

# Monthly Highlights

No. 1 / 2024

E U M O F A

European Market Observatory for  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Products

Over the 36-month observation period (November 2020 – October 2023), the weighted average first-sales price of common cuttlefish in Portugal was 5,95 EUR/kg, 113% higher than in the Netherlands (2,80 EUR/kg), and 79% above the average price in Belgium (3,33 EUR/kg).

In October 2023, the “Cephalopods” commodity group (CG ) recorded the 9th highest first-sales value and 7th highest volume out of the 10 CGs in the countries monitored by EUMOFA

In the period analysed, prices of frozen squid from Morocco, imported in the EU, fluctuated strongly, ranging between a minimum price of 6,58 EUR/kg and a maximum price of 14,52 EUR/kg.

In the three-year period November 2020–October 2023, total flounder consumption in Denmark (2.211 tonnes) was significantly higher than in Sweden (375 tonnes).

Over the past two decades, fisheries production in Colombia has decreased, mainly due to overfishing which has caused a decline in important fish stocks, both in coastal and inland waters.

Over the last decade (2012–2021), the global production of skipjack tuna increased slightly (+5%), though with significant interannual fluctuations.

For both EU vessels and vessels fishing in EU waters, new rules related mainly to improved monitoring of fishing activities and traceability of catches are modernising the way fishing activities are controlled.



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Common cuttlefish (Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal) and European squid (France, the Netherlands, Spain)



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### Global highlights



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## 1. First sales in Europe

During **January–October 2023**, 15 EU Member States (MS), Norway and the United Kingdom 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. First-sales data analysed in the section “*First sales in Europe*” are extracted from EUMOFA<sup>2</sup>.

### 1.1. January–October 2023 compared to the same period in 2022

**Increases in value and volume:** Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland and the United Kingdom recorded an increase in both first-sales value and volume. Highest increases were observed in Estonia, due mainly to herring and sprat.

**Decreases in value and volume:** Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden recorded decreases in first-sales value and volume. Sweden stood out with the most significant drops in absolute terms, due to lower first sales of sprat, herring and coldwater shrimp.

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

Country	January – October 2021		January – October 2022		January – October 2023		Change from January – October 2022	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Belgium	10.708	56,16	11.680	73,67	11.613	72,12	-1%	-2%
Bulgaria	3.672	2,47	1.876	1,24	2.633	1,37	40%	10%
Cyprus	782	3,26	588	2,60	601	2,87	2%	10%
Estonia	51.472	14,15	37.096	11,82	55.306	21,83	49%	85%
Finland	43.460	9,56	42.485	10,28	46.346	13,58	9%	32%
France	224.786	575,38	238.570	636,30	214.358	591,48	-10%	-7%
Germany	51.956	75,09	26.963	81,90	25.914	59,35	-4%	-28%
Ireland	190.450	225,26	164.047	253,42	160.345	212,83	-2%	-16%
Italy	73.743	300,31	69.299	308,70	66.324	294,45	-4%	-5%
Lithuania	2.075	0,92	765	0,51	286	0,60	-63%	17%
Netherlands	48.023	157,32	78.602	164,56	48.598	115,51	-38%	-30%
Portugal	111.679	245,20	99.100	255,92	105.525	255,54	6%	0%
Spain	422.725	1.254,19	390.368	1.325,82	367.011	1.207,99	-6%	-9%
Sweden	121.325	72,49	109.387	69,25	48.071	50,30	-56%	-27%
Norway	2.524.683	2.275,82	2.526.075	2.878,58	2.526.011	2.733,08	0%	-5%
United Kingdom	281.592	520,17	262.039	548,83	289.393	597,83	10%	9%

*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. Data for Denmark are subject to confidentiality measures, so they may not fully correspond to total first sales in the country.

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

<sup>2</sup> First sales data updated on 23. 01 2024

## 1.2. October 2023 compared to October 2022

**Increases in value and volume:** First sales increased in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, Lithuania, Portugal, Sweden, Norway and the United Kingdom. In Bulgaria other molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, and red mullet were behind the increases. Increases in Cyprus were also mainly made up of the same species.

**Decreases in value and volume:** First sales decreased in Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain. The Netherlands experienced the most significant falls. The decrease in the Netherlands was mainly due to falls in first sales of the shrimp *Crangon* spp., herring and common sole.

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

Country	October 2021		October 2022		October 2023		Change from October 2022	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Belgium	1.210	6,7	1.395	8,1	986	6,2	-29%	-23%
Bulgaria	170	0,3	24	0,0	295	0,213	1130%	732%
Cyprus	26	0,2	12	0,1	23	0,2	89%	66%
Estonia	5.875	1,7	8.674	2,5	6.718	3,8	-23%	51%
Finland	3.064	0,6	2.573	0,7	2.866	1,0	11%	37%
France	19.625	64,9	23.669	73,7	21.534	65,1	-9%	-12%
Germany	3.968	6,5	2.990	12,4	2.746	15,7	-8%	27%
Ireland	11.751	22,7	7.719	19,8	9.854	17,7	28%	-10%
Italy	6.615	27,5	8.446	32,1	6.944	28,3	-18%	-12%
Lithuania	284	0,072	4	0,010	6	0,011	42%	19%
Netherlands	5.598	21,8	3.951	23,2	1.980	13,0	-50%	-44%
Portugal	16.632	29,7	10.202	22,0	11.275	23,7	11%	7%
Spain	38.058	109,8	37.852	114,3	32.363	110,4	-15%	-3%
Sweden	4.436	5,0	4.253	5,4	5.469	7,7	29%	44%
Norway	285.623	278,6	264.660	255,2	297.340	379,9	12%	49%
United Kingdom	39.799	81,0	37.955	73,5	38.621	105,2	2%	43%

Possible discrepancies in % changes are due to rounding.

\* Volumes are reported in net weight for EU Member States and the UK, 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. Data for Denmark are subject to confidentiality measures, so they may not fully correspond to total first sales in the country.

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

### 1.3. First sales in selected countries

First sales data analysed in this section are extracted from EUMOFA<sup>3</sup>.

