



Last update: 21-3-2022

THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE WORLD

2019, sources: Eurostat and FAO

In 2019, the EU-28 (i.e. UK included), was the 6th largest producer of fishery products in the world and the 11th in terms of aquaculture production.

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-28	% EU-28 / world
Catches	93.519	4.824	5,2%
Aquaculture	120.104	1.367	1,1%
Total	213.623	6.191	2,9%

FISHING FLEET

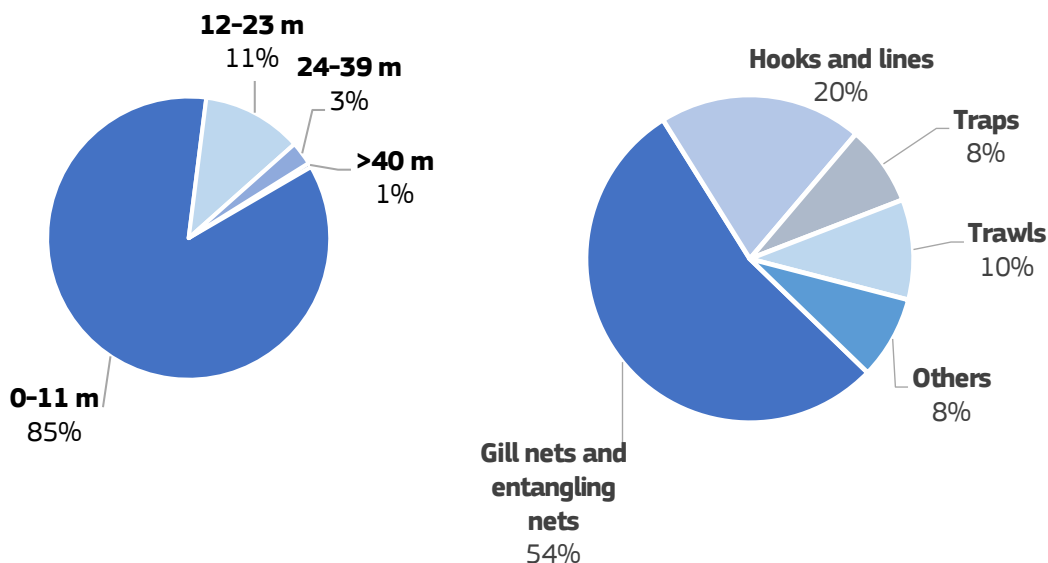
Fleet: 2019, source: EU fishing fleet register – Eurostat. Employment: source: JRC. Data refer to 2018 for all Member States.

Vessels (2019)	Capacity (2019)	Power (2019)	
Number: 75.237	GT: 1.333.577	KW: 5.340.700	
TOTAL FTE: 105.851 (2018, source: JRC)			
0-11 m	12-23 m	24-39 m	>40 m
Jobs (FTE): 44%	Jobs (FTE): 31%	Jobs (FTE): 18%	Jobs (FTE): 7%

GT: Gross tonnage - KW: Kilowatt - FTE: Full Time Equivalent

The EU-28 fishing fleet by length and gear

(% of total number of vessels)





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LANDINGS

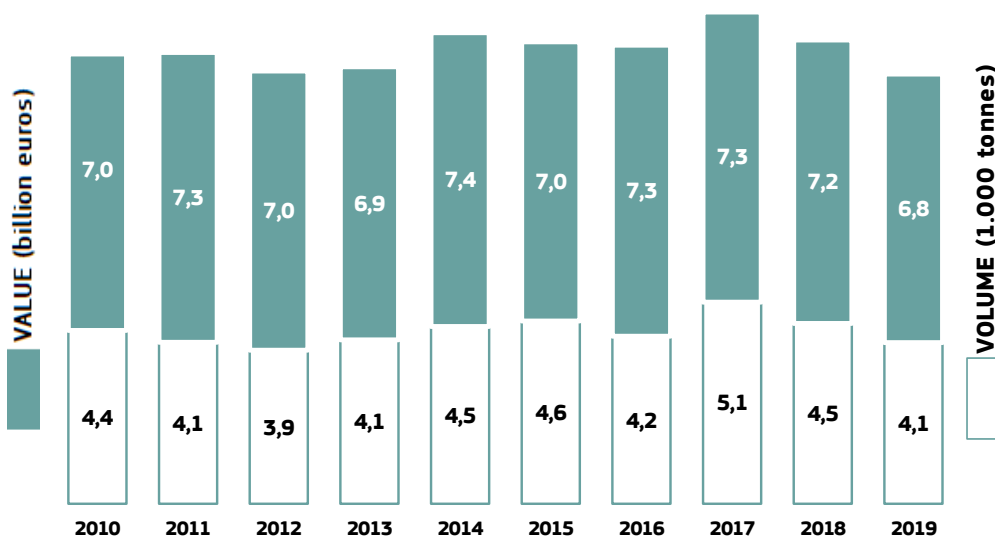
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat and national sources' data.

