kg) from Norway	5,27	8,05	7,87	7,37	6,99	6,94	6,87	9,47	10,36	10,21	Rungis (RNM)
Salmon fresh whole gutted (2-3 kg) Label Rouge from Scotland	7,01	9,49	10,89	9,82	9,7	9,24	9,24	12,66	13,02	12,91	Rungis (RNM)
Salmon fresh fillets (3-4 kg) from Norway	10,63	11,69	12,57	12,47	11,77	10,8	10,8	16,98	17,02	16,66	Rungis (RNM)
Smoked salmon organic	29	29	29	31,94	37	38	38	38,89	37,93	39,00	Rungis (RNM)

(*) from January to November 2024

Retail/consumption

Retail prices refer to France and Spain.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
France (fresh fillet 300-600g)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	20,14	24,82	26,01	26,65	EUMOFA
France (fresh)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	18,3	18,7	18,1	17,4	19,9	21,0	n.a.	FranceAgriMer
France (smoked)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	35,2	34,3	34,5	34,2	36,1	38,5	n.a.	FranceAgriMer
Spain (fresh fillets 300-600g)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	20,11	22,69	25,55	25,62	EUMOFA
Spain (fresh)	8,63	10,38	10,76	10,49	10,18	9,97	9,77	12,19	13,60	n.a.	MAPA
Spain (frozen)	13,36	13,43	14,73	14,83	15,48	16,17	16,76	18,29	21,25	n.a.	
Spain (smocked)	21,36	23,11	24,63	24,89	25,41	25,69	27,06	30,61	35,16	n.a.	

(*) from January to November 2024



Atlantic salmon

PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

Data concern Atlantic salmon and other species of salmon

Import (fresh whole)

Import prices are provided for Sweden, Denmark and Poland, the largest EU importers from third countries.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Sweden	4,81	6,39	6,5	6,31	6,07	5,81	5,78	7,69	8,45	9,88	EUMOFA
Denmark	4,8	6,39	6,57	6,32	6,04	5,28	5,85	8,05	9,14	8,52	EUMOFA
Poland	4,76	6,11	6,23	5,95	6,09	6,48	5,72	7,26	8,09	8,76	EUMOFA

(*) From January to August 2024

Export (frozen fillets)

Export prices refer to the Poland, Netherlands, and Denmark, the largest EU exporters to third countries.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Poland	5,78	6,51	8,17	7,41	7,95	7,27	7,98	9,88	11,38	12,82	EUMOFA
Netherlands	9,99	10,49	10,06	10,29	9,4	11,98	11,16	13,03	14,67	14,68	EUMOFA
Denmark	9,53	10,67	13,36	10,81	10,61	9,61	9,79	14,10	14,07	13,71	EUMOFA

(*) From January to August 2024



Atlantic salmon

MARKETING

- National lists of commercial designations ([Read more](#))
- Information system on commercial designations and scientific names in all EU languages ([Read more](#))
- Applicable marketing standards ([Read more](#))
- In the EU, there is one name protected under Protected Geographical Indication: **PGI “Clare Island Salmon”** in Ireland.

CONSUMPTION

- Second most consumed species in the EU after tuna (all species of salmon included) (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2023 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Apparent consumption per capita of salmon (all species) in 2022: **2,51 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [Supply balance - 2022](#), EUMOFA)
- Nutritional value (Atlantic salmon, nutrition values per serving 100g) ([Read more](#))

Nutrition values	Farmed	Wild
Energy (kcal)	208	142
Total fat (g)	13,42	6,34
Saturates (g)	3,05	0,981
Carbohydrate (g)	0	0
Protein (g)	20,42	19,84
Salt (mg)	147,5	110