Table 3. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN BELGIUM**


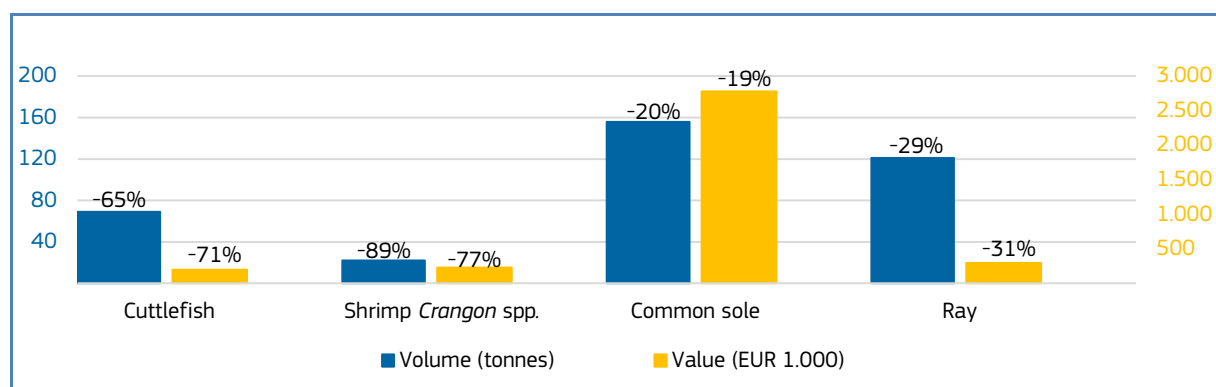
 Belgium	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
<b>Jan-Oct 2023 vs Jan-Oct 2022</b>	EUR 72,1 million, -2%	11.613 tonnes, -1%	Shrimp <i>Crangon</i> spp., European plaice, common sole, turbot.
<b>Oct 2023 vs Oct 2022</b>	EUR 6,2 million, -23%	986 tonnes, -29%	Cuttlefish, shrimp <i>Crangon</i> spp., common sole, ray.

Figure 1. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN BELGIUM, OCTOBER 2023**



Percentages show change from the previous year.

Table 4. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN BULGARIA**


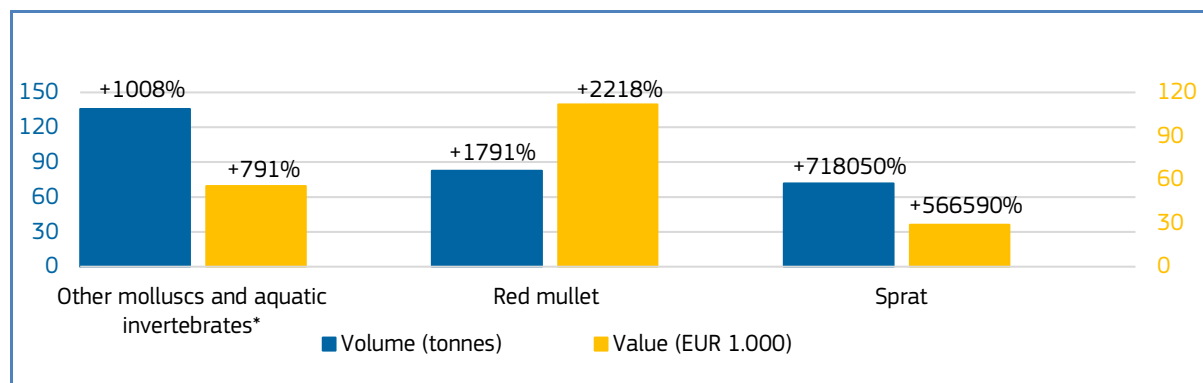
 Bulgaria	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
<b>Jan-Oct 2023 vs Jan-Oct 2022</b>	EUR 1,4 million, +10%	2.633 tonnes, +40%	Sprat, red mullet, other molluscs and aquatic invertebrates*.
<b>Oct 2023 vs Oct 2022</b>	EUR 0,2 million, +732%	295 tonnes, +1130%	Other molluscs and aquatic invertebrates*, red mullet, sprat.

Figure 2. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN BULGARIA, OCTOBER 2023**



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

<sup>3</sup> First-sales data updated on 20.01.2024.

Figure 3. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN BULGARIA, OCTOBER 2023**


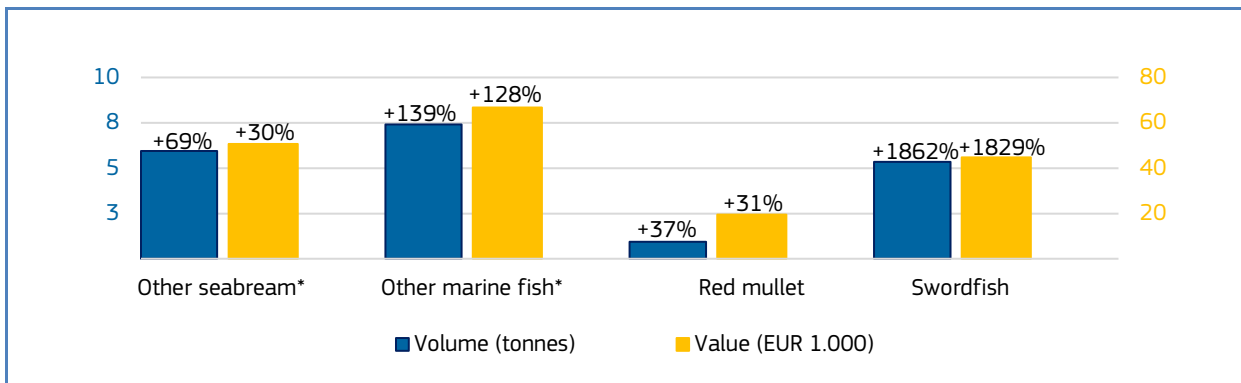
 Cyprus	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
<b>Jan-Oct 2023 vs Jan-Oct 2022</b>	EUR 2,9 million, +10%	601 tonnes, +2%	Swordfish, other seabream*, other marine fish*, squid.
<b>Oct 2023 vs Oct 2022</b>	EUR 0,2 million, +66%	23 tonnes, +89%	Red mullet, other marine fish*, other seabream*, swordfish.

Figure 4. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN CYPRUS, OCTOBER 2023**



Percentages show change from the previous year. \*EUMOFA aggregation for species.