Landings comprise the initial unloading of any fisheries products from on board a fishing vessel in a given Member State. They include aquatic plants and species not destined for human consumption. Landings are recorded in net weight and value, and concern landings made by vessels from EU Member States, Iceland, Norway and the UK.

In 2019, 76% of landings in the EU-28 included fresh products, 21% included frozen products, 1% included cooked products and the remaining 2% included salted, smoked, dried products as well as products for which no detail is available in terms of preservation state. As for destination use, around 73% of the total was for human consumption, while the rest included products mainly destined for industrial uses.

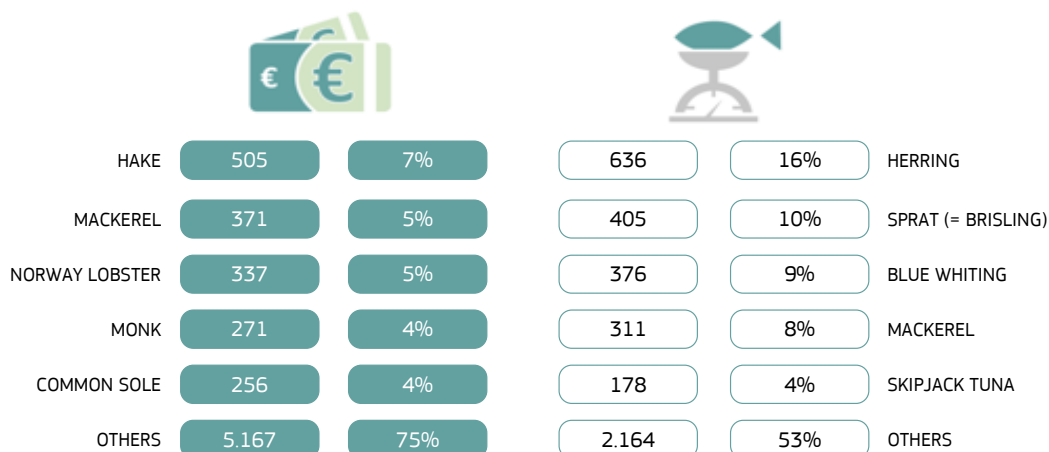
There are 3.047 fishing ports registered in the EU-27 (i.e. UK excluded), while fishing ports registered in the EU-28 (i.e. UK included) are 3.339 (source: EU Master Data Register, 26 November 2021).

Total landings. Values are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2015)



Main commercial species landed and % of total

2019, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes





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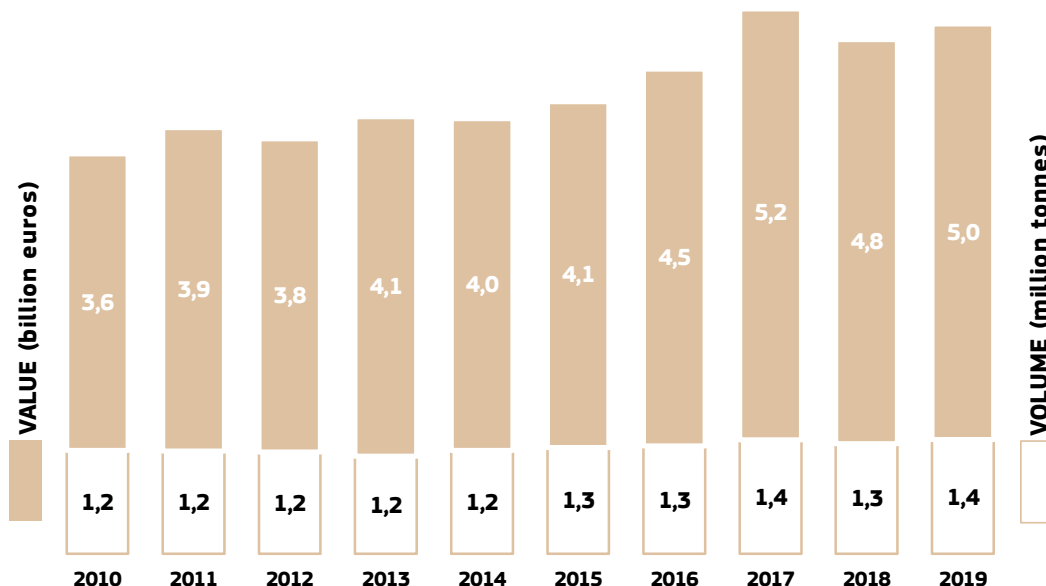
AQUACULTURE

