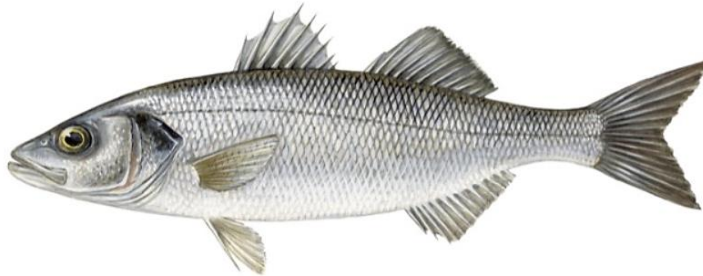




## EUROPEAN SEABASS (*DICENTRARCHUS LABRAX*)



© Scandinavian Fishing Year Book

### BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

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

The European seabass belongs to the family of Moronidae.

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

The European seabass lives along the coastal waters of the North-East Atlantic, in the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea.

### RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

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

Minimum conservation reference sizes are established at 25 cm of total length in the Mediterranean Sea and 42 cm in other fishing areas.

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

The main fishing gears used are gillnets and similar nets, hooks and lines, seines and trawls.

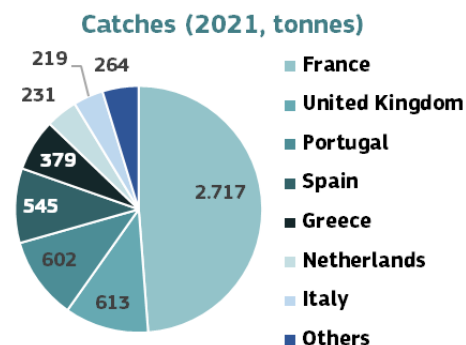
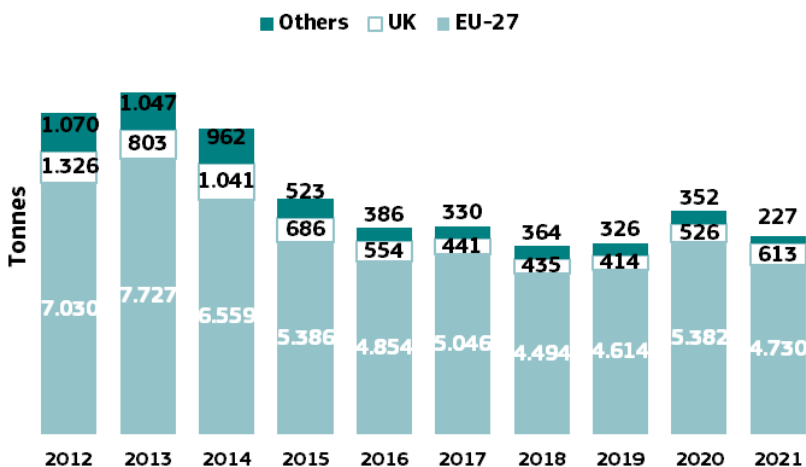
Source: [Information system on commercial designations](#)



# CATCHES

## • Evolution of world catches (tonnes)

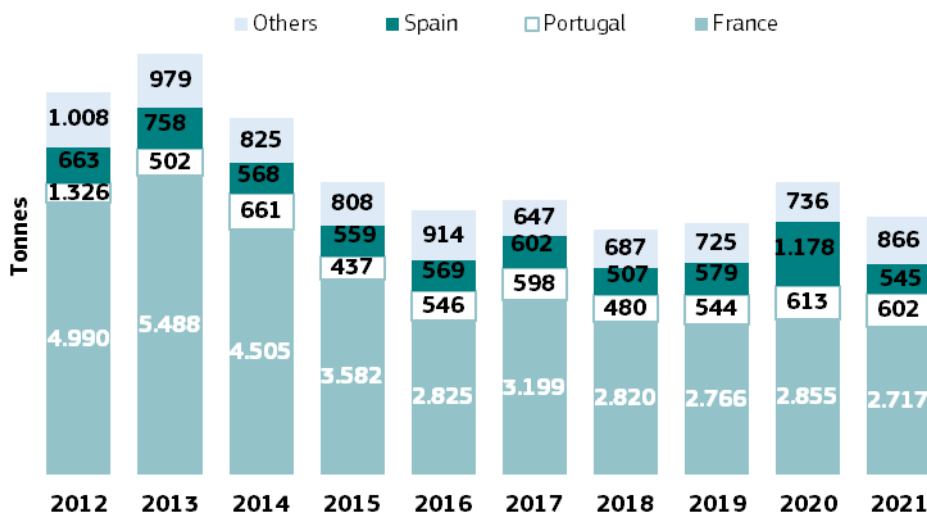
- The global catches of European seabass reached 5.570 tonnes in 2021, 0,01% of total global catches. The species is mainly farmed.
- Catches are in decline since 2012 (although a small increase in 2020). This trend is mainly due to the situation of the stock in the Channel and the North Sea (the main fishing areas of seabass).



