

EUROPEAN SQUID (*LOLIGO VULGARIS*)



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BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

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

Squids are cephalopods in the superorder Decapodiformes with elongated bodies, large eyes, eight arms and two tentacles. The European squid belongs to the family of *Loliginidae*.

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

The European squid is an abundant species, among the most landed fishery products in the global seafood market. It lives in coastal waters throughout the Atlantic (Northeast, Eastern Central, and Southeast), as well as in the Mediterranean and Black seas.

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

- **Stock and resource status/conservation measures**

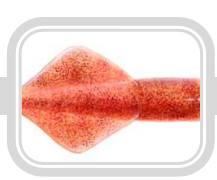
There is no conservation measure for the European squid except a technical measure that sets minimum mesh size at 40 mm for direct squid fishing ([Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1241](#)).

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

The main fishing gears used are the trawls. Other gears include beach-seines, gillnets, and trammel nets.

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

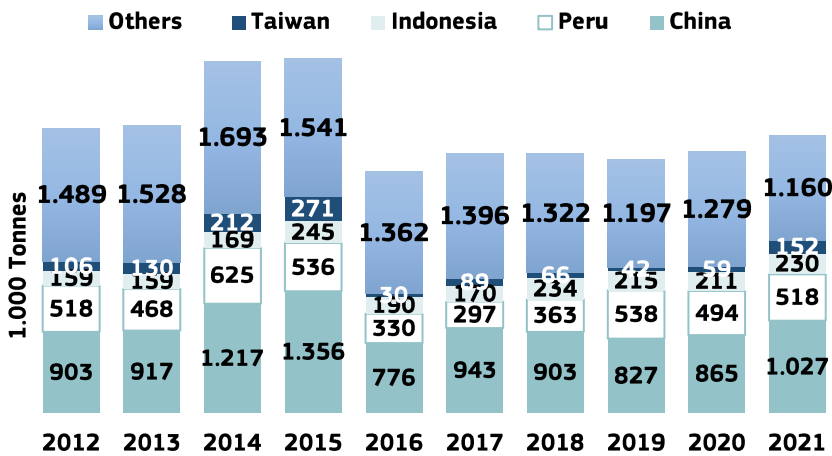
European squid



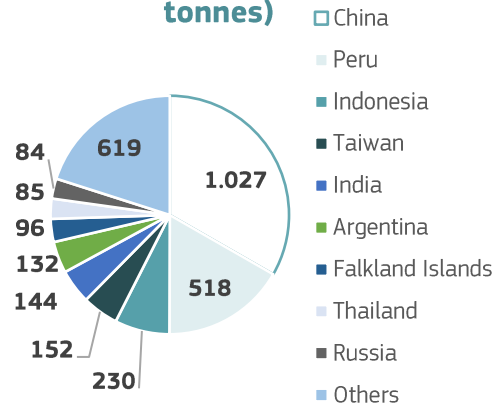
CATCHES

Evolution of world catches

- Squid catches reached over 3.000.000 tonnes in 2021 (the European squid catches amounted to 2.216 tonnes and this species was exclusively caught by the EU fleet). The main producers were China and Peru, representing half of the global catches in 2021, followed by Indonesia, Taiwan and India (respectively 7%, 5%, and 5% of the global catches). The EU catches represented 1% of the global captures in 2021. During the last decade (2012-2021), squid catches have slightly decreased (-3%) at global level.

