

# Monthly Highlights

No. 6 / 2020

E U M O F A

European Market Observatory for  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Products

## In this issue

Over the 36-month period from April 2017 to March 2020, the average first-sales price of Greenland halibut in Spain (5,15 EUR/kg) was 24% higher than in Denmark and 10% higher than in France. The average first-sales price of turbot in France was 17,85 EUR/kg, 56% higher than in Belgium, and 66% higher than in the Netherlands.

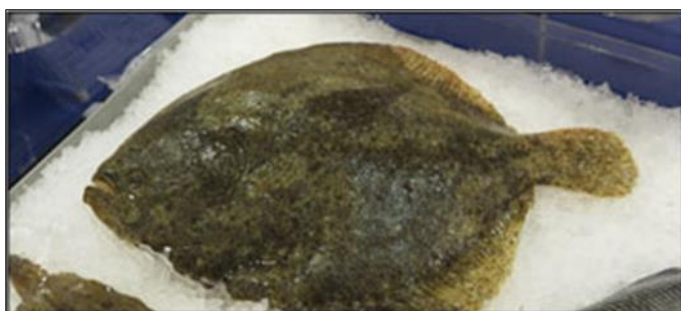
The price of fresh or chilled turbot from Norway was 6,90 EUR/kg in the last week of April. This was 32% lower than the same week in 2019 (10,11 EUR/kg). The volume recorded (377 kg) was significantly lower than the last week of April 2019 (-83%).

Over the past three years, Italy's household consumption of fresh clams was more than five times higher than in Portugal.

The first EUMOFA analyses of fisheries and aquaculture trade trends in 2019 revealed that EU imports from third countries remained stable in terms of volume from 2018 and grew 2,5% in value – totalling 6,3 million tonnes valued at EUR 27,2 billion.

In 2018, cod landed in the EU reached 68.000 tonnes, worth EUR 216 million. This represents 2% of the total value of EU landings.

The COVID-19 crisis has had major impacts on fisheries and aquaculture production, as well as on markets for fisheries and aquaculture products in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea region – and this is clearly shown in analyses conducted by the GFCM.



Analyses of the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis conducted by EUMOFA can be accessed [here](#).

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# 1. First sales in Europe

For the period of **January–March 2020**, 12 EU Member States (MS), Norway, and the UK reported first-sales data for 10 commodity groups<sup>1</sup>. First-sales data are based on sales notes and data collected from auction markets.

## 1.1. Compared to the same period last year

**Increases in value and volume:** First-sales value grew only in Belgium, Estonia, and Norway, while increases in volume were only seen in Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, and the UK. Smelt attracting a higher value was the main reason behind the value increase seen in Estonia. Meanwhile, higher supply of herring and sprat were the main factors leading to the overall increased supply in Lithuania.

**Decreases in value and volume:** First-sales value and volume declined in Denmark, France, Italy, Latvia, Portugal, and Sweden. In Sweden, this was mainly due to a decline in sprat and herring. The decreases seen in Portugal was due to a reduction in anchovy supply.

Table 1. **JANUARY–MARCH OVERVIEW OF FIRST SALES FROM THE REPORTING COUNTRIES**  
(volume in tonnes and value in million EUR) \*

Country	January–March 2018		January–March 2019		January–March 2020		Change from January–March 2019	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Belgium	4.265	17,35	3.541	14,44	3.341	16,21	-6%	12%
Denmark	54.943	74,23	58.642	70,44	38.564	55,94	-34%	-21%
Estonia	16.145	3,16	18.204	3,37	15.068	4,00	-17%	19%
France	45.882	161,75	46.197	154,20	38.698	131,00	-16%	-15%
Italy**	15.682	63,84	16.001	68,83	15.123	61,07	-5%	-11%
Latvia	14.919	2,73	16.052	2,73	13.380	2,61	-17%	-4%
Lithuania	652	0,59	341	0,35	648	0,34	90%	-3%
Netherlands	84.395	121,63	50.504	85,35	54.244	81,83	7%	-4%
Norway	1.082.557	819,34	797.446	657,64	771.737	661,14	-3%	1%
Poland	42.464	12,18	39.108	9,80	39.367	9,24	1%	-6%
Portugal	13.914	37,85	19.069	47,91	12.103	39,50	-37%	-18%
Spain	91.732	272,37	102.503	308,71	110.470	299,79	8%	-3%
Sweden	89.508	30,66	78.389	27,10	41.718	18,09	-47%	-33%
UK	69.590	104,91	72.937	148,69	86.940	139,74	19%	-6%

Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020). Possible discrepancies in % changes are due to rounding.

\* Volumes are reported in net weight for EU Member States and in live weight equivalent (LWE) for Norway. Prices are reported in EUR/kg (without VAT). For Norway, prices are reported in EUR/kg of live weight.

\*\*Partial data: first-sales data for Italy cover 229 ports (approximately 50% of the total landings in the country).

<sup>1</sup> Bivalves and other molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, cephalopods, crustaceans, flatfish, freshwater fish, groundfish, salmonids, small pelagics, tuna and tuna-like species, and other marine fish.

## 1.2. In March 2020

**Increases in value and volume:** First-sales value and volume grew in Belgium, Lithuania, and Spain. The increase seen in Belgium was linked to an increase in the supply of common sole and cuttlefish. Lithuania recorded the high increases due to herring and sprat supply.

**Decreases in value and volume:** First-sales value and volume declined in France, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, and Sweden. In France, the decline was due to a reduced supply of scallop and hake. In Italy, first sales decreased due to a reduced supply of sardine and anchovy.

Table 2. **MARCH OVERVIEW OF FIRST SALES FROM THE REPORTING COUNTRIES**  
(volume in tonnes and value in million EUR) \*

	March 2018		March 2019		March 2020		Change from March 2019	
Country	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Belgium	1.498	7,14	952	4,85	1.095	5,54	15%	14%
Denmark	11.296	20,18	9.566	17,01	9.730	12,96	2%	-24%
Estonia	5.469	1,12	7.101	1,38	6.654	1,49	-6%	8%
France	16.369	57,48	13.903	48,05	11.136	34,49	-20%	-28%
Italy**	5.468	23,73	5.463	24,15	3.361	13,90	-38%	-42%
Latvia	4.443	0,81	6.123	1,02	5.672	1,19	-7%	17%
Lithuania	224	0,15	108	0,08	323	0,14	198%	65%
Netherlands	42.038	55,34	19.484	31,47	20.381	29,53	5%	-6%
Norway	496.158	343,52	356.516	294,28	322.140	236,04	-10%	-20%
Poland	12.452	3,76	17.246	4,19	20.084	4,58	16%	9%
Portugal	3.310	11,26	5.711	15,61	3.577	10,67	-37%	-32%
Spain	41.942	105,77	42.310	115,81	51.556	105,77	22%	-9%
Sweden	27.512	9,65	24.127	8,29	19.719	7,29	-18%	-12%
UK	15.083	19,80	11.859	28,51	24.170	27,44	104%	-4%

Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020). Possible discrepancies in % changes are due to rounding.

\* Volumes are reported in net weight for EU Member States and in live weight equivalent (LWE) for Norway. Prices are reported in EUR/kg (without VAT). For Norway, prices are reported in EUR/kg of live weight.

\*\*Partial data: first-sales data for Italy cover 229 ports (approximately 50% of the total landings in the country).

The most recent weekly first-sales data (up to week 24 of 2020) are available via the EUMOFA website, and can be accessed [here](#).

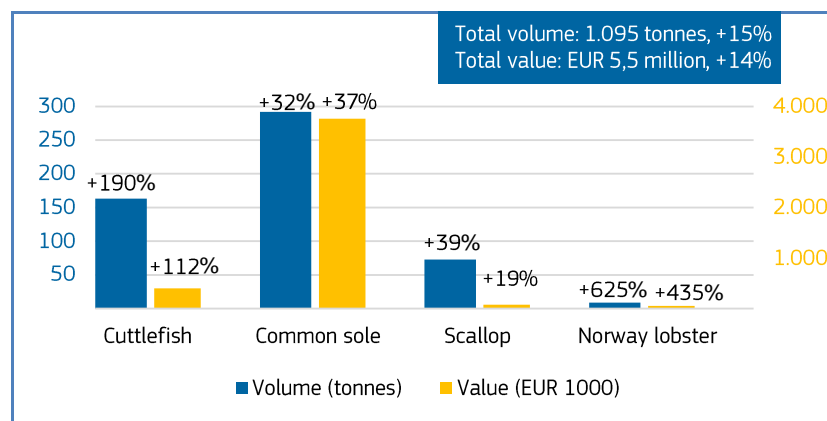
The most recent monthly first-sales data for April 2020 are available via the EUMOFA website, and can be accessed [here](#).



### 1.3. First sales in selected countries

 In **Belgium** in **January–March 2020**, first-sales value increased by 12%, linked to sales of common sole. Volume fell by 6% relative to the same period in the previous year, largely driven by decreases in European plaice sales. Sales trends for cuttlefish, common sole, Norway lobster, and scallop in **March 2020** largely mirrored those of March 2019. Cuttlefish sales increased strongly due to it becoming a target species - without a quota system in place for the stock - thus allowing a part of the fishing fleet to reorganise its fishing patterns and to swap to this fishery when needed.

Figure 1. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN BELGIUM, MARCH 2020**



Percentages show change from the previous year. Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).


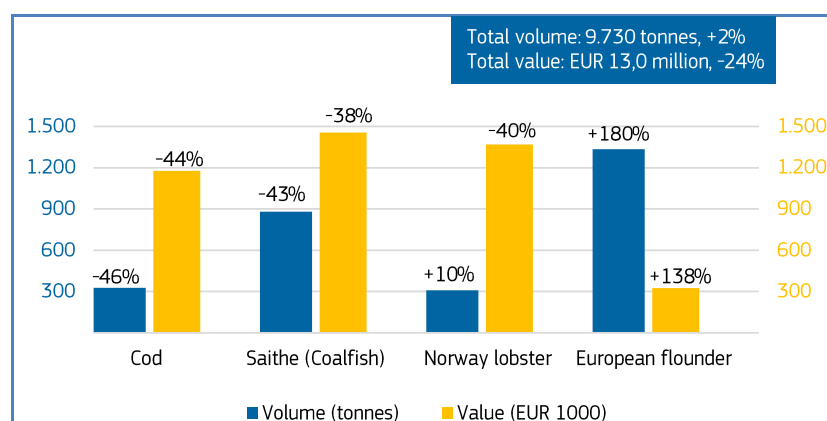
 In **Denmark** in **January–March 2020**, herring and cod were the main species responsible for a first-sales decrease of 21% in value and 34% in volume, compared to the same period in 2019. In **March 2020**, total first sales decreased in value in comparison to the previous year - due to sales of cod, saithe, and Norway lobster. In terms of volume, a slight increase in volume was seen compared to March 2019, due to sales of European flounder and herring.

Figure 2. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN DENMARK, MARCH 2020**



Percentages show change from the previous year.  
Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).






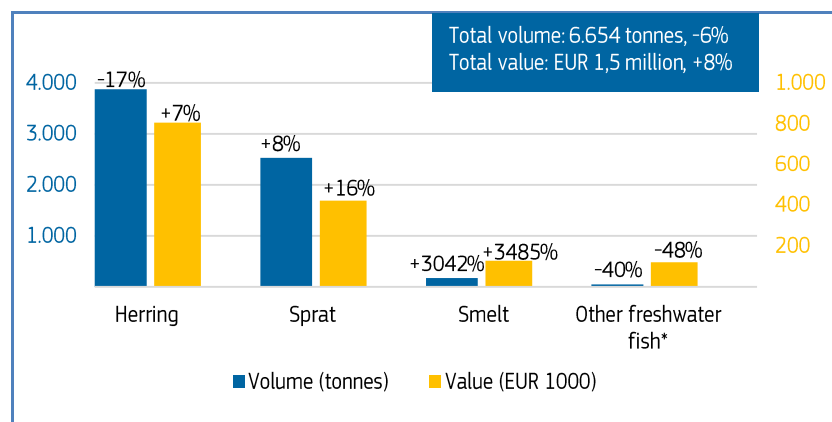
 In **January–March 2020**, **Estonia** experienced an increase in first-sales value (+19%, due to pike-perch), while first-sales volume decreased (-17%, mainly due to a reduced supply of herring and sprat) compared to January–March 2019. In **March 2020**, herring, smelt, and sprat attracted higher first-sales values, compared to March 2019. First-sales volume decreased due to a reduction in herring supply, which consequently resulted in a 28% increase in average first-sales price, achieving 0,21 EUR/kg. The strong increase in smelt sales is linked to stable market demand, good weather conditions, and fish stock availability.

Figure 3. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN ESTONIA, MARCH 2020**



Percentages show change from the previous year. Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).

\*EUMOFA aggregation for species (Metadata 2, Annex 3: <http://eumofa.eu/supply-balance-and-other-methodologies>).


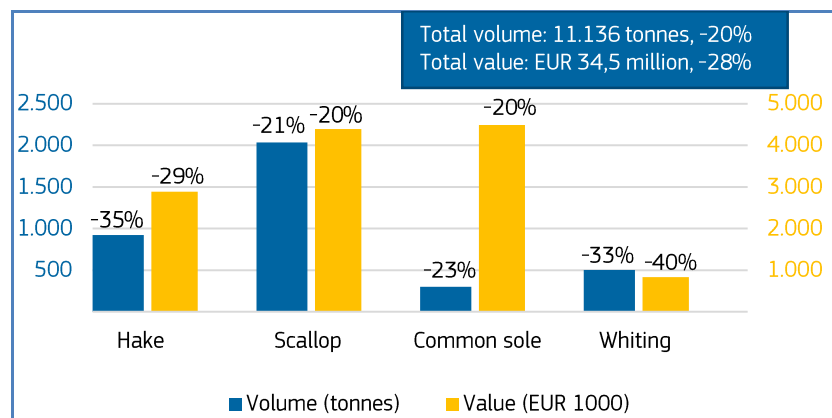
 In **January–March 2020**, **France** first sales decreased by 15% in value and 16% in volume compared to January–March 2019. The fall in value resulted from a decrease in the supply of squid, while the reduction in volume was primarily due to hake. In **March 2020**, relative to March 2019, reductions in value for hake, scallop and common sole, and reductions in volume for whiting, were among the key drivers of negative first-sales trends. Of these key species, whiting experienced the most significant change in average price (-11%), falling to 1,66 EUR/kg.

Figure 4. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN FRANCE, MARCH 2020**



Percentages show change from the previous year. Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).


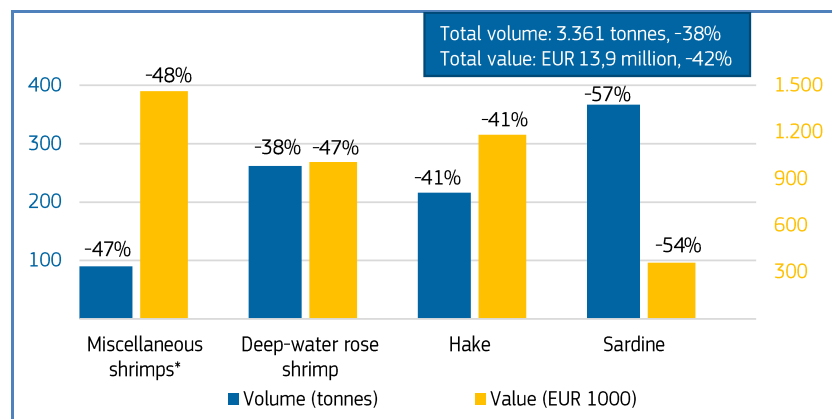
 In **January–March 2020**, **Italy** first sales fell by 11% in value and 5% in volume, relative to the previous year. A reduction in the value of anchovy and cuttlefish, as well as a fall in the volume of sardine, were the main drivers behind the downward trend. In **March 2020**, first sales decreased in both value and volume relative to March 2019. Such decreases are closely linked with the COVID-19 pandemic and early lockdown of many business activities in Italy. Decreased first-sales value of miscellaneous shrimp\*, deep-water rose shrimp, and hake, and declined sales of sardine were the main species with the highest decreases.

Figure 5. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN ITALY, MARCH 2020**

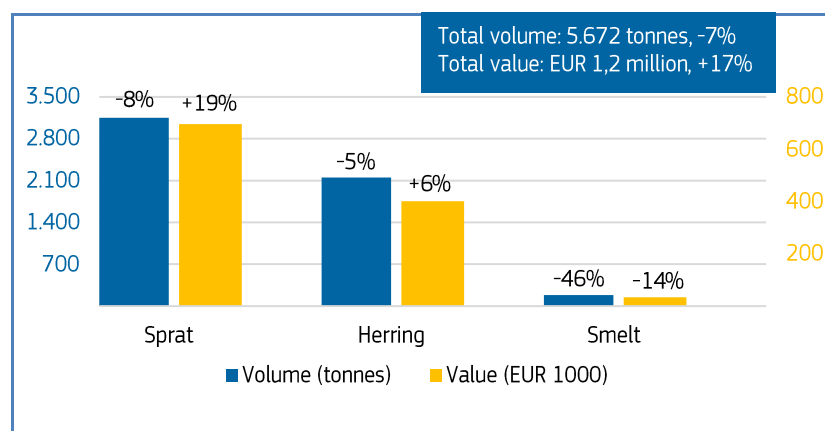


Percentages show change from the previous year. Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020). \*EUMOFA aggregation for species (Metadata 2, Annex 3: <http://eumofa.eu/supply-balance-and-other-methodologies>).



 In **Latvia** in **January–March 2020**, sprat, herring, and smelt were the key species responsible for decreases in first-sales value (-4%) and volume (-17%) relative to January–March 2019. In **March 2020**, first-sales value largely increased due to sprat, while overall volume fell following a reduction in the supply of sprat, herring and smelt. The average price of sprat and smelt increased by 29% to 0,22 EUR/kg and 60% to 0,18 EUR/kg, respectively, due to a reduced supply and stable market demand.

Figure 6. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN LATVIA, MARCH 2020**



Percentages show change from the previous year. Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).


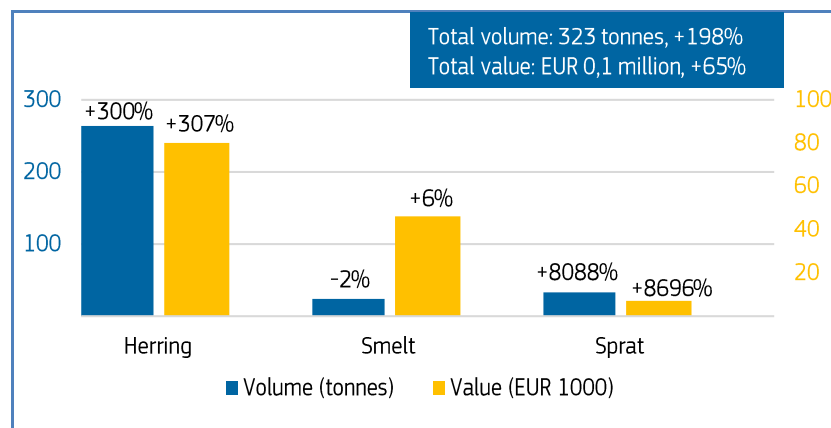
 In **Lithuania** in **January–March 2020**, first-sales value decreased by 3% due to smelt, cod, and European flounder. An increase of 90% was recorded in first-sales volume, due to an increased supply of herring (+173%), compared to January–March 2019. In **March 2020**, first sales increased in both value and volume compared to March 2019. The overall increase in first sales was primarily driven by a tripling in the supply of herring. Other commercially important species that contributed to total first sales include smelt and sprat. Strong sales of herring and smelt were the result of procedural changes implemented by Latvian and Estonian companies, following the purchase of Lithuanian vessels, which now supply and perform first sales in Lithuania.

Figure 7. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN LITHUANIA, MARCH 2020**



Percentages show change from the previous year. Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).


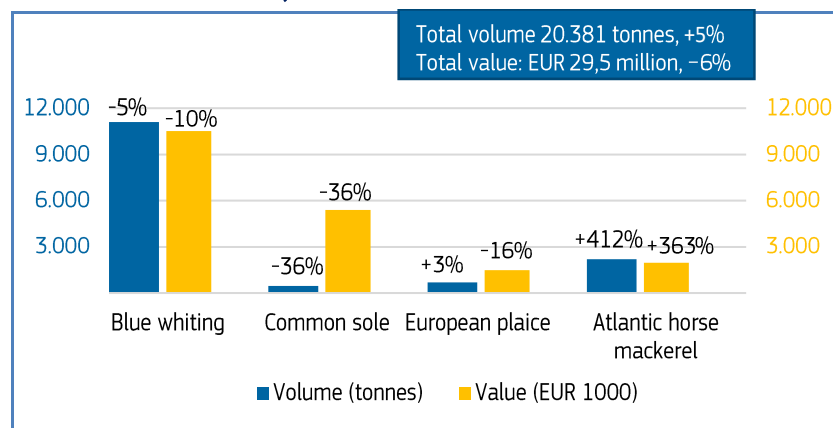
 In the **Netherlands** in **January–March 2020**, first sales decreased by 4% in value due to common sole and mackerel and increased by 7% in volume due to herring, compared to January–March 2019. In **March 2020**, first sales exhibited similar trends, whereby value fell, and volume rose, relative to March 2019. In terms of value, this was mainly due to blue whiting, common sole, and European plaice. In terms of volume, the increase was driven by Atlantic horse mackerel. The strong increase in mackerel sales can be explained by environmental and market fluctuations, which are commonplace in pelagic fisheries, such as weather, prices, and quotas in other areas.

Figure 8. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN THE NETHERLANDS, MARCH 2020**

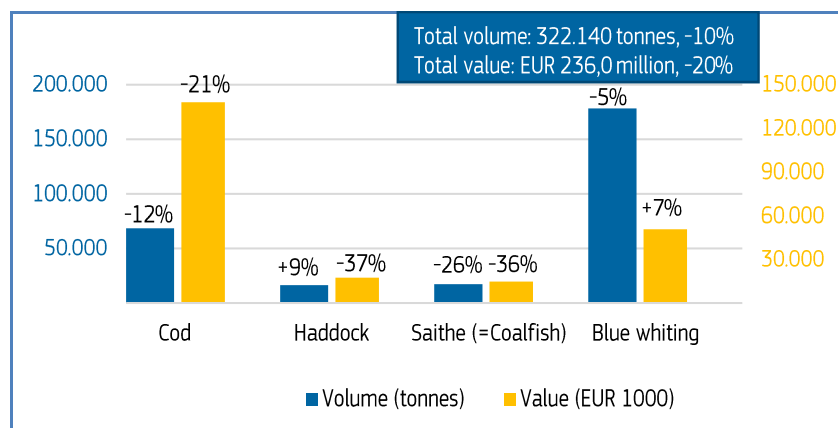


Percentages show change from the previous year. Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).



 In **Norway** in **January–March 2020**, first-sales value slightly increased by 1% (herring), while volume decreased by 3% (blue whiting) compared to January–March 2019. In **March 2020**, first-sales value decreased relative to the same period of the previous year due to cod, haddock, and saithe. First-sales volume also decreased due to cod, blue whiting, and other crustaceans\*. Of these species, haddock exhibited the most significant decrease in average price (-42%), falling at 1,07 EUR/kg.

