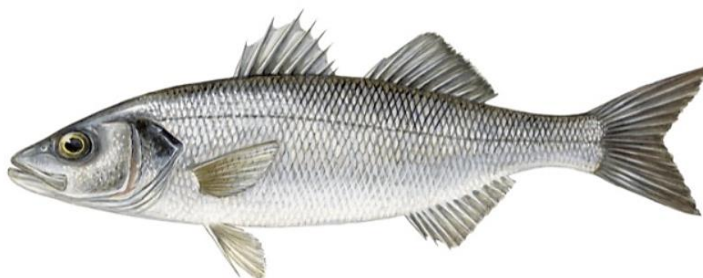




EUROPEAN SEABASS (*DICENTRARCHUS LABRAX*)



© Scandinavian Fishing Year Book

BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

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

The European seabass belongs to the family of Moronidae.

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

The European seabass lives along the coastal waters of the North-East Atlantic, in the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea.

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

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

Minimum conservation reference sizes are established at 25 cm of total length in the Mediterranean Sea and 42 cm in other fishing areas.

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

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

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

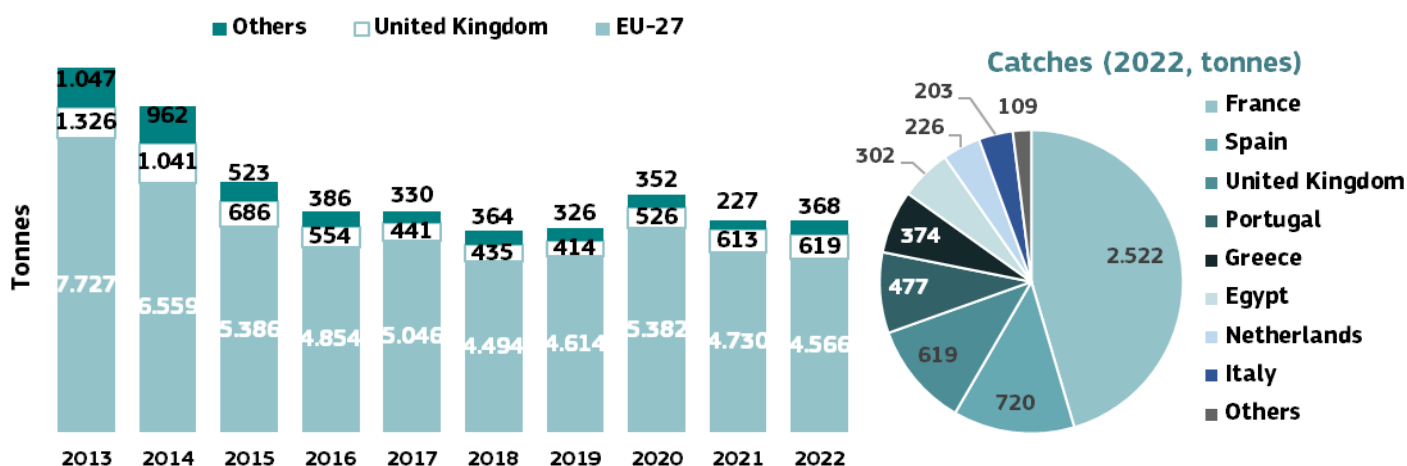
European seabass



CATCHES

• Evolution of world catches (tonnes)

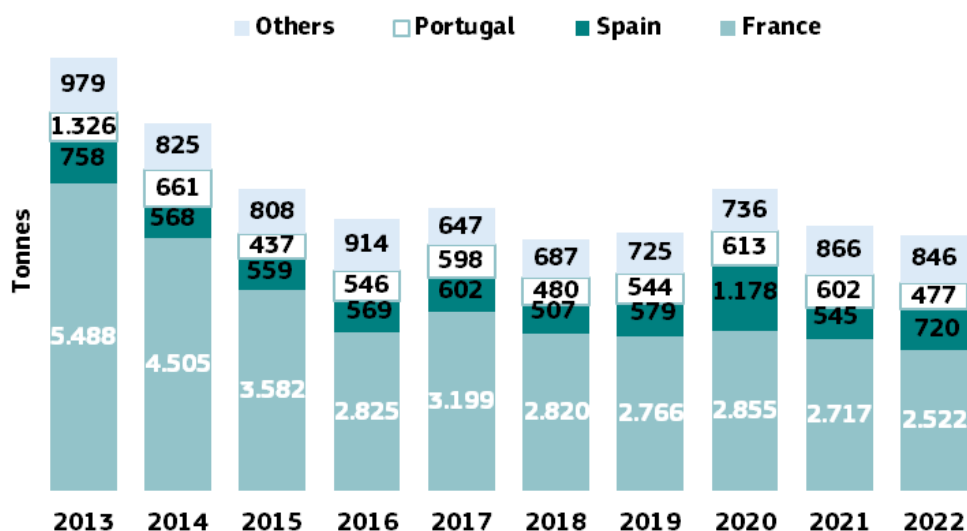
- The global catches of European seabass reached 5.553 tonnes in 2022, i.e. **0,006%** of total global catches. The species is mainly farmed.
- Catches are in decline since 2013 (despite a small increase in 2020). This trend is mainly due to the situation of the stock in the Channel and the North Sea (the main fishing areas of seabass).