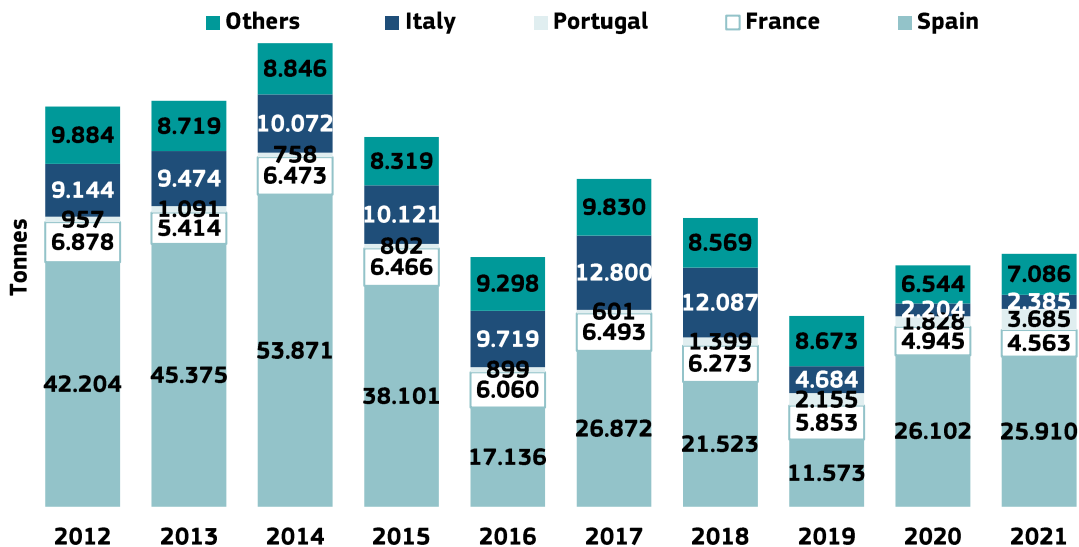


Catches (2021, 1.000 tonnes)



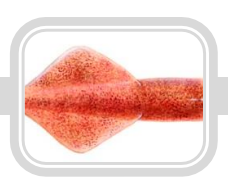
Source: FAO

- Squid catches in the EU reached over 39.700 tonnes in 2021, catches of the European squid species reached over 2.200 tonnes. Spain was by far the main producer, representing two thirds of the EU catches, followed by France and Portugal (respectively 11% and 9% of the catches). During the last decade (2012-2021), EU squid catches have significantly decreased (-38%) in relation to the decrease of the Spanish catches (-39%).



Source: FAO

European squid



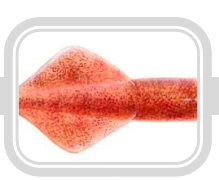
AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

- No aquaculture production of European squid has been developed.

PROCESSING

- There is no [PRODCOM](#) code referring to squid.

European squid



TRADE

- [Combined nomenclature](#)

EU trade of squid products (tonnes – 2022)

CN code	Product	EU imports	EU exports
03 07 42 20	Squid "Loligo spp.", live, fresh or chilled	3.253	131
03 07 42 30	Squid "Ommastrephes spp., Nototodarus spp., Sepioteuthis spp.", live, fresh or chilled	34	187
03 07 42 40	European flying squid "Todarodes sagittatus", live, fresh or chilled	4	66
03 07 43 31	Squid "Loligo vulgaris", frozen	13.969	121
03 07 43 33	Squid "Loligo pealei", frozen	2.257	10
03 07 43 35	Squid "Loligo gahi", frozen	81.594	15.813
03 07 43 38	Squid "Loligo spp.", frozen (excl. "Loligo vulgaris, pealei and gahi")	81.632	914
03 07 43 91	Squid "Ommastrephes spp., Nototodarus spp., Sepioteuthis spp.", frozen (excl. "Ommastrephes sagittatus")	13.823	698
03 07 43 92	Squid "Illex spp.", frozen	35.481	19.377
03 07 43 95	European flying squid "Todarodes sagittatus, Ommastrephes sagittatus", frozen	255	267
03 07 49 40	Squid "Loligo spp.", smoked, dried, salted or in brine	211	175
03 07 49 50	Squid "Ommastrephes spp., Nototodarus spp., Sepioteuthis spp.", smoked, dried, salted or in brine (excl. "Ommastrephes sagittatus")	61	27
03 07 49 60	European flying squid "Todarodes sagittatus, Ommastrephes sagittatus", smoked, dried, salted or in brine	0	103
Total		232.575	37.886