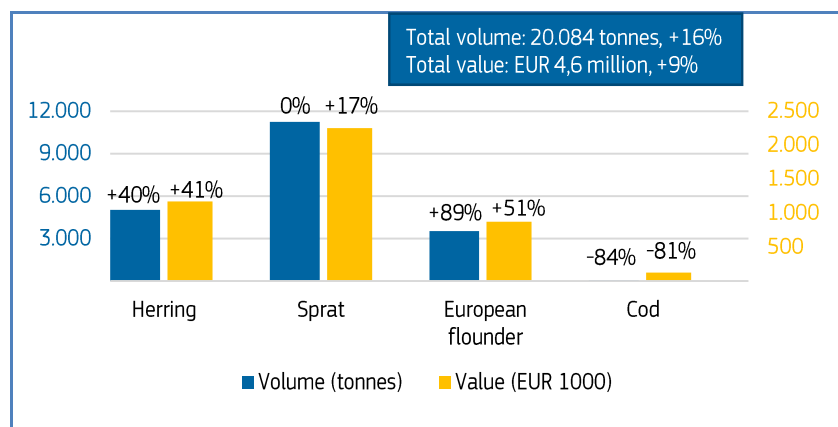
Figure 9. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN THE NORWAY, MARCH 2020**



Percentages show change from the previous year. Volume data is reported in live weight equivalent (LWE). Prices are reported in EUR/kg of live weight. \*EUMOFA aggregation for species (Metadata 2, Annex 3: <http://eumofa.eu/supply-balance-and-other-methodologies>).

 In **Poland** in **January–March 2020**, first sales decreased by 6% in value (due to cod and European flounder) and increased by 1% in volume (due to herring), relative to the same period in 2019. In **March 2020**, first-sales value and volume were both higher than in March 2019. This was due to an increase in first sales of herring, sprat, and European flounder. Of the other main commercial species, cod continued to fall in both value and volume due to fishery restrictions in force since July 2019.

Figure 10. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN POLAND, MARCH 2020**



Percentages show change from the previous year. Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).


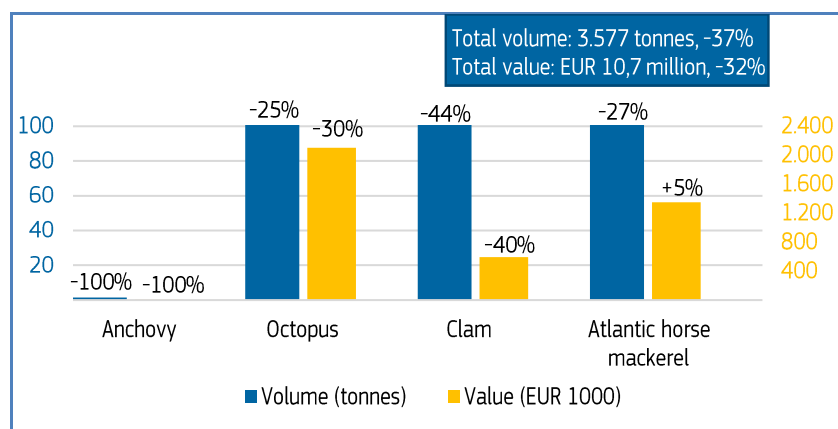
 In **Portugal** in **January–March 2020**, first sales decreased by 18% in value and 37% in volume compared to January–March 2019. These decreases were mostly linked to lower sales of anchovy. Anchovy was also behind the decreases observed in **March 2020** compared to March 2019, as first-sales value and volume continued to decline. A reduction in total allowable catches and various market forces account for the significant decrease in anchovy. Other commercial species that contributed to the overall decreasing trend include octopus, clam, and Atlantic horse mackerel.

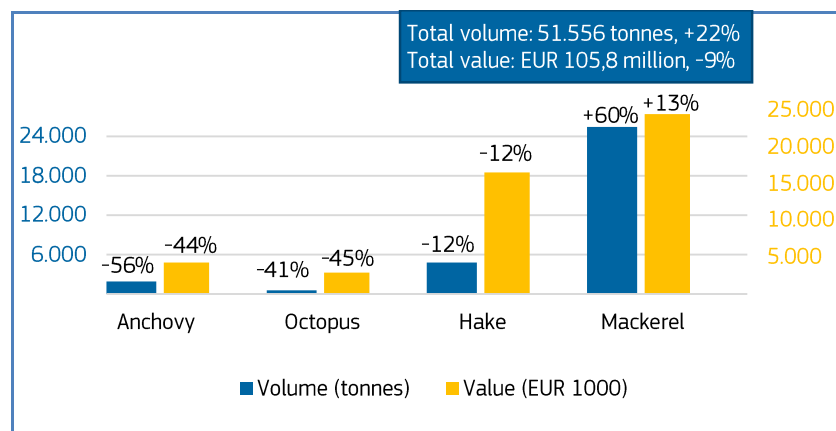
Figure 11. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN PORTUGAL, MARCH 2020**



Percentages show change from the previous year. Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).

 In **Spain** in **January–March 2020**, first sales showed a decrease in value of 3%, caused by octopus and hake. Volume increased by 8%, mostly due to an increased supply of mackerel compared to the same period in 2019. In **March 2020**, first sales decreased in value primarily due to anchovy, octopus, hake, and clam, while first-sales volume increased as mackerel supply peaked.

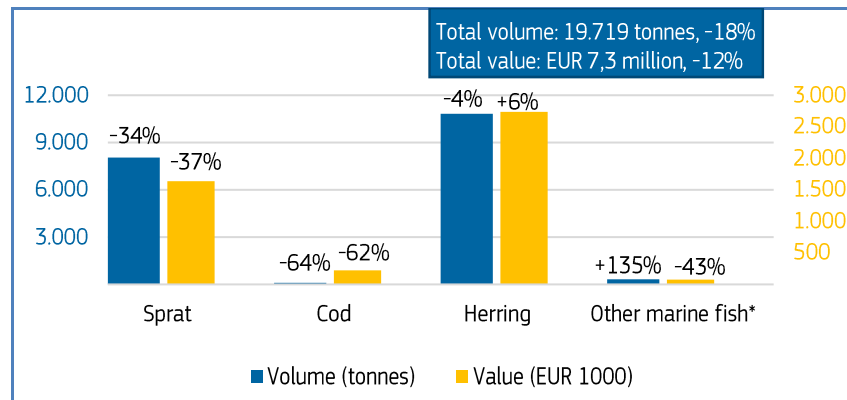
Figure 12. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN SPAIN, MARCH 2020**



Percentages show change from the previous year. Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).

 In **Sweden** in **January–March 2020**, first sales decreased in both value (-33%) and volume (-47%) compared to January–March 2019. In **March 2020**, first-sales value and volume fell primarily due sprat, relative to March 2019. Other key commercial species experiencing significant decreases in value included cod and other marine fish\*, while herring, in addition to sprat, had the largest reductions in volume.

Figure 13. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN SWEDEN, MARCH 2020**



Percentages show change from the previous year. Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020). \*EUMOFA aggregation for species (Metadata 2, Annex 3: <http://eumofa.eu/supply-balance-and-other-methodologies>).


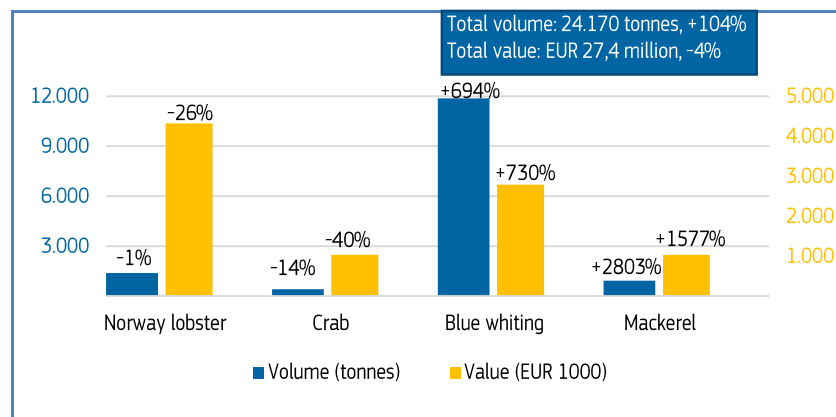
 In **the UK** in **January–March 2020** relative to the same period in the last year, first-sales value decreased by 6% due to Norway lobster, crab, and scallop. Volume increased by 19% primarily due to blue whiting and mackerel. In **March 2020**, first-sales value decreased relative to March 2019, driven by Norway lobster and crab. Significant increases in the supply of mackerel and blue whiting caused the sharp increases in first-sales volume.

Figure 14. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN THE UK, MARCH 2020**

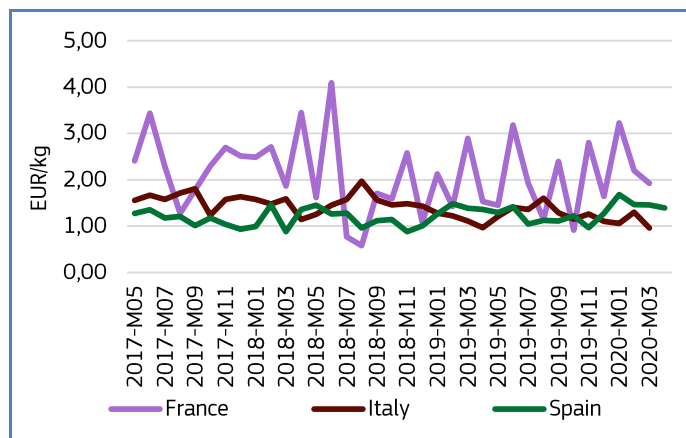


Percentages show change from the previous year. Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).



## 1.4. Comparison of first-sales prices of selected species in selected countries

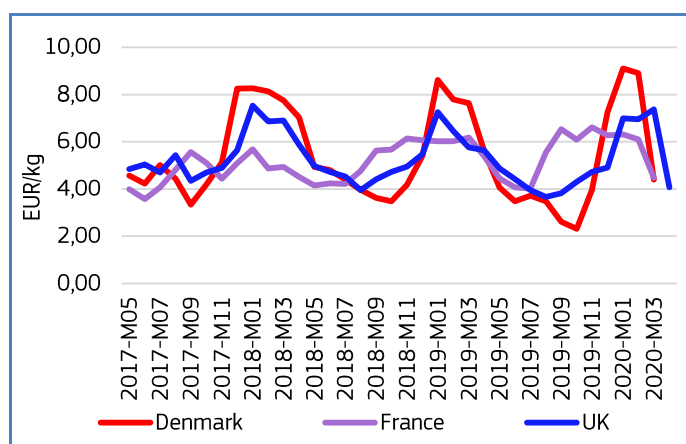
Figure 15. **FIRST-SALES PRICES OF MEDITERRANEAN HORSE MACKEREL IN FRANCE, ITALY, AND SPAIN**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 19.05.2020).

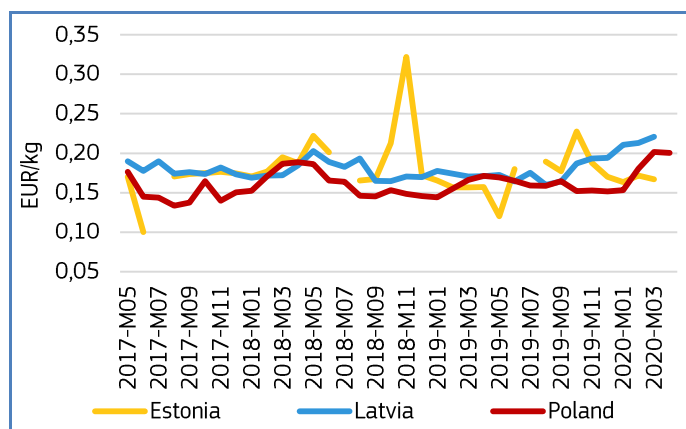
First sales of **Mediterranean horse mackerel** occur primarily in **France, Italy, and Spain**. The average prices in March 2020 (the most recent available data) totalled 1,92 EUR/kg in France (down by 12% from February 2020, and 34% lower than in March 2019); 0,96 EUR/kg in Italy (down by 26% from the previous month, and –14% from the previous year). In both countries, the price decrease was due to an increase in supply from the previous month (47 tonnes in total, up by 15% in France, and 9 tonnes in total, up by 10%, in Italy). In Spain, the average price was 1,39 EUR/kg (down by 4% from February 2020, and up by 2% from March 2019), thus Spanish supply was 65% lower than the previous month. Mediterranean horse mackerel fisheries are seasonal with different peaks in each of the three countries. Over the past 36 months, prices increased in Spain and decreased in France, whilst Italy experienced the most notable decrease. During the same period, supply increased in France and decreased in Italy and Spain.

Figure 16. **FIRST-SALES PRICES OF LEMON SOLE IN DENMARK, FRANCE, AND THE UK**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 19.05.2020).

EU first sales of **lemon sole** occur in many countries, including **Denmark, France, and the UK**. In March 2020, the average first-sales prices of lemon sole were: 4,40 EUR/kg in Denmark (down from February 2020 and February 2019 by 51% and 42%, respectively); 4,48 EUR/kg in France (down from both the previous month and the previous year, by 27% and 28%, respectively); and 4,07 EUR/kg in the UK (45% lower than February 2020, and down by 28% from March 2019). In March 2020, supply increased significantly in Denmark (+440%), the UK (+107%) and to a lesser extent in France (+4%). Over the past 36 months, lemon sole prices have increased in France, and decreased in both the UK and, most notably, Denmark. Over the same period, supply decreased in all three countries. First-sales volume is seasonal, with peaks between May and July in all three countries.

Figure 17. **FIRST-SALES PRICES OF SPRAT IN ESTONIA, LATVIA, AND POLAND**

Source: EUMOFA (updated 19.05.2020).

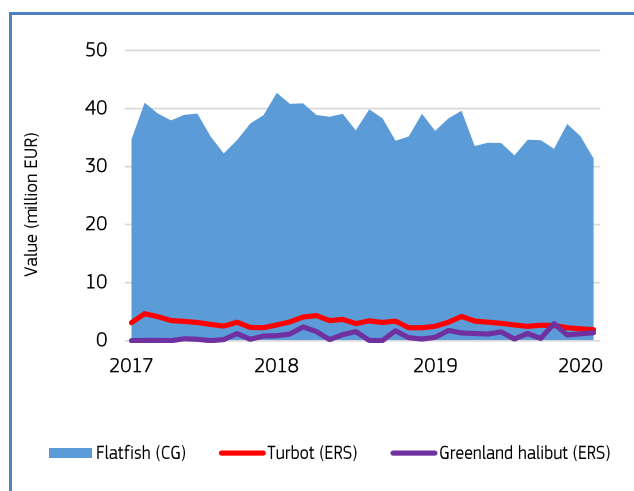
EU first sales of **sprat** occur in many countries, including **Estonia**, **Latvia**, and **Poland**. In March 2020, the average first-sales prices of sprat were: 0,17 EUR/kg in Estonia (down by 3% from the previous month, and up by 7% from the previous year); 0,22 EUR/kg in Latvia (up from both the previous month and year by 4% and 29%, respectively); and 0,20 EUR/kg in Poland (1% lower than the previous month but 17% higher compared to the previous year). In March 2020, supply increased in all three countries, mainly in Estonia (+86%) and Latvia (+62%), as well as in Poland (+37%). Over the past 36-month period, prices have remained relatively stable in Estonia and increased in Latvia and Poland. In Estonia, first sales do not occur in July. The price peak (0,32 EUR/kg, October 2018) is in line with a 20% increase in supply from the previous month. Over the past three years, supply was stable in Latvia and increased in Estonia and Poland. The latter represents the market where most of the first-sales volume occurs. Supply is seasonal, with peaks between October and November in Estonia and Latvia, and between February and April in Poland.

## 1.5. Commodity group of the month: flatfish<sup>2</sup>

The “**flatfish**” commodity group (CG<sup>3</sup>) ranked third in both value and volume among the 10 CGs sold at the first-sales stage in March 2020<sup>4</sup>. First sales of flatfish reached EUR 31,4 million and 10.393 tonnes, representing a decrease of 26% in value and an increase of 18% in volume, compared to March 2019. In the past 36 months, the highest first-sales value of flatfish was registered at EUR 42,7 million (March 2018).

The flatfish commodity group includes 13 main commercial species (MCS): Atlantic halibut, brill, common sole, dab, European flounder, European plaice, Greenland halibut, megrim, turbot, other flatfish, other flounders, other plaice, and other sole.

At Electronic Recording and Reporting System (ERS) level, Greenland halibut (4%) and turbot (6%) together accounted for 10% of the total reported first-sales value of this commodity group in March 2020.

Figure 18. **FIRST-SALES VALUE COMPARISON AT CG LEVEL AND ERS LEVEL FOR REPORTING COUNTRIES\* (APRIL 2017 – MARCH 2020)**

\*Norway and the UK are excluded from the analyses.

Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).

<sup>2</sup> EUMOFA aggregation for species (Metadata 2, Annex 3: <http://eumofa.eu/supply-balance-and-other-methodologies>)<sup>3</sup> Annex 3: <http://eumofa.eu/supply-balance-and-other-methodologies><sup>4</sup> More data on commodity groups can be found in Table 1.2 of the Annex.

## 1.6. Focus on Greenland halibut



The Greenland halibut (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*) is a highly migratory species, which belongs to the family Pleuronectidae (the right eye flounders) and is the only species of the genus *Reinhardtius*. It is a relatively slow-growing and late-maturing species distributed throughout the entire rim of the North Atlantic, from England to northern Norway, Faroe Islands, Iceland, and eastern Greenland in the east, and from Newfoundland to north-western Greenland in the west<sup>5</sup>. It is a cold-water species found in temperatures between 1 and 4°C, and at depths from 200 m to 2.200 m, but mainly inhabits depths of 500 to 1.000 m. Its maximum length is approximately 120 cm and it can weigh up to 45 kg, but more commonly they are between 80-100 cm and 11-25 kg. Greenland halibut is an active, pelagic hunter, feeding on prawns and fishes. Spawning takes place in February and March, at depths of around 1,000-1,500 metres. The Davis Strait is the most important spawning area.

Greenland halibut is fished all year round, both inshore and offshore. Offshore catches are taken using either bottom otter trawl (single and twin trawl) or bottom set fixed gear (longline, gillnet). Inshore exploratory fishery catches are taken with fixed gear (longline, gillnet, or pot)<sup>6</sup>. It is the second most important fish species caught in Greenland, while in the EU, the most important fishing nations include Denmark, France, Portugal, Spain, and the UK. Management measures include total allowable catches, which are set every year based on scientific advice<sup>7</sup>.

In Europe, the fish is most popular eaten as fillets, loins or ready meals, such as fish soups or breaded products<sup>8</sup>.

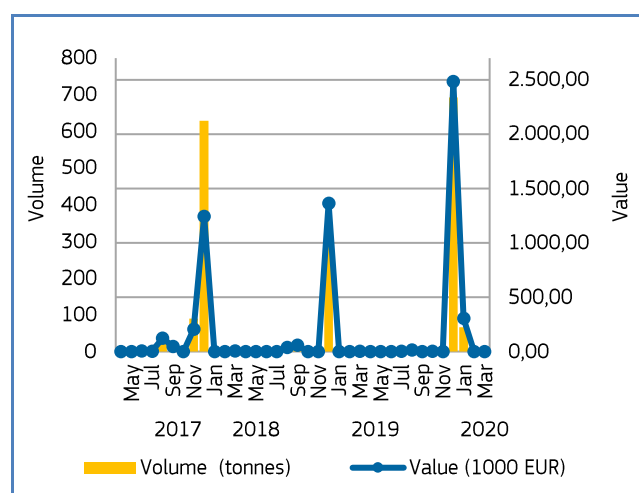
### Selected countries

In **Denmark** in January–March 2020, first sales of Greenland halibut were only recorded in January with EUR 0,3 million and 66 tonnes. This was significantly higher in comparison to both January–March 2019 (when first sales were recorded in March at EUR 2.830 and 0,8 tonnes) and January–March 2018, (when in March they were about EUR 5.170 and 1 tonne). The fishing seasons are defined by the weather conditions including winter sea ice, fishing quotas and the abundance of fish, which ultimately drives first sales. Usually, sales are highest in November–December each year, when the fishery is at its peak, and when the vast majority of TAC is exploited.

Of the flatfish species sold at the first-sales stage in March 2020, European plaice accounted for 51% of total value, while European flounder was the species with the highest total volume of 56%. There were no registered sales of Greenland halibut in March due to the fishery's seasonality.

Hirtshals in the North Sea is the port where all first sales of Greenland halibut were registered in January–March 2020.

Figure 19. **GREENLAND HALIBUT: FIRST SALES IN DENMARK**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2544/en>

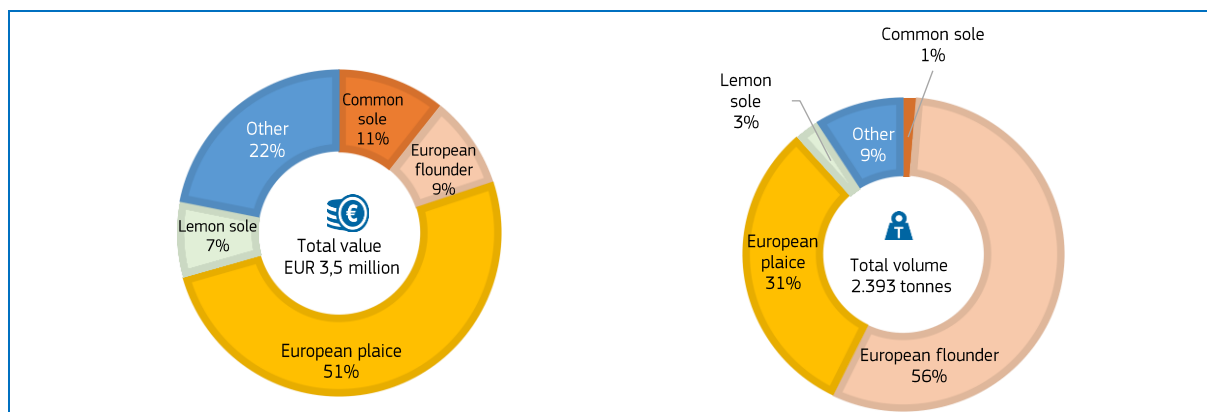
<sup>6</sup> <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/ifmp-gmp/groundfish-poisson-fond/2019/halibut-fletan-eng.htm#toc1>

<sup>7</sup> Council Regulation (EU) 2020/123 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R0123&from=EN>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.royalgreenland.com/en-us/our-seafood/natural-fish/greenland-turbot/>



Figure 20. **FIRST SALES: COMPARISON OF FLATFISH (ERS) IN DENMARK, VALUE AND VOLUME, MARCH 2020**



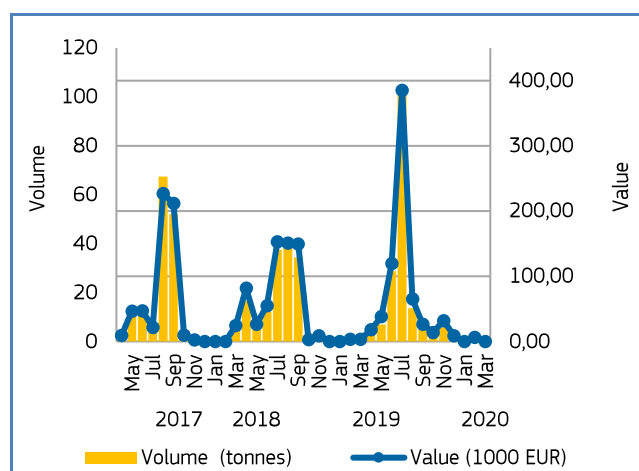
Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).

In **France**, Greenland halibut is a by-catch species of deep-sea fisheries, which are rarely operational during the winter period due to rough weather conditions. In January–March 2020, first sales of Greenland halibut decreased by 13% in value and 18% in volume from the same period in 2019. Compared with January–March 2018, value and volume dropped by 74% and 75%, respectively.

Of flatfish sold in March 2020, common sole accounted for 69% of total first-sales value and 41% of total first-sales volume. There were no sales of Greenland halibut recorded in this month.

