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BULGARIA IN THE WORLD AND IN THE EU

2021, sources: Eurostat and FAO

Bulgaria is a minor EU producer of fishery products. As for aquaculture production, in 2021 it ranked 18th among EU-27 producing countries.

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-27	Bulgaria	% world	% EU-27
Catches	92.164	3.591	9	0,01%	0,3%
Aquaculture	126.011	1.129	11	0,01%	0,9%
Total	218.175	4.720	20	0,01%	0,4%

FISHING FLEET

Fleet: 2022, source: EU fishing fleet register - Eurostat

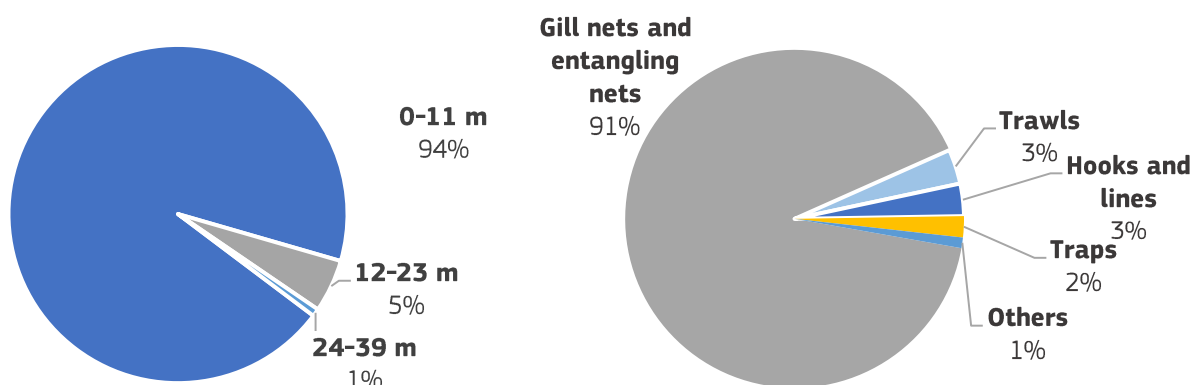
Employment: 2020, source: JRC

Vessels (2022)	Capacity (2022)	Power (2022)	
Number: 1.778	GT: 5.869	KW: 52.055	
TOTAL FTE: 619 (2020, source: JRC)			
0-11 m	12-23 m	24-39 m	>40 m
Jobs (FTE): 71%	Jobs (FTE): 21%	Jobs (FTE): 8%	Jobs (FTE): 0%

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

The Bulgarian fishing fleet by length and gear

(% of total number of vessels)





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LANDINGS

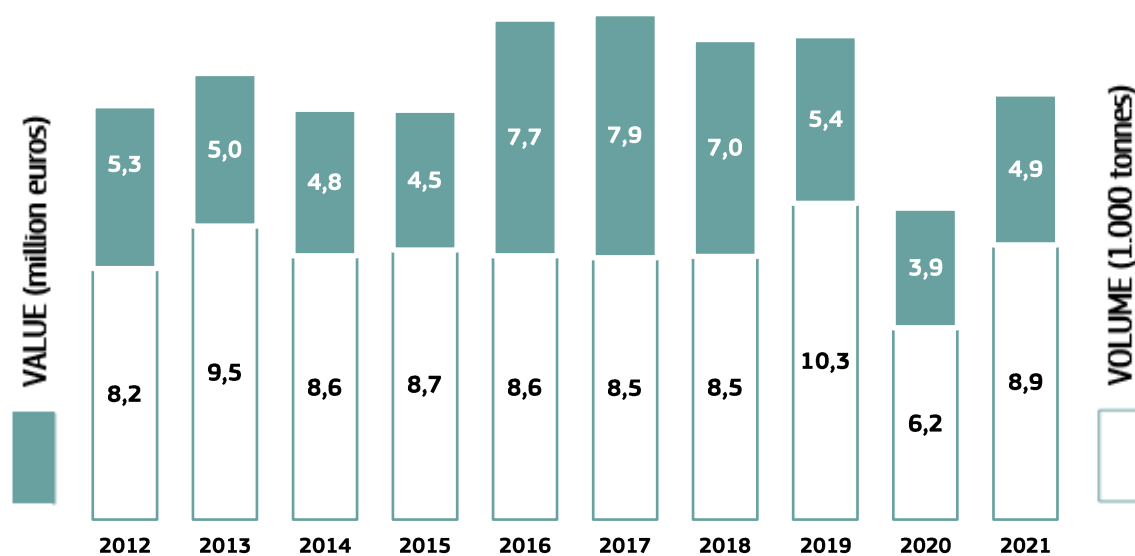
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat data.