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat, FAO and FEAP data.

Aquaculture consists in the farming of aquatic (fresh or saltwater) organisms, such as fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants. Aquaculture data are reported in live weight equivalent and value.

The data available for the environment production for 2019 according Eurostat, is only available in aggregated terms. However, the following main production methods were used: on bottom ponds and enclosures in sea and brackish water and recirculation systems.

Total production. Values are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2015)



Main commercial species farmed and % of total
2019, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes



SALMON	1.341	27%	473	35%	MUSSEL MYTILUS SPP.
TROUT	677	14%	204	15%	SALMON
GILT HEAD SEABREAM	494	10%	192	14%	TROUT
EUROPEAN SEABASS	491	10%	102	7%	OYSTER
OYSTER	463	9%	95	7%	GILT HEAD SEABREAM
OTHERS	1.519	30%	300	22%	OTHERS



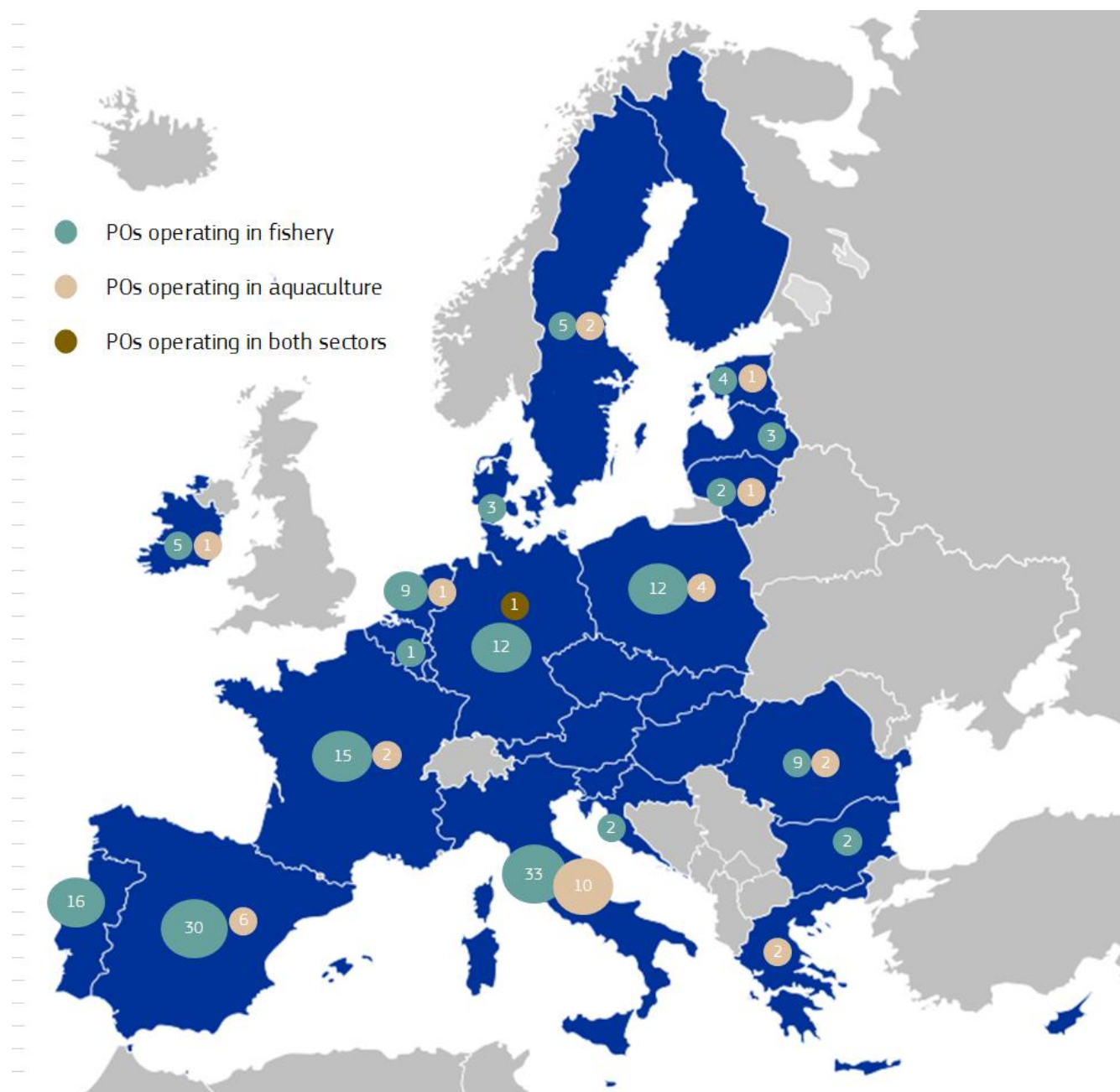
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PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