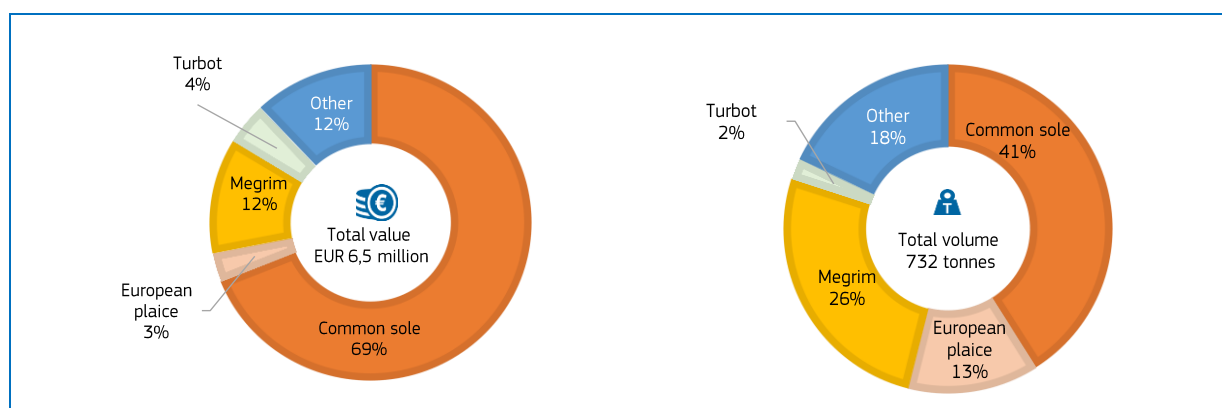
The ports of Lorient and Boulogne-sur-Mer were responsible for all first-sales value in January–March 2020.

Figure 21. **GREENLAND HALIBUT: FIRST SALES IN FRANCE**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).

Figure 22. **FIRST SALES: COMPARISON OF FLATFISH (ERS) IN FRANCE, VALUE AND VOLUME, MARCH 2020**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).

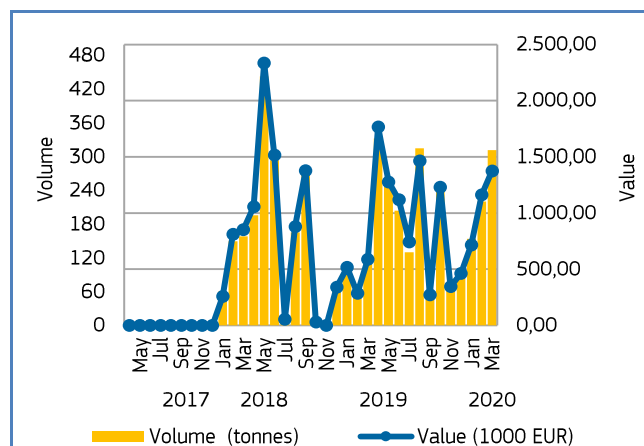


Greenland halibut is targeted by the Spanish fleet in high seas when there is no ice level in operating areas. In **Spain** in January–March 2020, first sales of Greenland halibut increased by 134% in value and 150% in volume compared to January–March 2019. Relative to 2018, first-sales value increased by 69%, while volume increased by 86%. There were no sales registered in certain months in the past 36 months, which could be related to various fishery management measures for Greenland halibut.

Of the flatfish sold at first sales stage in March 2020, Greenland halibut accounted for 24% and 26% of total value and volume respectively, while megrims nei<sup>9</sup> accounted for 50% of value and 53% of volume.

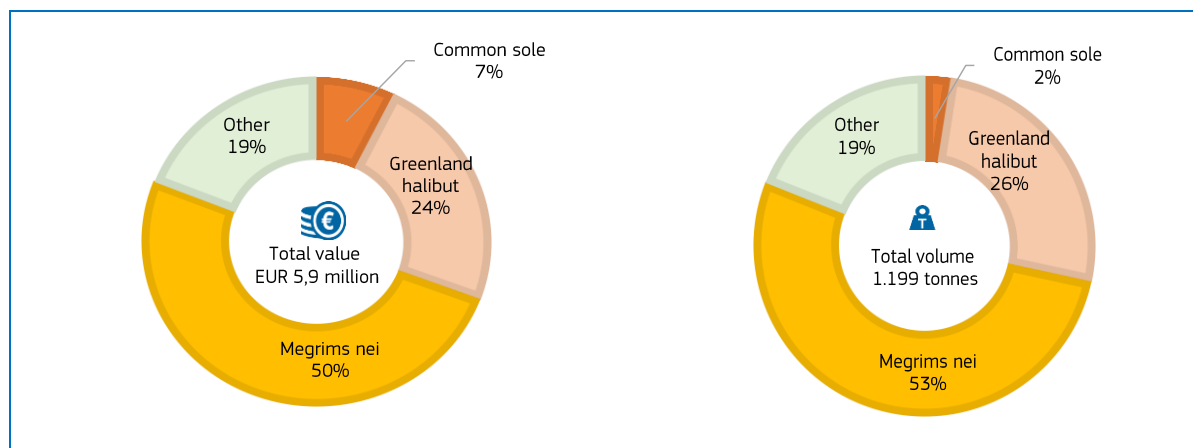
Cangas, Marin, Pontevedra, and Vigo were the ports in which all first-sales were registered in January–March 2020.

Figure 23. **GREENLAND HALIBUT: FIRST SALES IN SPAIN**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).

Figure 24. **FIRST SALES: COMPARISON OF FLATFISH (ERS) IN SPAIN, VALUE AND VOLUME, MARCH 2020**



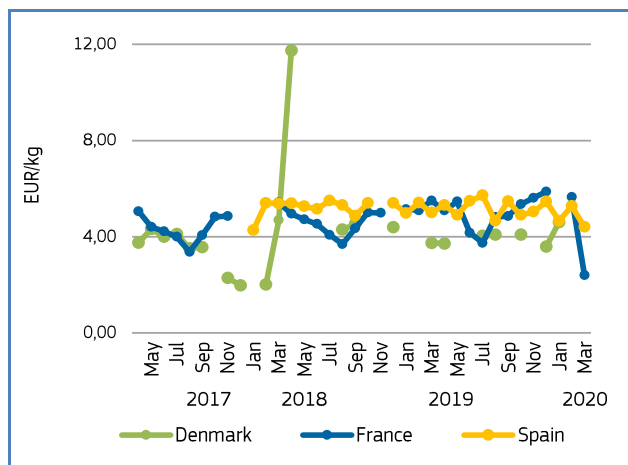
Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).

<sup>9</sup> Nei – not elsewhere included.



## Price trend

Figure 25. **GREENLAND HALIBUT: FIRST-SALES PRICE IN SELECTED COUNTRIES**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).

Over the 36-month observation period (April 2017–March 2020), the average first-sales price of Greenland halibut was highest in Spain (5,15 EUR/kg). This was 24% higher than the average price in Denmark (4,14 EUR/kg), and 10% higher than in France (4,69 EUR/kg).

In **Denmark** in January–March 2020 the average price of Greenland halibut was 4,61 EUR/kg, which was 23% higher than in March 2019 and 2% lower compared to the same period in 2018. Over the past 36 months, the lowest price was recorded in December 2017 at 1,98 EUR/kg for 628 tonnes. The highest price at 4,69 EUR/kg for 1 tonne was recorded in March 2018 (with exception of 11,74 EUR/kg for 12 kg in April 2018).

In **France**, the average price of Greenland halibut was 5,61 EUR/kg in January–March 2020: 6% greater than in January–March 2019, and 3% greater than in the same period of 2018. In the observed period the lowest price was recorded in August 2017 at 3,37 EUR/kg for 67 tonnes. Prices peaked in December 2019, when 2 tonnes were sold at 5,88 EUR/kg.

In **Spain** in January–March 2020, the average price of Greenland halibut was 5,61 EUR/kg, representing a 6% reduction from January–March 2019, and 9% less than in the same period of 2018. The lowest price in the observed period was recorded in January 2018 at 4,27 EUR/kg for 60 tonnes. The highest price (5,72 EUR/kg for 130 tonnes) was observed in July 2019, i.e. in the summer period, when prices are usually highest.

### 1.7. Focus on turbot



Turbot (*Scophthalmus maximus* previously known as *Psetta maxima*) is a flatfish that belongs to the Bothidae (or left-eyed) family of flounders. Turbot is found in shallow inshore waters throughout the Mediterranean and north to the Norwegian Sea, but also on the Atlantic coasts of Europe<sup>10</sup>. It lives in marine and brackish waters with sandy and muddy bottoms, down to depths of 100 metres. Spawning takes place from May to July in the Atlantic and earlier, from February to April, in the Mediterranean. Turbot is carnivorous. Juveniles feed on molluscs and crustaceans and adults mainly on fish and cephalopods<sup>11</sup>. It is one of the fastest growing flatfish, with females growing faster than males. In the North Sea, they can reach a length of around 30 cm (males) and 35 cm (females) in about 3 years. In the Baltic Sea growth is slower. Turbot can grow to a length of 1 m and weigh 25 kg. The maximum reported age is 25 years.

Turbot is a valuable bycatch species caught in beam, otter trawl, gillnet, and trap fisheries. The turbot fishery is managed through various measures, including combined total allowable catch (TAC) together with brill. Management of brill and turbot under a combined species TAC prevents effective control of the single-species exploitation rates, which can result in

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.seafoodsource.com/seafood-handbook/finfish/turbot>

<sup>11</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/docs/body/turbot\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/docs/body/turbot_en.pdf)

high-grading and discarding of the lesser value species and overexploitation of the high valued turbot<sup>12</sup>. Other management measures include a minimum conservation reference size of 30 cm (sub-divisions 22-32) and 45 cm (the Black Sea), gear restrictions such as mesh sizes, fishery closures in sub-divisions 25, 26, and 28 from 1 June to 31 July<sup>13</sup>, and from 15 April to 15 June in the Black Sea<sup>14</sup>.

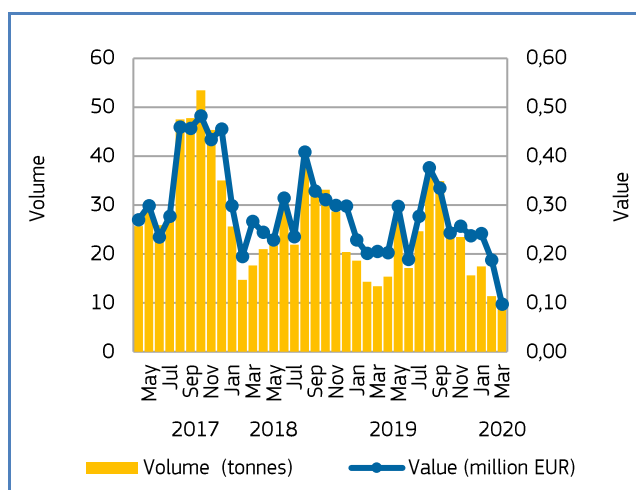
## Selected countries

In **Belgium** in January–March 2020, first sales of turbot decreased by 17% in both value and volume compared to the same period in 2019. Relative to 2018, first sales decreased by 31% in value and 33% in volume.

Of the flatfish sold at first-sales stage in March 2020, common sole accounted for 88% of first-sales value and 62% of volume. Turbot sales accounted for 2% in both first sales value and volume.

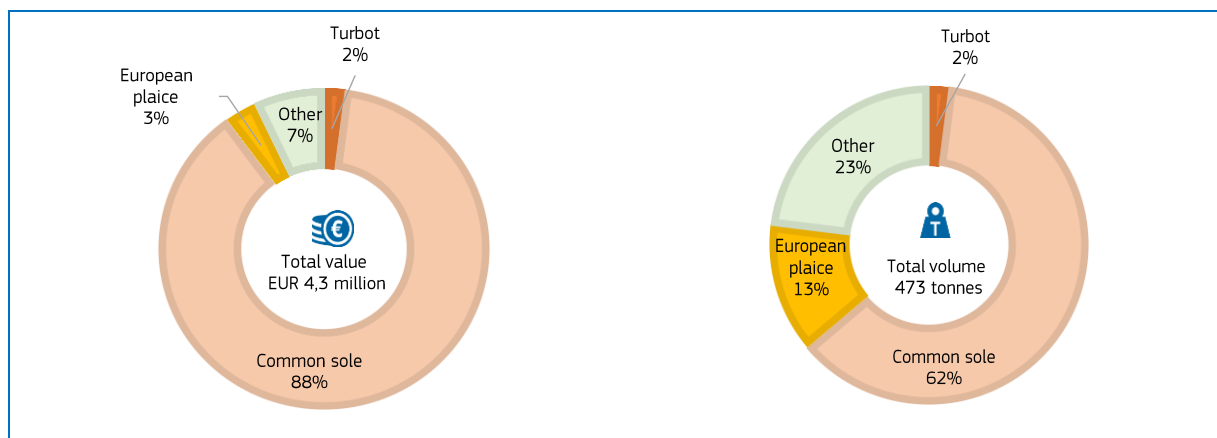
The ports of Zeebrugge, Oostende, and Nieuwpoort in the North Sea accounted for all reported first sales of turbot in January–March 2020.

Figure 26. **TURBOT: FIRST SALES IN BELGIUM**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).

Figure 27. **FIRST SALES: COMPARISON OF FLATFISH (ERS) IN BELGIUM, VALUE AND VOLUME, MARCH 2020**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.mcsuk.org/goodfishguide/fish/330>

<sup>13</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019R1241&from=EN>

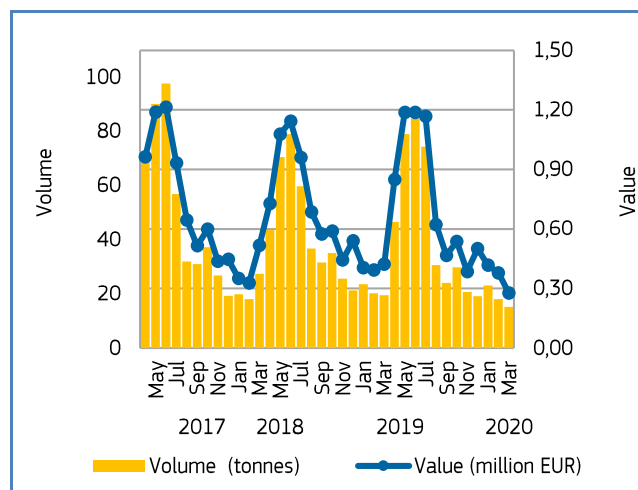
<sup>14</sup> Council Regulation (EU) 2019/2236 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019R2236&from=EN>

In **France** in January–March 2020, first sales of turbot decreased by 12% in value and 11% in volume relative to the same period in 2019. Compared with 2018, value and volume fell by 10% and 13%, respectively.

Of the flatfish sold in March 2020, turbot accounted for 4% of total first-sales value and 2% of volume (see Fig. 22).

The ports of Le Guilvinec, Port-en-Bessin, and Les Sables-d'Olonne in the Bay of Biscay were the top three ports in terms of first-sales value in January–March 2020.

Figure 28. **TURBOT: FIRST SALES IN FRANCE**



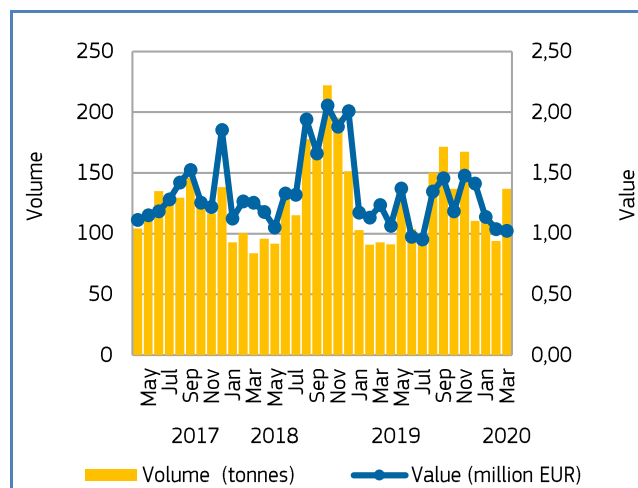
Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).

In the **Netherlands** in January–March 2020, first sales of turbot decreased by 10% in value and increased by 19% in volume, relative to the same period in 2019. Compared with 2018, value fell by 12%, while volume went up by 23%.

Of the flatfish sold in March 2020, turbot accounted for 12% of total first-sales value and 8% of volume. Common sole was the species with the highest share, at 63% of total first-sales value, while European flounder had the highest first-sales volume with a share of 42%.

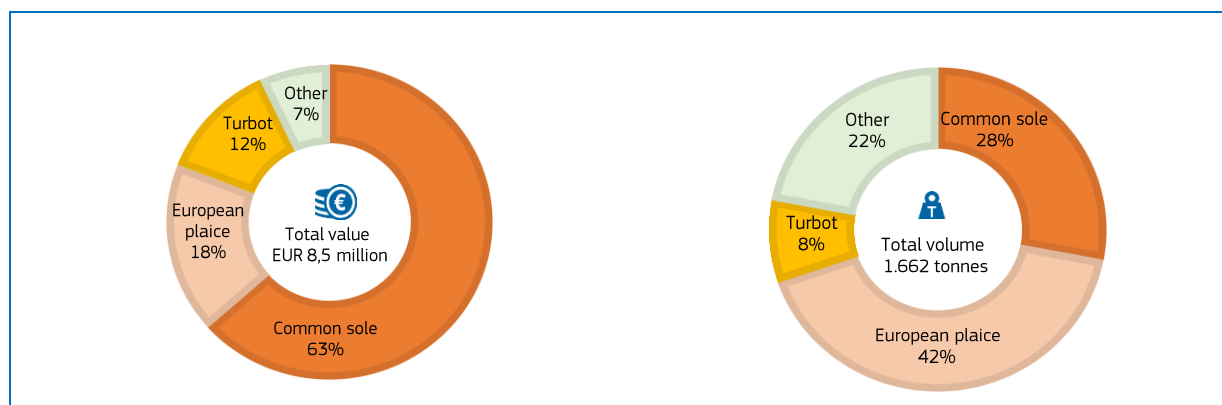
The ports of Urk and IJmuiden/Velsen were responsible for 70% of total first-sales value in January–March 2020.

Figure 29. **TURBOT: FIRST SALES IN THE NETHERLANDS**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).

Figure 30. **FIRST SALES: COMPARISON OF FLATFISH (ERS) IN THE NETHERLANDS, VALUE AND VOLUME, MARCH 2020**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).



## Price trends

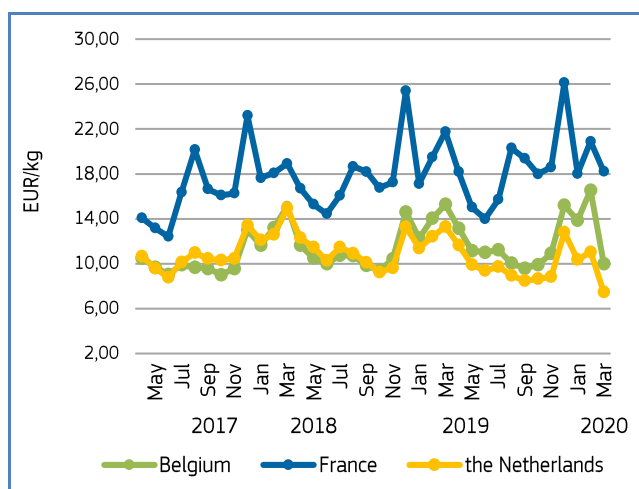
Over the 36-month period from April 2017 to March 2020, the highest average price of turbot among the selected countries was recorded in France at 17,85 EUR/kg. This was 56% higher than in Belgium (11,45 EUR/kg), and 66% greater than in the Netherlands (10,77 EUR/kg).

In **Belgium** in January–March 2020, the average price of turbot (13,67 EUR/kg) remained stable compared to the previous year, while it was 4% up compared to the same period in 2018. The lowest price observed during the 36-month period was in October 2017 (9,02 EUR/kg for 53 tonnes), whilst the highest was recorded in February 2020 (16,54 EUR/kg for approximately 11 tonnes). Typically, the highest prices are recorded in winter, when supply is limited.

In **France** in January–March 2020, the average price of turbot was 18,99 EUR/kg, representing a decrease of 2% from January–March 2019, and an increase of 4% from the same period in 2018. The lowest price was recorded in June 2017 at 12,41 EUR/kg for 98 tonnes. The highest price was observed in December 2019 at 26,12 EUR/kg for 19 tonnes. The price is highest in December, as a result of a high demand during the Christmas period.

In the **Netherlands**, the average price of turbot in January–March 2020 was 9,39 EUR/kg. This was 24% lower than in January–March 2019, and 29% less than the same period in 2018. Over the past 36 months, first-sales price fell to its lowest value in March 2020 when 137 tonnes of turbot were sold for 7,47 EUR/kg. This significant drop in price is closely related with a decreased demand due to COVID-19 lockdown. The highest price was observed in March 2018 at 14,95 EUR/kg, when the total supply amounted to 84 tonnes. Usually, the price peaks twice during the year, in December and March.

Figure 31. **TURBOT: FIRST-SALES PRICE IN SELECTED COUNTRIES**



Source: EUMOFA (updated 16.05.2020).

We have covered **Turbot** in previous *Monthly Highlights*:

**First sales:** France, Portugal, Sweden (1/2018).

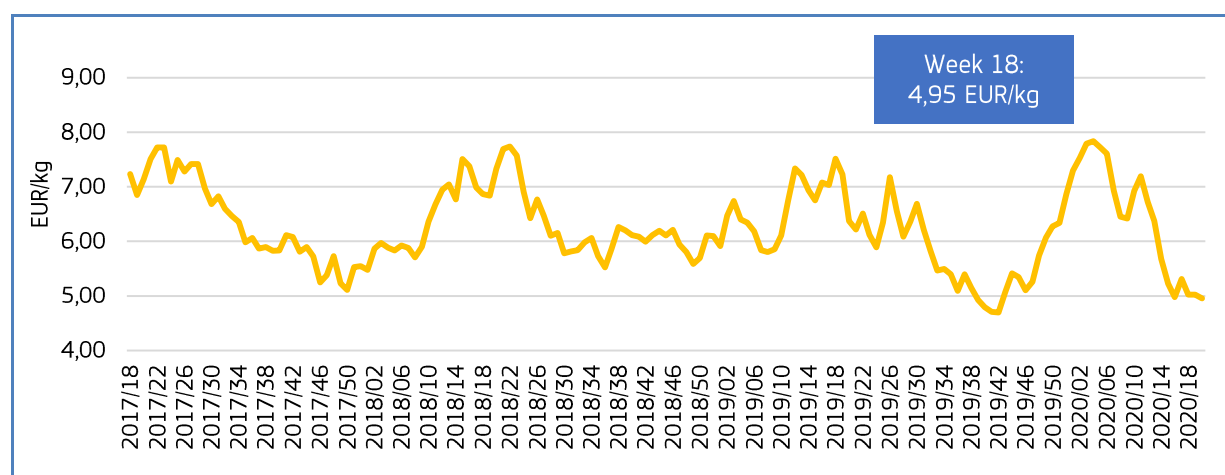
**Topic of the month:** Turbot in the EU (7/2018).

## 2. Extra-EU imports

Each month, the weekly extra-EU import prices (average values per week, in EUR per kg) are examined for nine species. Every month, the three species that are the most relevant in terms of value and volume are examined: fresh whole Atlantic salmon from Norway, frozen Alaskan pollock fillets from China, and frozen tropical shrimp (genus *Penaeus*) from Ecuador. The other six species change every month: three are from the commodity group of the month (in this issue, flatfish). This month, the featured commodity species are fresh or chilled plaice from Iceland, fresh or chilled turbot from Norway, and fresh or chilled sole from Iceland. The remaining three species are randomly selected and, this month, include frozen fillets of skipjack tuna or bonito from the Republic of Korea, prepared or preserved mussels from Chile, and frozen coalfish from Norway.