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.

Landings in Bulgaria are destined for human consumption only, and they entirely include fresh products.

There are 75 fishing ports registered in the country (source: EU Master Data Register, 25 September 2023).

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



Main commercial species landed and % of total

2021, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes



Species	Value (million euros)	% of total	Volume (1,000 tonnes)	% of total
CLAM	1,6	25%	3,5	39%
SPRAT (= BRISLING)	1,3	21%	2,2	24%
THOMAS' RAPA WHELK	0,8	12%	1,2	13%
ANCHOVY	0,6	9%	0,7	8%
TURBOT	0,4	7%	0,4	5%
OTHERS	1,7	26%	0,9	11%



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AQUACULTURE

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat and FAO data.

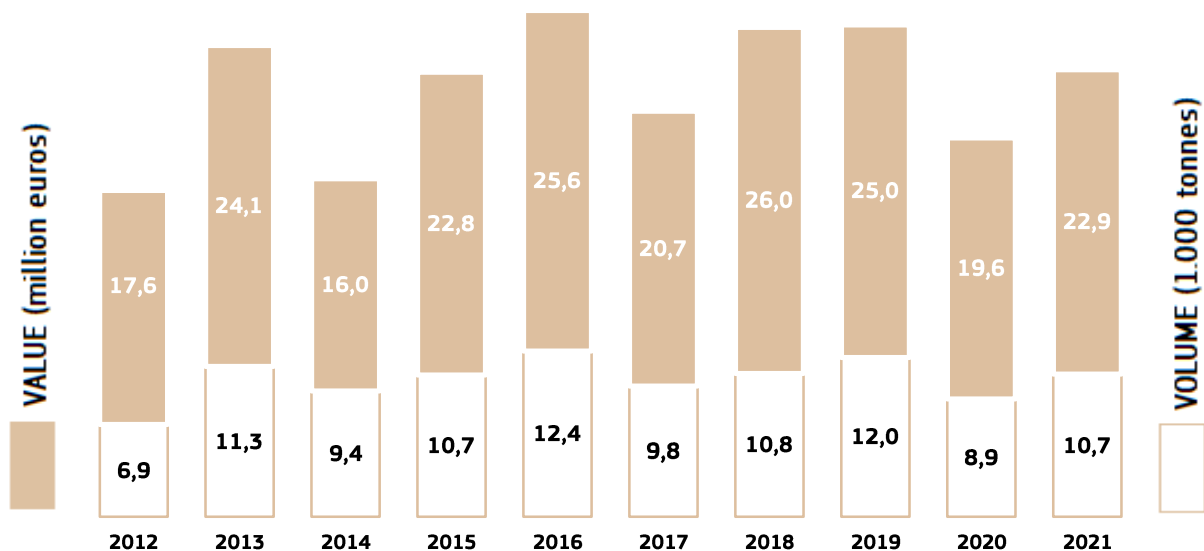
Aquaculture consists in the farming of aquatic (fresh or saltwater) organisms, such as fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants. Aquaculture data are reported in live weight equivalent and value.

In 2021, almost 80% of Bulgarian production occurred in freshwater and the rest in marine waters.

