



OYSTERS (OSTREIDAE)



Crassostrea gigas

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

BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

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

Oyster is the common name for many salt-water bivalve molluscs living in marine or brackish waters. Most are part of the family Ostreidae.

The main species produced in Europe is *Crassostrea gigas*.

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

Oysters have a worldwide distribution and can be found in all seas and oceans, from saltwaters to brackish waters.

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

- **Production methods and fishing gears**

Oysters can be caught in the wild but are mainly farmed. The main fishing gears used are dredges and trawls.

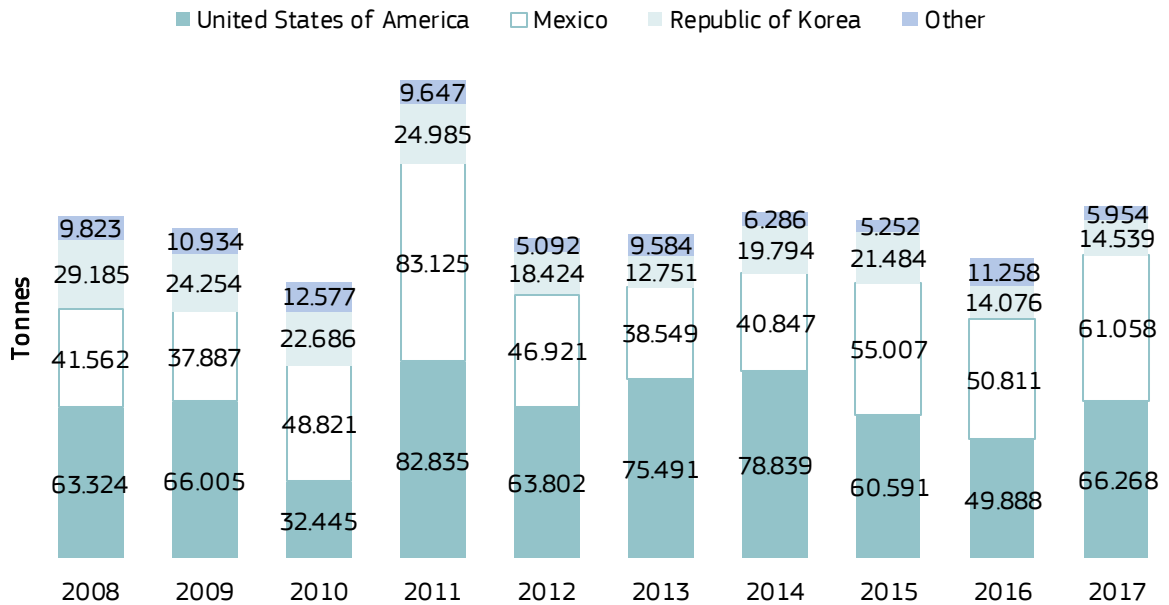
Oysters



CATCHES

- With a total of about 148.000 tonnes in 2017, oyster catches represented 0,16% of the global fisheries production.
- USA and Mexico provided **86%** of the world catches in 2017 (vs. 73% in 2008).

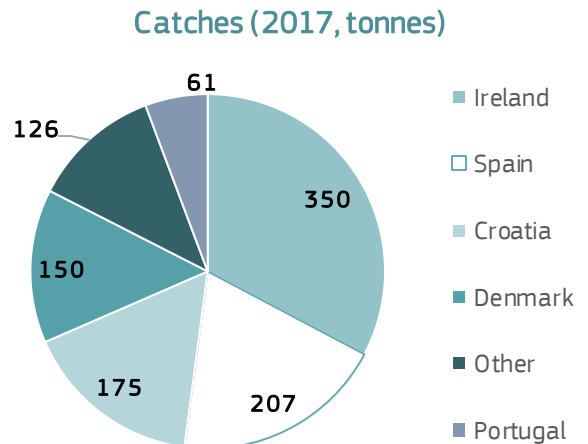
Evolution of world catches



Source: FAO

Evolution of EU catches (tonnes)

- EU catches, which were above 10.000 tonnes at the end of the 1960s, followed then a decreasing trend to slightly above 1.000 tonnes in the last decade. In 2017, EU catches represented only 0,7% of global oyster catches. The **European flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis*)** is the main caught species within the EU. It represented 80% of the total EU oyster catches in 2017 (vs 86% in 2008). Spain and Ireland were the main producers. They accounted for 52% of EU catches in 2017.