The weekly price of **fresh, whole Atlantic salmon** (*Salmo salar*, CN code 03021400) imported from **Norway** totalled 4,95 EUR/kg in **week 18** (commencing 27<sup>th</sup> April). This price represents a decrease from both the preceding four-week average (5,08 EUR/kg) and the previous year (6,37 EUR/kg), by 3% and 22%, respectively. The price of fresh, whole Atlantic salmon was slightly lower (–1%) than the previous week (week 17), corresponding to a 27% decrease in volume. Imports in week 18 totalled 8.100 tonnes, 25% less than the preceding four-week average, and down by 28% from the previous year. Lower demand and reduced activities of transportation company due to Easter holidays in Norway led to falls in the imported volume as well as price. Over the past three years, price has exhibited a downward trend, while volume has increased moderately. In 2020, from a peak of 7,19 EUR/kg in week 10 (commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> March) the price subsequently dropped sharply (–31%).

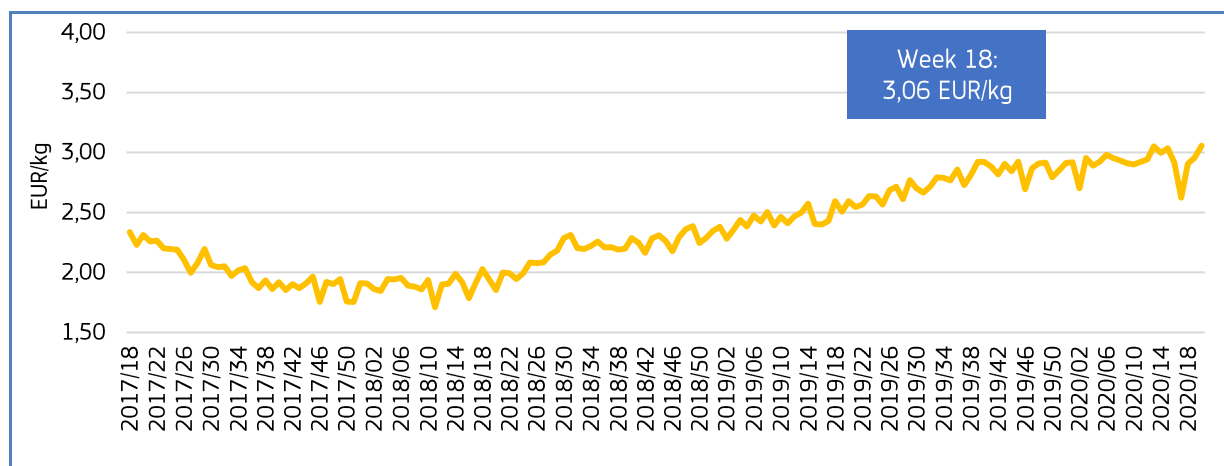
Figure 32. **IMPORT PRICE OF ATLANTIC SALMON, FRESH AND WHOLE FROM NORWAY**



Source: European Commission (updated 16.05.2020).

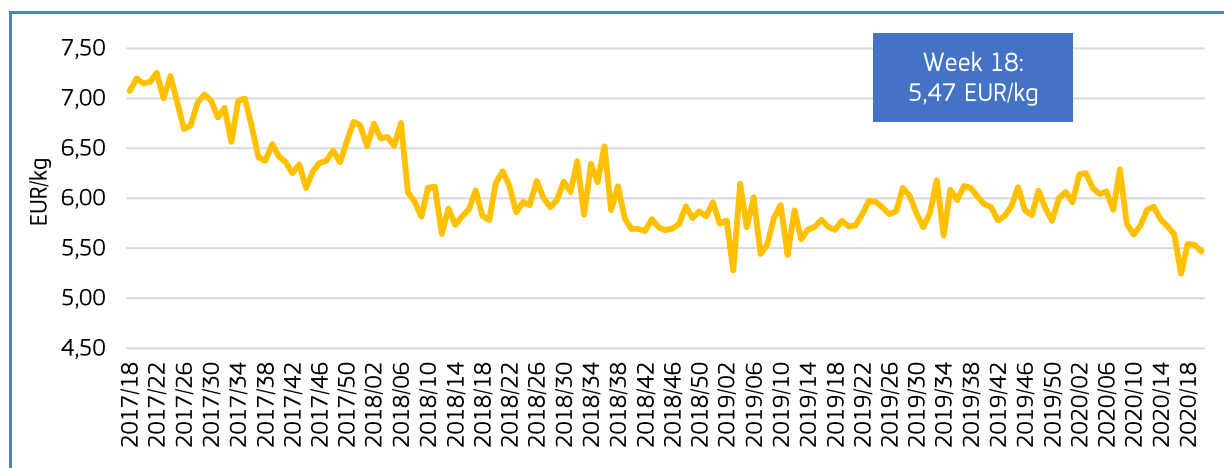
For **frozen fillets of Alaska pollock** (*Theragra chalcogramma*, CN code 03047500) imported from **China**, the price in **week 18** was 3,06 EUR/kg, 7% higher than the preceding four-week average (2,85 EUR/kg), and 18% higher than the same week in 2019 (2,60 EUR/kg). The price for frozen fillets of Alaska pollock was 3% higher than the previous week (week 17), corresponding to a substantial decrease in volume (–45%), which can be related to the fall in demand for products imported from China. Volume totalled 395 tonnes, which was 72% lower than the preceding four-week average, and 83% lower than the same week in 2019. Since the beginning of 2020, the price and volume of Alaska pollock has fluctuated considerably and exhibited an overall downward trend; albeit volume fell at a faster pace.



Figure 33. **IMPORT PRICE OF ALASKA POLLOCK, FROZEN FILLETS FROM CHINA**

Source: European Commission (updated 16.05.2020).

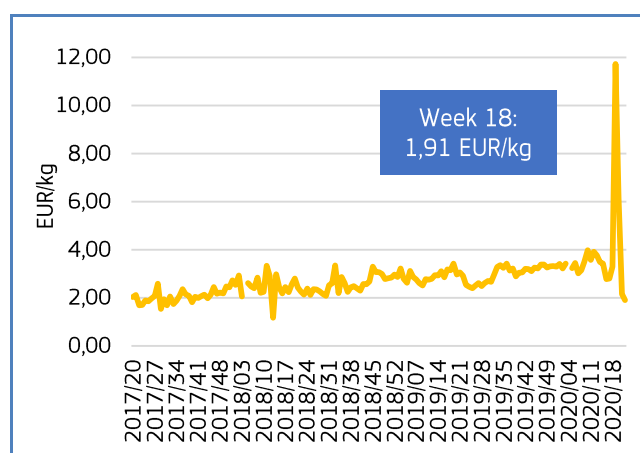
The price of **frozen tropical shrimp** (genus *Penaeus*, CN code 03061792) from **Ecuador** was 5,47 EUR/kg in **week 18**: unchanged from the average of the preceding four weeks (5,49 EUR/kg), and down 4% from the same week in 2019 (5,72 EUR/kg). The price was 1% down from the previous week (week 17), corresponding to a 70% decrease in volume. The volume in week 18 (565 tonnes) represented a significant decrease from both the previous four-week average and the same week in 2019 (-74% and -76%, respectively). This product experienced high fluctuations in supply. Over the past three years, price for frozen tropical shrimp has exhibited a general downward trend. In 2020, price fluctuated, and from a peak of 6,29 EUR/kg in week 6 (commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> February) price has since dropped by 13%, mainly due to an impact of COVID-19 crisis.

Figure 34. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN TROPICAL SHRIMP FROM ECUADOR**

Source: European Commission (updated 16.05.2020).

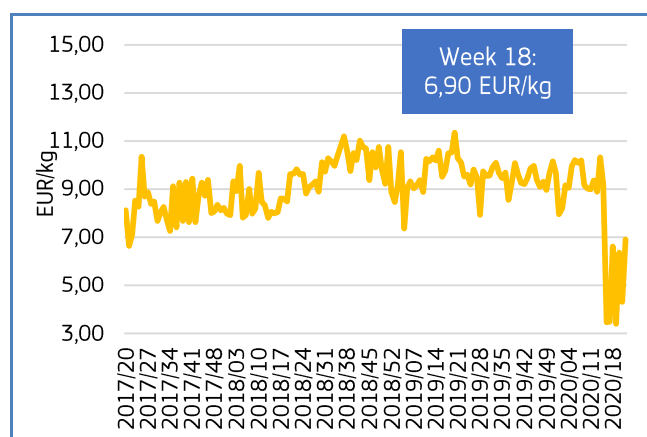
The price of **fresh or chilled plaice** (*Pleuronectes platessa*, CN code 03022200) imported from **Iceland** was 1,91 EUR/kg in **week 18**. This was significantly lower than both the preceding four-week average of 5,83 EUR/kg and the same week in 2019, when prices were 2,92 EUR/kg (–67% and –35%, respectively). The spike in price (11,74 EUR/kg in week 15) corresponds to a record-low supply of just 145 kg. The volume recorded in week 18 (44 tonnes) was significantly higher than the preceding four-week average (+193%), and 70% lower than the same week in 2019 (144 tonnes). Setting aside the outlying spike, prices fluctuated between 1,17 to 6,31 EUR/kg. Overall, between week 16 of 2017 and the end of 2019, prices increased while volume decreased. Since week 1 of 2020, price has declined slowly, while volume moderately increased.

Figure 35. **IMPORT PRICE OF FRESH OR CHILLED PLAICE FROM ICELAND**



Source: European Commission (updated 16.05.2020).

Figure 36. **IMPORT PRICE OF FRESH OR CHILLED TURBOT FROM NORWAY**

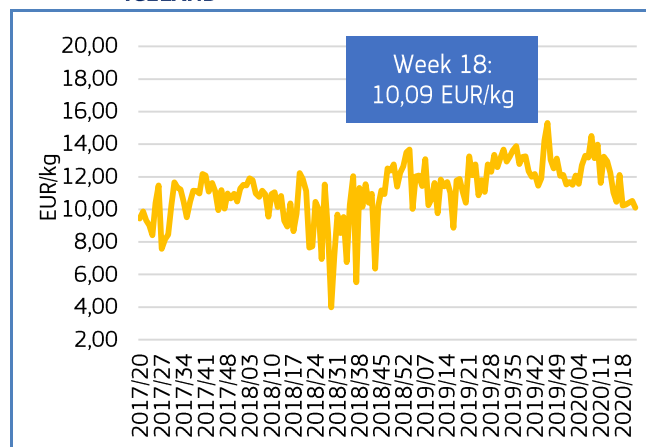


Source: European Commission (updated 16.05.2020).

The price of **fresh or chilled turbot** (*Psetta maxima*, CN code 03022400) from **Norway** was 6,90 EUR/kg in **week 18**. This was 33% higher than the preceding four-week average (5,17 EUR/kg), and lower (–32%) than the same week in 2019 (10,11 EUR/kg). The product's price ranged from a low of 3,39 EUR/kg in week 15 of 2020, to a high of 11,35 EUR/kg in week 16 of 2019. The volume recorded in week 18 in 2020 (377 kg) was significantly lower than both the preceding four-week average and the same week in 2019 (–42% and –83%, respectively). In 2020, both price and supply showed high weekly volatility. Since the beginning of the year, price fell (reversing the trend from week 17 of 2017 to week 52 of 2019). The significant fall in demand (e.g. shutting of the restaurant sector) and the uncertainty of the EU market linked to the COVID-19 crisis caused a dramatic fall of supply and price.

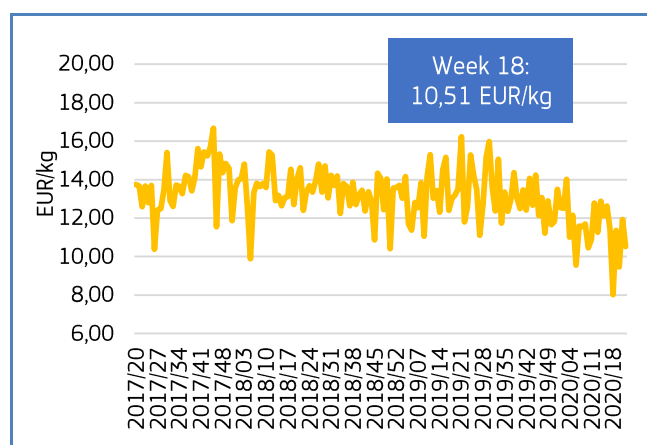
For **fresh or chilled sole** (*Solea* spp, CN code 03022300) from **Iceland**, the price in **week 18** was 10,09 EUR/kg: 3% down from the preceding four-week average (10,36 EUR/kg), and 17% lower than the same week of the previous year (12,10 EUR/kg). Both price and volume showed weekly fluctuations. Prices oscillated from 3,99 (week 25 of 2018) to 15,31 EUR/kg (week 42 of 2019) but have exhibited a generally increasing trend over the past two years, parallel to a decrease in supply. The volume of 3 tonnes in week 18 was lower than both the preceding four-week average (of 4 tonnes) and the same week in 2019, when volume was at 6 tonnes (–7% and –42%, respectively). Since the beginning of 2020, both price and volume have declined.

Figure 37. **IMPORT PRICE OF FRESH OR CHILLED SOLE FROM ICELAND**



Source: European Commission (updated 16.05.2020).

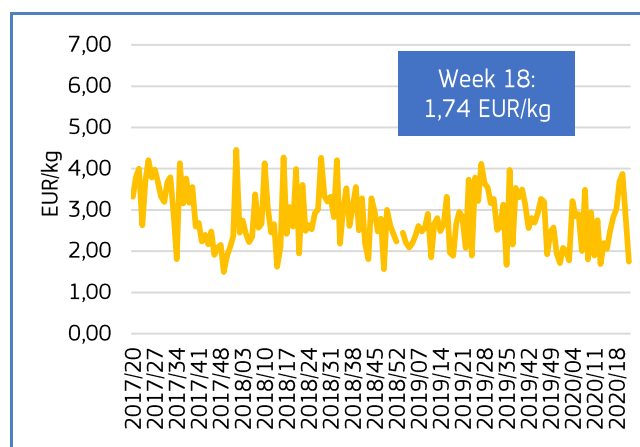
Figure 38. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN FILLETS OF SKIPJACK TUNA OR STRIPE-BELLIED BONITO FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**



Source: European Commission (updated 16.05.2020).

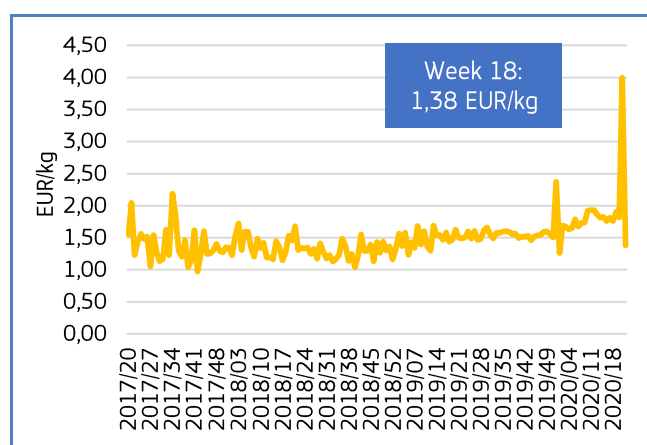
The price of **prepared or preserved mussels** in airtight containers (CN code 16055310) from **Chile** reached 1,74 EUR/kg in **week 18**, which was lower than both the preceding four-week average (3,34 EUR/kg, -48%), and the previous year (2,08 EUR/kg, -16%). The recorded volume of 20 tonnes in week 18 was significantly lower than both the preceding four-week average (232 tonnes, -91%), and the previous year (107 tonnes, -81%). Prices showed weekly fluctuations and they oscillated from 1,49 (week 45 of 2017) to 4,45 EUR/kg (week 49 of 2017). Both price and volume exhibited a decreasing trend over the time period between week 17 of 2017 to week 52 of 2019. Since week 1 of 2020, this trend was reversed for both price and supply. France and Spain are the EU's top importers.

Figure 39. **IMPORT PRICE OF PREPARED OR MUSSELS FROM CHILE**



Source: European Commission (updated 16.05.2020).

Figure 40. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN COALFISH FROM NORWAY**



Source: European Commission (updated 16.05.2020).

The price of **frozen fillets of skipjack tuna or stripe-bellied bonito** (*Euthynnus (Katsuwonus) pelamis*, CN code 03048700) from the **Republic of Korea** was 10,51 EUR/kg in **week 18**. This was higher than the preceding four-week average (10,19 EUR/kg, +3%), and down 11% from a year earlier (when prices were 11,80 EUR/kg). Prices and volume exhibit high weekly fluctuations, and the majority of prices ranged between 12 and 15 EUR/kg. Prices have exhibited a slow decreasing trend over the past three years, while volume has remained stable. The recorded volume of 47 tonnes in week 18 was significantly lower than both the preceding four weeks (71 tonnes, -34%), and the previous year (92 tonnes, -49%). Since week 1 of 2020, prices have shown a steeper decline, while supply exhibited a slight upward trend. EU imports of this product are used for further processing, and France and Italy are the EU's top importers.

The price of **frozen coalfish** (*Pollachius virens*, CN code 03036500) from **Norway** was 1,38 EUR/kg in **week 18**, representing a significant decrease from the preceding four-week average (2,37 EUR/kg, -42%), and a reduction of 8% from the previous year (1,49 EUR/kg). The spike in price (3,99 EUR/kg in week 15) corresponds to a drop in supply (22 tonnes) from the preceding week (week 14, in which volume was 82 tonnes). The recorded volume of 745 tonnes in week 18 was significantly higher than the four-week average (of 203 tonnes, +266%), and lower than the previous year (776 tonnes, -4%). Prices fluctuated from 0,97 to 3,99 EUR/kg (but the trend went up over the observed period). At the same time, supply also increased.

## 3. Consumption

### 3.1. HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION IN THE EU

In March 2020, relative to March 2019, the consumption of fresh fisheries and aquaculture products decreased in both volume and value in France, Ireland, Italy, and Poland. In Germany and Spain, volume decreased while value increased. In the rest of the Member States analysed, consumption increased in both volume and value.

The decrease seen in Italy was mainly due to reduced consumption of anchovy, octopus, and squid (-52%, -46%, and -47%, respectively). In France, lower consumption of cod and saithe contributed to the overall decrease in household consumption.

A rise in salmon and mackerel consumption (both +28%) was the reason for the increases seen in Denmark, while in the Netherlands, salmon and cod contributed to the overall increase (+21% and +39%, respectively).

Table 3. **MARCH OVERVIEW OF THE REPORTING COUNTRIES (volume in tonnes and value in million EUR)**

Country	Per capita consumption 2017* (live weight equivalent, LWE) kg/capita/year	March 2017		March 2019		February 2020		March 2020		Change from March 2019 to March 2020	
		Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Denmark	27,0	978	16,77	953	15,14	1.019	17,81	1.191	19,20	25%	27%
France	33,7	19.287	215,10	17.948	211,09	16.675	206,62	13.851	179,05	23%	15%
Germany	13,4	6.485	96,73	5.195	78,16	5.772	94,00	4.934	82,13	5%	5%
Hungary	5,6	458	2,45	260	1,58	479	3,03	298	1,79	15%	13%
Ireland	23,0	1.283	18,51	1.463	21,14	960	13,55	1.020	15,12	30%	28%
Italy	30,9	30.140	322,75	32.600	338,43	22.978	246,42	22.794	240,59	30%	29%
Netherlands	21,1	2.956	47,61	2.915	47,16	2.473	39,29	3.106	53,25	7%	13%
Poland	15,0	5.055	30,56	4.956	30,18	4.081	27,20	3.897	24,73	21%	18%
Portugal	56,8	4.782	31,43	10.557	69,78	4.454	29,93	11.453	77,09	8%	10%
Spain	45,6	53.238	405,95	52.134	396,52	47.722	388,85	49.996	412,96	4%	4%
Sweden	26,6	1.082	13,51	701	9,69	859	11,94	759	10,21	8%	5%

Source: EUMOFA, based on Europanel (updated 22.05.2020).

\*Data on per capita consumption of all fish and seafood products for all EU Member States can be found at: [https://eumofa.eu/documents/20178/157549/EN\\_The+EU+fish+market\\_2020.pdf](https://eumofa.eu/documents/20178/157549/EN_The+EU+fish+market_2020.pdf)

Over the past three years, the average household consumption of fresh fisheries and aquaculture products in the month of March was above the annual average in both volume and value in most of the Member States surveyed. The only exceptions to this are seen in Hungary, where consumption has been below average, and in Spain and Sweden, where volume was above, but value was below the annual average.

The most recent weekly consumption data (up to week 24 of 2020) are available on the EUMOFA website, and can be accessed [here](#).

## 3.2. Fresh clam

**Habitat:** These are shellfish that spend most of their lives partially buried in the sand of the ocean floor.

**Catch area:** Mediterranean Sea (the coast of Spain and Italy); North-East Atlantic Ocean (the coast of the United Kingdom, France, Spain and Portugal)<sup>15</sup>.

**Producing countries in the EU:** Italy, France, Ireland, the Netherlands.

**Production method:** Caught and farmed.

**Main consumers in the EU:** Italy, France, Spain, Portugal.

**Presentation:** Shelled or unshelled.

**Preservation:** Live, fresh, chilled, frozen, natural or pickled, frozen in sauces, canned, as salads and ready-meals.

**Means of preparation:** Mostly cooked, baked stuffed; served with pasta (in Italy).



### 3.2.1. General overview of household consumption in Italy and Portugal

Portugal is the EU Member State with the highest per capita apparent consumption of fisheries and aquaculture products. In 2017, this was 56,8 kg: more than double the EU average of 24,3 kg per capita. However, Portuguese apparent consumption decreased a slight 0,2% relative to the previous year<sup>16</sup>.

Italy is also among the EU Member States with high apparent consumption - 30,9 kg per capita in 2017. This is 27% higher than the EU average but remains 46% lower than the per capita consumption in Portugal. Compared to 2016, apparent consumption in Italy decreased slightly (by 0,6%). See more on per capita apparent consumption in the EU in Table 3.

Over the past three years, Italy's household consumption of fresh clam was more than five times higher than that in Portugal. Italian consumers also spent more for a kilogram of fresh clam - 9,71 EUR/kg on average, which is more than three times as much as consumers in Portugal, who spent 2,98 EUR/kg on average.

We have covered **clam** in previous *Monthly Highlights*:

**First sales:** France [1/2019](#), [5/2017](#); Italy [1/2019](#), [5/2017](#); Portugal [1/2019](#), [5/2017](#); the UK [5/2017](#).

**Consumption:** Italy [3/2018](#), [10/2016](#); Portugal [3/2018](#), [10/2016](#).

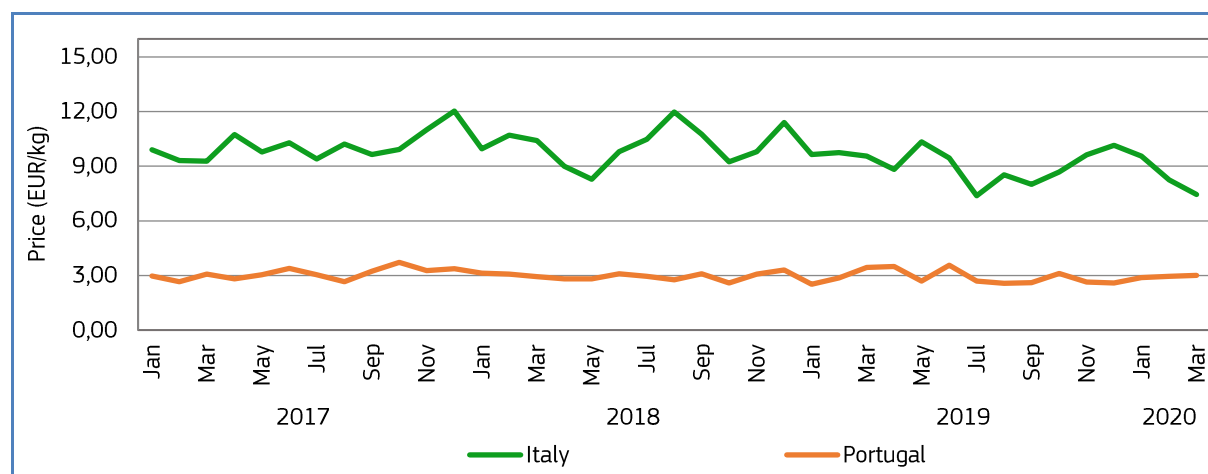
**Extra-EU Import:** Chile [6/2018](#).

