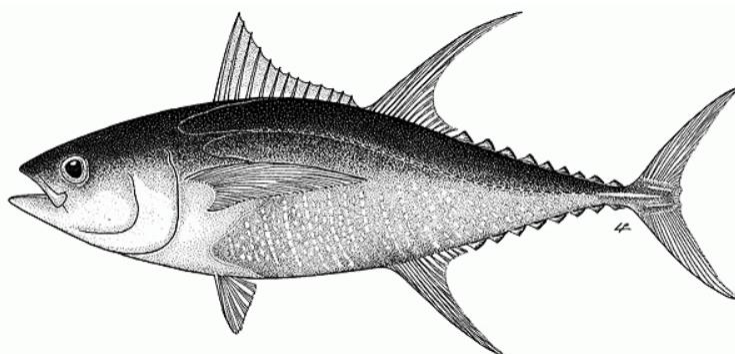




YELLOWFIN TUNA (*THUNNUS ALBACARES*)



©FAO

BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

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

The yellowfin tuna is among the larger tuna species. It belongs to the family of *Scombridae*.

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

Yellowfin tuna can be found in pelagic waters of tropical and subtropical oceans worldwide.

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

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

TACs are adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) for tuna caught in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea and by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) for tuna caught in the Indian ocean.

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

The main fishing gears used are drifnets, gillnets and similar nets, hooks and lines, longlines, pots and traps, purse seines, seines, surrounding nets and lift nets, and troll lines.

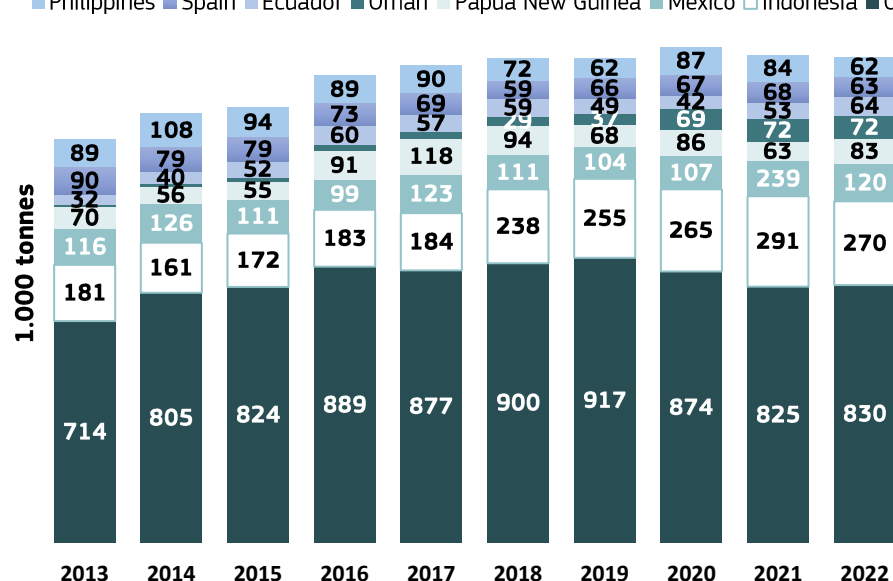


CATCHES

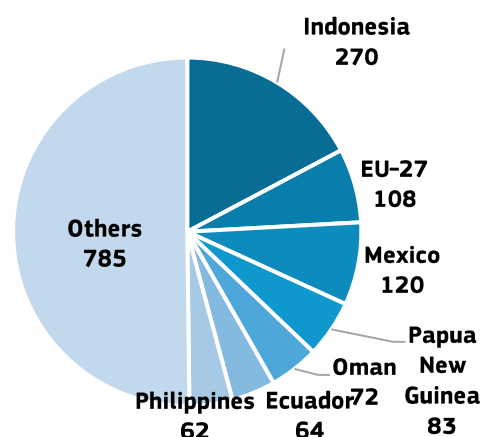
Evolution of world catches

- The global catches of Yellowfin tuna have reached over 1,5 million tonnes in 2022, i.e. **1,67%** of the global catches. Over the last decade (2013-2022), the global production has significantly increased by 20%.
- The top-3 producers, Indonesia, Mexico and Philippines accounted for 30% of the world catches in 2022.