Source: EUMOFA

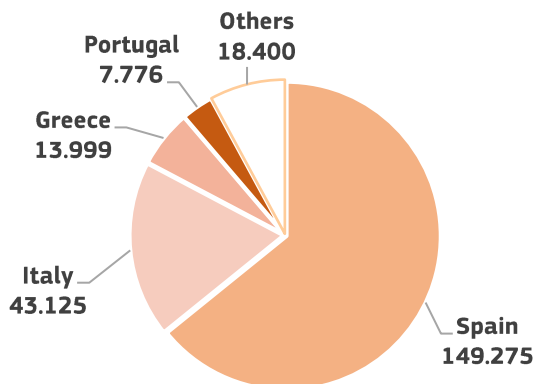
European squid



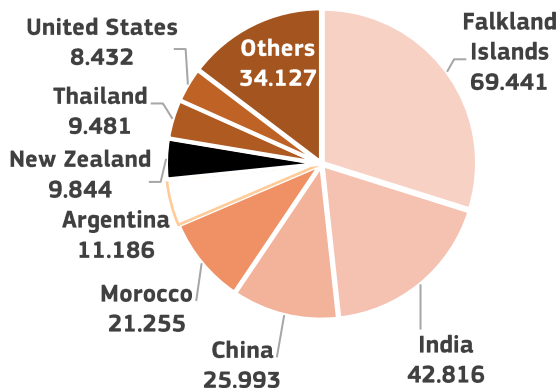
TRADE

- **Extra-EU imports** reached over 232.500 tonnes in 2022, of which 98% were frozen. In 2022, EU imports originated mostly from the Falkland Islands (30% of the volume imported) and to a lesser extent from India and China (respectively 18% and 11% of the volume imported). The same year, the main importers within the EU were Spain (64% of the imported volume) and Italy (19%).

Main importers (2022, in tonnes)



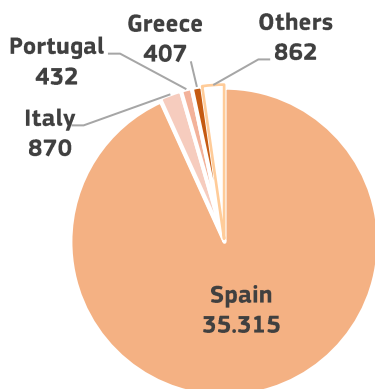
Main EU suppliers (2022, in tonnes)



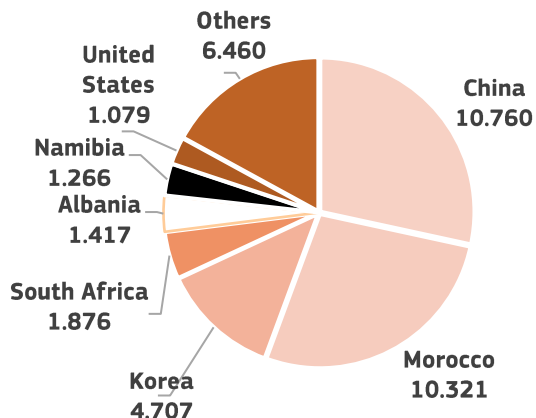
- **Extra-EU exports:**

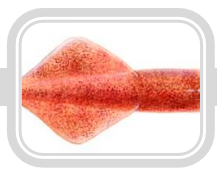
In 2022, export volumes of squid totaled 37.886 tonnes. Exports were made almost exclusively of frozen squids (98%). Spain was by far the first EU exporter, representing 93% of the exported volume. Other EU exporters included Italy, Portugal, and Greece, representing 6% of the EU exported volume in 2022. China, Morocco and South Korea were the main destination markets, representing 68% of EU exports.

Main exporters (2022, in tonnes)



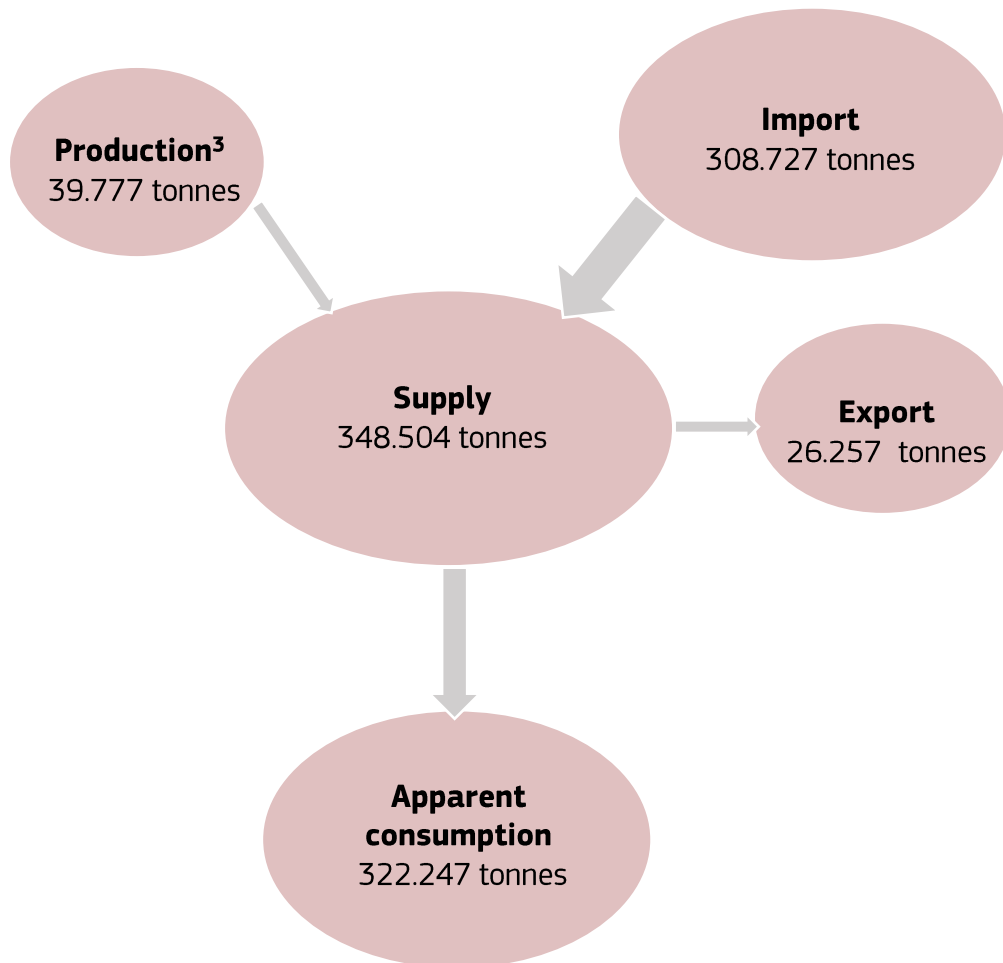
Main destinations (2022, in tonnes)