**Topic of the month:** Fisheries and aquaculture of clam [10/2018](#).

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.eumofa.eu/documents/20178/114144/MH+3+2018.pdf>

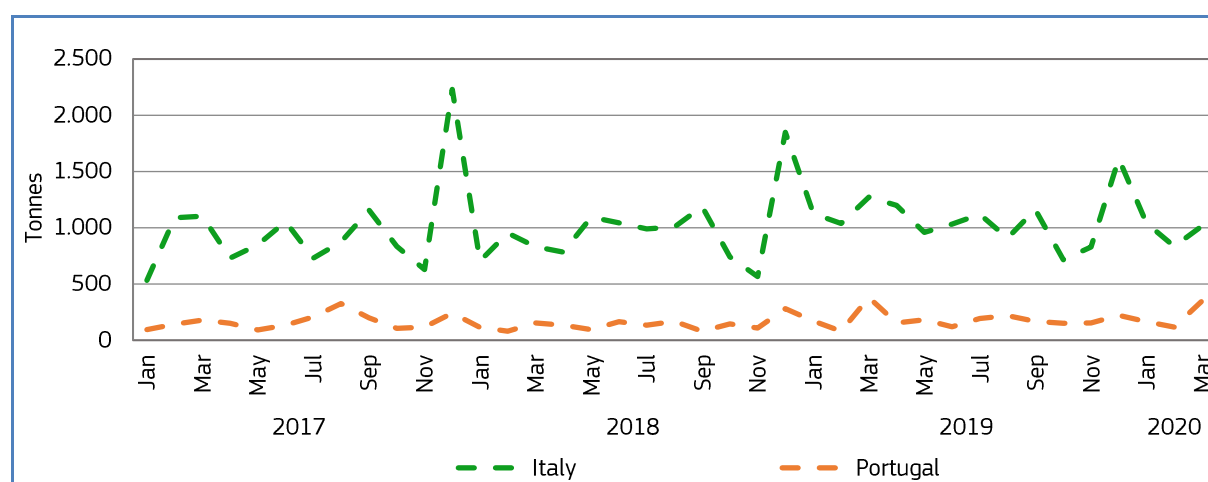
<sup>16</sup> 2017 is the most recent year that data are available.

Figure 41. **PRICES OF FRESH CLAM PURCHASED BY HOUSEHOLDS**



Source: EUMOFA, based on Europanel (updated 22.05.2020).

Figure 42. **HOUSEHOLD PURCHASES OF FRESH CLAM**



Source: EUMOFA based on Europanel (updated 22.05.2020).

### 3.2.2. Consumption trends in Italy

**Long-term trend (January 2017 to March 2020):** Decreasing in price and increasing in volume.

**Yearly average price:** 10,13 EUR/kg (2017), 10,15 EUR/kg (2018), 9,16 EUR/kg (2019).

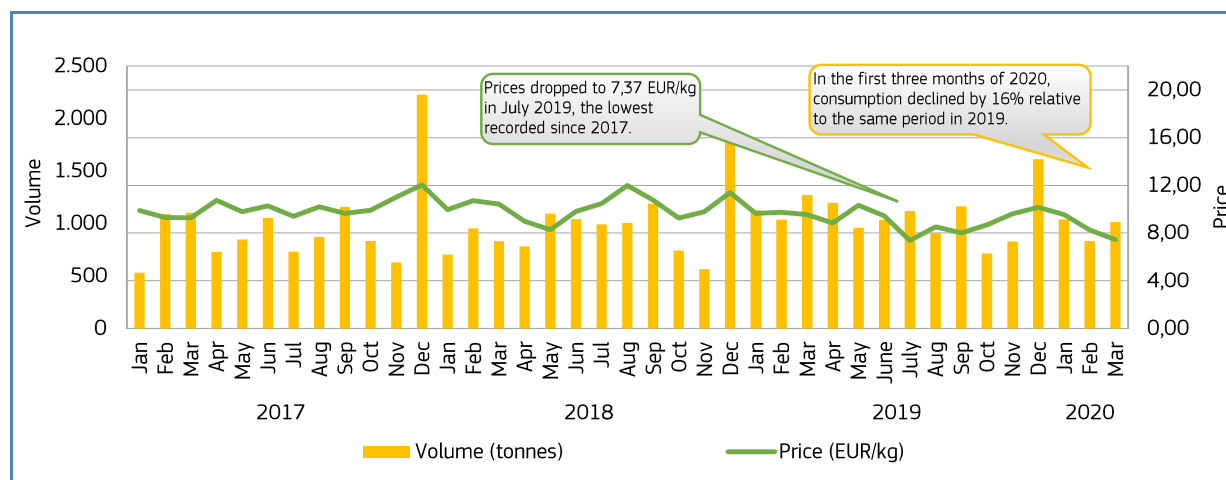
**Yearly consumption:** 11,806 tonnes (2017), 11,751 tonnes (2018), 12,971 tonnes (2019).

**Short-term trend (January 2020 to March 2020):** Decreasing in price and increasing slightly in volume.

**Average price:** 8,42 EUR/kg.

**Average consumption:** 2,890 tonnes.

Figure 43. RETAIL PRICE AND VOLUME OF FRESH CLAM PURCHASED BY HOUSEHOLDS IN ITALY



Source: EUMOFA, based on Europanel (updated 22.05.2020).

### 3.2.3. Consumption trends in Portugal

**Long-term trend (January 2017 to March 2020):** Decreasing in price and increasing in volume.

**Yearly average price:** 3,10 EUR/kg (2017), 2,97 EUR/kg (2018), 2,90 EUR/kg (2019).

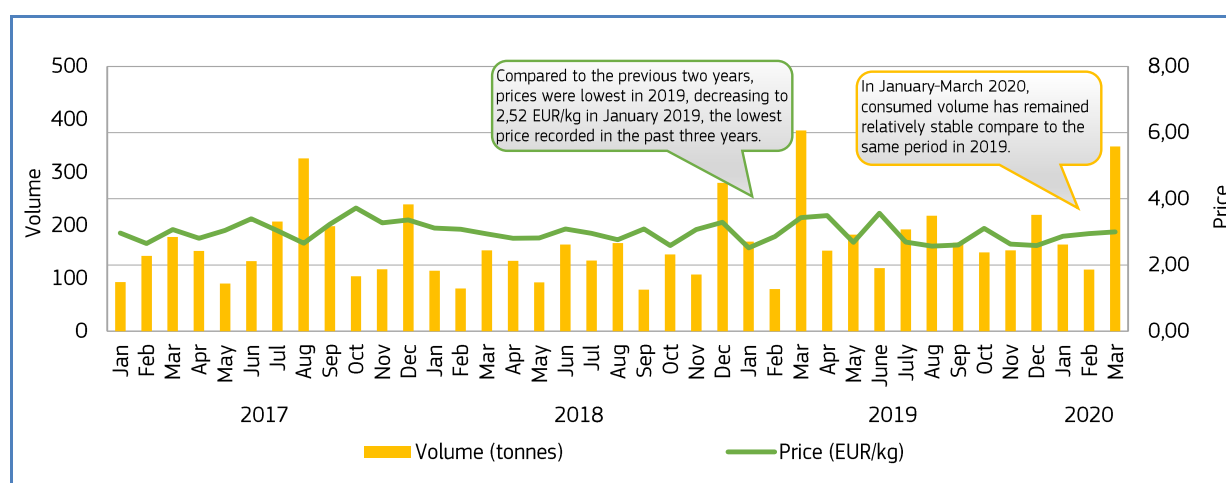
**Yearly consumption:** 1.978 tonnes (2017), 1.647 tonnes (2018), 2.180 tonnes (2019).

**Short-term trend (January 2020 to March 2020):** Increasing in both price and volume.

**Average price:** 2,94 EUR/kg.

**Average consumption:** 629 tonnes.

Figure 44. RETAIL PRICE AND VOLUME OF FRESH CLAM PURCHASED BY HOUSEHOLDS IN PORTUGAL



Source: EUMOFA, based on Europanel (updated 22.05.2020).



## 4. Case study – EU Trade in 2019

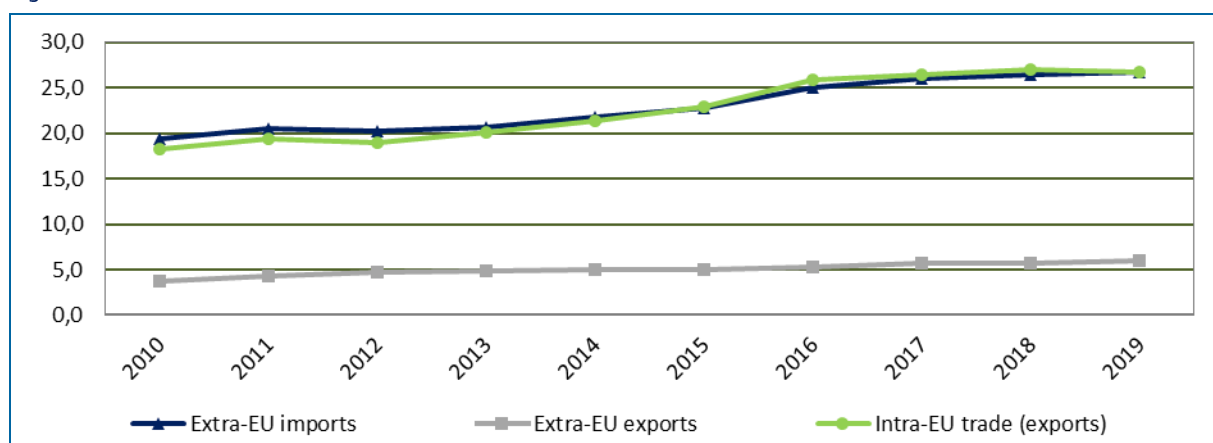
### 4.1. Trade flow trends

Trade in fisheries plays a significant role in the EU, one of the world's largest markets for fisheries and aquaculture consumption and production. The EU is the leading import market for fisheries and aquaculture products in the world. In 2018, it accounted for 34% (in terms of value), followed by the US (14%) and Japan (9%). By 2030, it is projected that the EU, Japan, and the US will account for 32% of total world imports in terms of volume of fish for human consumption, with the EU accounting for 18% of the world's imports (an increase of 4,3% from 2018)<sup>17</sup>.

In the EU, demand for seafood significantly exceeds domestic supply, making imports a key component of trade. While EU Member States' exports are small relative to imports, they consist of a wide variety of products and are destined for other Member States, as well as external markets in third countries. Trade, the main indicator for measuring the development of the market, experienced continuous growth over the past ten years; however, growth has slowed in the past few years.

In 2019, EU imports from third countries (extra-EU imports) remained stable in volume<sup>18</sup> and grew marginally (+2,5%) in value since 2018, reaching 6,3 million tonnes, valued at EUR 27,2 billion. Extra-EU exports grew more rapidly in value in 2019, by 7,6% – reaching EUR 6,2 billion. At the same time, extra-EU export volume remained unchanged at 2,2 million tonnes. Intra-EU trade<sup>19</sup> slightly exceeded EU imports from non-EU countries. Intra-EU exports in 2019 decreased by 2,6% in volume and increased slightly in value (+0,3%), totalling 6,4 million tonnes, valued at EUR 27,4 billion.

Figure 45. **EU TRADE FLOW (value in billion EUR)**



Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat (updated 11.05.2020).  
Values are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2015).

The EU trade balance in fisheries and aquaculture products continued to show a negative trend, confirming the EU's increasing dependence on imports. The self-sufficiency ratio, which measures the capacity of EU Member States to meet demand from their own production, remained in line with the 10-year average, namely 43%.<sup>20</sup> The fisheries and aquaculture trade deficit reached a record EUR -21,0 billion, up by 1,1 % from 2018. Measured in volume terms, the trade deficit remained stable reaching -4,1 million tonnes.

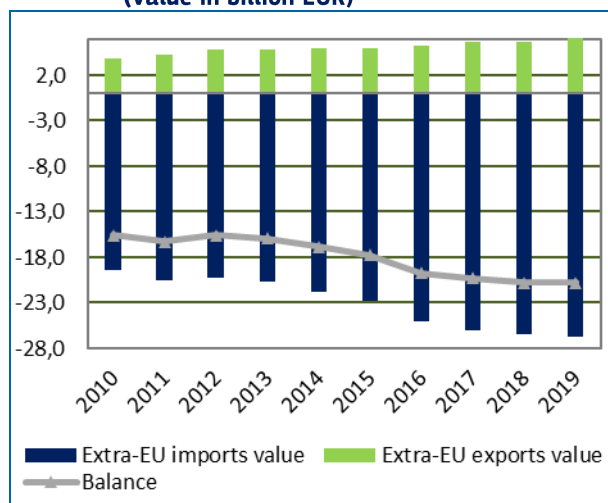
<sup>17</sup> FAO, The State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020, Table 18, page 172.

<sup>18</sup> Live weight equivalent.

<sup>19</sup> The analysis of intra-EU trade is based only on export data. Intra-EU trade flows as reported by EUROSTAT and cover both arrivals (i.e. imports) and dispatches (i.e. exports). Because of different valuation principle (CIF > FOB), arrivals should be slightly higher valued than dispatches. This is one of the main reasons explaining asymmetries between import and export figures. In general, bilateral comparisons between Member States of intra-EU flows have revealed major and persistent discrepancies. Therefore, comparisons dealing with intra-EU trade statistics and related results must be taken in consideration cautiously and the existence of these discrepancies should be considered.

<sup>20</sup> EUMOFA, the EU fish market 2019.

Figure 46. **EXTRA-EU TRADE BALANCE**  
(value in billion EUR)



Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat (updated 11.05.2020).  
Values are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2015).



**EXTRA-EU IMPORTS:** In 2019, imports from third countries grew in volume and value from 2018, by 0,3% and 2,5%, respectively. In 2019, salmonids (EUR 6,4 billion), groundfish (EUR 5,1 billion), and crustaceans (EUR 4,7 billion), were the most imported commodity groups, representing 60% of total extra-EU import value. Groundfish (up by EUR 544 million, +12%), salmonids (up by EUR 168 million, +3%), and non-food use (up by EUR 97 million, +11%) were the main contributors to the overall increase in the extra-EU import value. The largest decrease in value was recorded for cephalopods (EUR -292 million, -11%). The main reason behind the decrease was a sharp drop in the import price of octopus (-22%), which accounts for about 30% of the value of crustacean imports. Smaller decreases in value were observed for tuna and tuna-like species (EUR -61 million, -2%), and crustaceans (EUR -46 million, -1%). Of the total volume of imports, salmonids showed the largest increase, growing by 44 million tonnes (+5%). By contrast, groundfish registered the largest decrease (-30 million tonnes, -2%). The EU imports fisheries and aquaculture products from about 150 countries around the world. However, in 2019, 57% of the total EUR 27,21 billion import value (EUR 15,5 billion) originated from just seven countries – each exporting more than EUR 1 billion to the EU.

The main suppliers in terms of value were:

- Norway (EUR 7,05 billion, up by 2% compared to 2018, mostly salmon);
- China (EUR 2,15 billion, +16%, mostly Alaska pollock and cod);
- Iceland (EUR 1,4 billion, +9%, mostly cod);
- Ecuador (EUR 1,37 billion, +4%, mostly warmwater shrimp and skipjack tuna);
- Morocco (EUR 1,33 billion, +1%, mostly octopus);
- Vietnam (EUR 1,17 billion, -1%, mostly warmwater shrimp);
- United States (EUR 1 billion, +3%, mostly Alaska pollock).

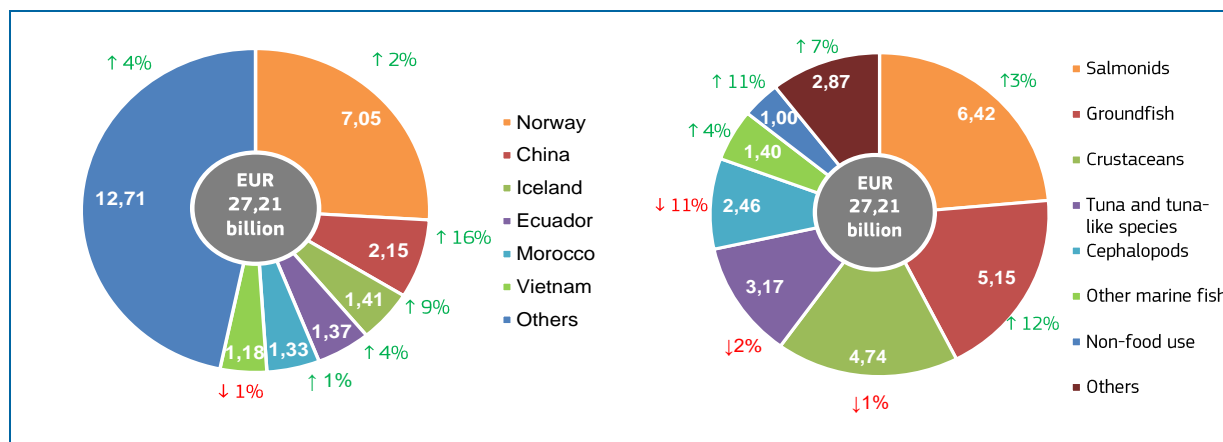
Other countries who contributed significantly to the increase in EU imports were:

- Faroe Islands (EUR 740 million, +30%);
- Greenland (EUR 639 million, +32%);
- Russian Federation (EUR 735 million, +7%); and
- Turkey (EUR 568 million, +7%).

The countries with the greatest reductions in EU import trade were:

- Chile (EUR -41 million, -8%, mostly salmon);
- India (-EUR 36 million, -4%, mainly warmwater shrimp); and
- Argentina (EUR -29 million, -4%, miscellaneous shrimp).

Figure 47. **EXTRA-EU IMPORTS: MAIN PARTNERS AND MAIN COMMODITY GROUPS IN 2019 (value in billion EUR)\***



Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat (updated 11.05.2020).

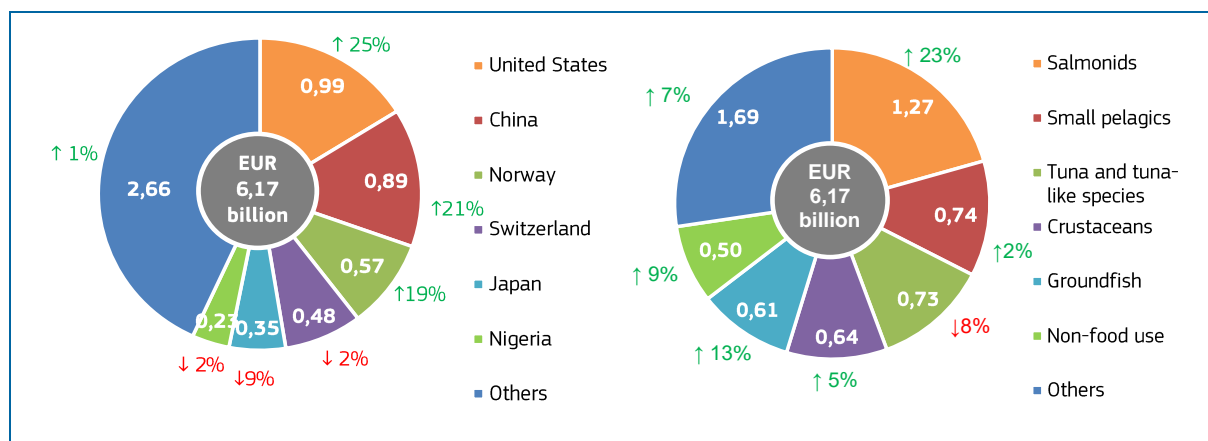
\*Value data are for 2019, percentages indicate change from 2018.

**EXTRA-EU EXPORTS:** The overall increase in extra-EU exports in 2019 was to a large extent due to exports of salmonids (up by EUR 236 million or 23% from 2018), representing about half of the total value growth (+EUR 435 million). Other commodity groups that contributed to the increase were groundfish (+EUR 72 million, +13%), flatfish (+EUR 49 million, +17%), and non-food use (+EUR 40 million, +9%). The largest decline in extra-EU exports was seen in tuna and tuna-like species, registering a drop of EUR 61 million, -8%. The value growth shown was driven by higher export unit value, while volume remained relatively unchanged. Average export price increased mainly for non-food use and groundfish, by 8% and 5%, respectively.

Of the 205 countries to which extra-EU exports were destined in 2019, four markets accounted for nearly half of the total export value (47%, EUR 2,9 billion). Exports to the United States grew by EUR 120 million in 2019, including salmon, octopus, and trout. Exports to the EU's second largest market, China, grew by EUR 153 million in 2019 including Greenland halibut, cod, and coldwater shrimp. Gains were also seen in exports to Norway (+19%). By contrast, exports to Japan fell by 9%, and to a lesser extent (-2%) to both Switzerland and Nigeria.

On a volume basis, the five leading export markets were Norway, Nigeria, China, Egypt, and the United States, which together accounted for 48% of export volume in 2019. The United States witnessed the highest export increase, +19%. Exports to Norway and China were both 15% up. The only decline in the leading markets was observed in Nigeria, where exports were lower by 40.600 tonnes in 2019. EU exports to Egypt grew by 10% from 2018 levels.

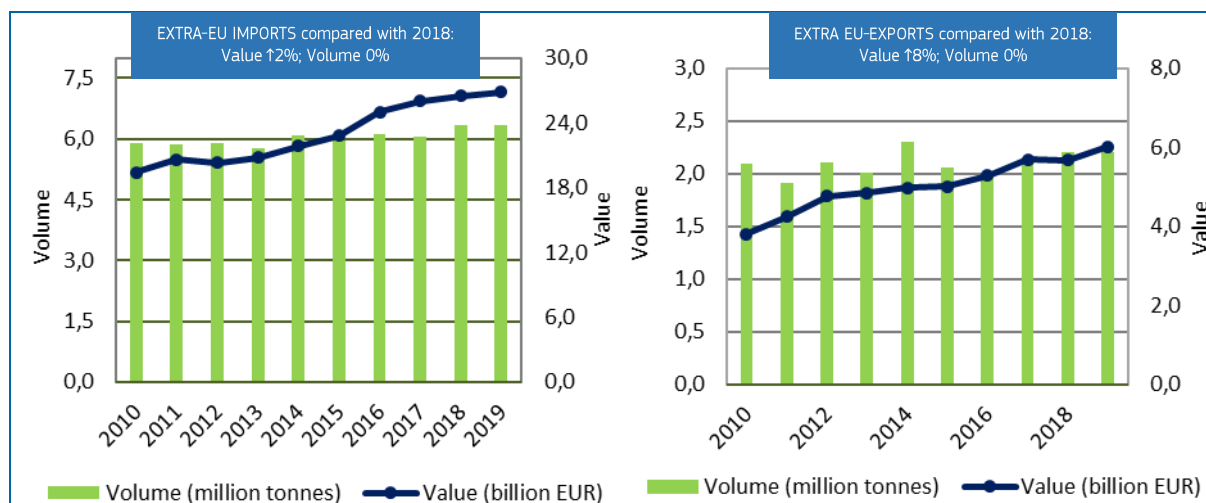
Figure 48. **EXTRA-EU EXPORTS: MAIN PARTNERS AND MAIN COMMODITY GROUPS IN 2019 (value in billion EUR)\***



Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat (updated 11.05.2020).

\*Value data are for 2019, percentages indicate change from 2018.

Figure 49. **10-YEAR TREND OF EXTRA-EU TRADE**



Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat (updated 11.05.2020).  
Values are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2015).