Table 5. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN ESTONIA**


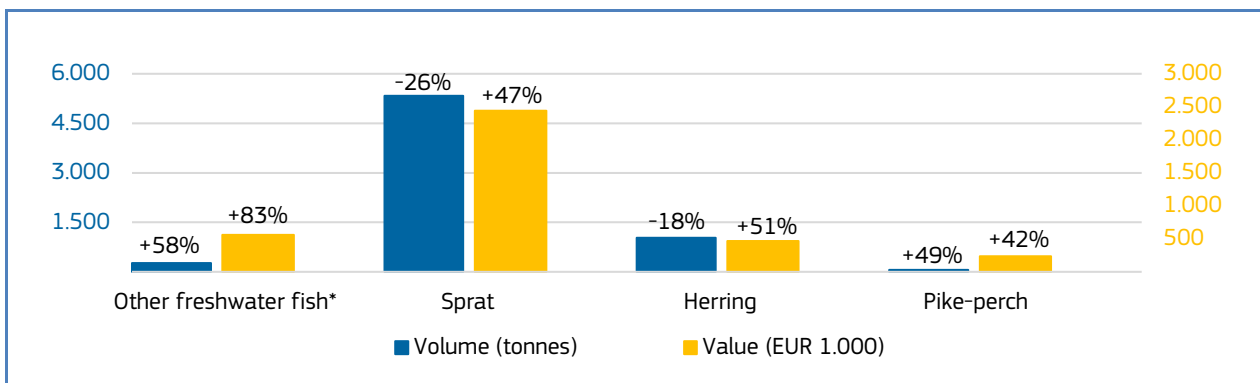
 Estonia	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
<b>Jan-Oct 2023 vs Jan-Oct 2022</b>	EUR 21,8 million, +85%	55.306 tonnes, +49%	Herring, sprat, other freshwater fish*, smelt.
<b>Oct 2023 vs Oct 2022</b>	EUR 3,8 million, +51%	6.718 tonnes, -23%	<b>Value:</b> Other freshwater fish*, sprat, herring, pike-perch. <b>Volume:</b> sprat, herring, smelt.

Figure 5. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN ESTONIA, OCTOBER 2023**



Percentages show change from the previous year. \*EUMOFA aggregation for species.

Table 6. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN FINLAND**


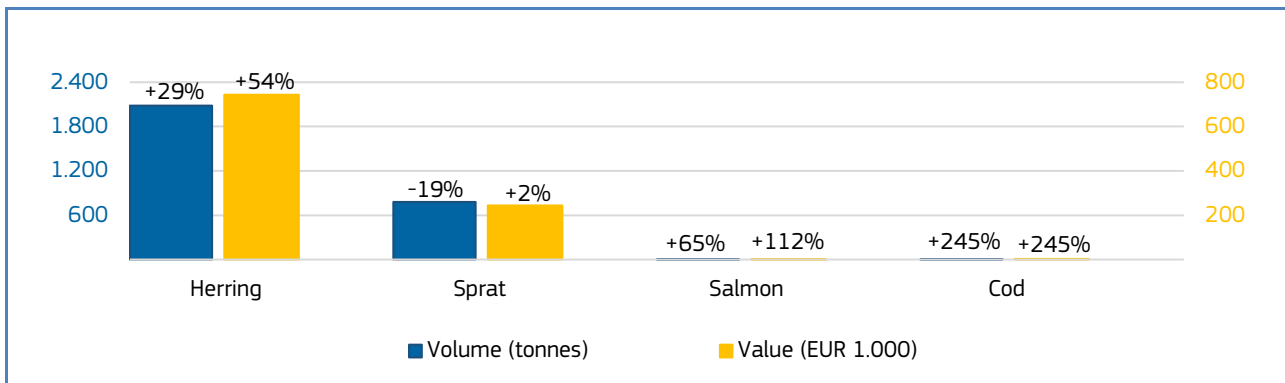
 Finland	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
<b>Jan-Oct 2023 vs Jan- Oct 2022</b>	EUR 13,6 million, +32%	46.346 tonnes, +9%	Herring, sprat, cod, salmon.
<b>Oct 2023 vs Oct 2022</b>	EUR 1,0 million, +37%	2.866 tonnes, +11%	Herring, sprat, salmon, cod.

Figure 6. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN FINLAND, OCTOBER 2023**



Percentages show change from the previous year.

Table 7. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN FRANCE**


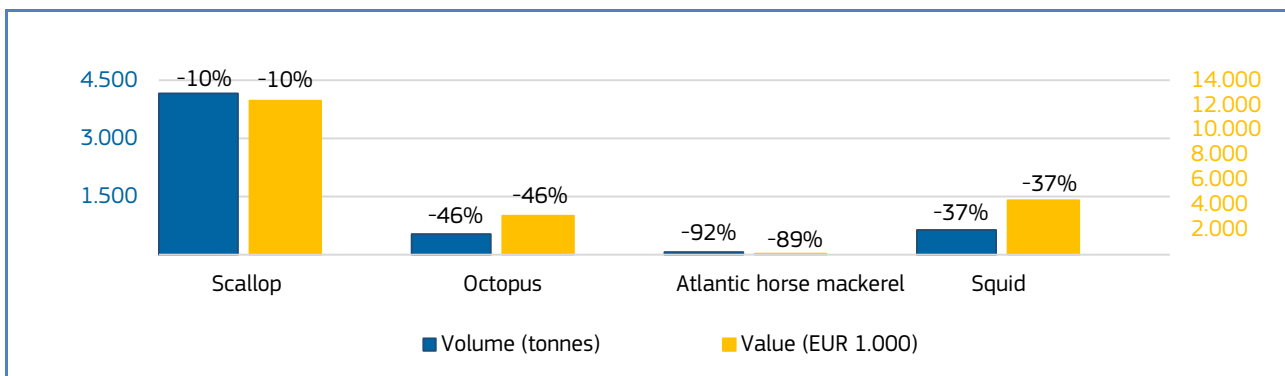
 France	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
<b>Jan-Oct 2023 vs Jan-Oct 2022</b>	EUR 591,5 million, -7%	214.358 tonnes, -10%	Albacore tuna, hake, octopus, seaweed and other algae.
<b>Oct 2023 vs Oct 2022</b>	EUR 65,1 million, -12%	21.534 tonnes, -9%	Scallop, octopus, Atlantic horse mackerel, squid.

Figure 7. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN FRANCE, OCTOBER 2023**



Percentages show change from the previous year.