Data as of 15-12-2021, source: DG MARE, [link](#)

In the EU-27 (i.e. UK excluded), **195 producer organisations (POs)** and **13 associations of POs** are formally recognized. Their role is to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and of the Common organisation of the markets (CMO) through the collective management of their members' activities.

All associations of POs operate in the fishery sector. Of the 195 POs, 164 operate in the fishery sector, 30 in aquaculture and 1 is involved in both sectors.





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FIRST SALES

2020, source: EUMOFA

First sale concerns the fish that is sold or registered at an auction center or to registered buyers, or to producer organisations (PO). First sales may differ from landings since the former do not cover fish that is landed by vessels owned by processing companies or direct sales to processors.

In 2020, total first sales in EU countries (UK excluded), as transmitted to EUMOFA* amounted to 2,44 million tonnes and 3,61 billion euros.

In terms of value, the top-5 places of sale were Vigo (ES), Ijmuiden/Velsen (NL), Skagen (DK), Hanstholm (DK) and Thyborøn (DK). They covered together 38% and 18% of total first sales, respectively in terms of volume and value.

* Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the Netherlands.

Top-5 places of sale	Volume (1.000 tonnes)	Value (million euros)	Top-3 main commercial species (in value)
Vigo (ES)	50	157	Monk, swordfish, megrim
Ijmuiden/Velsen (NL)	126	147	Blue whiting, herring, common sole
Skagen (DK)	289	133	Herring, blue whiting, sprat (=brisling)
Hanstholm (DK)	202	114	Saithe (=Coalfish), cod, blue whiting
Thyborøn (DK)	270	103	Sprat (=brisling), European plaice, cod

WHOLESALE

Wholesale is an intermediary stage in the distribution channel that buys in bulk and sells to resellers (e.g. retailers) rather than to consumers.

In the European Union, the wholesale stage is diversified. In most countries, fishery and aquaculture products are sold wholesale in cash & carry shops. In some countries with long-standing tradition of fresh fish consumption (France, Italy, Spain), they might be sold in dedicated wholesale market places. In some other countries, which do not have such specialised wholesale infrastructures, the wholesaling activities are performed by companies operating as wholesalers.

PROCESSING

According to Eurostat-SBS, 118.395 persons were employed in the EU-28 (i.e. UK included), fish processing industry in 2018. The sector recorded a value added of 5 billion euros, covering 2% of the value added of total manufacture of food products.

In 2020, the main products sold were “Fresh or chilled fish fillets and other fish meat without bones”, “Prepared or preserved tuna, skipjack and Atlantic bonito, whole or in pieces (excl. minced products and prepared meals and dishes)” and “Smoked Pacific, Atlantic and Danube salmon (incl. fillets, excl. heads, tails and maws)” (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

3.589 companies**Sales: 32 billion euros**

(2018, source: Eurostat - SBS)



