

Coronavirus response

EUMOFA's weekly data and trends analysis

Week 20

The fishery and aquaculture sectors are among the most immediately impacted by the crisis. EUMOFA is releasing a weekly COVID-19 bulletin in order to inform the sector as quickly as possible on the evolution of the markets along the entire value chain, based on the most recent data on first sales, production and trade of fishery and aquaculture products. The data and analyses proposed are accurate to EUMOFA experts' best knowledge but are of course subject to availability of information in the short-term and to intrinsic volatility of the current situation.

Gradual lifting of COVID-19 restrictions

On May 13th, the Commission presented [guidelines and recommendations](#) to help Member States gradually lift travel restrictions and allow tourism business to reopen, while respecting necessary health precautions.



CONTINUED RECOVERY OF FISHING ACTIVITY WITH MIXED EFFECTS ON PRICES¹

In **Spain**, in Galicia, the [mackerel campaign ended while that of sardine started](#). In [Galician auctions](#), mackerel prices averaged at 1,03 EUR/kg so far in 2020, which was 33% lower compared to 2019 campaign (when catches were about half) and 3% higher than in 2018 (when catches were higher).

In **France**, several long-trip trawlers went back fishing in the Channel targeting whitefish rather than [monk for which demand is still low](#). [FranceAgriMer](#) data on weekly auction sales (excluding the Mediterranean seaboard) shows a 19%-decrease in volume for the 31 main species from week 19 to week 20. The average price slightly decreased (-7%) mostly because of the decreased share of higher valued species, although decreased sales volumes for several main species led to significant price increases (+62% for haddock, +97% for whiting, +19% for rays, +44% for sardine).

¹ Weekly data on first sale are conceived to be disseminated as rapidly as possible. For this reason, they only cover some representative products in a selection of locations in some countries. They do not aim to give complete coverage of the market, and so it is recommended to use them as a mere indication of ongoing trends. For more information on species, countries and locations covered, please see [here](#).

In [five auctions](#) in **Denmark** (Hanstholm, Hirtshals, Strandby, Grenaa and Skagen), total sales were higher in week 20 compared to week 19, but prices continue to rise: the weekly average price increased by 21%, ending at 2,47 EUR/kg². [The Danish Fishermen's Producer Organisation](#) (DFPO) has yet again prolonged its recommended limitations to the fishery of Norway lobster at the same level as in week 17.

In **Dutch auctions**, first-sale prices have increased two weeks in a row (week 19 and 20). That of common sole in week 20 increased to reach the same level as in 2019 and 2018. For plaice, brill and turbot, prices seem to be recovering but are respectively still around 10%, 12% and 35% lower than in week 20 of previous two years. For week 21, the POs have removed the restrictions on fishery efforts for sole, but kept those on shrimp and Norway lobster fisheries.



AQUACULTURE

SALMON: SPIKES IN NORWEGIAN SALMON PRICES

Spot prices of **Norwegian salmon** have trended up in the 2nd half of week 20 and prices of fresh whole salmon to be delivered in the beginning of week 21 continued up to a level between 5,70 EUR/kg and 5,90 EUR/kg for 3-6kg-sized salmon. This is the [highest price level since early March](#).

The **Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation** stated that [Scottish salmon exports](#) in Q1-2020 were 40% and 34% lower, respectively in volume and value (measured in GBP), than in Q1-2019. The decline was felt sharply in March as COVID-19 virus took hold in several major markets.



PROCESSING

RETURN TO A STABLE LEVEL OF FRENCH AND GERMAN INDUSTRIES

[The seafood processing industry in France](#) is operating at close to normal capacity. Also, the largest processors of smoked salmon are processing salmon at normal seasonal pace. The shift towards pre-packed products continues and in many grocery stores, pre-packed salmon and cod have gained more shelf space. In addition, most of the fresh fish counters have now been reopened.

In **Germany**, [according to one of the main frozen seafood companies \(Nomad Foods\)](#), the supply of raw material has not been affected by the crisis, although the year started with rising prices. Nomad Foods' 13 production plants are open and operating thanks to the early measures implemented to protect employees. After exceptional sales increase in mid-March, frozen seafood consumption returned to a stable level, but still 20% higher than in 2019.