Source: FAO

• Evolution of EU catches (tonnes)

The EU accounted for 82% of the global seabass catches in 2022. France provided 55% of EU catches the same year, but its production has significantly decreased in the last decade (-54%), as a result of the management measures taken at EU and national levels following the decline of seabass resource.



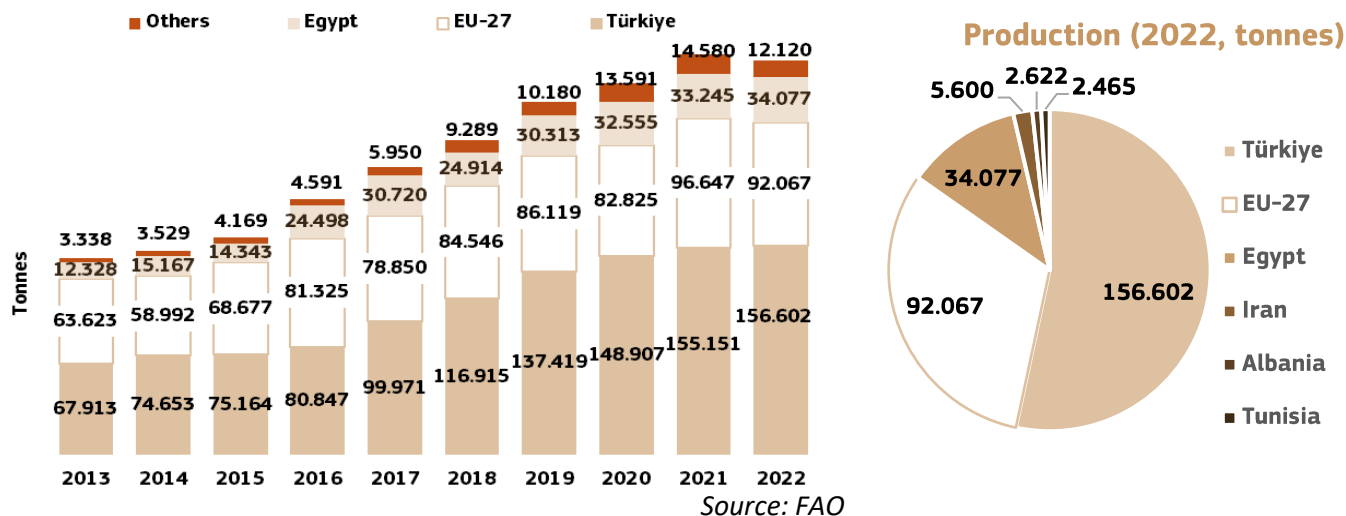
Source: FAO



AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

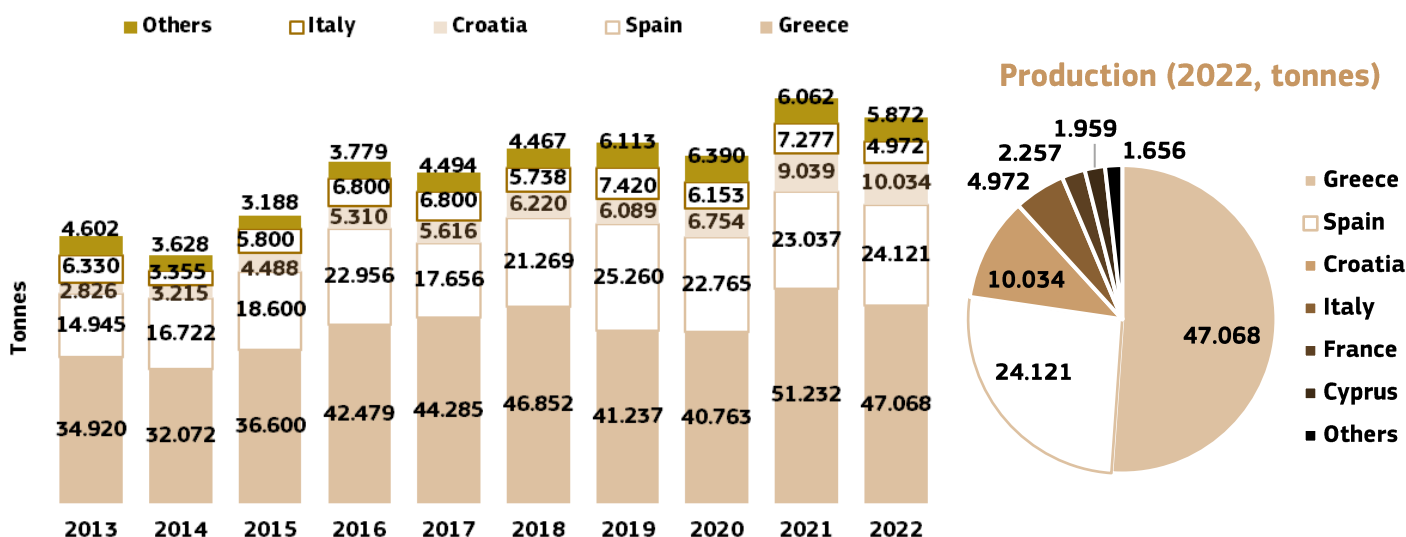
• Evolution of world aquaculture production

The world production has doubled in the last ten years (between 2013 and 2022), reaching 293.618 tonnes in 2022. The growth is more significant for non-EU countries than for EU Member States (143% vs 45%). Turkey is the main producer globally and has increased its production from around 68.000 tonnes to over 156.000 tonnes between 2013 to 2022.



• Evolution of EU aquaculture production

- With a production of 92.067 tonnes in 2022, the EU provided **31%** of the global production of seabass. Greece and Spain provided 77% of EU production.