Source: FAO

## • Evolution of EU catches (tonnes)

The EU accounted for 85% of the global seabass catches in 2021. France provided 57% of EU catches the same year, but its production has significantly decreased in the last decade (-46%), as a result of the management measures taken at EU and national levels following the decline of seabass resource.



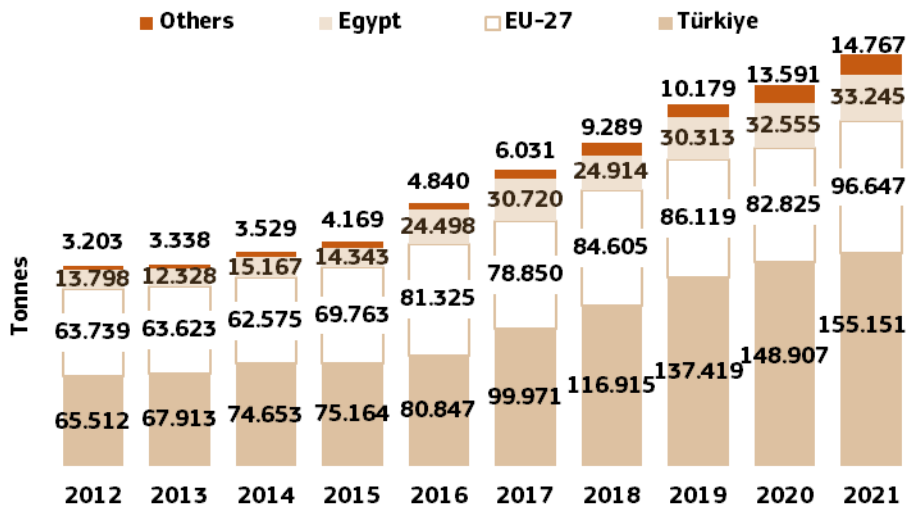
Source: FAO



# AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

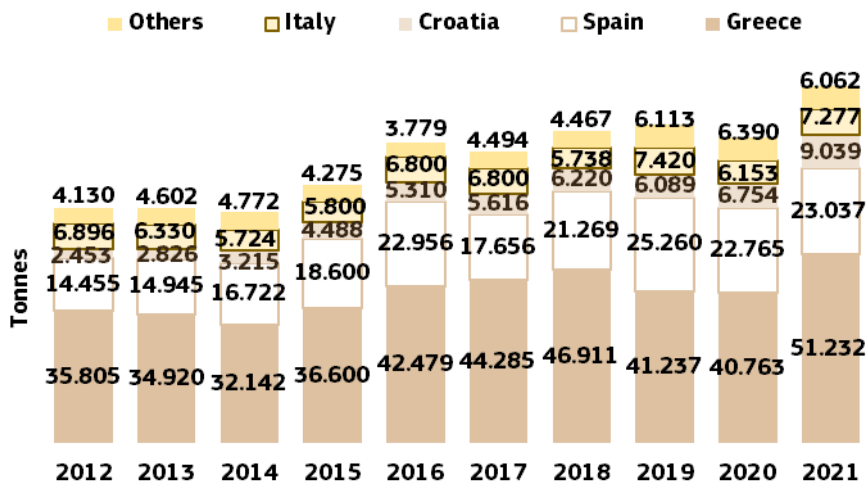
## • Evolution of world aquaculture production

The world production has doubled in the last ten years (between 2012 and 2021). The growth is more significant for non-EU countries than for EU Member States (146% vs 52%). Turkey is the main producer globally and has increased its production from around 65.500 tonnes to over 155.000 tonnes between 2012 to 2021.