■ Philippines ■ Spain ■ Ecuador ■ Oman ■ Papua New Guinea ■ Mexico ■ Indonesia ■ Others



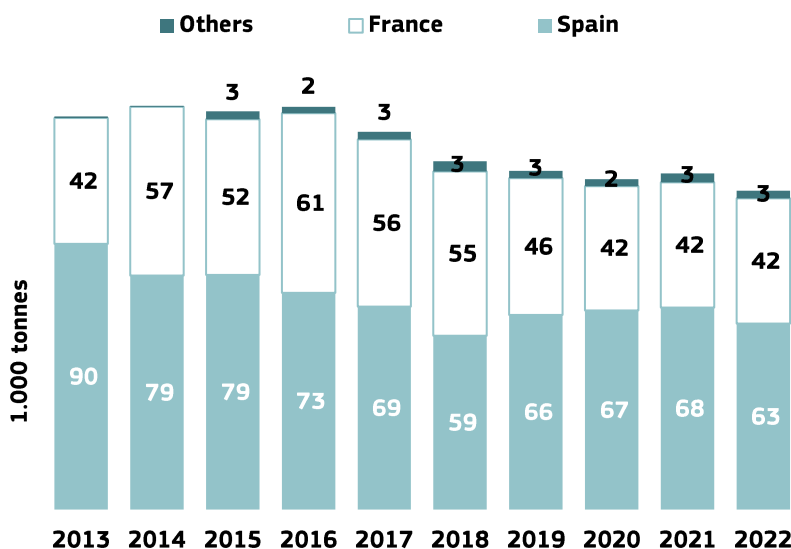
Catches (2022, 1.000 tonnes)



Source: FAO

Evolution of EU catches

- In 2022, the EU provided **7%** of the global yellowfin tuna catches (vs. 11% in 2012). Unlike the global production, the EU production has significantly decreased by 19% over the last decade (2013-2022), in relation to the EU contribution to catch reduction scheme of yellowfin tuna in the Indian Ocean. This occurs under the umbrella of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission in order to reduce overfishing of yellowfin tuna stock.
- Spain and France represented almost all (98%) EU production in 2022.



Source: FAO



Yellowfin tuna

AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

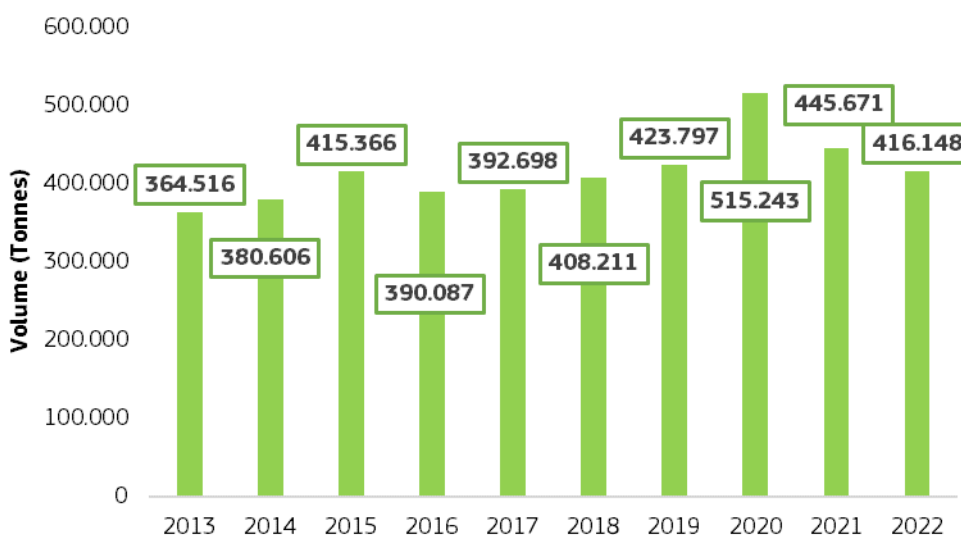
Yellowfin tuna farming is at experimental level (Oman, Mexico...).

PROCESSING

- Yellowfin tuna is mostly used by the canning industry. It is not possible to distinguish yellowfin tuna in canned tuna statistics. The following [PRODCOM](#) code refers mainly to skipjack and yellowfin tunas:
 - 10202540: Prepared or preserved tuna, skipjack and Atlantic bonito, whole or in pieces (excluding minced products and prepared meals and dishes).

In 2022, the EU production of preserved tuna, skipjack and Atlantic bonito reached over 416.000 tonnes. Spain is by far the main producer at EU level, with a production over 315.000 tonnes, i.e. 76% of EU production, followed by Italy with 20% of EU production (over 82.800 tonnes).