According to Eurostat, in 2021 the following main production methods are used in the country:

- Around 21% of production: off bottom in brackish water;
- Around 3% of production: in tanks and raceways in freshwater;
- Around 2% of production: recirculation systems;
- Less than 1% of production: in ponds in freshwater;
- The rest has been classified under fresh water using other methods for which no detail is available.

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



Main commercial species farmed and % of total
2021, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes



Species	Value (million euros)	% of total	Volume (1.000 tonnes)	% of total
TROUT	17,3	57%	4,2	39,0%
CARP	7,4	24%	3,5	33,0%
MUSSEL MYTILUS SPP.	1,8	6%	2,2	20,7%
FRESHWATER CATFISH	1,4	5%	0,3	2,5%
OTHERS	2,4	8%	0,5	4,8%



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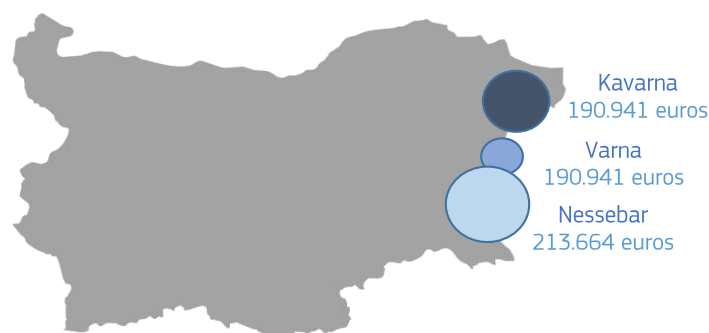
PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

Data as of 11-07-2023, source: DG MARE, [link](#)

In Bulgaria, **2 producer organisation (PO)** is formally recognized, operating in the fishery sector. 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.

FIRST SALES 2022, source: EUMOFA

First sales concern the fish that is sold or registered at an auction center or to registered buyers or to producer organizations (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 2022, total first sales in Bulgarian places of sale amounted to 1.946 tonnes and 1,4 million euros.



The top-3 places of sale covered 70% and 41% of total first sales, respectively in volume and value terms.

Top-3 places of sale	Volume (tonnes)	Value (euros)	Top-3 main commercial species (in value)
Nessebar	667.525	213.664	Sprat (=brislung), red mullet, clam
Kavarna	588.350	190.941	Molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, red mullet, other marine fish
Varna	105.562	152.586	Clam, red mullet, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates

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 Bulgaria, there is only one wholesale market, namely Bourgas (source: Eurofish).

PROCESSING

According to Eurostat-SBS, 1.430 persons were employed in the Bulgarian fish processing industry in 2020. The sector recorded a value added of 14,7 million euros, covering 1,3% of the value added of total manufacture of food products.

In 2022, the main products sold were “Frozen whole salt water fish” and “Prepared or preserved mackerel, whole or in pieces (excluding minced products and prepared meals and dishes)” (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

41 companies
Sales: 57,1 million euros
 (2020, source: Eurostat - SBS)



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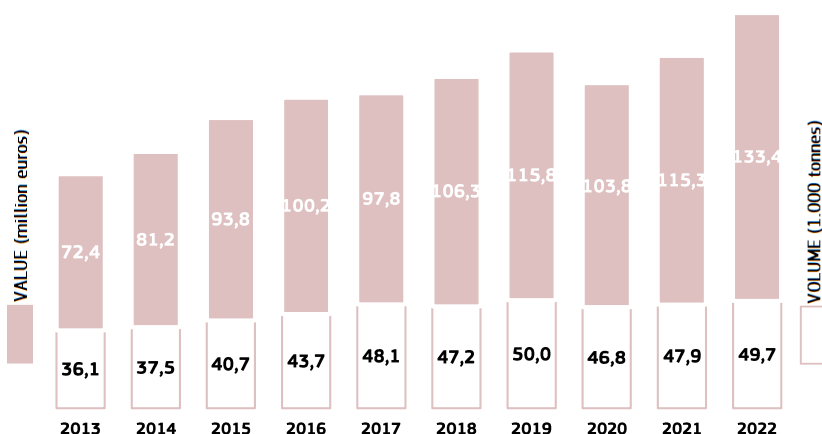
IMPORT – EXPORT