Table 8. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN GERMANY**


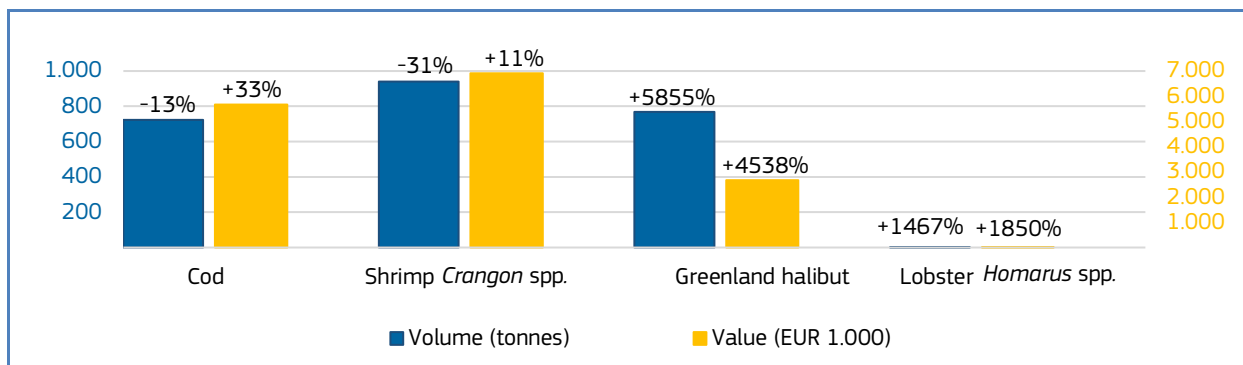

 Germany	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species	Notes
<b>Jan-Oct 2023 vs Jan-Oct 2022</b>	EUR 59,4 million, -28%	25.914 tonnes, -4%	Shrimp <i>Crangon</i> spp., cod, herring, coldwater shrimps.	In October 2023, there was a strong increase in first sales of <b>Greenland halibut</b> compared to October 2022. The German landings of Greenland halibut surged from 13 tonnes to 768 tonnes, resulting in an increase in revenues from EUR 57,500 to EUR 2,6 million. This fishery is very specific and takes place off the west coast of Greenland with fishing trips lasting several weeks between June and December. The Greenland halibut fishery has been certified since 2019 <sup>4</sup> and is closely monitored by both industry and scientists. In the context of rather good stock status <sup>5</sup> , the huge change observed between October 2022 and October 2023 appears to be insignificant when looking at the figures over January-October when the situation looks far more stable, with a 4% increase in value and a 25% increase in volume.
<b>Oct 2023 vs Oct 2022</b>	EUR 15,7 million, +27%	2.746 tonnes, -8%	<b>Value:</b> Greenland halibut, cod, shrimp <i>Crangon</i> spp. <b>Volume:</b> shrimp <i>Crangon</i> spp., coldwater shrimps, cod.	

Figure 8. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN GERMANY, OCTOBER 2023**



Percentages show change from the previous year.

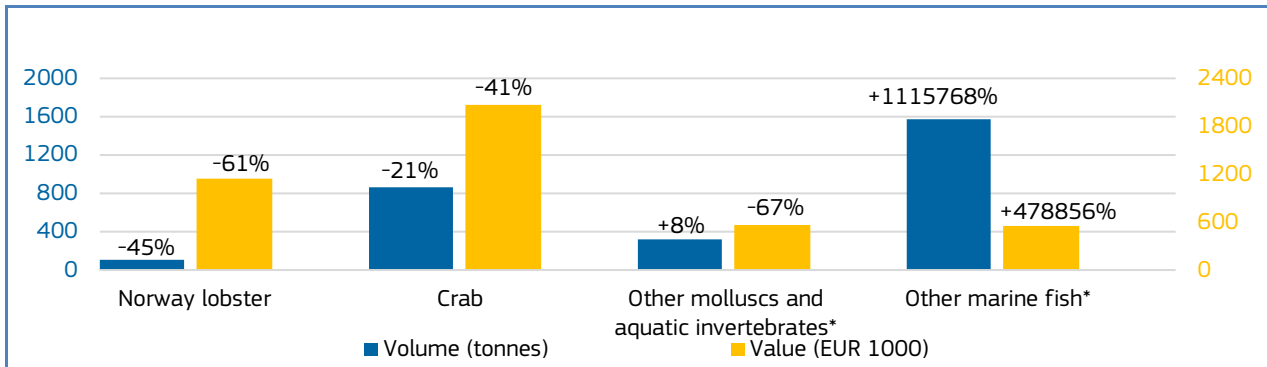
Table 9. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN IRELAND**

 Ireland	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
<b>Jan-Oct 2023 vs Jan-Oct 2022</b>	EUR 212,8 million, -16%	160.345 tonnes, -2%	Norway lobster, Atlantic horse mackerel, crab, mackerel.
<b>Oct 2023 vs Oct 2022</b>	EUR 17,7 million, -10%	9.854 tonnes, +28%	<b>Value:</b> Norway lobster, crab, other molluscs and aquatic invertebrates*. <b>Volume:</b> Other marine fish*, mackerel, scallop, monk.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.msc.org/media-centre/press-releases/press-release/100-of-greenland-halibut-caught-in-the-eu-now-msc-certified>,  
<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/doggerbank-seefischerei-west-greenland-halibut/>

<sup>5</sup> ICES Advice 2022 – ghl.27.561214 – <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19447931>

Figure 9. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN IRELAND, OCTOBER 2023**

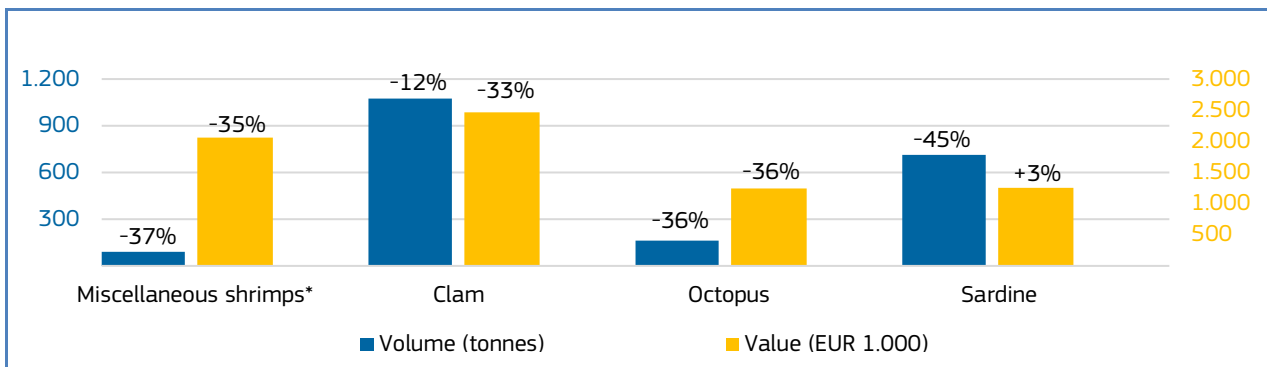


Percentages show change from the previous year. \*EUMOFA aggregation for species.