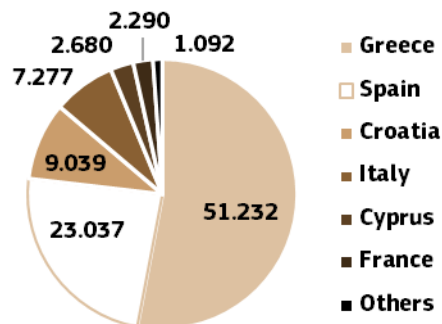


## • Evolution of EU aquaculture production

- With a production of 96.647 tonnes in 2021, the EU provided **32%** of the global production of seabass. Greece and Spain provided 77% of EU production.
- The EU production has experienced a 52% increase during the last decade; driven mainly by increases in Greece (+43%), Spain (+59%), Croatia (+268), and Cyprus (+144%). The increase in Croatian production is related to the increase of the Italian market.



Production (2021, tonnes)





## PROCESSING

In the EU, the European seabass is mainly consumed fresh. There are only small activity of processing: filleting, packing, marinating and smoking in the most important producers (e.g. Greece, Spain, Italy and Croatia) (source: [Price structure in the supply chain for seabass](#), EUMOFA, 2019).



## TRADE

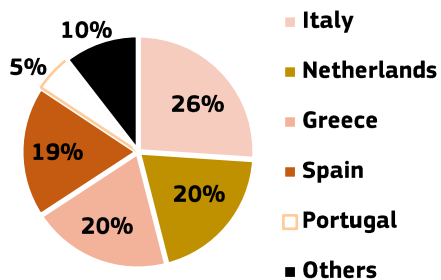
### EU-27 trade of European seabass (2022 – tonnes)

Codes	Product	EU imports	EU exports
03 02 84 10	Fresh whole/gutted European seabass	20.003	14.872
03 03 84 10	Frozen whole/gutted European seabass	598	113
<b>Total</b>		<b>20.602</b>	<b>14.985</b>

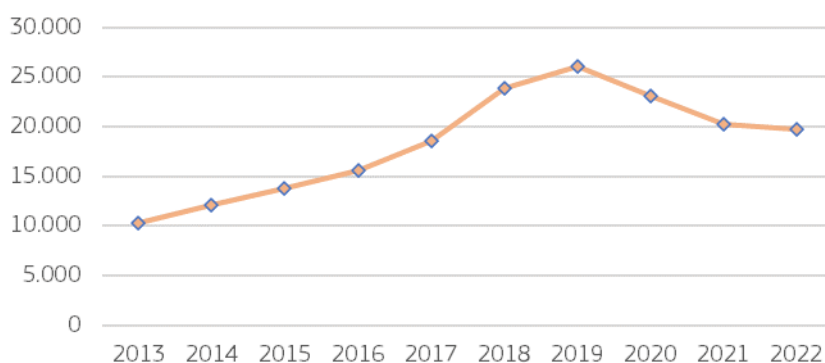
#### • Extra-EU imports

In 2022, the EU imported over 20.600 tonnes of seabass. Almost all extra-EU imports concerned fresh seabass. Turkey was by far the main supplier, with 98% of the EU imports. Imports from Turkey has significantly increased until 2019, before decreasing again. Italy, the Netherlands, Greece, and Spain were the main importers (respectively 26%, 20%, 20% and 19% of the EU imports in 2022).

EU importers (2022, volume in %)



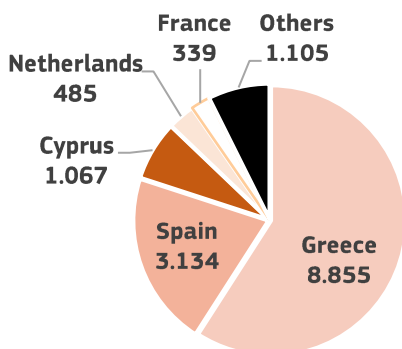
EU imports of fresh seabass from Turkey (in tonnes)



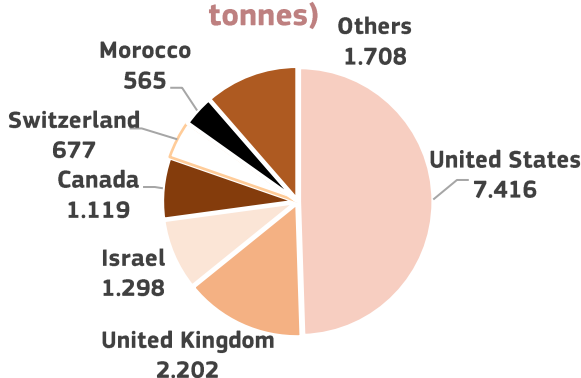
#### • Extra-EU exports

In 2022, extra-EU exports of seabass reached almost 15.000 tonnes. They were mainly composed of fresh seabass, the frozen fish representing only 1% of the total. In 2022, main EU exporters were Greece, Spain which covered 80% of all extra-EU exports. The main countries of **destination** for fresh seabass were the United States, the United Kingdom and to lesser extent Israel, which covered 49%, 15% and 9% of volumes exported to third countries in 2022, respectively.