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

2022, million euros (nominal value)

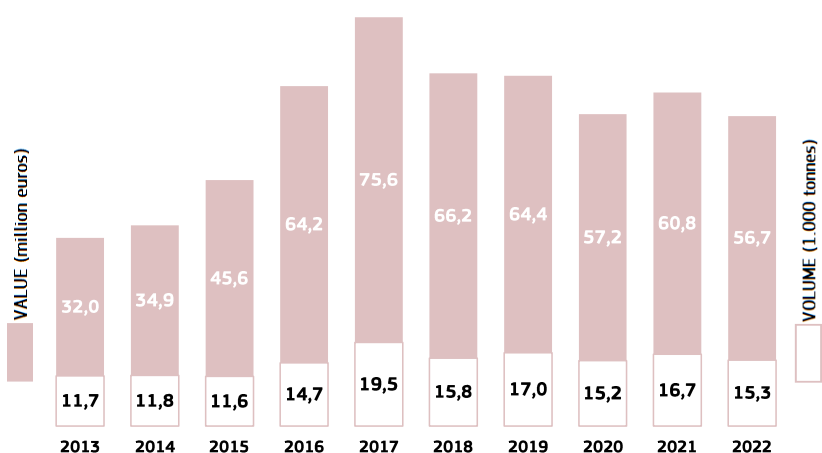


SALMON	29	18%
SHRIMPS (MOSTLY COLDWATER)	22	13%
MACKEREL	15	9%
GILTHEAD SEABREAM	9	6%
EUROPEAN SEABASS	8	5%
OTHERS	83	49%

EXPORT

Main commercial species exported and % of total exports

2022, million euros (nominal value)



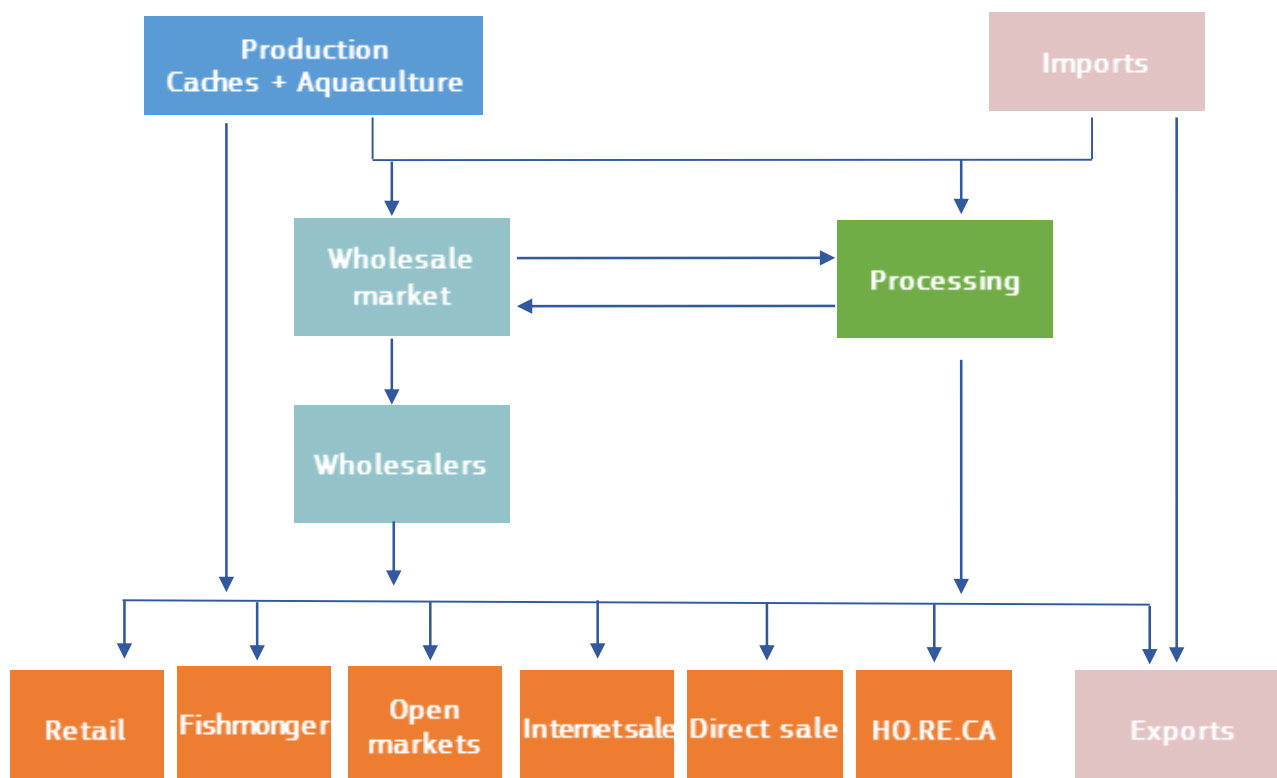
SHRIMPS (MISCELLANEOUS SPECIES)	21	24%
SALMON	8	10%
OTHER MOLLUSCS AND AQUATIC INVERTEBRATES	7	8%
CAVIAR, LIVERS AND ROES	7	8%
MACKEREL	7	8%
OTHERS	36	42%