Source: FAO

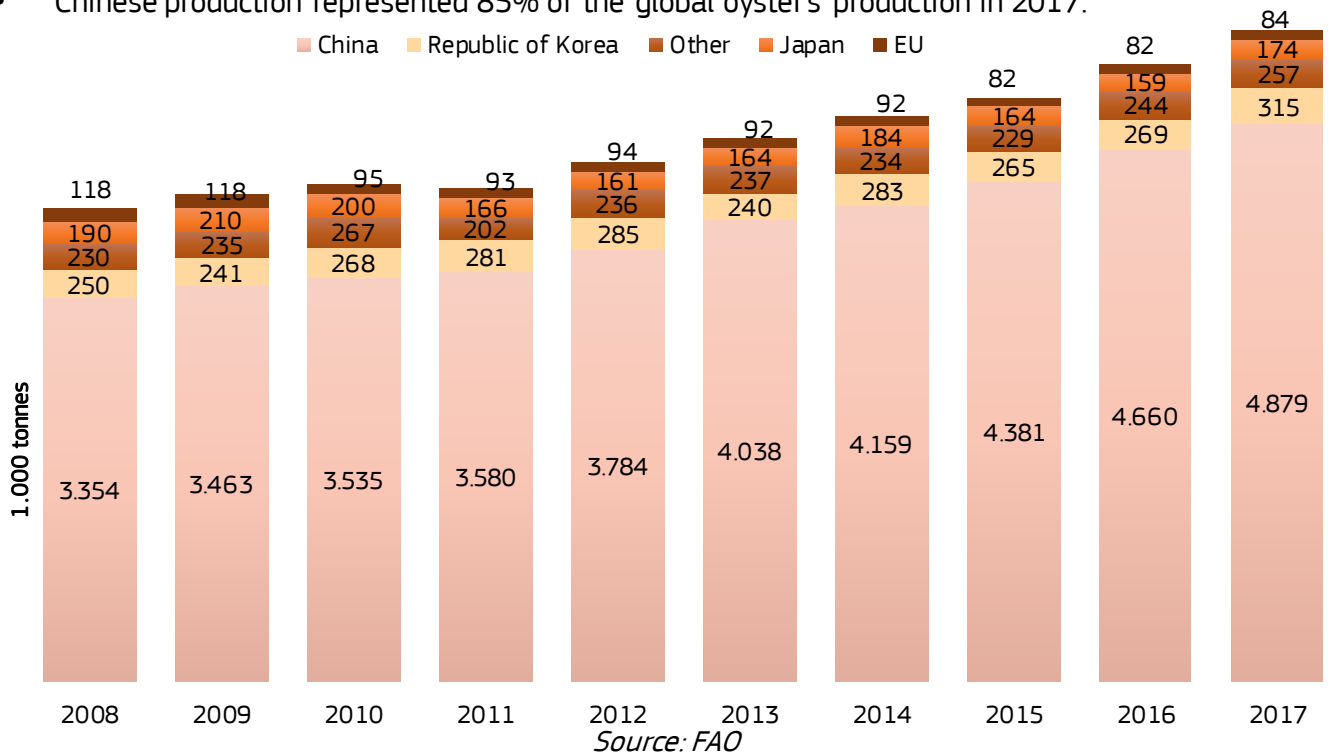
Oysters



AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

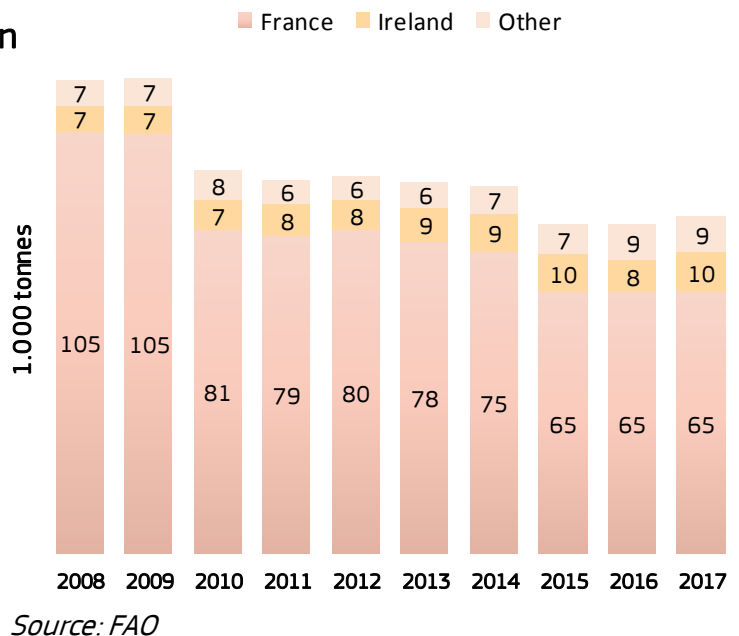
Evolution of world aquaculture production

- From 2008 to 2017, the world oyster production increased by **39%**, thus reaching about circa 5,7 million tonnes in 2017, driven by the development of Chinese production (+45% over the same period).
- Chinese production represented 85% of the global oyster's production in 2017.