² Exchange rate : 1 DKK = 0,1341 EUR



WHOLESALE

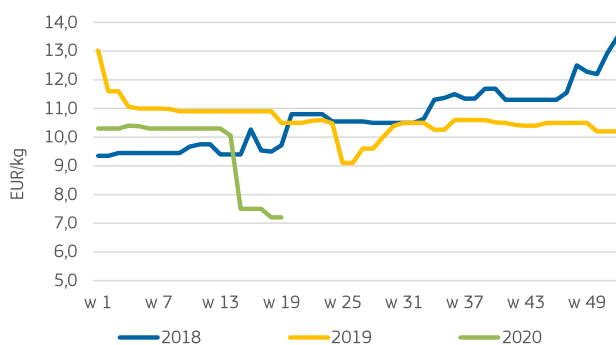
DOUBLING PRICE OF ANCHOVY IN ITALY

In [Rungis \(France\)](#), the market keeps recovering with increased sales. Prices have been relatively stable except some fluctuations for several main species in week 20 compared to week 19. Price increases have been reported for sole (+10-16%), squid (+12%), and lemon sole (+16-24%). Price decreases have been reported for red mullet (-39-47%), salmon (-4-9%), saithe (-4-9%), hake (-5-10%) and pollack (-13-16%).

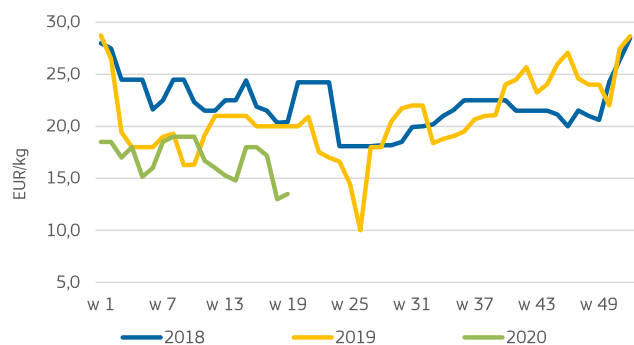
In [Rome \(Italy\)](#), prices have been stable in week 20 (08.05 compared to 30.04), at the exception of a sharp increase for anchovy (+100%), possibly related to lower supplies and higher demand.

At [Mercamadrid \(Spain\)](#), swordfish, turbot and monkfish prices increased whereas price decreases were reported for hake and anchovy (19.05 against 12.05). Fish species typically consumed **out of home** are still not in demand on the **Spanish market** as restaurants are still closed. Prices of wild turbot dropped significantly over the past two weeks against higher sales quantity. Despite prices of farmed turbot for some weeks have trended on a historical low level, sales have remained stable – on the same level as in the previous two years.

FARMED TURBOT



WILD TURBOT



RETAIL & CONSUMPTION

GROWTH OF FISH CONSUMPTION AT HOME IN SPAIN

[Fish consumption in Spanish households](#) continued to grow in the seventh week of lockdown (week 18: April 27 to May 3). Consumption increased by 31% from 2019: increases were observed for fresh fish (+33%) and frozen fish (+41%). Canned fish and shellfish grew more moderately (+13%).