Table 10. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN ITALY**

Italy	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Oct 2023 vs Jan-Oct 2022	EUR 294,5 million, -5%	66.324 tonnes, -4%	Miscellaneous shrimps*, clam, anchovy, deep-water rose shrimps.
Oct 2023 vs Oct 2022	EUR 28,3 million, -12%	6.944 tonnes, -18%	Miscellaneous shrimps*, clam, octopus, sardine.

Figure 10. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN ITALY, OCTOBER 2023**



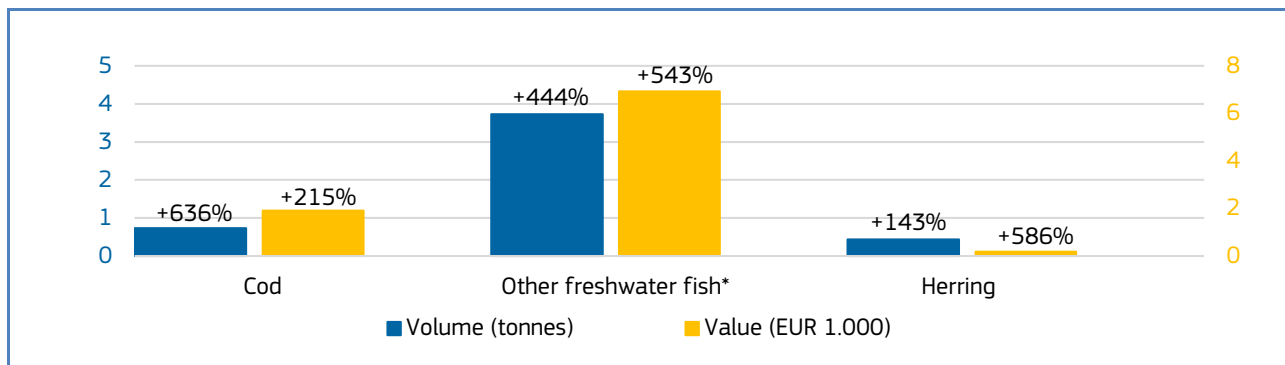
Percentages show change from the previous year. \*EUMOFA aggregation for species.

Table 11. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN LITHUANIA**

Lithuania	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume/ trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Oct 2023 vs Jan-Oct 2022	EUR 0,6 million, +17%	286 tonnes, -63%	<b>Value:</b> Smelt, turbot, miscellaneous small pelagics*. <b>Volume:</b> Herring, sprat, other groundfish*.
Oct 2023 vs Oct 2022	EUR 0,01 million, +19%	6 tonnes, +42%	Cod, other freshwater fish*, herring.



Figure 11. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN LITHUANIA, OCTOBER 2023**



Percentages show change from the previous year. \*EUMOFA aggregation for species

Table 12. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN THE NETHERLANDS**


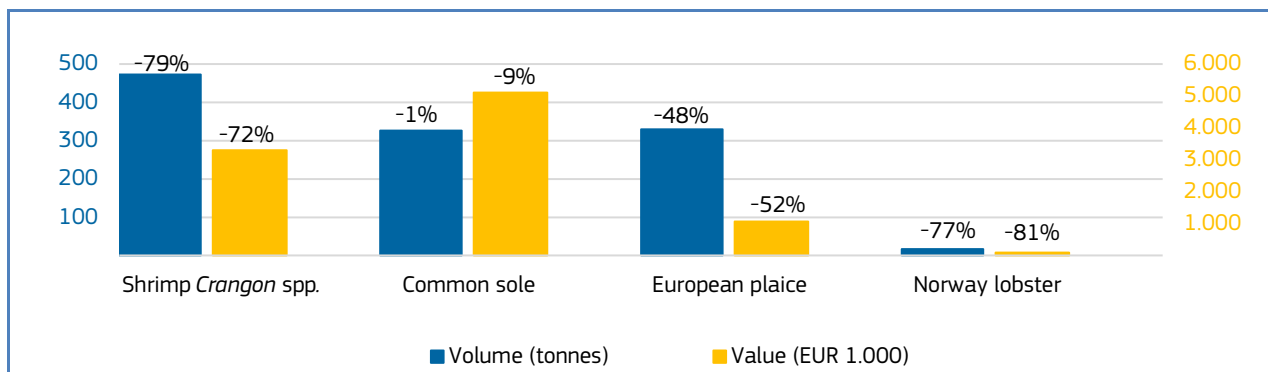

 the Netherlands	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species	Notes
<b>Jan-Oct 2023 vs Jan- Oct 2022</b>	EUR 115,5 million, -30%	48.598 tonnes, -38%	Common sole, shrimp <i>Crangon</i> spp., Atlantic horse mackerel, European plaice.	
<b>Oct 2023 vs Oct 2022</b>	EUR 13,0 million, -44%	1.980 tonnes, -50%	Shrimp <i>Crangon</i> spp., herring, common sole, redfish.	