- The EU production has experienced a 45% increase during the last decade; driven mainly by increases in Greece (+35%), Spain (+61%), and Croatia (+255). The increase in Croatian production is related to the increase of the Italian market.



European seabass



PROCESSING

In the EU, the European seabass is mainly consumed fresh. There are only small activity of processing: filleting, packing, marinating and smoking in the most important producers (e.g. Greece, Spain, Italy and Croatia) (source: [Price structure in the supply chain for seabass](#), EUMOFA, 2024).



TRADE

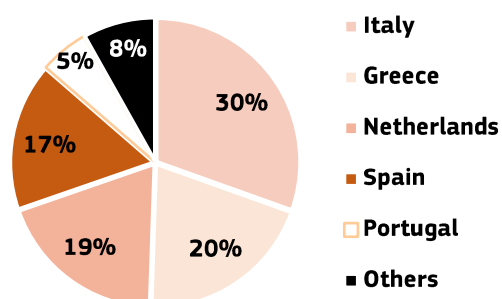
EU-27 trade of European seabass (2023 – tonnes)

Codes	Product	EU imports	EU exports
03 02 84 10	Fresh whole/gutted European seabass	21.748	13.730
03 03 84 10	Frozen whole/gutted European seabass	671	141
Total		22.419	13.871

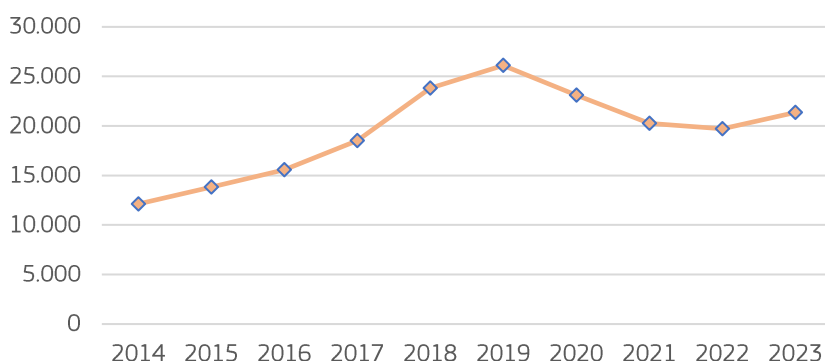
• Extra-EU imports

In 2023, the EU imported over 22.400 tonnes of seabass. Almost all extra-EU imports concerned fresh seabass. Turkey was by far the main supplier, with 98% of the EU imports. Imports from Turkey has significantly increased until 2019, before decreasing again. Italy, Greece, the Netherlands, and Spain were the main importers (respectively 30%, 20%, 19% and 17% of the EU imports in 2023).