EU exporters (2022, tonnes)



Main destinations (2022, tonnes)

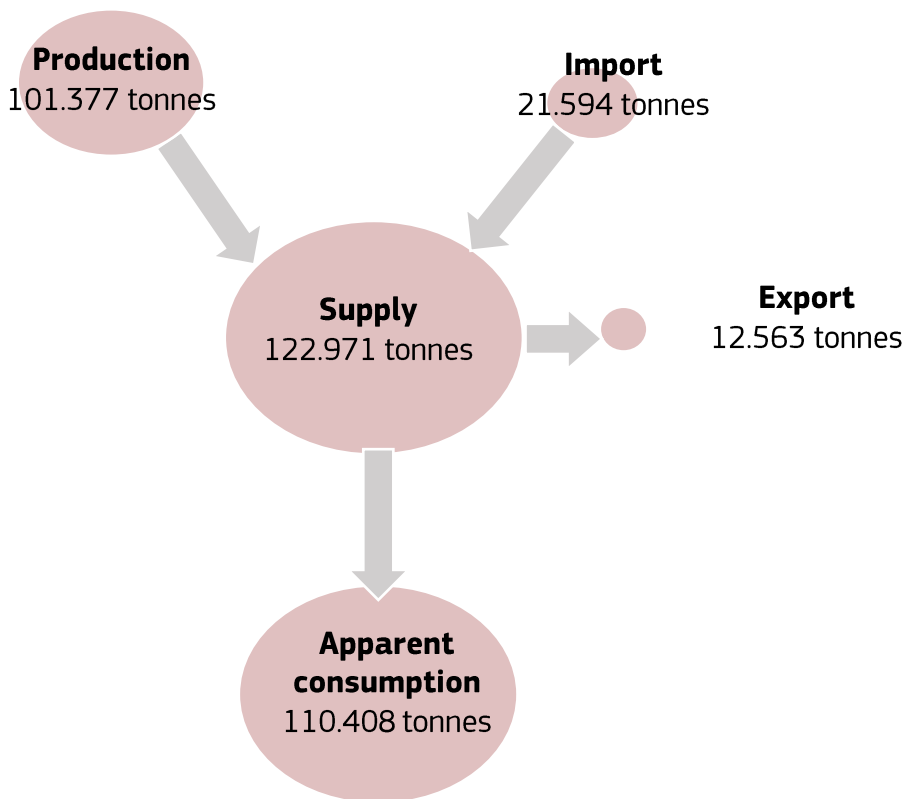


Source: EL



## Supply balance

### EU supply balance (2021<sup>1</sup>) – Tonnes of live weight equivalent<sup>2</sup> – European seabass



Source: FAO/ EUROSTAT-COMEXT

<sup>1</sup> Supply balance is provided for the year 2021 (trade data for 2021 were taken into account). Detailed trade data provided in the slide 5 concern the year 2022.

<sup>2</sup> The [conversion factors](#) were used to convert net weight of imports and exports of fishery and aquaculture products into live weight equivalents.



## PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

When data is available, prices are provided for wild and farmed seabass, as significant price difference could be noticed between the two types of fish.

### First-sale (wild)/Ex-farm (farmed) - (fresh)

First-sale and ex-farm prices are provided for the main EU producers, namely France, Spain and Greece.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
France (wild)	11,54	13,01	13,84	13,78	13,63	13,90	12,96	14,43	15,33	15,53	EUMOFA
Spain (wild)	n.a.	12,18	12,63	12,18	13,79	12,27	7,46	13,09	11,73	14,79	EUMOFA
Spain (farmed)	5,96	6,09	6,55	6,75	6,54	6,12	6,33	6,64	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA
Greece (farmed)	5,39	5,46	5,52	5,59	5,09	4,86	5,08	5,37	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA

\*) From January to November 2023

### Wholesale (fresh)

Wholesale prices are reported for Mercabarna (Barcelona, Spain) and in Rungis (Paris, France).