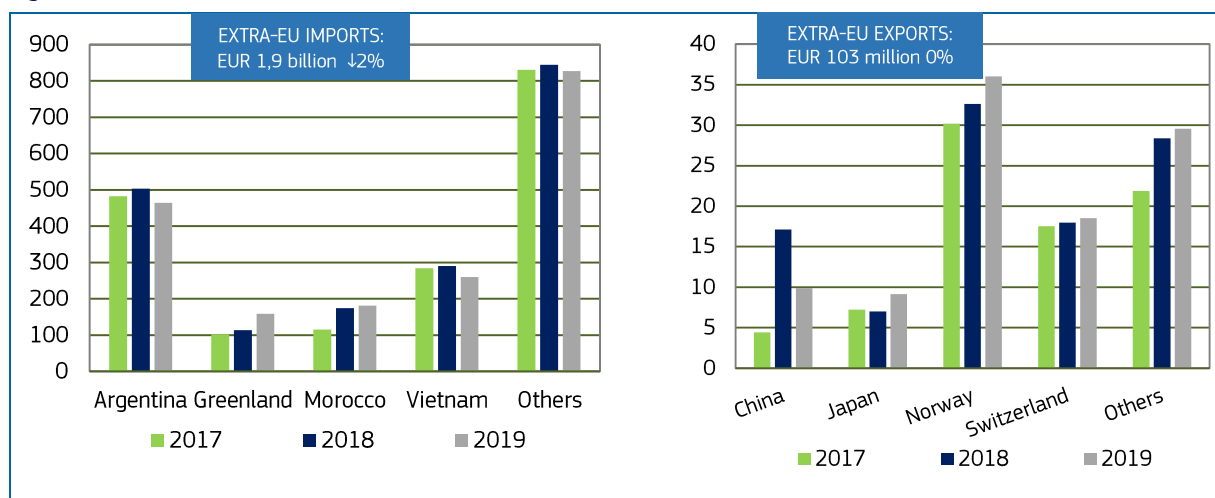
## 4.2. Trade flows of miscellaneous shrimps

**EXTRA-EU IMPORTS:** Miscellaneous shrimps<sup>21</sup> played a significant role in the trade flow of the crustacean commodity group, representing 40% and 39% of its value and volume, respectively. In 2019, imports of crustaceans were valued at EUR 4,7 billion and at a volume of 632.900 tonnes (-1% and -2%, respectively, from 2018 levels). In 2019, the EU imported EUR 1,9 billion and 248.400 tonnes of miscellaneous shrimps, a reduction of 2% and 3%, respectively, from 2018. Miscellaneous shrimps were primarily imported from Argentina and Vietnam, which together represented 38% of the total EU import value. Other partner countries included Greenland, India, and Morocco. In 2019, Argentina supplied 76.600 tonnes at EUR 464 million, down by 6% and 8%, respectively, from the previous year. The average unit value was 6,06 EUR/kg, also representing a slight decrease from the previous year (6,21 EUR/kg). Imports from Vietnam totalled 30.500 tonnes at EUR 260 million, down by 7% and 11%, respectively, from 2018. The unit value was 8,52 EUR/kg, down by 4% from 2018. Imports from Greenland have followed an increasing trend since 2017, jumping from EUR 102 million to EUR 158 million in 2019. Volume also increased (19.100 tonnes, +6%), despite a significant rise in unit value: 8,30 EUR/kg (+32% from 2018). Imports from Morocco have also risen since 2018, reaching 17.500 tonnes and EUR 181 million (+21% and +4%, respectively). Simultaneously, the unit value fell by 14%, down to 10,34 EUR/kg. Miscellaneous shrimps are imported both frozen and prepared. Argentina is the biggest supplier of frozen products, while Vietnam supplies mainly prepared products.

**EXTRA-EU EXPORTS:** In 2019, total extra-EU exports of miscellaneous shrimps were valued at EUR 103 million, remaining unchanged from 2018. Simultaneously however, volume dropped by 6%, while unit value reached 10,72 EUR/kg, an increase of 7% from 2018. The two main EU export markets for miscellaneous shrimps are Norway and Switzerland, which together make up 53% of the extra-EU exports value. Exports to Norway, the largest third-country market for miscellaneous shrimps, has steadily increased in value over the past three years. In 2019, exports to Norway totalled 3.000 tonnes (-2%) at a value of EUR 36 million (+10% from 2018). The export unit value was 12 EUR/kg, 13% higher than the previous year. Exports to Switzerland, the second largest market for miscellaneous shrimps, absorbed 18% of total exports value. This represents an increase since 2016. Trade value reached EUR 19 million, up by 3% from 2018. This was due to a steady increase in volume (1.400 tonnes, +5%), and a slight drop in price (13,18 EUR/kg, -1%). EU exports to China dropped sharply by 41% in volume and 42% in value, falling to 937 tonnes, and EUR 9,9 million. This decline reversed growth between 2017 and 2018, when exports grew almost three times in both volume and value. EU exports to Japan, though relatively small, have grown remarkably, reversing the decrease seen since 2017. From a 2018 level of 733 tonnes and a value of EUR 6,9 million, trade increased to 934 tonnes and EUR 9,1 million (+28% and +31%, respectively). Frozen miscellaneous shrimp are predominantly exported to China, while prepared shrimp are supplied primarily to Norway.

<sup>21</sup> CN-8 Code: 13061799; 03063690; 03069590; 16052110; 16052190; 16052900.

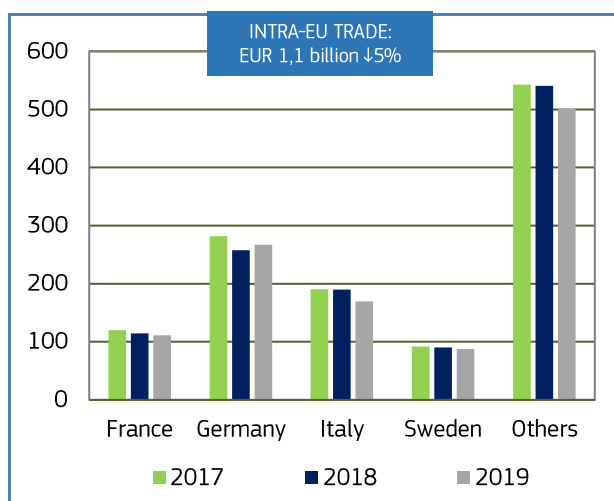
Figure 50. **MISCELLANEOUS SHRIMPS: EXTRA-EU IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (value in million EUR)**



Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat. (updated 11.05.2020).

**INTRA-EU TRADE:** Trade in miscellaneous shrimps between EU Member States has decreased since 2018. In 2019, total intra-EU miscellaneous shrimp exports reached 120.800 tonnes, valued at EUR 1,1 billion, both volume and value down by 5%. The average unit value was 9,41 EUR/kg in 2019, relatively unchanged from 2018 (9,39 EUR/kg). The Member States with the largest intra-EU exports were France, Germany, and Italy, which together held 48% of the total trade value for 2019. During 2019, Germany, which holds the largest market share, grew its exports from the previous year, reaching 24.800 tonnes (+7%), valued at EUR 267 million (+4%). This is a reverse in the trend observed between 2017 and 2018. Every year since 2016, both Italy and France (the second and third largest markets, respectively) saw a continuous fall in exports. Italy's exports were 19.000 tonnes and EUR 169 million (-16% and -11%, respectively, compared with 2018) and France's were 13.100 tonnes and EUR 111 million (-2% and -3%, respectively). The average unit value in both countries appears to converge: 8,94 EUR/kg (+7%) in Italy and 8,45 EUR/kg (-1%) in France. Sweden's exports of miscellaneous shrimp have fallen gradually since 2016. In 2019, although with only 7.900 tonnes, Sweden overtook the UK in value, totaling EUR 88 million, driven by a higher export unit value. Prices in Sweden and Germany are similar (11,00 EUR/kg and 10,74 EUR/kg, respectively).

Figure 51. **MISCELLANEOUS SHRIMPS: INTRA-EU TRADE BY MAIN EXPORTING COUNTRIES (value in million EUR)**



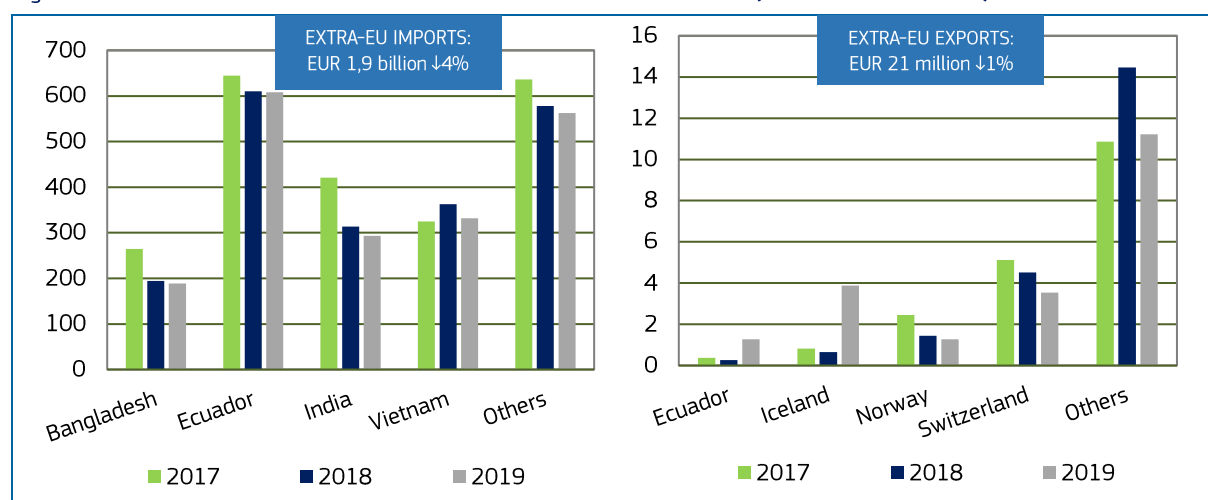
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat. (updated 11.05.2020).

### 4.3. Trade flows of warmwater shrimp

**EXTRA-EU IMPORTS:** In 2019, warmwater shrimp<sup>22</sup> dominated the trade flow of the crustacean commodity group, representing 42% of its value and 45% of its volume. All warmwater shrimp enter the EU in frozen form. Extra-EU imports of warmwater shrimp fell slightly between 2018 and 2019, to 284.300 tonnes, valued at EUR 1,9 billion. Overall, this represents a decline of 1% in volume and 4% in value, compared to 2018. The average unit value fell by 3% (6,98 EUR/kg), augmenting the decline in import value. Ecuador and Vietnam are the primary extra-EU suppliers of warmwater shrimp, accounting for 48% of total import value between them. Other suppliers of warmwater shrimp are India and Bangladesh. In 2019, although imports from Ecuador were slightly higher in volume (+1% from 2018), they remained unchanged in value (EUR 608 million). Since 2017, the unit value has continued to fall, reaching 5,90 EUR/kg (-13% from 2017 and -1% from 2018). A fall in supplies from Vietnam (after an increase in 2018 from 2017), meant lower levels were recorded in 2019 (38.800 tonnes and EUR 332 million – both down by 8%). Imports from India, which supplied about 15% of the total value of warmwater shrimp, continued to fall, both in volume (39.600 tonnes, -5%) and value (EUR 293 million, -7%) from 2018. Imports from Bangladesh increased in volume by 2% (21.200 tonnes), while value dropped to EUR 189 million (-3% from 2018). Meanwhile, Bangladesh unit value plummeted from 10,78 EUR/kg in 2017 to 8,90 EUR/kg in 2019.

**EXTRA-EU EXPORTS:** EU warmwater shrimp exports to third-country markets have increased in volume since 2017, but experienced a decline in value compared to 2018. In 2019, exports totalled 3.500 tonnes (+40% from 2018), valued at EUR 21 million, representing a slight drop in value (-1%). Average unit values have decreased, from 9,37 EUR/kg in 2017, to 6,06 EUR/kg in 2019. The largest markets for extra-EU warmwater shrimp exports include Iceland (18% of total value), Switzerland (17%), Ecuador, and Norway (8% each). Exports to Iceland fluctuated, and after a drop in 2018 from 2017, they spiked dramatically in 2019, reaching 1.300 tonnes (from 86 tonnes in 2018). A major drop in the unit value (2,96 EUR/kg, -61%) did not offset the value of growth (EUR 3,9 million, +493%). By contrast, exports to Switzerland have decreased since 2017, falling to 340 tonnes (-19%) and EUR 3,5 million (-22%). The average unit value of such exports (10,42 EUR/kg) decreased by 3% and 7%, from 2018 and 2017, respectively. Following a decrease in 2018 from 2017, exports to Ecuador reached 235 tonnes in 2019 (from 30 tonnes in 2018) and were valued at EUR 1,3 million (+370%). The unit value fell sharply to 5,43 EUR/kg (-41%). At 130 tonnes, exports to Norway fell by 19% from 2018. An increase in price at 9,93 EUR/kg (+8%) did not offset the value decrease (-12%).

Figure 52. **WARMWATER SHRIMP: EXTRA-EU IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (value in million EUR)**

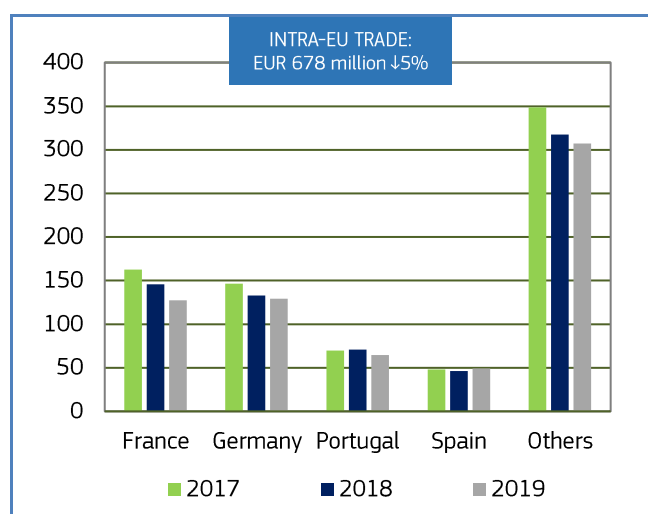


Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat. (updated 11.05.2020).

<sup>22</sup> CN-8 code: 03061792.



Figure 53. **WARMWATER SHRIMP: INTRA-EU TRADE BY MAIN EXPORTING COUNTRIES (value in million EUR)**



Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat. (updated 11.05.2020).

**INTRA-EU TRADE:** In 2019, warmwater shrimp exports between EU Member States totalled 85.100 tonnes, valued at EUR 678 million. This represented an increase of 5% in volume and a reduction of 5% in value of warmwater shrimp exports, compared to 2018. The leading Member States in intra-EU warmwater shrimp exports are France and Germany, each possessing 19% of total EU export value in 2019. German intra-EU exports increased in volume (16.400 tonnes, +13%) and decreased in value (EUR 129 million, -3%); the latter due to a sharp drop in unit value (7,88 EUR/kg, or -14%). France followed a similar trend: volume reached 16.700 tonnes (+4%), but value dropped to EUR 127 million (-13%). Unit value also fell to 7,62 EUR/kg (-16%). Portugal and Spain hold 10% and 7% of the total intra-EU export value, respectively. Portugal experienced declines in both volume (8.300 tones, -4%) and value (EUR 65 million, -9%) of warmwater shrimp. However, unit value (7,78 EUR/kg) fell by 5% from 2018. Spain's exports were higher in both volume (6.000 tonnes, +17%) and value (EUR 49 million, +6%), concomitantly with a fall by 9% in price (8,13 EUR/kg) from 2018.

#### 4.4. Trade flows of Greenland halibut

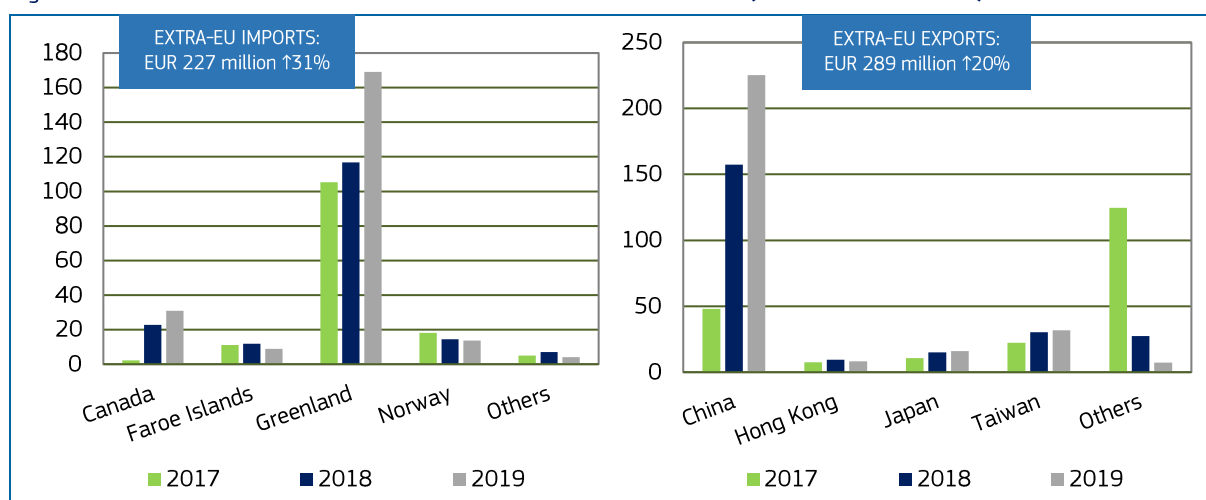
**EXTRA-EU IMPORTS:** Greenland halibut is the most traded commercial species within the flatfish commodity group, accounting for 49% of the total flatfish extra-EU import value. In 2019, extra-EU imports of Greenland halibut (44.300 tonnes, valued at EUR 227 million), were 10% higher in volume and 31% higher in value than 2018 levels. The average unit value of 5,11 EUR/kg in 2019 was also 20% higher than the preceding year. Greenland halibut is largely imported frozen.

Greenland is by far the largest supplier to the EU market, accounting for 76% of the total volume and 75% of the total value of Greenland halibut imports in 2019. Shipments from Greenland have increased continuously since 2017. In 2019, they reached 33.700 tonnes and EUR 169 million, a rise from 2018 by 14% and 45%, respectively. At 5,01 EUR/kg, the unit import value also grew remarkably (+28%). The next three largest suppliers are Canada, Norway, and the Faroe Islands, with market shares of 14%, 6%, and 4%, respectively. From 2018 through to 2019, Canadian imports rose sharply (+35% in volume and +36% in value), at a price of 5,44 EUR/kg, which was slightly higher (+1%) than the preceding year. Imports from Norway have continued a decline since 2017, reaching 2.400 tonnes (-8%), valued at EUR 14 million (-4%). About a quarter of the Greenland halibut from Norway is imported fresh. Supplies from the Faroe Islands have also decreased, falling to 1.700 tonnes and EUR 8,9 million (-21% and -25%, respectively, from 2018). About 40% of the Greenland halibut originating from the Faroe Islands is supplied fresh.

**EXTRA-EU EXPORTS:** In 2019, Greenland halibut exports to markets outside the EU reached 53.000 tonnes. This represents a 16% increase from 2018, at a value of EUR 289 million (+20%), and an average unit value of 5,45 EUR/kg. China is by far the largest export market, absorbing around 80% (both in volume and value) of the Greenland halibut exported to third countries. After China, the largest markets include Hong Kong, Japan, and Taiwan, which together accounted for 20% of the total extra-EU exports value of Greenland halibut. Exports to China have risen significantly in recent years. During 2018-2019, volume and value grew by 37% and 43%, respectively, reaching 43.000 tonnes, with a value of EUR 225 million, at an average unit export unit value of 5,25 EUR/kg (+4% from 2018). Exports to Taiwan, the second largest market, decreased slightly in volume (-1%) and grew by 5% in value, due to a higher export unit value (6,41 EUR/kg, +6%). The Japanese market has experienced continuous growth since 2017, reaching 2.600 tonnes and EUR 16 million (+2% and +6%, respectively, from 2018). By contrast, Hong Kong experienced a decline of 19% in volume and 11% in value, with a concurrent increase of 10% in the export unit value (6,65 EUR/kg), the highest of the four markets.



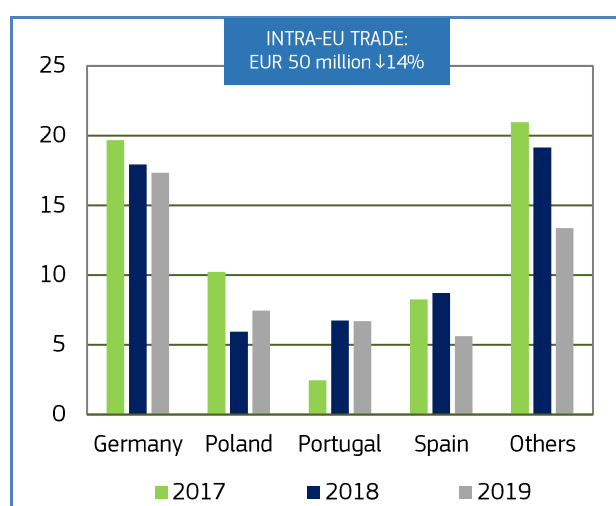
Figure 54. **GREENLAND HALIBUT: EXTRA-EU IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (value in million EUR)**



Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat. (updated 11.05.2020).

**INTRA-EU TRADE:** Trade of Greenland halibut between EU Member States has declined in recent years. In 2019, intra-EU exports reached 7.900 tonnes, valued at EUR 50 million, down by 18% and 14%, respectively, relative to 2018. The average unit value rose by 5% to 6,45 EUR/kg in 2019. The leading Member State in intra-EU Greenland halibut exports is Germany, with a share of 34% of total value in 2019. Other important exporters are Poland, Portugal, and Spain, with a combined export share of 39%. At a unit value of 7,33 EUR/kg, Germany's exports totalled 2.400 tonnes, valued at EUR 17 million, down by 7% in volume and 3% in value from 2018. Poland, the second largest market, experienced significant growth (1.300 tonnes, +15% and EUR 7 million, +25%), corresponding to an average unit value of 5,88 EUR/kg (+9%). Both Portugal and Spain experienced declines in exports, the latter most notably. Portugal's exports fell to 1.300 tonnes and EUR 7 million (both -1%), with the average unit value of 5,09 EUR/kg (unchanged from the previous year). Spain's exports were down 35% in volume and 36% in value (911 tonnes, EUR 6 million). However, the average unit value of 6,16 EUR/kg fell slightly from 2018 (-1%).

Figure 55. **GREENLAND HALIBUT: INTRA-EU TRADE BY MAIN EXPORTING COUNTRIES (value in million EUR)**



Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat. (updated 11.05.2020).

## 4.5. Trade flows of common sole

**EXTRA-EU IMPORTS:** Common sole (*Solea* spp.) is imported mainly from countries where EU Member States-flagged fishing vessels land their common catches. In 2019, extra-EU imports of common sole decreased by 10% in volume (2.900 tonnes) and 13% in value (EUR 17 million) from 2018, a reverse of the observed trend from 2017 to 2018. Average unit value in 2019 was 5,69 EUR/kg (-3% from 2018). Common sole is usually imported frozen. The largest suppliers are Mauritania, Morocco, and Senegal, accounting for 73% of total EU import value in 2019.