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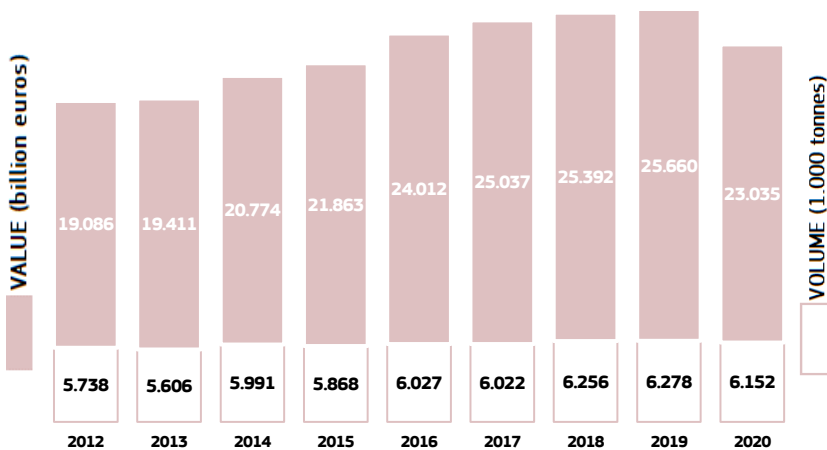
IMPORT – EXPORT

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat-COMEXT data. Values in the bar charts are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2015).

IMPORT

Main commercial species imported and % of total imports

2020, million euros (nominal value)

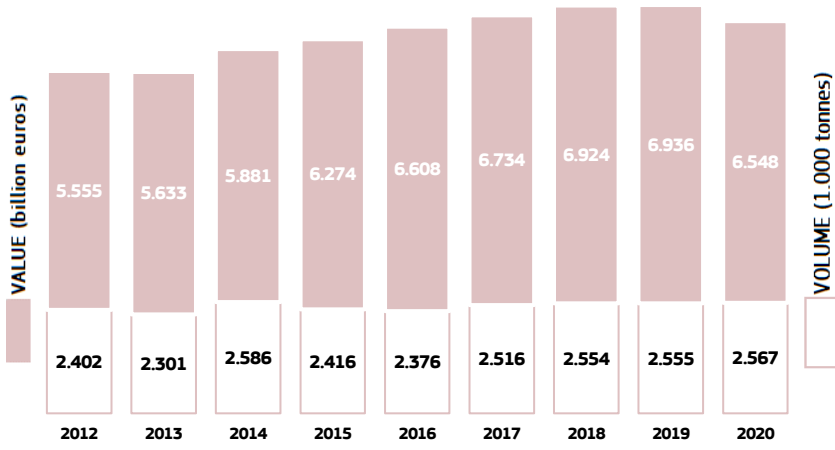


SALMON	5.936	25%
COD	2.148	9%
WARMWATER SHRIMP	1.705	7%
MISCELLANEOUS SHRIMP	1.431	6%
SKIPJACK TUNA	1.315	5%
OTHERS	11.672	48%

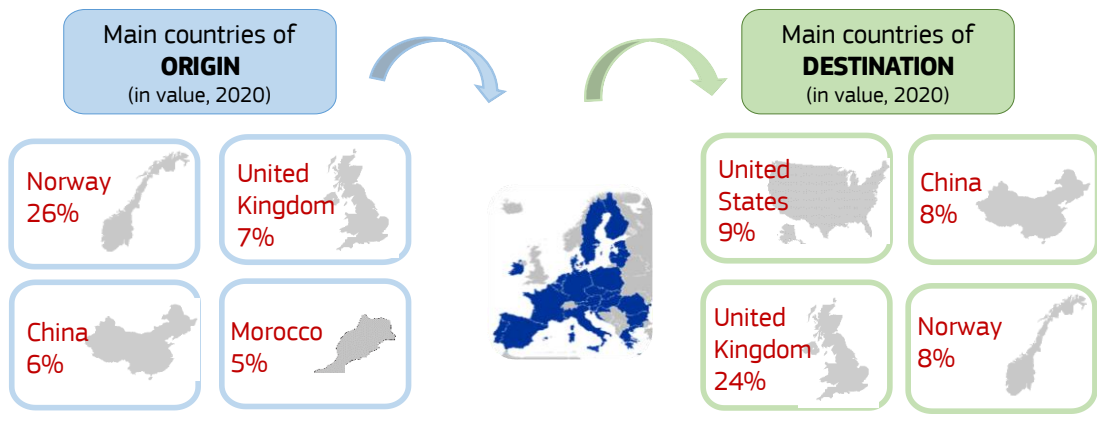
EXPORT

Main commercial species exported and % of total exports

2020, million euros (nominal value)