Evolution of EU aquaculture production

- The EU provided only 2% of the global oyster aquaculture volume in 2017 and EU volume has decreased by **-29%** over the last decade.
- The main species produced in the EU is the **Pacific cupped oyster** (*Crassostrea gigas*), with 93% of volumes in 2017.
- In 2017, France alone represented 77% of EU production (vs. 89% in 2008).





PROCESSING

- No significant processing activity exists for oysters. Yet canned and smoked oysters' industry is developed in Asia and America.

TRADE

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

Most of the oyster trade is intra-EU, as it mostly concerns live products. France and Ireland are the main intra- and extra-EU exporters of live oysters.

Main importers of live oysters are France and Italy, for products originating from Ireland and France, respectively.

EU trade of oyster products (tonnes - 2018)

CN code	Product	EU imports		EU exports	
		Intra-EU	Extra-EU	Intra-EU	Extra-EU
03071110	Flats oysters (of the genus <i>Ostrea</i>), live and weighing (shell included) not more than 40 g each	3.299	13	7.014	748
03071190	Other oysters, live	16.722	6	14.533	5.905
03071200	Oysters, even in shell, frozen	797	152	137	65
03071900	Oysters, even in shell, smoked, dried, salted or in brine	1.583	42	5.762	225
16055100	Oysters, prepared or preserved (excl. smoked)	216	20	134	9

Extra-EU imports of oysters are not significant and have not exceeded 300 tonnes in 2018.

Extra-EU exports concern mostly live oysters, which in 2018 were exported to China (2.371 tonnes), Hong Kong (1.608 tonnes) and Switzerland (635 tonnes).

Source: EUROSTAT-COMEXT



Oysters

PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

First-sale (live/fresh)

First-sale prices are presented for Pacific cupped oyster in France and Spain, the leading EU producers.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
France	2,16	3,30	4,14	4,23	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3,26	2,42	EUMOFA
Spain	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0,88	0,74	0,90	1,00	EUMOFA

Wholesale (live/fresh)

Wholesale prices are presented for Spain (wholesale market of Barcelona).

Mean price	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
Spain	8,72	9,94	10,92	11,03	11,55	12,37	12,43	11,79	11,83	Mercabarna

Retail/consumption (live/fresh)

Retail prices refer to France, major consumer country in the EU.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
France	7,1	7,8	7,8	7,9	7,4	7,3	7,1	7,3	FranceAgriMer

Import (live/fresh)

Import prices are presented for fresh/live oysters in France and Italy, the main EU importers.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
France	3,16	4,85	4,88	4,99	4,64	4,12	4,33	4,25	4,57	EUMOFA
Italy	3,30	4,51	4,24	4,24	4,07	4,03	4,30	4,38	5,07	EUMOFA

Export (live/fresh)

Export prices refer to fresh/live oysters in France and Ireland, the two main exporters in the EU.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
France	5,92	6,57	6,86	7,34	7,36	6,54	6,73	7,07	7,45	EUMOFA
Ireland	3,04	4,29	5,01	5,03	4,36	4,17	4,76	4,98	5,40	EUMOFA



MARKETING ASPECTS

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

CONSUMPTION

- Apparent consumption per capita of oyster in 2017: **0,19 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [EUMOFA supply balance](#)).
- Nutritional value (Oyster - *Crassostrea gigas*, France, raw meat, values per 100 g – source : NUTRAQUA/AQUIMER)

Nutritional value	Oyster (<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>)
kilo calories (kcal)	66
Kilojoule (kJ)	280
Water (g)	83,3
Ashes (g)	2,3
Proteins (g)	8,6
Carbohydrates (g)	4
Lipids (g)	1,7
Cholesterol (mv)	20,3
Omega 6 (mg)	67
Omega 3 (mg)	272
EPA (mg)	146
DHA (mg)	71