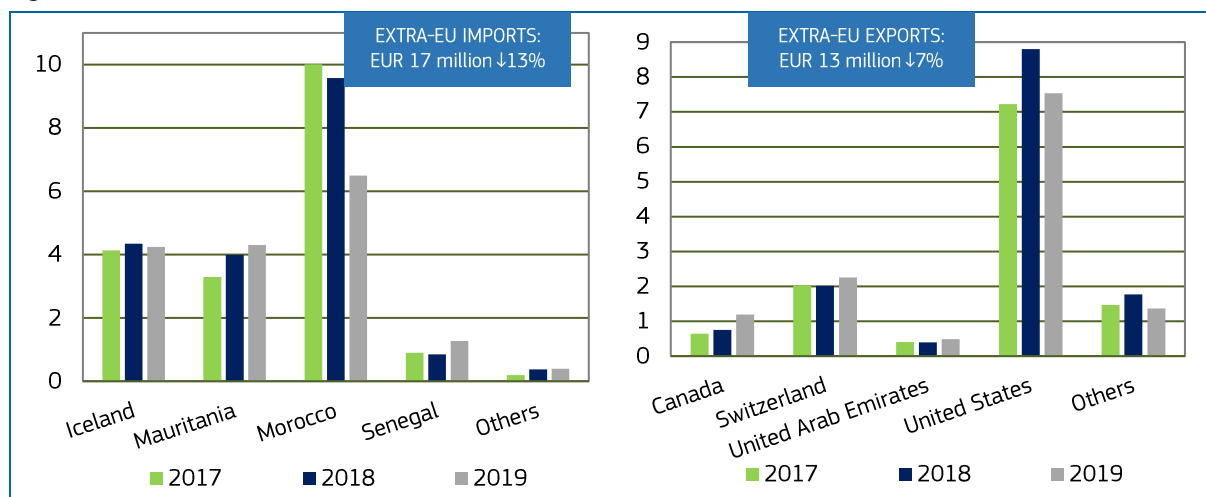
EU imports from Morocco, the largest market, have declined steadily since 2017. In 2019, imports totalled 1.300 tonnes (-26%), valued at EUR 6 million (-32%, from 2018). Concurrently, the unit value of 5,01 EUR/kg, fell by 8%. About 13% of the sole imported from Morocco (in volume) is fresh. EU imports from Mauritania (the second largest market) grew steadily during 2017-2019, reaching 736 tonnes, an increase of 5%, at a total value of EUR 4 million (+8%). The unit value of 5,85 EUR/kg went up by 3% from 2018. About 49% of the sole imported from Mauritania is fresh. A sharp increase of the

unit value at 12,16 EUR/kg (+23%) of sole imports from Iceland caused declines in both volume (349 tonnes, -21%) and value (EUR 4,2 million, -2%). This trend has continued since 2017–2018. Common sole is imported fresh from Iceland. By contrast, imports from Senegal have grown, reaching 408 tonnes (+46%) and EUR 1,3 million (+50%), at import unit value: 3,14 EUR/kg (+3% from 2018). Most of the sole is imported frozen.

**EXTRA-EU EXPORTS:** Extra-EU exports of common sole are in frozen, as well as fresh form. Total extra-EU exports of common sole declined from 2018 to 2019, falling from 893 tonnes to 712 tonnes, and from EUR 14 million to EUR 13 million. Simultaneously however, the average export unit value rose from 15,37 EUR/kg (2018) to 18,02 EUR/kg (2019). EU exports to the United States, the largest market, were down from 2018 in both volume (423 tonnes, -29%) and value (EUR 8 million -14%), reversing the trend observed between 2017 to 2018.

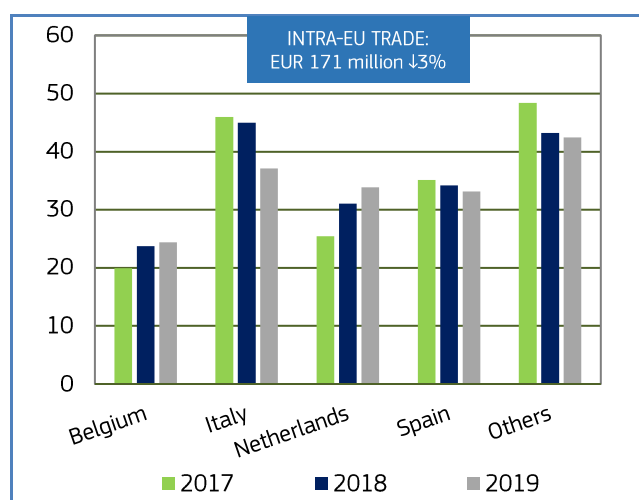
Most of the sole (88%) exported to the US market is frozen. At 17,81 EUR/kg, the unit value increased by 20% from 2018. By contrast, exports to Switzerland, the second largest market, increased by 5% in volume (120 tonnes) and 12% in value (EUR 2 million), while from 2017 to 2018, exports decreased slightly. The export unit value increased by 7% from 2018, to 18,84 EUR/kg. About 89% of Common sole exported to Switzerland is fresh. Supplies to Canada increased steadily from 2017–2019, reaching 67 tonnes (+37%) at EUR 1 million (+58%), compared to 2018. Meanwhile, the unit value rose to 17,72 EUR/kg (+15%). Common sole is exported frozen to Canada. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) showed mixed trends between 2017–2019: exports rose between 2018 and 2019 to 23 tonnes (+10%), worth EUR 0,5 million (+26%), after but subsequently fell slightly during 2017–2018. Most of the sole (86%) exported to UAE is fresh. The unit value (21,14 EUR/kg) rose 14% from 2018.

Figure 56. **COMMON SOLE: EXTRA-EU IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (value in million EUR)**



Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat. (updated 11.05.2020).

Figure 57. **COMMON SOLE: INTRA-EU TRADE BY MAIN EXPORTING COUNTRIES (value in million EUR)**



Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat. (updated 11.05.2020).

**INTRA-EU TRADE:** Common sole is traded between Member States either fresh, or frozen. In 2019, intra-EU exports of common sole totalled 13.800 tonnes (-7%), valued at EUR 171 million (-3%), at an average unit value of 12,34 EUR/kg (+4% from 2018). In 2019, the largest sole exporting Member States were Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, and Spain, together accounting for 75% of total export value. Italy (20% share) experienced declines in trade since 2017. In 2019, its exports reached 3.200 tonnes (-24%), valued at EUR 37 million (-17% from 2018). Simultaneously, the unit value for common sole (11,58 EUR/kg) rose by 8%. The common sole exported by Italy was mainly fresh (62% in volume). The Netherlands and Spain have almost the same share of the total intra-EU trade (20% and 19%, respectively) and while the Netherlands' exports increased between 2018 and 2019, Spain experienced the opposite trend. In 2019, exports of common sole from the Netherlands fell by 5% in volume (2.800 tonnes) and increased by 9% in value (EUR 34 million), concomitantly with a 15% rise in the unit value (12,07 EUR/kg). Most of the sole exported by the Netherlands is fresh. Spanish exports continued to decrease steadily. Both volume and value decreased from 2018 to 2019, continuing the trend observed between 2017 and 2018. Volume reached 2.900 tonnes (-1%), and value EUR 33 million (-3%). Price (11,38 EUR/kg) also decreased (-2%). The majority of sole exported by Spain was fresh (71%). Belgium experienced continuous growth, at 1.700 tonnes of fresh sole (-1%) valued EUR 24 million (+3%), with a unit value of 14,45 EUR/kg (+4%).

## 5. Case study – Atlantic cod in the EU

### 5.1. Introduction

Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) is a benthopelagic fish that inhabits the water just above the sea bottom, feeding on zooplankton, fish and benthos. Atlantic cod can live for up to 25 years and adults have an average length of 1 m. Typically, they weigh between 5 and 12 kg, but the largest weight ever recorded is 96 kg<sup>23</sup>. The species usually attains sexual maturity between the ages of two and four, but some take longer to mature – some individuals are not mature until they reach six years of age. There is also a tendency for cod in the northern North Sea to take longer to mature than cod in the southern North Sea<sup>24</sup>. Spawning occurs in the winter and beginning of the spring, when the fish gather in big schools.



Atlantic cod has a wide geographical distribution, from the Barents Sea and Bear Islands in the east to the North Sea, Baltic Sea, and around Iceland and Greenland up to the North American coast. In the North Atlantic Ocean, cod normally inhabits depths of up to 600 m in the open ocean, as well as grounds close to shore and fjords. They can adapt to a variety of temperatures and salinities, from nearly fresh to full oceanic water<sup>25</sup>. Atlantic cod in the North East Atlantic are divided into 14 separate stocks that remain largely separate from one another. Important stocks in European waters include the North Sea, Skagerrak, Western Baltic, Eastern Baltic, Celtic Sea, Irish Sea, and Western Scotland<sup>26</sup>. The North East Arctic cod is by far the largest stock of Atlantic cod in the world, and the stock is known for undertaking long migrations from the Barents Sea to the coast of Norway to spawn during the winter.

Atlantic cod are among the most important of all commercial fishes and have been exploited ever since fishing began in the seas of Europe. Today, the major fishing grounds are in the North East Atlantic Ocean within the Barents Sea, Icelandic waters and the North Sea. There were significant commercial fisheries in the northwest Atlantic up until the early 1990s, but, because of heavy overfishing, the fish stock in Canadian waters collapsed<sup>2</sup>.

While cod can be taken by a wide range of means, including long lines and pots, the commercial catch comes almost entirely from mixed trawl fisheries, in which they are caught alongside other demersal species such as haddock and whiting<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>23</sup> <https://www.fishbase.de/summary/gadus-morhua.html>

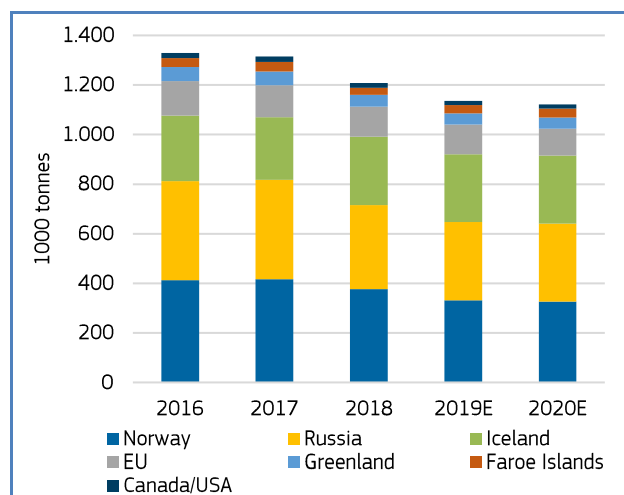
<sup>24</sup> <http://ices.dk/about-ICES/projects/EU-RFP/EU%20Repository/ICES%20FishMap/ICES%20FishMap%20species%20factsheet-cod.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> Cohen, D.M., T. Inada, T. Iwamoto and N. Scialabba, 1990. FAO species catalogue. Vol. 10. Gadiform fishes of the world (Order Gadiformes). An annotated and illustrated catalogue of cods, hakes, grenadiers and other gadiform fishes known to date. FAO Fish. Synop. 125(10). Rome: FAO. 442 p.

<sup>26</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/marine\\_species/wild\\_species/cod\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/marine_species/wild_species/cod_en)

## 5.2. Global catch

Figure 58. **GLOBAL CATCHES OF ATLANTIC COD BY CATCHING NATION**

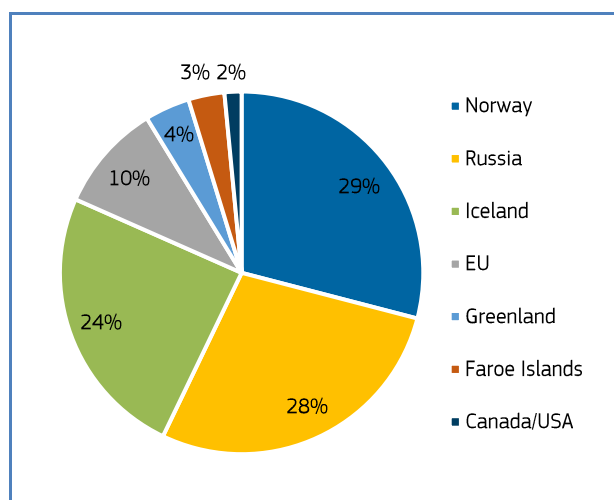


Source: FAO / Groundfish forum / Kontali.

Since 2016, the global catch of Atlantic cod has been decreasing annually, from 1,33 million tonnes in 2016 to a forecasted catch of 1,12 million tonnes in 2020<sup>27</sup>. The declining catch volumes are a consequence of reduced quotas in the most important commercial Atlantic cod fishery, which is found in the Barents Sea. In the EU, quotas have drastically decreased over the last years. Since 2015, the available quota of Atlantic cod for EU fisheries has more than halved. The quota for 2020 is set to approx. 80.000 tonnes. This represents a 34% decrease from 2019. Most of the declining quota volumes for the EU is due to significant limitations to fisheries in the Baltic Sea (-83%) and in Skagerrak/Kattegat (-47%).

The largest catching nations of Atlantic cod are Norway, Russia and Iceland, accounting for 29%, 28% and 24% of the total, respectively (according to 2020 estimates)<sup>28</sup>. The Norwegian and Russian cod catches take place in the Barents Sea, targeting the large Northeast Arctic cod stock. The Icelandic commercial cod fishery is mainly found in Iceland's exclusive fishing zone, where they manage and harvest from their own cod stock around the country.

Figure 59. **ESTIMATED GLOBAL CATCH OF ATLANTIC COD BY CATCHING NATION IN 2020**



Source: Groundfish forum / Kontali.

<sup>27</sup> FAO (2016) / Groundfish Forum / Kontali (2019 and 2020 estimates).

<sup>28</sup> Groundfish Forum / Kontali.

### 5.3. EU catches of cod

The EU is estimated to be responsible for approximately 10% of global cod catches in 2020. The EU's commercial fishery of Atlantic cod takes place mostly in European waters in the North Sea, the Baltic Sea and the Barents Sea.

In 2018, cod landed in the EU reached 68.000 tonnes, worth EUR 216 million. This ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in value terms among all species landed in the EU, and represents 2% of the total value of EU landings. Landings were mostly made by the largest quota holders, Denmark and the UK, as well as Germany, Poland and France. In total, volumes decreased by 16% and value decreased by 1% compared to 2017<sup>29</sup>.

Contrary to the other major cod fishery nations in the EU, the UK and Germany experienced an increasing trend in landings over the last couple of years, with UK landings increasing by 6% in terms of volume and 18% in terms of value from 2017 to 2018. In the latter years, major cod fishing nations in the EU, such as Denmark, Spain and Poland, have seen a negative trend in landed volumes, mainly due to reduced TACs and quotas available for EU member states. Total cod landings in the EU have decreased for four consecutive years, with landings in 2018 35% lower than in 2015.

Table 4. **LANDINGS OF ATLANTIC COD IN THE EU BY MEMBER STATE (volume in 1000 tonnes, value in million EUR)**

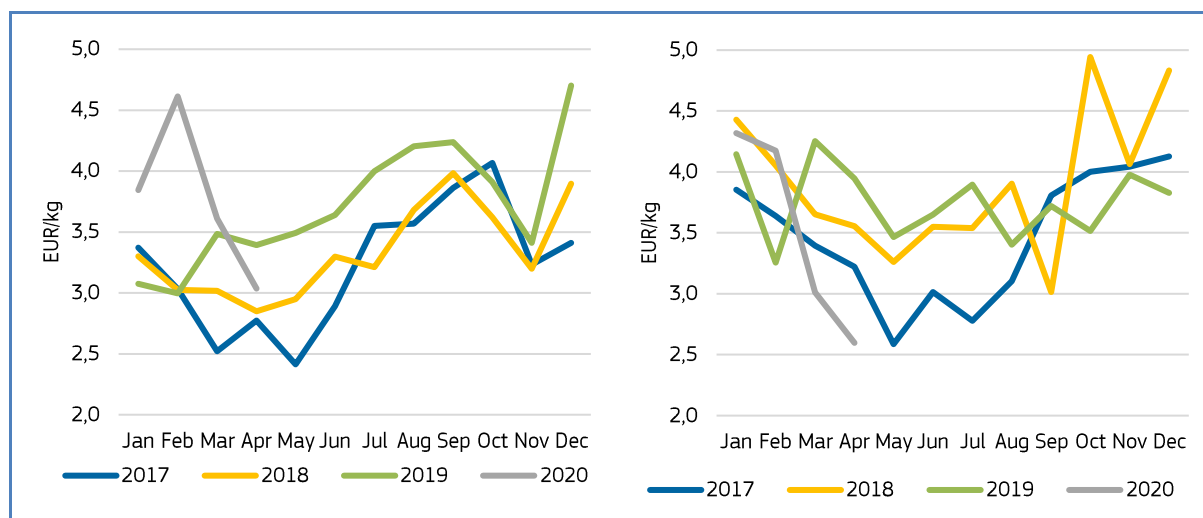
Member State	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
UK	13	35	14	44	17	49	18	57	21	65
Denmark	21	51	23	56	20	56	16	53	15	49
Germany	10	21	8	22	5	15	1	4	7	36
France	7	19	6	21	8	28	8	35	5	21
Spain	19	56	20	60	15	44	15	40	4	14
Poland	14	18	17	18	13	16	11	14	9	12
Other	16	19	17	22	14	18	12	15	7	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>216</b>

Source: Eurostat.

In 2019, the first-sales prices for fresh Atlantic cod was the highest ever recorded in both Denmark and Spain. In Denmark, the first-sales price for cod averaged 3,68 EUR/kg, up 11% from 2018, while in Spain the price averaged 3,75 EUR/kg which was slightly higher than in 2018. Both Denmark and Spain experienced steep first-sales prices decrease in March and April 2020 – highly impacted by the COVID pandemic.

<sup>29</sup> EUMOFA, "The EU fish market – 2019 Edition" available at <http://www.eumofa.eu/market-analysis#yearly>

Figure 60. FIRST-SALES PRICES OF FRESH COD IN DENMARK (LEFT) AND SPAIN (RIGHT)



Source: EUMOFA.

## 5.4. Extra-EU Imports

Most of the fisheries and aquaculture products imported into the EU originate in Norway. Denmark and Sweden are the main entry points for Norwegian products into the internal market. In 2019, Norwegian supply accounted for approximately 32% (158.000 tonnes) of cod imported into the EU. Iceland and Russia are also significant suppliers of cod to the EU, responsible for 21% (102.000 tonnes) and 19% (95.000 tonnes) of total extra-EU import volume in 2019, respectively.

Table 4. EU IMPORTS OF COD: MAIN SUPPLIERS (volume in 1000 tonnes, value in million EUR)

Supplier	2016		2017		2018		2019		Jan - Feb 2020	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Norway	177	814	184	870	170	867	158	914	29	170
Iceland	102	620	93	585	105	658	102	703	12	86
Russia	100	375	111	445	101	435	95	469	12	57
China	82	328	75	320	69	307	76	407	14	70
Faroe Islands	19	86	20	98	21	110	27	148	3	21
Greenland	27	64	25	61	20	50	18	64	1	6
Other	26	88	22	85	19	82	20	90	4	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>2.375</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>2.463</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>2.509</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>2.793</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>428</b>

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat.

In the period from 2016 to 2019, imports of cod into the EU declined in volume, while their value trended in the opposite direction. In this period, import volume fell by 7% and import value rose by 187%. In 2019, EU imports of cod were 496.000 tonnes, valued at EUR 2,8 billion. Norway was the main supplier, providing 158.000 tonnes, valued at EUR 914 million. This represented 32% of cod imported by third countries in both volume and value terms. A 13% price increase from 4,98 to 5,63 EUR/kg caused a total value growth from all countries of EUR 285 million, 11% more than 2018.



In the first two months of the year, imports from all suppliers totalled 75.000 tonnes, valued at EUR 170 million. This represents a decrease in both volume (-11%) and value (-6%) compared with the same period in 2019.

Table 5. **EU IMPORTS OF COD BY PRESERVATION STATE (volume in 1000 tonnes, value in million EUR)**

Preservation state	2016		2017		2018		2019		Jan - Feb 2020	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Frozen	347	1.317	342	1.373	309	1.336	318	1.578	46	228
Live/Fresh	89	461	95	490	100	526	87	530	18	109
Dried	35	272	32	263	31	274	32	313	5	30
Salted	52	254	47	250	48	273	44	269	4	41
Unspecified	12	71	14	87	15	100	15	102	3	19
Prep/preserved	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>2.375</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>2.463</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>2.509</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>2.793</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>428</b>

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat.

Most of the cod imported to the EU consists of frozen products. In 2019, imports of frozen cod reached EUR 1,58 billion and 318.000 tonnes, an 18% increase in value and a 3% increase in volume from 2018. Imports of fresh products, however, decreased by 14% in terms of volume and increased by 1% in terms of value. Higher prices led to a 14% increase in imported value of dried products, even though volume only increased by 3% in 2019. Salted products decreased by 1% in terms of both value and volume from 2018.

In the period January–February 2020, import value of cod fell by 6%, driven by an 18% fall in import value for frozen products. On the other hand, import value of fresh cod rose by 11% as prices from all major suppliers were significantly higher in the first weeks of 2020 compared with the corresponding weeks in 2019 (+13%).

The Netherlands is the main point of entry for cod in the EU, followed by the UK, Sweden and Denmark. Much of the volumes entering these countries go on to be processed and consumed in other EU countries.

Table 6. **EU IMPORTS OF COD BY MEMBER STATE (volume in 1000 tonnes, value in million EUR)**

Member State	2016		2017		2018		2019		Jan - Feb 2020	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Netherlands	130	561	146	652	131	648	130	733	7	46
UK <sup>30</sup>	95	471	84	439	80	439	85	520	19	105
Sweden	81	394	81	414	77	418	65	413	12	66
Denmark	82	330	83	354	83	368	72	369	14	78
Germany	33	195	30	173	28	178	31	209	5	37
Portugal	21	66	20	70	28	109	36	155	3	11
Other	92	360	86	361	76	349	77	395	15	84
<b>Total</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>2.375</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>2.463</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>2.509</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>2.793</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>427</b>

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat.

<sup>30</sup> Since February 2020, the UK is not a Member State of the EU. It is included in relevant tables and graphs for context.

## 5.5. Extra-EU Exports

Exports of cod to non-EU countries are far lower than imports. Volumes exported in 2019 amounted to 60.000 tonnes, a slight increase compared with 2018. This corresponded to a growth in value (increasing by EUR 50 million relative to 2018), as exports reached EUR 300 million in 2019.

Table 7. **EU EXPORTS TO MAIN MARKETS OUTSIDE THE EU (volume in 1000 tonnes, value in million EUR)**

Country	2016		2017		2018		2019		Jan - Feb 2020	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
China	31	81	39	113	31	94	35	138	6	22
Brazil	7	47	8	60	7	55	7	61	2	19
Norway	4	13	4	21	5	28	6	31	1	6
Switzerland	2	18	2	20	2	22	2	17	0	3
United States	1	8	2	11	2	13	2	15	0	2
Ukraine	1	2	2	5	1	3	2	5	0	1
Angola	1	9	1	8	1	8	1	5	0	0
Canada	0	2	1	3	1	5	1	5	0	1
Other	5	20	4	16	5	22	4	22	2	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>68</b>

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat.

China is by far the largest market for cod exported from the EU. In 2019, exports to this country reached 35.000 tonnes, worth EUR 138 million. The majority of exported cod is in the form of frozen products, mainly coming from the Netherlands and Denmark. This cod originally enters the EU market from Norway and Russia before being shipped to the Chinese market.

Brazil and Norway are also important export markets for cod from the EU. In 2019, they imported 7.000 tonnes (worth EUR 61 million) and 6.000 tonnes (worth EUR 31 million), respectively. The value of cod exports to both countries has increased steadily during recent years.

Exports to Norway mainly consist of frozen cod landed by EU vessels in Norway, and prepared/preserved cod products supplied from the processing industry in Latvia and Lithuania. Exports to Brazil are dominated by supply from Portugal, mainly of frozen and dried cod products<sup>31</sup>.