EU production of prepared or preserved tuna, skipjack and Atlantic bonito



Source (EUROSTAT/PRODCOM)



Yellowfin tuna

TRADE

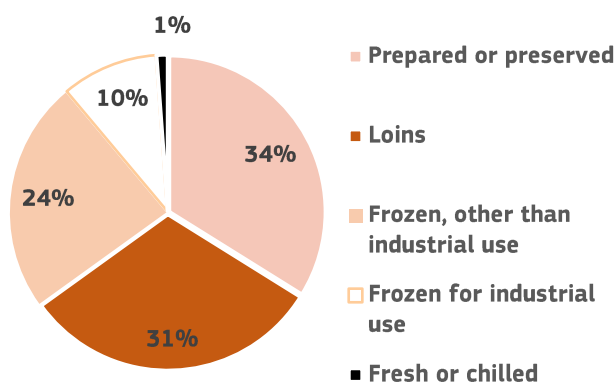
- Combined nomenclature ([Read more](#))

EU-27 trade of yellowfin tuna products (tonnes - 2023)

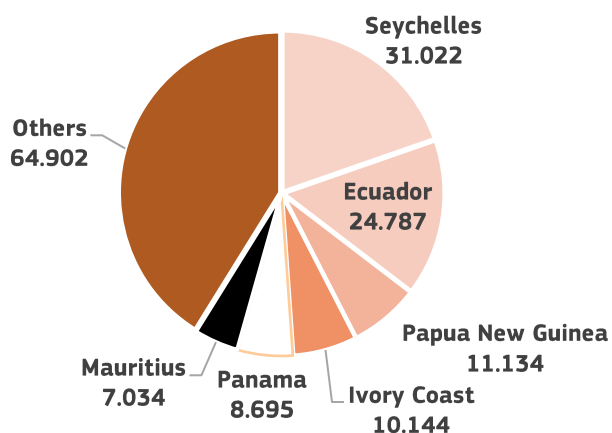
CN code	Product	EU imports	EU exports
03 02 32 10	Fresh or chilled yellowfin tunas " <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ", for industrial processing	0	12
03 02 32 90	Fresh or chilled yellowfin tunas " <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ", other	1.836	61
03 03 42 20	Frozen yellowfin tunas " <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ", for industrial processing	15.701	7.617
03 03 42 90	Frozen yellowfin tunas " <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ", other	37.556	29.008
16 04 14 31	Prepared or preserved yellowfin tuna " <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ", whole or in pieces, in vegetable oil	18.685	2.701
16 04 14 36	Fillets known as "loins" of yellowfin tuna " <i>Thunnus albacares</i> "	49.213	488
16 04 14 38	Prepared or preserved yellowfin tuna " <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ", whole or in pieces, other	34.727	664
Total		157.718	40.552

- Extra-EU imports** reached over 157.700 tonnes in 2023. 24% of EU imports concerned frozen tuna (other than for industrial use), while respectively 34% and 31% of EU imports concerned prepared/preserved tuna and loins of tuna. The main importers in the EU were Spain, Italy and France which were responsible of 95% of the EU imports in 2023 (43%, 32% and 19% respectively). EU suppliers were various, the most important in 2023 were Seychelles and Ecuador (20% and 16% of the EU imports).

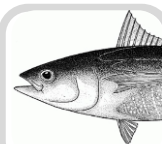
Imports by products type (2023, % in volume)



Main EU suppliers (2023, tonnes)