Figure 12. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN THE NETHERLANDS, OCTOBER 2023**



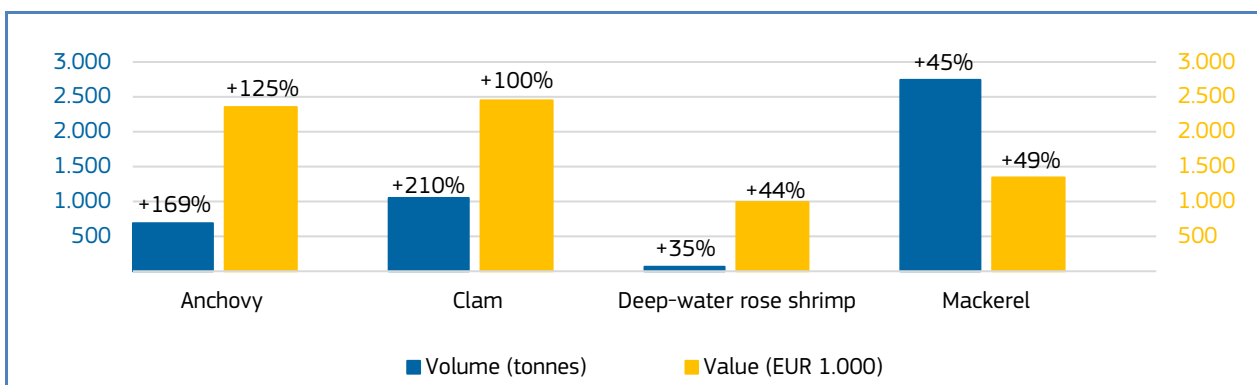
Percentages show change from the previous year.

Table 13. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN PORTUGAL**

 Portugal	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species	Notes
<b>Jan-Oct 2023 vs Jan- Oct 2022</b>	EUR 255,5 million, 0%	105.525 tonnes, +6%	<b>Value:</b> octopus, sardine, Atlantic horse mackerel, scabbardfish. <b>Volume:</b> mackerel, blue whiting, anchovy, miscellaneous tuna*.	In October 2023, there was an increase in first sales of <b>clams</b> compared to October 2022. It was observed that the increase in volume was caused by common edible cockle, together with minor increases in Japanese carpet shell and solid surf camp. In value terms, the increase is due to a small overall increase, most evident in common cockle and Japanese carpet shell.
<b>Oct 2023 vs Oct 2022</b>	EUR 23,7 million, +7%	11.275 tonnes, +11%	Anchovy, clam, deep-water rose shrimp, mackerel.	In contrast, there was a large decrease in pullet carpet shell.

By location, the increase in volume was seen mainly in port of Aveiro, followed by Sesimbra, whilst in Setúbal there was a decrease equivalent to the increase in Sesimbra. The largest increase in value occurred in Sesimbra and Matosinhos, whilst the largest decrease was in Setúbal. The increase in value can also be associated with a strong demand from a nearby market (Galicia, NW Spain) at Christmas time. In particular, due to a decrease in shellfish production, local (Galician) production was replaced by imports<sup>6</sup>.

Figure 13. FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN PORTUGAL, OCTOBER 2023

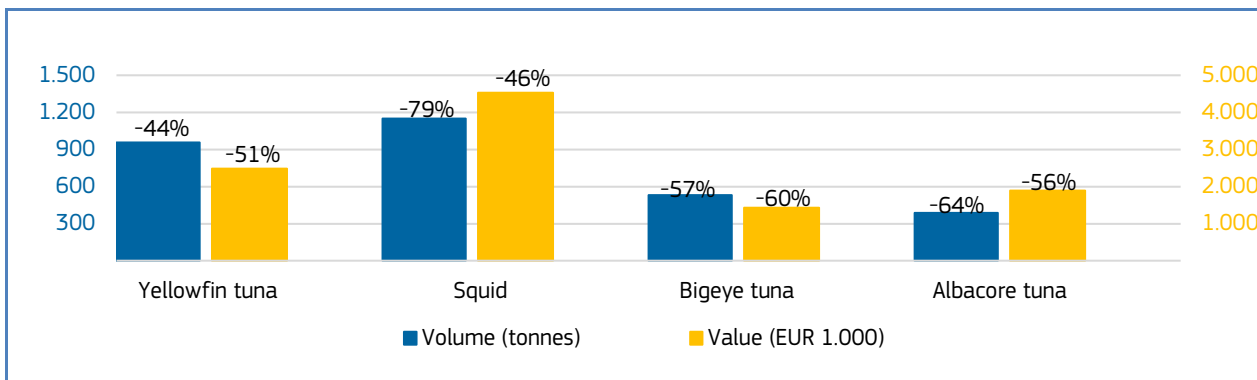


Percentages show change from the previous year. \*EUMOFA aggregation for species.

Table 14. FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN SPAIN

Spain	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Oct 2023 vs Jan-Oct 2022	EUR 1.208 million, -9%	367.011 tonnes, -6%	Swordfish, mackerel, squid, yellowfin tuna.
Oct 2023 vs Oct 2022	EUR 110,4 million -3%	32.363 tonnes, -15%	Yellowfin tuna, squid, albacore tuna, bigeye tuna.

Figure 14. FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN SPAIN, OCTOBER 2023



Percentages show change from the previous year.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.galiciae.com/blog/veronica-nunez/negra-navidad-rias/20231218182627097483.html>  
<https://www.vozpopuli.com/espana/galicia/navidad-atipica-almejas-lusas-berberechos-escoceses-navajas-holanda-suplen-escasez-moluscos-gallegos.html>