Supply balance

EU supply balance (2021¹) – Tonnes of live weight equivalent² – Squid



Source: FAO/ EUROSTAT-COMEXT

¹ Supply balance is provided for the year 2021 (trade data for 2021 were taken into account). Detailed trade data provided in the slides 4 and 5 concern the year 2022.

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

European squid



PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

First-sale (whole)

First-sale prices are provided for one of the main EU producers (Spain). The vast majority of frozen first sales occurred in Spain and concerned Argentine shortfin squid.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
Spain - fresh	n.a.	4,94	4,19	5,56	5,11	6,69	5,96	3,83	2,67	4,50	EUMOFA
Spain - frozen	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3,18	2,52	3,54	2,59	3,63	3,75	EUMOFA

(*) From January to November 2023

Wholesale

Wholesale prices are reported for Rungis (France) and Mercamadrid (Madrid, Spain).

Most frequent prices	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
France- fresh whole	12,91	12,85	12,91	11,60	13,06	16,15	14,49	16,04	19,30	18,23	Rungis (RNM)
France - frozen whole (imported)	4,80	4,80	4,80	4,80	5,68	7,00	7,00	7,00	7,48	8,54	Rungis (RNM)
Spain	10,02	10,22	11,16	12,84	14,56	13,04	11,81	13,01	15,97	16,21	Mercamadrid

(*) From January to November 2023

Retail/Consumption

Retail prices are reported for France and Spain.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*	Source
France	n.a.	n.a.	8,70	9,60	10,30	10,80	11,20	10,40	n.a.	FranceAgriMer
Spain - frozen	6,60	6,26	7,44	7,82	7,95	8,31	8,81	8,87	9,87	MAPA
Spain - canned	6,43	6,35	6,59	6,87	7,78	8,07	8,01	7,99	8,66	

(*) Last year available

European squid



PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

Import (frozen)

EU imports from third countries concern mainly frozen squids. Main importers in 2022 were Spain and Italy.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
Spain	2,40	2,78	4,01	3,83	3,65	3,81	4,17	4,10	4,99	4,86	EUMOFA
Italy	3,69	3,92	4,90	5,43	5,18	5,60	5,69	6,46	7,63	7,49	EUMOFA

(*) From January to August 2023

Export (frozen)

Spain was by far the main EU exporter of squids in 2022. Spanish exports are mainly composed of frozen squids.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
Spain	1,86	2,25	3,96	2,92	2,73	2,64	3,56	3,40	3,49	3,37	EUMOFA

(*) From January to August 2023

European squid



MARKETING

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

CONSUMPTION

- 9th most consumed species in the EU (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2023 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Apparent consumption per capita in 2021: **0,72 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2023 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Nutritional value (Squid, nutrition values per serving 100g) ([Read more](#))

Nutrition values	Squid
Energy (kcal)	81
Total fat (g)	1,7
Saturates (g)	0,3
Carbohydrate (g)	0
Sugars (g)	0
Protein (g)	-
Salt (mg)	200