Table 8. **EXTRA-EU EXPORTS OF COD BY MEMBER STATE (volume in 1000 tonnes, value in million EUR)**

Member State	2016		2017		2018		2019		Jan - Feb 2020	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Netherlands	16	50	24	78	18	66	24	109	5	22
Portugal	10	67	12	81	11	77	11	84	3	22
Denmark	17	45	18	50	14	44	11	39	2	8
Latvia	0	2	1	11	2	15	1	16	0	3
Other	9	39	8	36	11	48	12	51	2	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>68</b>

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat.

In the first two months of 2020, exports of cod from the EU reached 12.000 tonnes, valued at EUR 68 million. This represents a 2% decrease in volume and a 4% increase in value, compared with the same period in 2019.

<sup>31</sup> EUMOFA has conducted a thorough analysis on the price structure in the supply chain of dried salted cod from Norway to Portugal, which can be consulted at <http://www.eumofa.eu/market-analysis#ptat>.

## 5.6. Intra-EU Exports

The three largest intra-EU exporters are the Netherlands, Denmark, and Sweden. They accounted for 69% of the volume and 67% of the value of cod traded within the EU in 2019. Intra-EU exchange of cod experienced a 3% growth in value and 18% decrease in volume in 2019. The growth in value was primarily driven by increasing exports from the Netherlands and Germany, while the other large suppliers mostly decreased during 2019.

Table 9. **INTRA-EU EXPORTS OF COD BY MEMBER STATE (volume in 1000 tonnes, value in million EUR)**

Member State	2016		2017		2018		2019		Jan - Feb 2020	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Netherlands	150	574	126	609	198	640	143	705	17	105
Denmark	88	452	84	460	83	478	73	461	15	98
Sweden	72	343	75	361	67	367	57	360	10	56
Germany	46	262	38	224	38	232	38	264	5	39
Poland	19	105	23	132	21	130	17	112	3	19
Spain	20	95	20	96	21	101	20	107	4	19
Portugal	10	50	11	55	11	57	13	70	2	9
Lithuania	13	68	14	72	12	67	9	56	1	9
UK <sup>32</sup>	15	63	14	63	12	58	11	55	1	4
Other	11	65	13	76	14	89	13	98	2	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>2.078</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>2.148</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>2.219</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>2.288</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>373</b>

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat.

## 5.7. Consumption

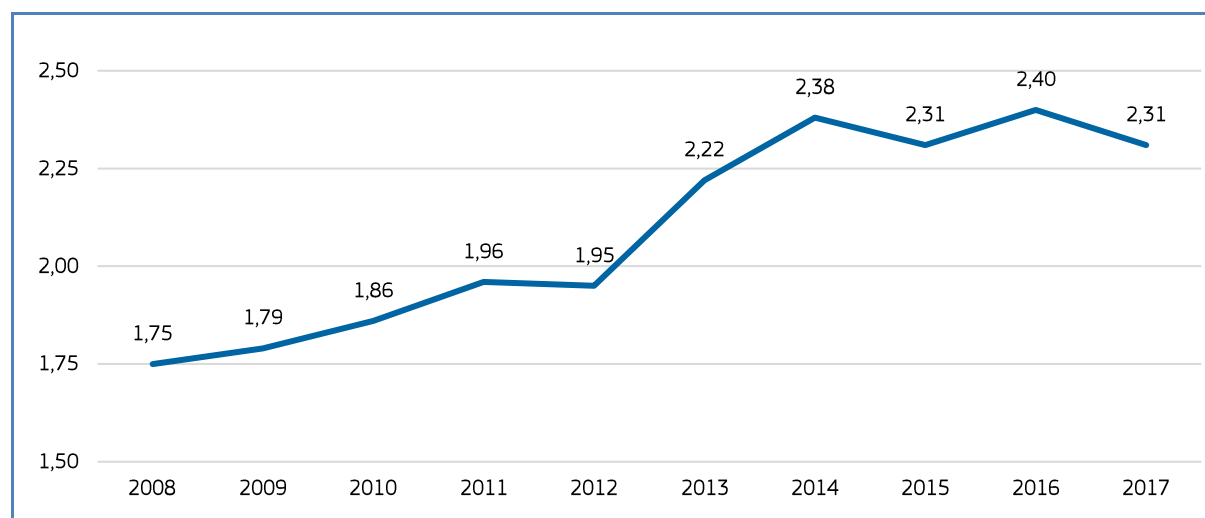
Cod is one of the most consumed fish species in the EU. In 2017, with a per capita apparent consumption<sup>33</sup> of 2,31 kg in live weight equivalent (LWE), it ranked second after tuna. Although the apparent consumption of cod slightly declined from 2016, it was 24% higher compared to 2010, when its consumption amounted to 1,86 kg LWE. This development has mainly been caused by an increase in extra-EU imports, driven by increased catches by Norway, Iceland and Russia over the period<sup>34</sup>.

<sup>32</sup> Since February 2020, the UK is not a Member State of the EU. It is included in relevant tables and graphs for context.

<sup>33</sup> Data on apparent consumption come from the supply balance developed by EUMOFA: <http://www.eumofa.eu/supply-balance>

<sup>34</sup> FAO, Eurostat, ICES and Kontali Monthly Cod Report.

Figure 61. **APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF COD IN THE EU (kg per capita - live weight equivalent, LWE)**

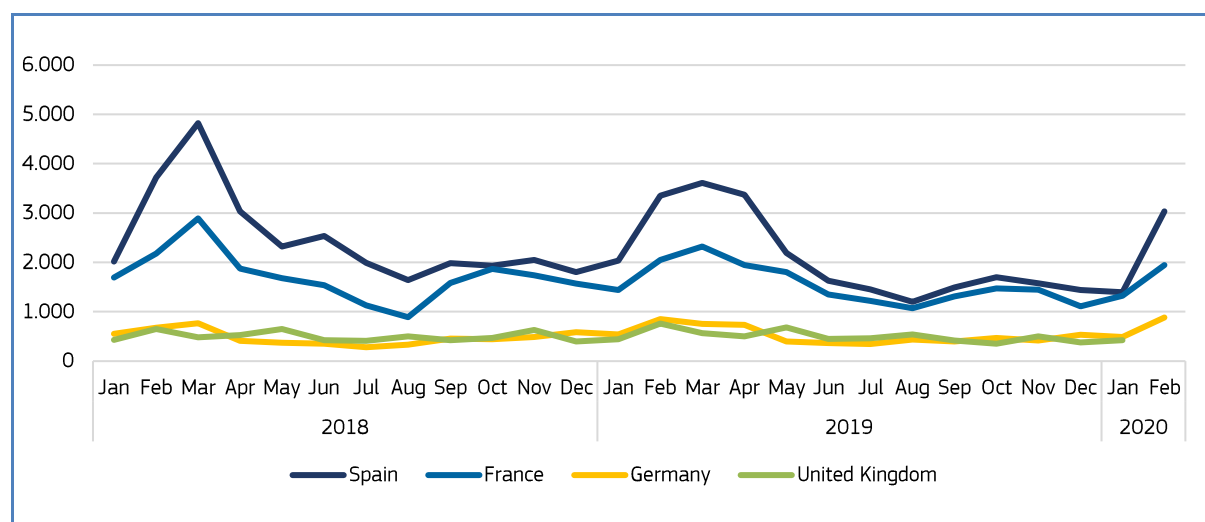


Source: EUMOFA.

In the EU, Atlantic cod is consumed in a variety of different states, either fresh, frozen, salted or dried. It is especially known for being considered as an iconic ingredient in Portuguese cuisine, as salted and dried cod, and there is said to be over 1.000 cod recipes in Portugal alone<sup>35</sup>.

The seasonal trend in catches of cod in the northern Atlantic Ocean and in the Barents Sea causes an equally significant seasonal trend in consumption of fresh cod products in the EU during the first half of each year. Volumes of fresh products coming from Norway, Russia and Iceland are significantly higher in the winter months due to stock movements and quota allocations that effects the fisheries.

Figure 62. **MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION OF FRESH COD PRODUCTS (volume in tonnes)**



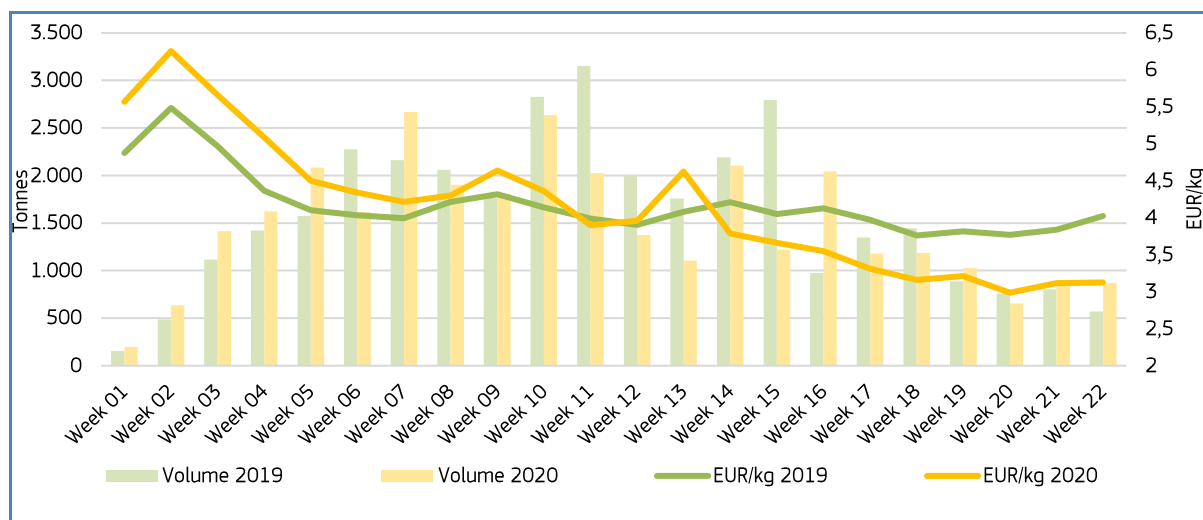
Source: EUMOFA.

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.centerofportugal.com/tour/codfish-route/>

## 5.8. Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic

As for many other species, the cod supply chain in the EU has been strongly impacted by the pandemic. A large share of the cod landed or imported as fresh is normally sold in the HoReCa segment. With the COVID-19 lockdown, this market segment virtually disappeared and overall demand fell steeply. As shown in figure 60, first-sales prices for fresh cod fell steeply between February and April in Denmark and Spain.

Figure 63. **EU IMPORTS OF FRESH COD FROM NORWAY (volume in kg, unit value in EUR/kg)**



Source: EUMOFA.

While fresh cod of Norwegian origin traditionally goes into the retail and HoReCa segments, closure of restaurants, hotels and canteens led to a significant drop in demand on the EU market. From week 12 (lockdown) to week 22, both import volume and price fell by 12% compared with the corresponding period in 2019. In the last 5-week period the difference in value relative to 2019 has widened (-19%). Fresh fillets have managed somewhat better. EU imports of fresh cod fillets of Icelandic origin in the period dropped by 16% and their average price declined by 4%.

EU market dynamics for frozen products have been different from fresh as prices seems to be more stable. As an example, EU imports of frozen cod fillets from China fell by 16% in volume in the lockdown period while average import price was on the same level as in 2019.

While reports from industry stakeholders indicate that local cod fishermen have been impacted dramatically, a range of initiatives have helped mitigate some of the impact. These include EU support package to mitigate the socio-economic impacts for the fishery sector, public support programmes, a variety of local promotion campaigns, and new online sales channels.

Restaurants have started to open again in the EU. Even though the allowed restaurant capacity will be around 50% of normal capacity in most Member States, there are expectations among fishers that demand will pick up as the situation gradually returns to "normal".

## 6. Global highlights

**EU / Fleet:** The new, user-friendly interface of the EU Fleet Register is now available, featuring additional filters to access administrative or technical data on EU fishing vessels. The revamped interface allows all web users to easily obtain vessel information, download data, and access fleet capacity information, as well as entry/exit statistics<sup>36</sup>.

**EU / Fisheries / Management:** On 22 April, the European Union, Norway and the Faroe Islands reached a coastal states agreement for the monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) of shared pelagic stocks fisheries in the North-East Atlantic (mackerel, horse mackerel, blue whiting and herring). The three signatories committed to adopting a number of control measures for these fisheries in order to avoid discards and to monitor landing and weighing operations<sup>37</sup>.



**COVID-19 / France / Consumption:** In France, despite continued low sales of fresh fish due to the corona virus pandemic, purchases of pre-packed fish products are increasing – particularly linked to strong growth in purchases made through drive-through services. As a result, several companies that previously sold their product as whole fish on fish counters are now moving into pre-packed products<sup>38</sup>.

**COVID-19 / Food Transmission / FAO:** The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations has announced that fish and fish products are a key component to a healthy diet and are safe to eat. Misleading perceptions in some countries have led to decreased consumption of these products, despite the fact that there is no evidence that viruses which cause respiratory illnesses are transmitted via food or food packaging. Fishery and aquaculture products can become contaminated if handled by people who are infected with COVID-19 if they are not following good hygiene practices. For this reason, as before COVID-19, it is important to emphasize the need to implement robust hygiene practices to protect fishery and aquaculture products from contamination<sup>39</sup>.

**COVID-19 / Cyprus / Fisheries:** The government of Cyprus has approved a payment of EUR 1.000 to any professional fisher currently unable to work as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. In the Paphos district of Cyprus, around 110 professional fishermen remain active, of which 65 are in Paphos and 45 in Polis Chrysochous<sup>40</sup>.

**COVID-19 / GFCM / Fisheries:** The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean has conducted a preliminary analysis of the impacts of this crisis on the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea region. The analysis clearly shows that the COVID-19 crisis has had major effects on fisheries and aquaculture production as well as on markets for fisheries and aquaculture products<sup>41</sup>.

**COVID-19 / Mexico / Fisheries:** The civil society organization Comunidad y Biodiversidad (COBI) has released a report on the effects of COVID-19 on Mexican fisheries. This report reflects the immediate social and economic impacts of COVID-19 and concludes with a series of recommendations expressed by the fishing sector<sup>42</sup>.

**FAO / SOFIA:** Food and Agriculture organisation of the United Nations published The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA), the flagship publication of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. The 2020 edition of SOFIA has a particular focus on sustainability. The publication is published every two years to provide policy-makers, civil society and those whose livelihoods depend on the sector a comprehensive, objective, and global view of capture fisheries and aquaculture, including associated policy issue<sup>43</sup>.

<sup>36</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing\\_rules/fishing\\_fleet\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/fishing_fleet_en)

<sup>37</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/docs/body/2020-norway-fisheries-consultations-control-measures\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/docs/body/2020-norway-fisheries-consultations-control-measures_en.pdf)

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.lineaires.com/les-produits/le-premballe-tire-la-filiere-peche-hors-de-l-eau?sso=1589923242>

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.fao.org/2019-ncov/q-and-a/impact-on-fisheries-and-aquaculture/en/>

<sup>40</sup> <https://cyprus-mail.com/2020/04/16/coronavirus-fishermen-welcome-government-aid/>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/news/detail/en/c/1272985/>

<sup>42</sup> <https://cobi.org.mx/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COBI-Reporte-1-Covid19-y-Pesca-Ingles-1-mayo.pdf>

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca9229en>

## 7. Macroeconomic Context

### 7.1. Marine fuel

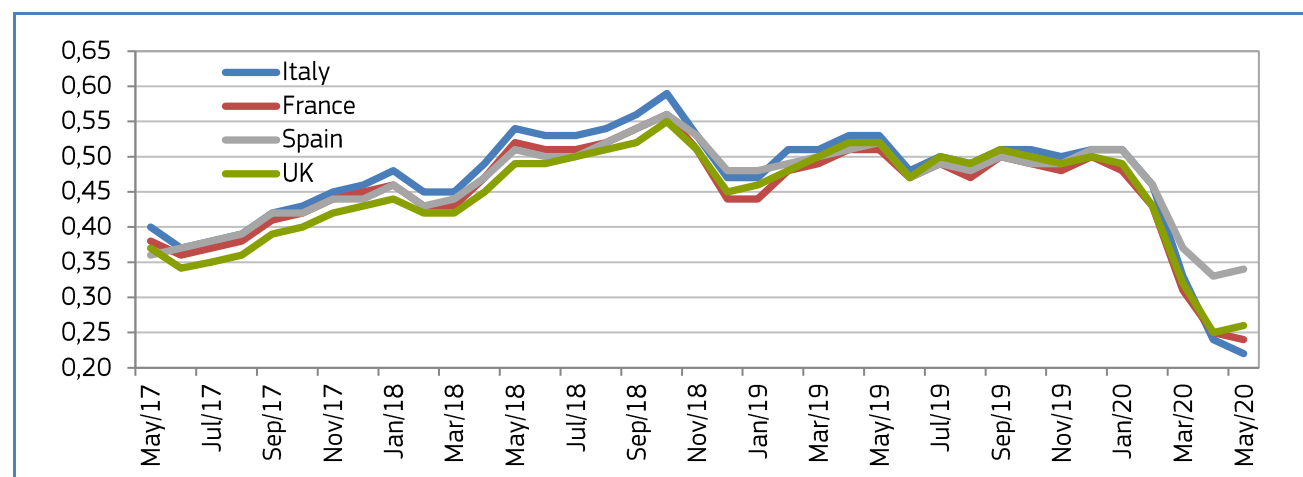
Average prices for marine fuel in **May 2020** ranged between 0,22 and 0,34 EUR/litre in ports in **France, Italy, Spain**, and the **UK**. Prices slightly decreased by 1% compared with the previous month, but significantly dropped by 49% compared with the same month in 2019.

Table 10. **AVERAGE PRICE OF MARINE DIESEL IN ITALY, FRANCE, SPAIN, AND THE UK (EUR/litre)**

Member State	May 2020	Change from Apr 2020	Change from May 2019
France (ports of Lorient and Boulogne)	0,24	-4%	-53%
Italy (ports of Ancona and Livorno)	0,22	-8%	-58%
Spain (ports of A Coruña and Vigo)	0,34	3%	-35%
The UK (ports of Grimsby and Aberdeen)	0,26	4%	-50%

Source: Chamber of Commerce of Forlì-Cesena, Italy; DPMA, France; MABUX

Figure 64. **AVERAGE PRICE OF MARINE DIESEL IN ITALY, FRANCE, SPAIN, AND THE UK (EUR/litre)**

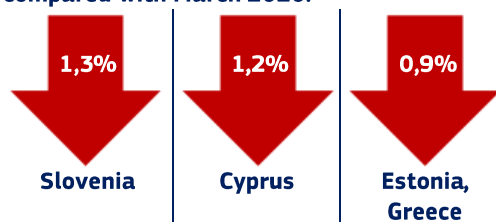


Source: Chamber of Commerce of Forlì-Cesena, Italy; DPMA, France; MABUX

### 7.2. Consumer prices

The EU annual inflation rate was at 0,7% in April 2020, down from 1,2% in March. A year earlier, it was 1,9%.

**Inflation: lowest rates in April 2020, compared with March 2020.**



**Inflation: highest rates in April 2020, compared with March 2020.**





Table 11. **HARMONISED INDEX OF CONSUMER PRICES IN THE EU** (2015 = 100)

HICP	Apr 2018	Apr 2019	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	Change from Mar 2020		Change from Apr 2019	
<b>Food and non-alcoholic beverages</b>	104,40	106,21	109,44	110,74	↑	1,2%	↑	4,3%
<b>Fish and seafood</b>	108,77	110,11	113,22	114,91	↑	1,5%	↑	4,4%

Source: Eurostat.

## 7.3. Exchange rates

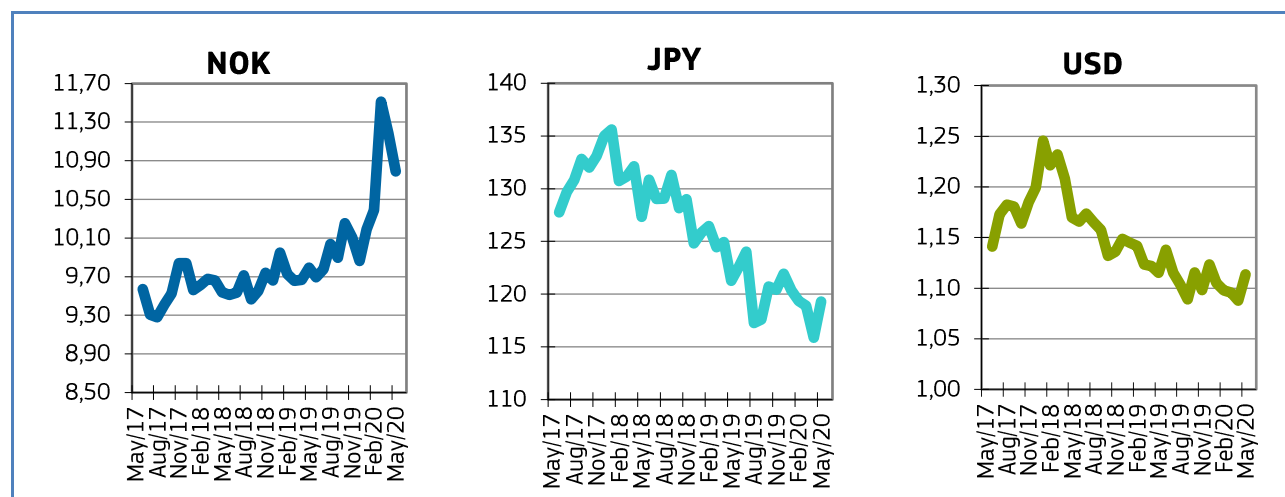
Table 12. **EXCHANGE RATES FOR SELECTED CURRENCIES**

Currency	May 2018	May 2019	Apr 2020	May 2020
NOK	9,5375	9,7915	11,1840	10,7880
JPY	127,33	121,27	115,87	119,29
USD	1,1699	1,1151	1,0876	1,1136

Source: European Central Bank.

In May 2020, the euro appreciated against the Japanese yen (+3,0%) and the US dollar (+0,1%), and depreciated against the Norwegian krone (-3,5%) compared with the previous month. For the past six months, the euro has fluctuated around 119,29 against the Japanese yen. Compared with May 2019, the euro has depreciated 1,6% against the Japanese yen, but it appreciated 10,2% against the Norwegian krone and 2,4% against the US dollar.

Figure 65. **TREND OF EURO EXCHANGE RATES**



Source: European Central Bank.

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This report has been compiled using EUMOFA data and the following sources:

**First sales:** European Commission, EU Council, FAO, [dfo.mpo.gc.ca](http://dfo.mpo.gc.ca), [RoyalGreenland.com](http://RoyalGreenland.com), [seafoodsource.com](http://seafoodsource.com), [mcsuk.org](http://mcsuk.org).

**Consumption:** EUROPANEL.

**Case studies:** FAO, Fishbase, ICES, European Commission, Kontali, Eurostat, Center of Portugal.

**Global highlights:** DG Mare – European Commission, FAO, [lineaires.com](http://lineaires.com), [cyprus-mail.com](http://cyprus-mail.com), [cobi.org](http://cobi.org), [ofigovernance.net](http://ofigovernance.net).

**Macroeconomic context:** EUROSTAT, Chamber of Commerce of Forlì-Cesena, Italy: DPMA, France: ARVI, Spain: MABUX, European Central Bank.

The underlying first-sales data is in a separate annex available on the EUMOFA website. Analyses are made at aggregated (main commercial species) level and according to the EU Electronic recording and reporting system (ERS).

In the context of this Monthly Highlight, analyses are led in current prices and expressed in nominal values.

The **European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products (EUMOFA)** was developed by the European Commission, representing one of the tools of the new Market Policy in the framework of the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. [Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 art. 42].

As a **market intelligence tool**, EUMOFA provides regular weekly prices, monthly market trends, and annual structural data along the supply chain.

The database is based on data provided and validated by Member States and European institutions. It is available in 24 languages.

The EUMOFA website is publicly available at the following address: [www.eumofa.eu](http://www.eumofa.eu).

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