Table 15. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN SWEDEN**


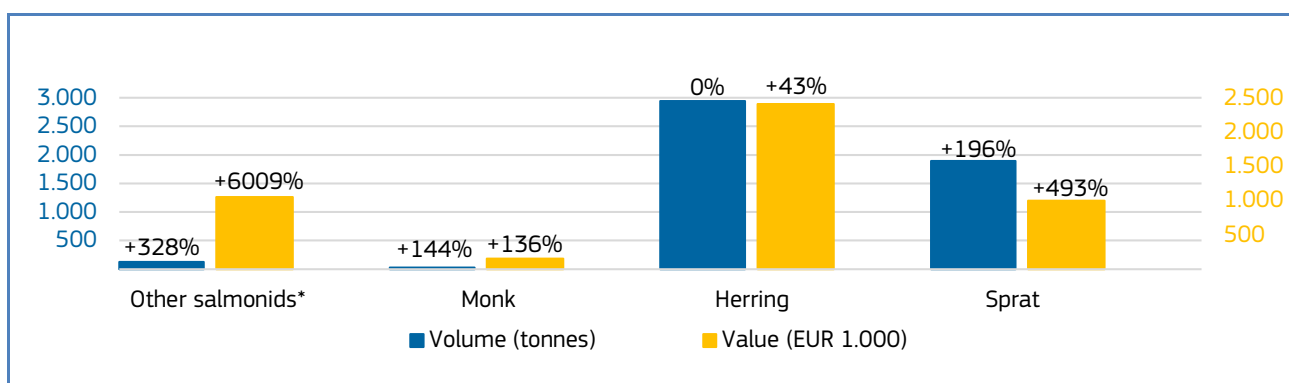
 Sweden	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species	Notes
<b>Jan-Oct 2023 vs Jan-Oct 2022</b>	EUR 50,3 million, -27%	48.071 tonnes, -56%	Sprat, herring, cold-water shrimps, Norway lobster.	<p>In October 2023, there was a high increase in first sales of <b>other salmonids</b> compared to October 2022. One of the reasons for this was the inclusion of roe in the calculation of salmonids value and volume, where particularly high increases in value were obtained. It was observed that in 2022 only around 7% of other salmonids caught by the Swedish fleet may have been sold in Sweden, which may show that the species is not popular in the Swedish market for local consumption. Moreover, vendace and whitefish are not covered by TAC and catches are not regulated. Existing resources in fishing capacity and availability of vendace allowed an increase in the volume of landings when comparing October 2023 and October 2022. A slight increase in fishing activities was also noted, causing an increase in volumes of vendace supplied to the market. When comparing October 2023 with October 2022, the price of vendace was around 10% lower, filleted whitefish around 6% lower and gutted whitefish around 2% lower. This shows that the market was satisfied with the supply of other salmonids species.</p> <p>In October 2023, there was a large decrease in first sales of <b>sprat</b> compared to October 2022. It was observed that in October 2023, sales volumes of sprat were 62% more than sprat catches by the Swedish fleet, whilst in October 2022, sales volumes were 44% above sprat catches by the Swedish fleet. It might be assumed that in October 2023, foreign suppliers provided additional sprat to the market. When comparing 2023 sales with those of 2022, the high increase in volume only appears to be noticeable in October 2023. From January to September 2023 sales were lower than during the same period in 2022. Sprat catches by the Swedish fleet in October 2021 and 2022 were similar. The price in October 2023 was 101% higher compared with October 2022, which indicates that market demand was not satisfied.</p>
<b>Oct 2023 vs Oct 2022</b>	EUR 7,7 million, +44%	5.469 tonnes, +29%	<b>Value:</b> Herring, other salmonids*, sprat, monk.	

Figure 15. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN SWEDEN, OCTOBER 2023**



Percentages show change from the previous year. \*EUMOFA aggregation for species.

Table 16. FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN NORWAY


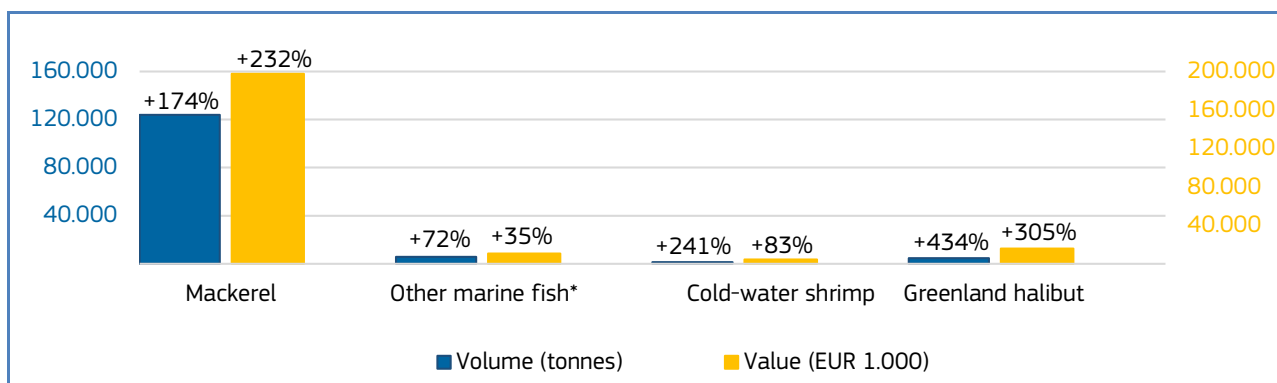
 Norway	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Oct 2023 vs Jan-Oct 2022	EUR 2.733 million, -5%	2.526.011 tonnes, 0%	Cod, mackerel, crab, blue whiting.
Oct 2023 vs Oct 2022	EUR 379,9 million +49%	297.340 tonnes, +12%	Mackerel, other marine fish*, col-water shrimp, Greenland halibut.

Figure 16. FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN NORWAY, OCTOBER 2023



Percentages show change from the previous year. \*EUMOFA aggregation for species.

Table 17. FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM


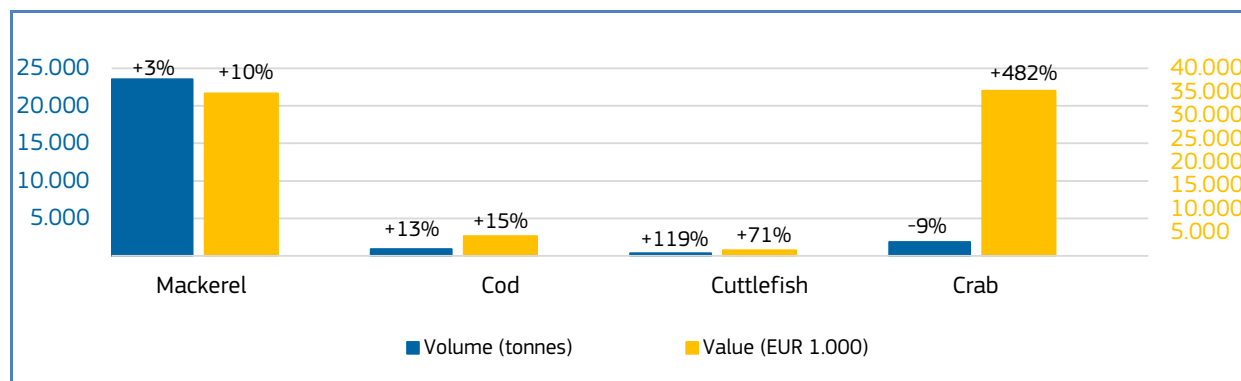
 The United Kingdom	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species	Note
Jan-Oct 2023 vs Jan-Oct 2022	EUR 597,8 million, +9%	289.393 tonnes, +10%	Cod, blue whiting, other molluscs and aquatic invertebrates*, mackerel.	In October 2023, there was an increase in first sales value and a decrease in first sales volume of <b>crab</b> compared to October 2022. This is probably due to the severe weather conditions and associated disruption that month. Heavy rains, flooding and storms resulted in reduced consumer demand and activity, so less seafood was sold. Despite this, limited supply combined with ongoing demand meant that sellers could charge slightly higher prices per unit for the seafood they had available. This allowed an increase in value despite a decrease in overall volumes compared to the year before. Poor weather conditions restricted fishing activities and transport/logistics, reducing market supply. But with some demand still present, a squeeze in supply led to an increase in value despite the drop in volume. Thus, lower supply and higher prices, but lower quantities sold.
Oct 2023 vs Oct 2022	EUR 105,2 million, +43%	38.621 tonnes, +2%	Mackerel, cod, cuttlefish, crab.	