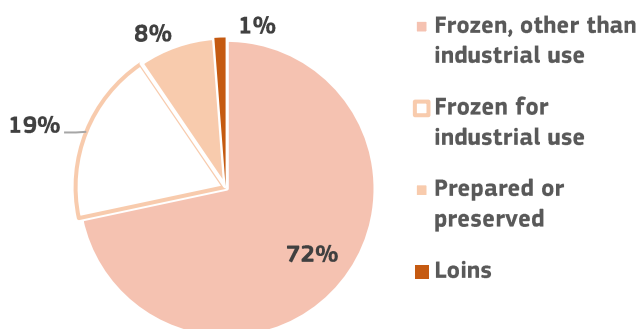
Yellowfin tuna



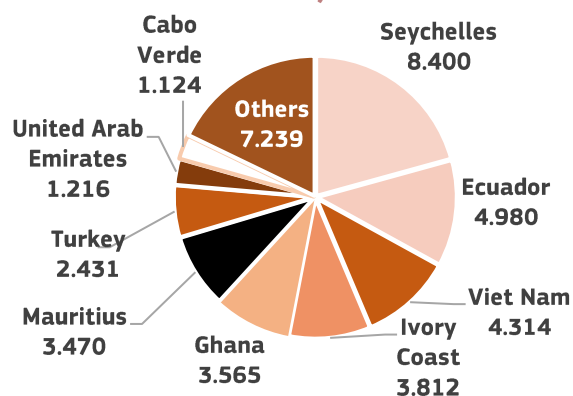
TRADE

- **Extra-EU exports** amounted to 40.552 tonnes in 2023. 90% of EU exports concerned frozen tuna (frozen other than industrial use (72%) and frozen for industrial use (19%)), while only 8% concern canned tuna. The top three markets were Seychelles, Ecuador, and Vietnam, they represented a market for 44% of the EU exports. 98% of EU exports were made by Spain, Italy and France.

Exports by products type (2023, % in volume)



Main destinations (2023, tonnes)



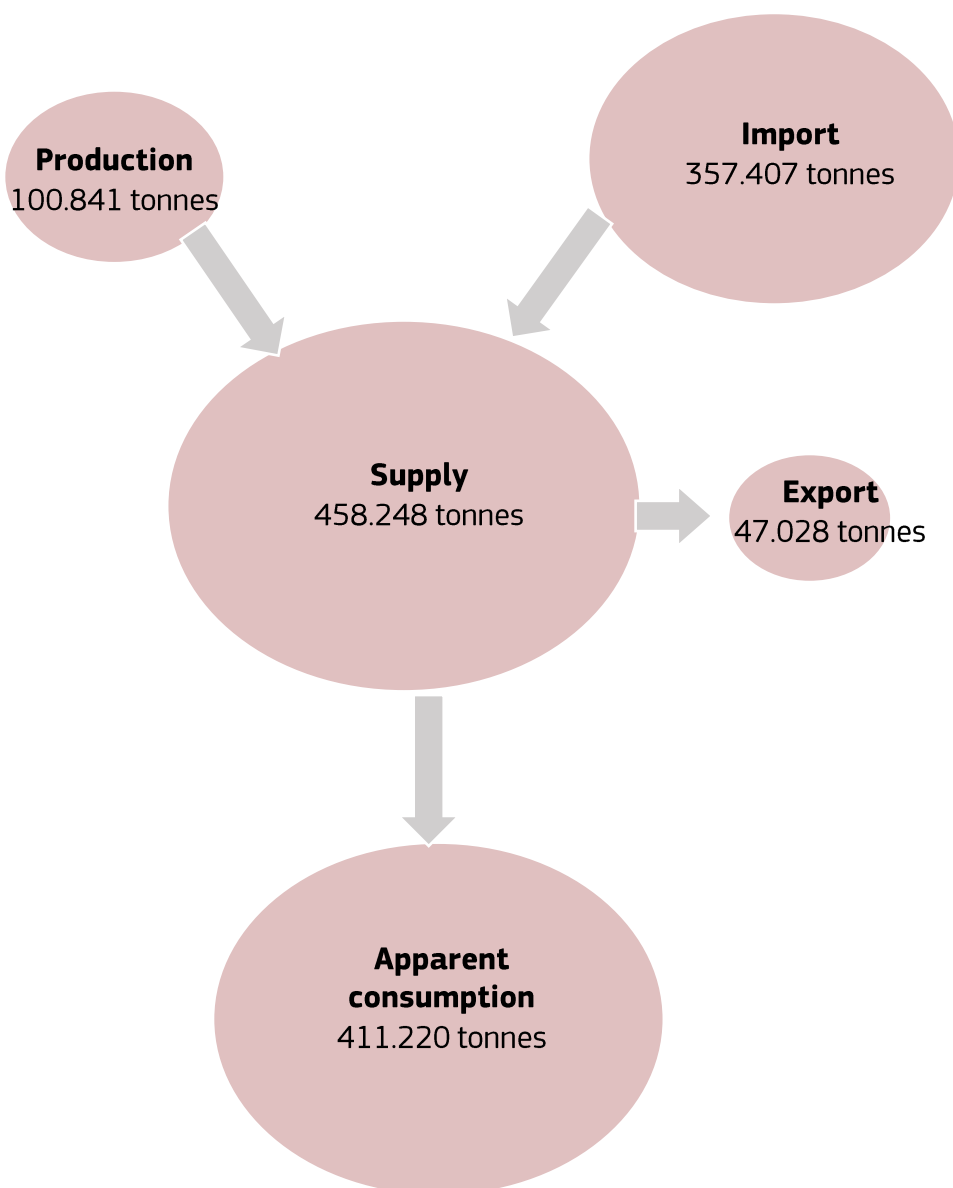
Source: EUROSTAT-COMEXT



Yellowfin tuna

Supply balance

EU supply balance (2022¹) – Tonnes of live weight equivalent² – Yellowfin tuna



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 4 and 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.