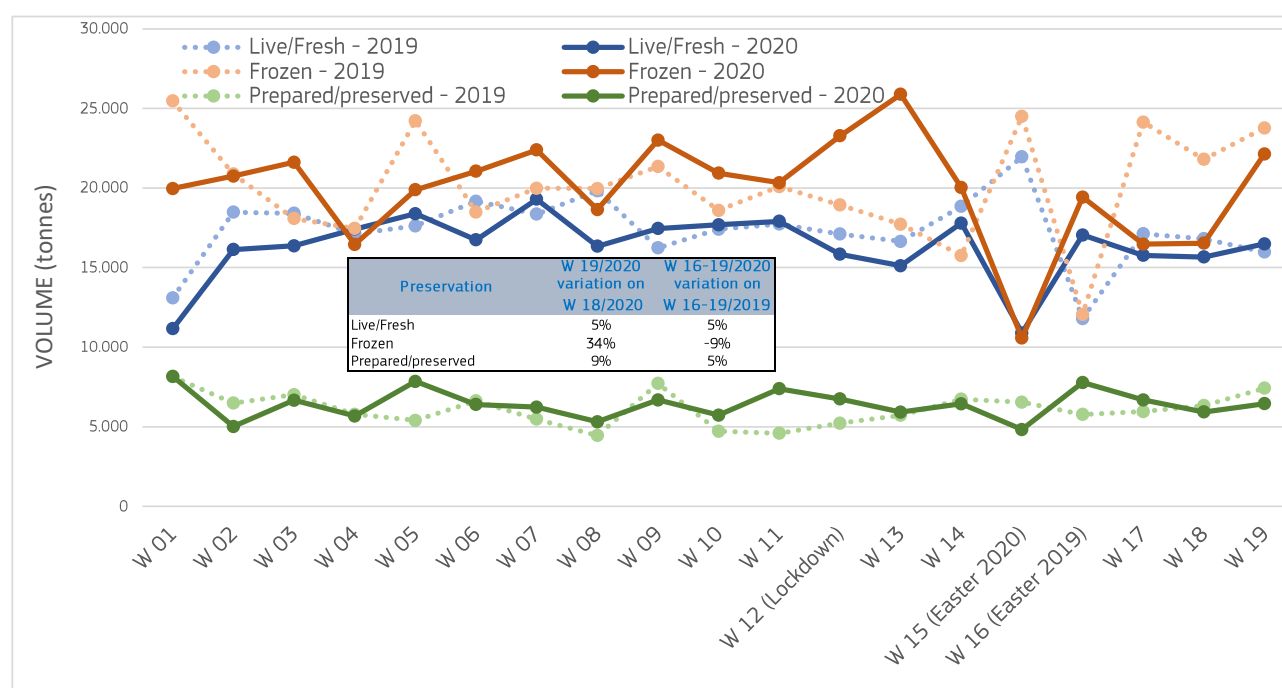


TRADE AND LOGISTICS

EU IMPORTS INCREASED BUT WERE LOWER THAN LAST YEAR

In week 19 of 2020, extra-EU imports of major species from main suppliers totalled 45.791 tonnes and EUR 183 million (+18% in volume and +14% in value from week 18, by -5% in volume and -16% in value if compared with the week when the lockdown began³).

Six products accounted for more than 60% of the volume-increase from week 18 to week 19: herring from Norway (17%), Alaska pollock from China (12%), hake from Namibia (10%), salmon from Norway and sardine from Morocco (8% each) and squid from Falkland Islands (7%).



MAIN TRENDS FROM WEEK 18 TO WEEK 19

Alaska pollock: driven by doubling supplies from China, imports grew remarkably in both volume and value (+115% and +119%, respectively). The average import price rose from 2,84 EUR/kg to 2,89 EUR/kg.

Squid: imports doubled (+99% in volume and +108% in value), mainly due to increased supplies from the Falkland Islands, which were three times those recorded in the previous week. The average import price increased by 5% (from 3,41 EUR/kg to 3,57 EUR/kg).

Miscellaneous shrimps: imports of prepared/preserved miscellaneous shrimps decreased by almost 30% in both volume and value, due to a fall of supplies from Greenland. The average import price moved from 7,84 EUR/kg to 7,69 EUR/kg (-2%).

³ As also shown in the charts, week-12/2020 is assumed as reference starting week of market effects deriving from lockdown.

From 3rd to 10th May, EUR appreciated against GBP (+2%) and depreciated against ISK (-1%), while it remained stable against currencies of other main suppliers (USD, NOK and CNY). At the same time, marine fuel prices⁴ in Europe increased by 5%, moving from 0,21 EUR/litre to 0,22 EUR/litre (which is around 60% lower than the same period in 2019). The lowest were registered in Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands (0,19 EUR/litre in each country), and the highest in the UK (0,24 EUR/litre).

To learn more about the market situation, [you can access the most recent weekly data \(up to week 20 of 2020\) on extra EU imports in Europe.](#)

For any question or comment, do not hesitate to contact EUMOFA (contact-us@eumofa.eu).

ABOUT [EUMOFA](#)

The European Market Observatory for fisheries and aquaculture (EUMOFA) is a market intelligence tool on the European Union fisheries and aquaculture sector, developed by the European Commission. It aims to increase market transparency and efficiency, analyses EU markets dynamics, and supports business decisions and policy-making. EUMOFA enables direct monitoring of volumes, values and prices of fisheries and aquaculture products, from the first sale to retail stage, including imports and exports. Data are collected from EU countries, Iceland, Norway, United Kingdom and from EU institutions and updated every day.

⁴ Source: MABUX. As data for Saturdays and Sundays are not available, prices analysed for 2020 refer to the following days: 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 11th and 12th May.