SALMON	1.111	16%
OTHER MARINE FISH	522	7%
OTHER PRODUCT	497	7%
COD	340	5%
FISH OIL	323	5%
OTHERS	4.169	60%

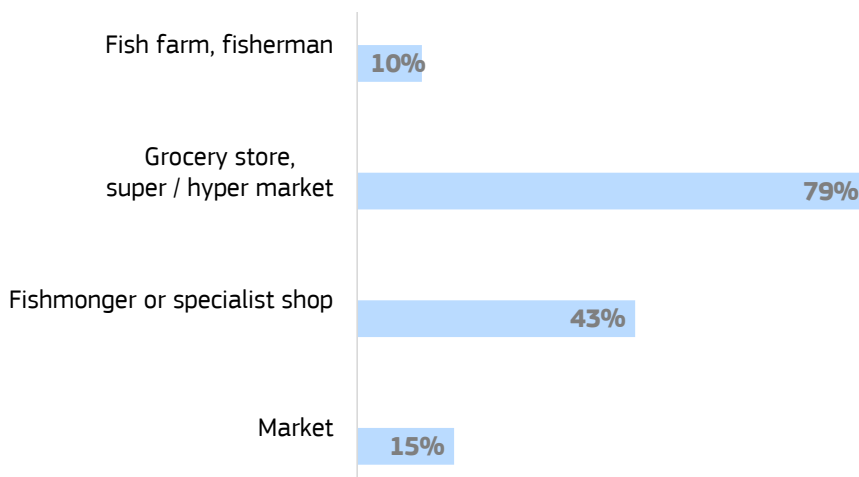




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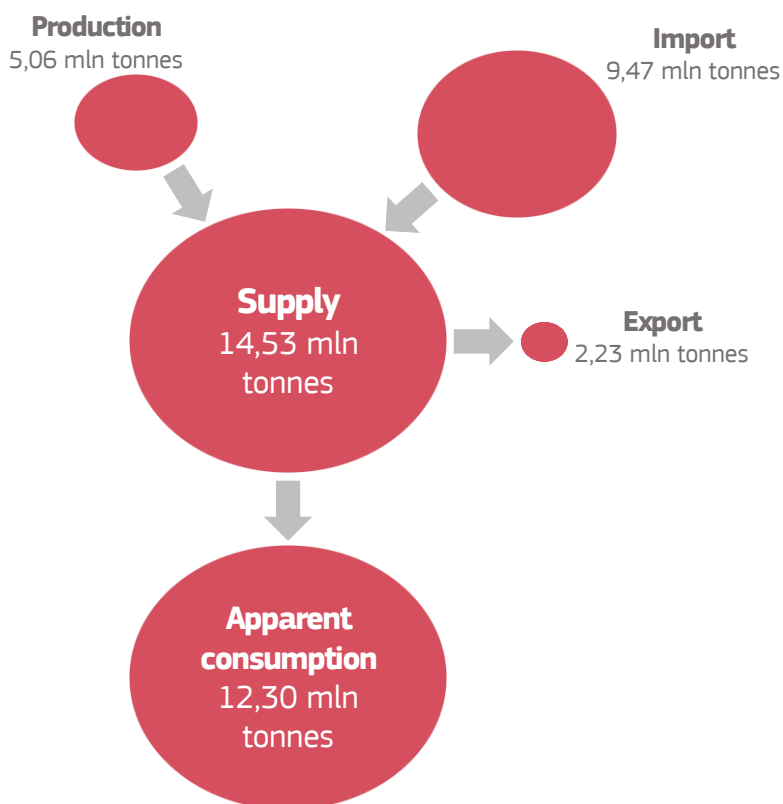
DISTRIBUTION

Consumer preferences on purchasing channels (source: Eurobarometer, 2021):



SUPPLY BALANCE

2019 (EU-28 level, i.e. UK included), data in live weight equivalent. Source: EUMOFA





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CONSUMPTION

In 2019, apparent consumption in the EU-28 (i.e. UK included), was estimated at 23,97 kg per capita, a 2% decrease compared with 2018. The most consumed species were tuna, cod, salmon, Alaska pollock, herring, hake and mussel (source: EUMOFA).