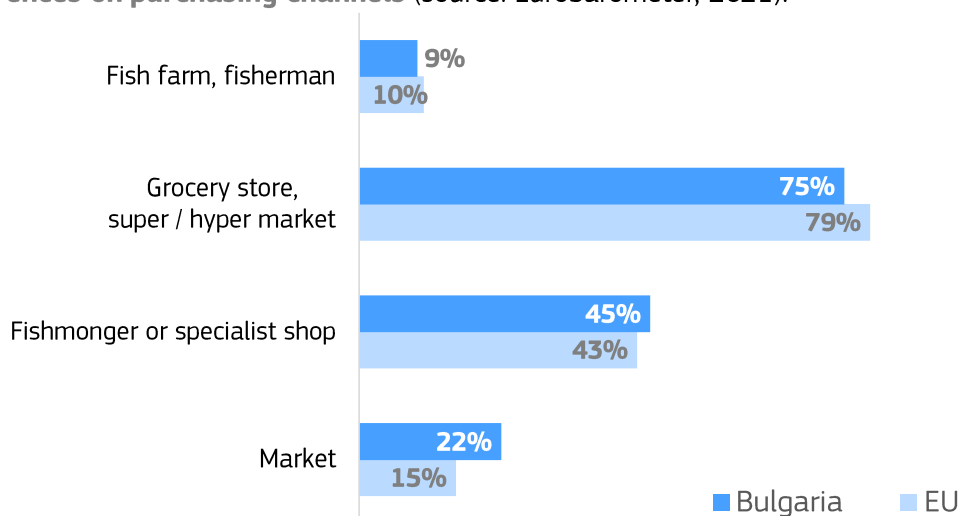


DISTRIBUTION

The supply chain of fisheries and aquaculture products in Bulgaria (source: Eurofish):