EU importers (2023, volume in %)



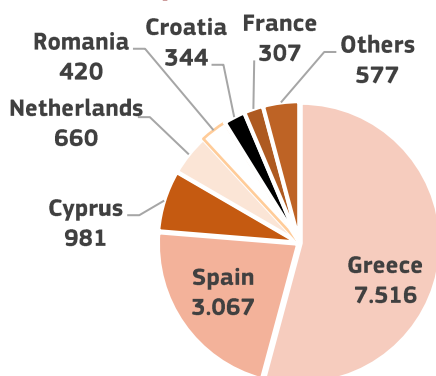
EU imports of fresh seabass from Turkey (in tonnes)



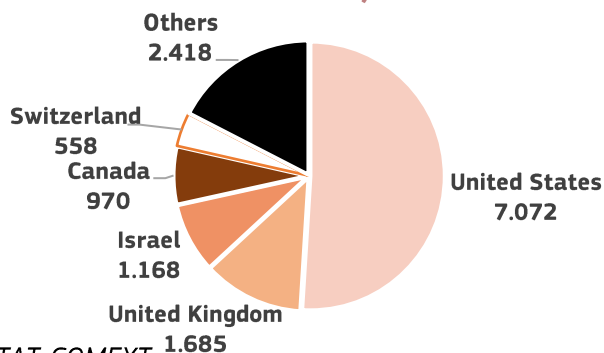
• Extra-EU exports

In 2023, extra-EU exports of seabass reached almost 14.000 tonnes. They were mainly composed of fresh seabass, the frozen fish representing only 1% of the total. In 2023, main EU exporters were Greece, Spain which covered 76% of all extra-EU exports. The main countries of **destination** for fresh seabass were the United States, the United Kingdom and to lesser extent Israel, which covered 51%, 12% and 8% of volumes exported to third countries in 2023, respectively.

EU exporters (2022, tonnes)



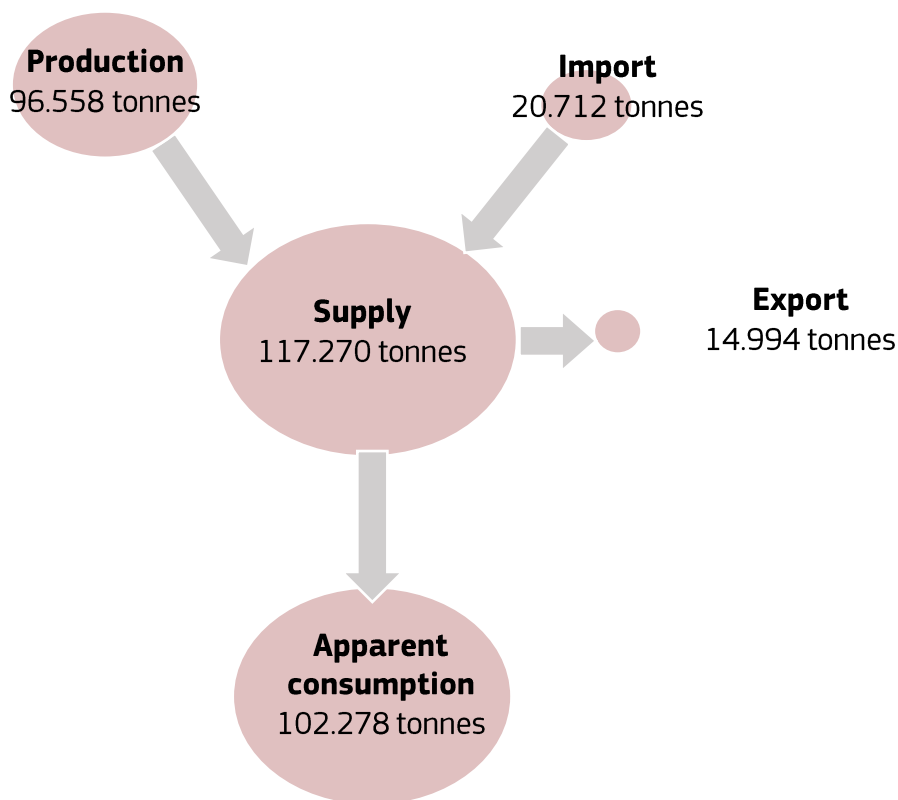
Main destinations (2023, tonnes)





Supply balance

EU supply balance (2022¹) – Tonnes of live weight equivalent² – European seabass



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 slide 5 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.



PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

When data is available, prices are provided for wild and farmed seabass, as significant price difference could be noticed between the two types of fish.

First-sale (wild)/Ex-farm (farmed) - (fresh)

First-sale and ex-farm prices are provided for the main EU producers, namely France, Spain and Greece.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
France (wild)	16,10	16,30	15,59	15,70	15,70	13,99	15,55	16,81	15,86	17,23	EUMOFA
Spain (wild)	13,96	14,15	13,69	15,27	14,73	12,82	15,82	15,35	17,18	17,18	EUMOFA
Spain (farmed)	6,09	6,55	6,75	6,54	6,12	6,33	6,64	7,56	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA
Greece (farmed)	5,46	5,52	5,59	5,09	4,86	5,08	5,37	7,27	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA

*) From January to November 2024

Wholesale (fresh)

Wholesale prices are reported for Mercabarna (Barcelona, Spain) and in Rungis (Paris, France).

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Spain (wild)	19,71	20,86	20,7	19,21	18,63	20,27	20,01	23,99	23,29	27,36	Mercabarna
Spain (farmed)	5,97	6,19	5,8	4,51	3,91	4,61	5,07	7,36	8,51	7,46	Mercabarna
France (wild- "Bar de Ligne" >3kg)	28,64	28,99	27,75	29,99	28,82	25,74	27,44	36,25	30,72	26,33	RNM-Rungis
France (farmed- 0,8-1 kg))	10,83	12,73	12,03	9,99	9,36	10,13	9,71	12,75	11,54	12,62	RNM-Rungis

*) From January to November 2024



PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

Retail/consumption (fresh)

Retail prices refer to France, Greece, Spain, and Italy which are among the major EU consumer countries.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
France (fresh whole, 450-600g)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	9,62	9,99	12,62	11,16	EUMOFA
Spain (fresh whole, 400-750g)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8,09	n.a.	9,77	9,48	EUMOFA
Italy (Fresh gutted, 300-500g)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	17,49	18,11	18,80	19,37	EUMOFA
Spain (farmed)	8,36	8,63	8,8	8,58	8,31	8,73	9,03	9,95	10,70	n.a.	MAPA
Italy - fresh, 400-600g	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8,08	8,4	8,53	9,58	9,74	9,82	ISMEA
Italy - fresh 600-800g	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	9,36	9,51	9,63	10,87	11,03	11,08	ISMEA

**) From January to November 2024*

Import (fresh)

European seabass is mainly imported fresh from Turkey. In 2023, the main importers were Italy, Greece, Netherlands and Spain.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Italy	4,98	5,02	4,68	4,01	3,7	6,68	6,83	8,36	6,95	6,46	EUMOFA
Netherlands	5,42	5,57	5,2	4,51	4,14	5,71	6,79	8,39	7,86	7,18	EUMOFA
Greece	5,39	4,39	4,36	3,78	3,36	3,87	4,32	5,26	5,33	6,15	EUMOFA
Spain	5,04	4,85	4,65	4	3,61	9,84	11,43	14,32	12,98	7,93	EUMOFA

** From January to August 2024*

Export (fresh)

European seabass is mainly exported fresh. Greece, Spain, and Cyprus were the main exporters in 2023.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Greece	5,4	5,62	5,9	5,74	4,88	5,82	6,23	6,75	7,12	7,11	EUMOFA
Spain	7,72	7,77	8,44	7,63	7,27	8,80	9,32	11,84	13,02	13,25	EUMOFA
Cyprus	6,02	5,86	6,08	6,15	5,89	5,95	7,91	9,63	9,15	8,66	EUMOFA

** From January to August 2024*



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](#))

CONSUMPTION

- Apparent consumption per capita of European seabass in 2022: **0,23 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [Supply balance – 2022](#), EUMOFA).
- Nutritional value (European seabass, wild, North East Atlantic, fresh fillet, values per 100 g – source : NUTRAQUA/AQUIMER)

Energy (kcal)	96
Energy (kj)	405
Water (g)	76,8
Ashes (g)	1,2
Proteins (g)	20,1
Carbohydrates (g)	0,3
Lipids (g)	1,6
Cholesterol (mg)	58,1
Omega 6 (mg)	71
Omega 3 (mg)	508
EPA (mg)	126
DHA (mg)	278