Yellowfin tuna

PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

First-sale

First-sale prices are provided for Spain, the largest producer in the EU for both fresh and frozen tuna.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Spain (fresh whole)	2,09	2,46	2,56	3,09	3,33	2,96	3,29	3,17	3,18	3,52	EUMOFA
Spain (frozen)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3,50	3,35	3,24	3,91	4,64	3,82	3,84	EUMOFA
France (fresh gutted)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8,68	7,22	7,66	8,16	8,11	EUMOFA
France (frozen)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5,39	5,60	6,18	6,32	EUMOFA

*) From January to November 2024

Wholesale (fresh)

Wholesale prices provided below refer to Spain, the leading market in the EU.

Most frequent price	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Spain	8,5	-	9,52	7,79	9,72	8,43	9,6	7,88	9,68	7,59	Mercamadrid

*) From January to November 2024

Retail/consumption (canned tuna)

Retail prices refer to fresh and canned tuna (not specific to yellowfin tuna) in France and Spain.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
France (fresh)	16	15,8	17,3	17,6	19,5	19,8	21,1	21,5	23	21,7	FranceAgriMer
France (canned)	7,9	7,9	7,9	8,1	8,6	9,1	9,3	9,5	9,9	10,9	FranceAgriMer
Spain (canned tuna)	7,52	7,19	7,31	7,7	8,03	8,14	8,09	8,19	9,37	10,05	MAPA

*) last data available



Yellowfin tuna

PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

Import

Import prices are presented for Spain, Italy and France, the most important importers of yellowfin tuna in the EU from extra-EU countries.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Spain - frozen whole	1,72	1,95	2,27	2,39	2,23	2,77	2,31	3,08	2,77	2,59	EUMOFA
Spain - frozen for industrial uses	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,98	1,90	2,51	2,36	2,19	EUMOFA
Spain - prepared or preserved	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5,04	4,74	6,11	6,49	6,32	EUMOFA
Italy - frozen whole	2,46	2,67	2,79	3	3,04	4,22	2,35	2,72	3,35	2,59	EUMOFA
Italy - frozen for industrial uses	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2,99	2,64	3,04	3,55	2,91	EUMOFA
Italy - prepared or preserved	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	6,12	5,92	6,91	6,62	6,48	EUMOFA
France - whole	2,14	2,48	2,63	3,06	2,73	3,92	4,03	5,14	4,61	7,24	EUMOFA
France - prepared or preserved	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	4,81	4,54	6,00	5,84	5,67	EUMOFA

*) From January to August 2024

Export

Export prices refer to Spain, France and Italy, major exporters of yellowfin tuna in the EU.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Spain - frozen whole	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2,73	2,61	5,46	4,04	3,31	EUMOFA
Spain - frozen for industrial uses	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,48	2,22	1,91	1,91	1,50	EUMOFA
Spain - prepared or preserved	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10,58	11,23	12,05	13,19	12,86	EUMOFA
France - frozen for industrial uses	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,52	1,48	1,52	2,00	2,03	EUMOFA
France - prepared or preserved	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	14,58	8,94	10,96	14,66	11,36	EUMOFA
Italy - prepared or preserved	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	9,36	13,39	9,79	12,21	11,56	EUMOFA

*) From January to August 2024

Yellowfin tuna



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 are two names protected under **Protected Geographical Indication (PGI)** of prepared yellowfin tuna in Spain. They are:
 - PGI “**Mojama de Barbate**” in Spain
 - PGI “**Mojama de Isla Cristina**” in Spain.

CONSUMPTION

- Tuna, all species combined, is the most consumed fish in EU (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2023 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Apparent consumption of yellowfin tuna per capita in 2022: **0,92 kg** live weight equivalent, mostly canned (source: [Supply balance – 2022](#), EUMOFA)
- Nutrition values (Yellowfin tuna, nutrition values per serving 100 g) ([Read more](#))

Nutrition values	Yellowfin tuna
Energy (kcal)	109
Total fat (g)	0,49
Saturates (g)	0,172
Carbohydrate (g)	0
Sugar (g)	0
Protein (g)	24,4
Salt (g)	112,5