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





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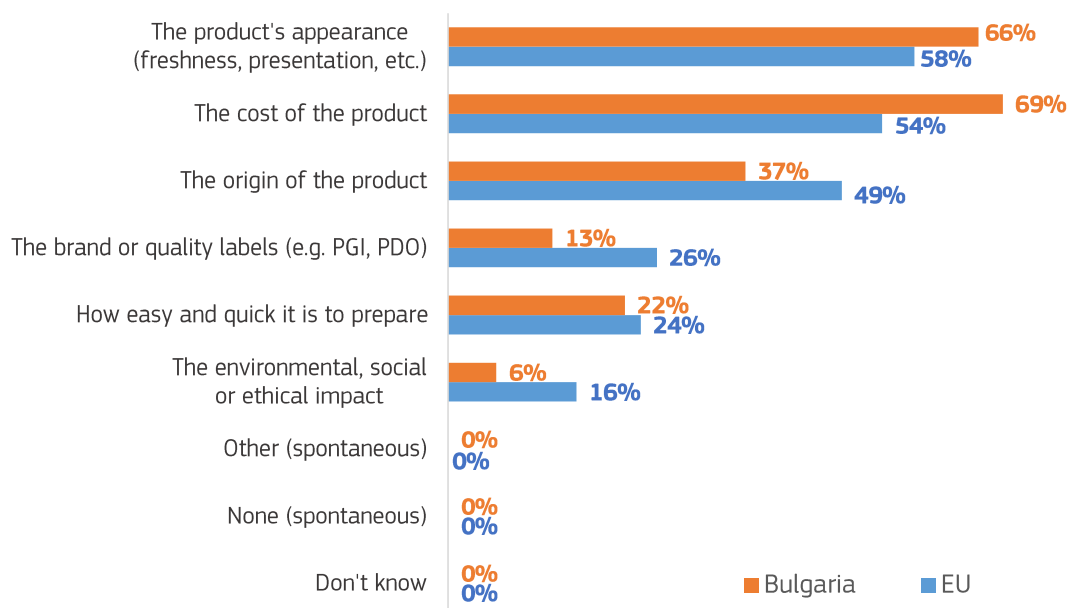
CONSUMPTION

In 2021, apparent consumption was estimated at 7,17 kg per capita, a 4%-decrease compared with 2020. The most consumed species were mackerel, coldwater shrimps, carp, sprat and trout (source: EUMOFA).

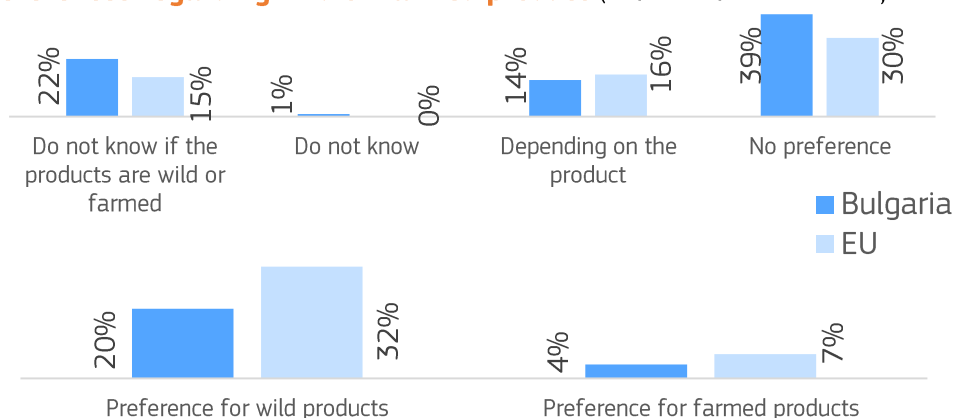
Regular consumers, namely those who eat fishery and aquaculture products at least once a month, mainly belong to the age groups 25-39 and 40-54. Young people (15-24) are less inclined to consume fish in Bulgaria, as well as at EU-28 level. In this category, regular consumers cover only 40% of the total, which is much lower than at EU level (67%, UK included). Bulgarians consume especially fresh and frozen products; loose fish (69%) is slightly more frequently consumed than at EU level (68%, UK included) (source: EUMOFA, "EU consumer habits regarding fishery and aquaculture products", 2017).

7,17 kg
per capita in live
weight equivalent
(2021, source: EUMOFA)

Purchasing factors (source: Eurobarometer, 2021)



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





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THE COUNTRY IN EUMOFA



LANDINGS

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – Fishery.

They are available on a yearly basis and 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 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 the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture on a monthly basis, and cover all species sold in Bulgarian places of sale.

Data are accessible through simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility. Data at disaggregated level are also accessible, through a dedicated advanced table and the bulk download facility.

WHOLESALE

No data available

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.

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.

CONSUMPTION

No data available