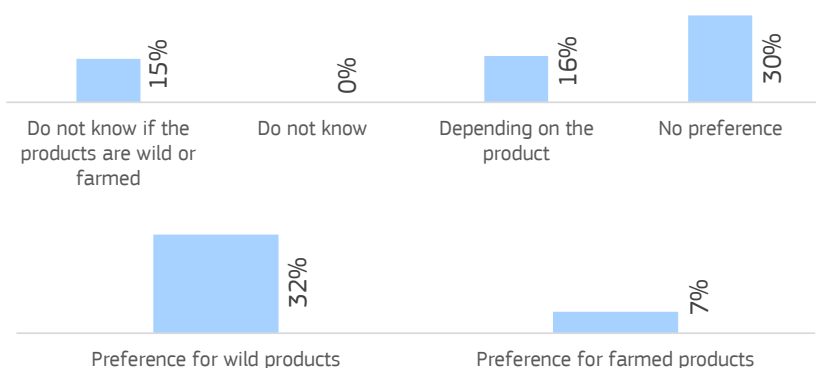
The consumption frequency is positively correlated with age: elderlies show the highest frequency, while young people (15-24) are the age group with the highest percentage of non-consumers. One third of consumers buys fresh fish often. The frequency of purchase of frozen and tinned products is also high (one out of four consumers buys frozen products often, and one out of five buys tinned products often). Smoked, salted, dried or in brine products are purchased less frequently, with huge variations across countries due to traditional products and eating habits. Breaded products and ready-meals are popular among young consumers thanks to their convenience and ease of preparation. Proximity to the sea plays an important role: loose products are preferred in Southern EU countries, and in countries with long coastlines (except the UK) while pre-packed products prevail in landlocked countries (or with short coastlines), central EU countries as well as in the UK and Belgium. Source: EUMOFA, "EU consumer habits regarding fishery and aquaculture products", 2017.)

23,97 kg
per capita in live weight
equivalent
(2019, source: EUMOFA)

Purchasing factors (source: Eurobarometer, 2021)



Preferences regarding wild or farmed product (source: Eurobarometer, 2021)





EU DATA IN EUMOFA



LANDINGS

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – Fishery and integrated with national sources' data. They are available on a yearly basis and accessible through simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility.

FIRST SALES

Volumes and values are collected from national authorities on a weekly and monthly basis.

Weekly data are monitored for a selection of main commercial species and places of sale / auctions (click [here](#) for the full list). Monthly data cover all species sold in the EU places of sale / auctions. Both are accessible through simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility. As for monthly first sales, data at disaggregated level are also accessible, through a dedicated advanced table and the bulk download facility.

IMPORT - EXPORT

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – COMEXT. Data concern trade flows of all fisheries and aquaculture products as recorded by national customs. They are available on a monthly and yearly basis and accessible through simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility.

CONSUMPTION

Volumes and values of household consumption of fresh fisheries and aquaculture products are collected from Europanel based on panel reporting. Data are monitored for a selection of countries, main commercial species + the item "Others", aggregating all other species (click [here](#) for the full list). Data are available on a monthly and yearly basis and accessible through simple tables and the bulk download facility. Average weekly prices are accessible through simple and advanced tables, and through the bulk download facility.

In addition, retail prices for a selection of countries and main commercial species are collected on a weekly and monthly basis from national authorities (click [here](#) for the full list). Average weekly prices are accessible through simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility.

AQUACULTURE

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – Fishery and integrated with FAO and FEAP data. They are available on a yearly basis and accessible through simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility.

WHOLESALE

Data are collected from national authorities and private providers (Fish Market Development Association) on a weekly basis, and, for Greece, also on a monthly basis.

Weekly prices (and for Greece, also volumes and values) are monitored for a selection of main commercial species and markets (click [here](#) for the full list). Monthly volumes and values cover all species sold in the port of Piraeus. Both weekly and monthly data are accessible through simple and advanced tables, and through the bulk download facility.

PROCESSING

Data are collected from Eurostat – PRODCOM. They concern ex-farm quantities and values of fisheries and aquaculture products sold in the country after being transformed from raw material into final products. They are available on a yearly basis and accessible through simple tables, as well as through the bulk download facility.

SUPPLY BALANCE

The supply balance sheet ([link](#)) gives an estimate of the annual supply of fishery and aquaculture products available for human consumption. Data of the supply balance sheet are in live weight equivalent. The supply balance sheet is broken down by commodity group and main commercial species; for each species, details in terms of production method are provided (wild/farmed). Sources of data are:

- For catches, Eurostat - Fishery. Amounts of catches not destined for human consumption are estimated using proxies based on destination use of landings (as available in Eurostat).
- For aquaculture, Eurostat - Fishery, FAO and FEAP
- For import-export, Eurostat – COMEXT