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
Spain (wild)	19,67	19,71	20,86	20,70	19,21	18,63	20,27	20,01	n.a.	12,50**	Mercabarna
Spain (farmed)	6,32	5,97	6,19	5,80	4,51	3,91	4,61	5,07	n.a.	7,20**	Mercabarna
France (wild- "Bar de Ligne" >3kg)	23,21	28,64	28,99	27,75	29,99	28,82	25,74	27,44	36,25	37,92	RNM-Rungis
France (farmed- 0,8-1 kg)	12,45	10,83	12,73	12,03	9,99	9,36	10,13	9,71	12,75	13,12	RNM-Rungis

\*) From January to November 2023

\*\* consulted on December 2023



## PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

### Retail/consumption (fresh)

Retail prices refer to France, Greece, Spain, and Italy which are among the major EU consumer countries.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
France (farmed)	13,93	14,55	14,79	14,29	13,95	13,78	13,62	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA
France (wild)	20,61	21,99	22,17	22,75	24,58	25,30	31,08	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA
Greece (farmed)	6,46	6,68	6,63	6,12	6,14	5,82	6,46	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA
Greece (wild)	21,68	20,53	21,22	21,76	21,53	21,93	22,03	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA
Spain (farmed)	8,31	8,36	8,63	8,80	8,58	8,31	8,73	9,03	9,95	n.a.	MAPA
Italy - fresh, 400-600g	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8,08	8,40	8,53	9,58	n.a.	ISMEA
Italy - fresh 600-800g	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	9,36	9,51	9,63	10,87	11,00	ISMEA

\*) From January to November 2023

### Import (fresh)

European seabass is mainly imported fresh from Turkey. In 2022, the main importers were Italy, Netherlands, Spain and Greece.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
Italy	4,65	4,98	5,02	4,68	4,01	3,70	4,00	4,56	5,46	5,36	EUMOFA
Netherlands	5,17	5,42	5,57	5,20	4,51	4,14	4,50	4,92	6,20	6,22	EUMOFA
Greece	4,93	5,39	4,39	4,36	3,78	3,36	3,81	4,30	5,23	5,25	EUMOFA
Spain	4,70	5,04	4,85	4,65	4,00	3,61	4,15	5,00	6,02	5,51	EUMOFA

\* From January to August 2023

### Export (fresh)

European seabass is mainly exported fresh. Greece, Spain, and Cyprus were the main exporters in 2022.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
Greece	6,06	5,40	5,62	5,90	5,74	4,88	5,26	5,57	6,78	6,84	EUMOFA
Spain	8,70	7,72	7,77	8,44	7,63	7,27	8,22	7,92	9,72	10,97	EUMOFA
Cyprus	6,49	6,02	5,86	6,08	6,15	5,89	5,92	6,50	8,23	9,07	EUMOFA

\* From January to August 2023





## MARKETING

- National lists of commercial designations ([Read more](#))
- Information system on commercial designations and scientific names in all EU languages ([Read more](#))
- Applicable marketing standards ([Read more](#))

## CONSUMPTION

- Average consumption in major consuming MS is 190 grams per capita in 2016 (source: EUMOFA survey “[Price structure in the supply chain for seabass](#)” - 2019)
- Nutritional value (European seabass, wild, North East Atlantic, fresh fillet, values per 100 g – source : NUTRAQUA/AQUIMER)

<b>Portugal</b>	680
<b>Cyprus</b>	643
<b>Spain</b>	545
<b>Italy</b>	513
<b>Croatia</b>	381
<b>Greece</b>	370
<b>France</b>	145
<b>United Kingdom</b>	109
<b>Belgium</b>	56
<b>Germany</b>	22
<b>Other MS</b>	23
<b>EU-28</b>	<b>190</b>

<b>Energy (kcal)</b>	96
<b>Energy (kj)</b>	405
<b>Water (g)</b>	76,8
<b>Ashes (g)</b>	1,2
<b>Proteins (g)</b>	20,1
<b>Carbohydrates (g)</b>	0,3
<b>Lipids (g)</b>	1,6
<b>Chlesterol (mg)</b>	58,1
<b>Omega 6 (mg)</b>	71
<b>Omega 3 (mg)</b>	508
<b>EPA (mg)</b>	126
<b>DHA (mg)</b>	278