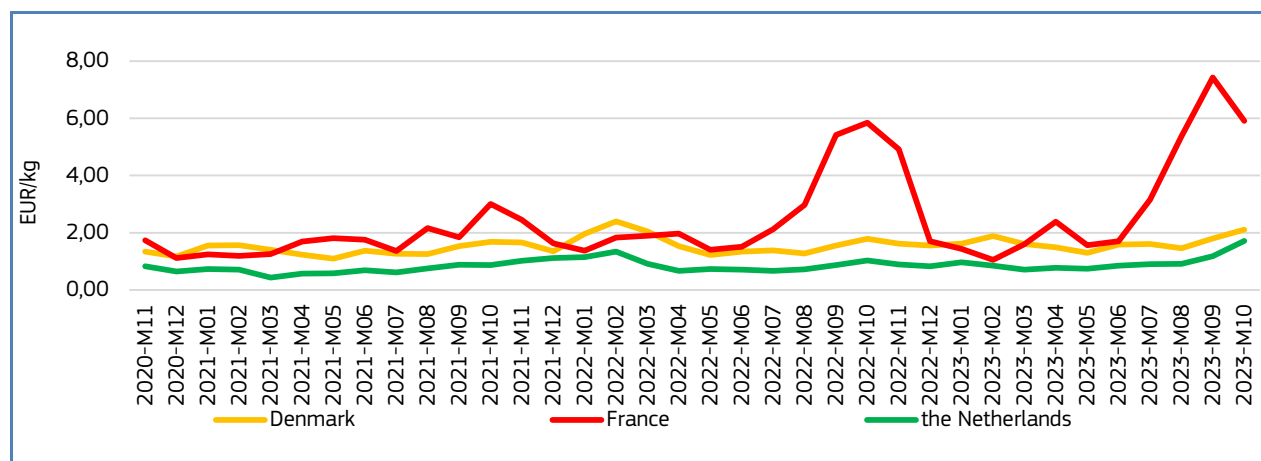
Figure 17. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, OCTOBER 2023**



Percentages show change from the previous year. \*EUMOFA aggregation for species.

### 1.4. Comparison of first sales prices of selected species in selected countries<sup>7</sup>

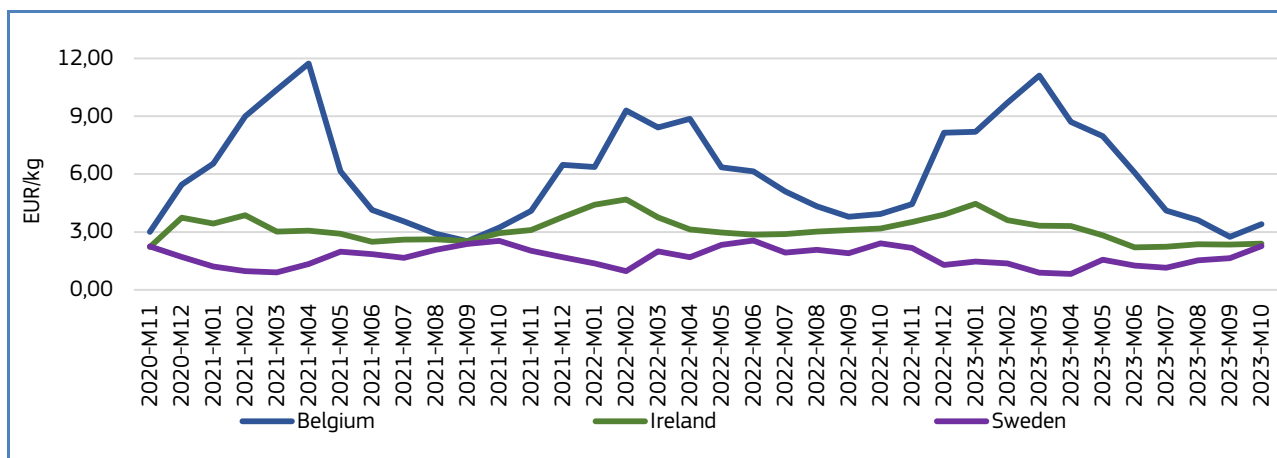
Figure 18. **FIRST SALES PRICES OF DAB IN DENMARK, FRANCE AND THE NETHERLANDS**



EU first sales of **dab** occur in several countries including **Denmark, France and the Netherlands**. In October 2023, the average first-sales prices of dab were 2,11 EUR/kg in Denmark (up by 18% from the previous month and by 18% from the previous year); 5,90 EUR/kg in France (down from September 2023 by 20% and up from October 2022 by 1%); and 1,71 EUR/kg in the Netherlands (up from the previous month by 45% and from the previous year by 66%). In October 2023, supply compared to the previous year increased in France (+6%) and the Netherlands (+66%) while it decreased in Denmark (-29%). In the three countries analysed, volume peaks in August-September in Denmark; in February-March in France; in February-March and June-July in the Netherlands where volume showed a decreasing trend over the period assessed. Between months 11/2020 to 10/2023, prices increased in the three markets analysed. Prices seem to follow supply with peaks in prices in September-October in France. In Denmark seasonal drops in prices occur in May and August.

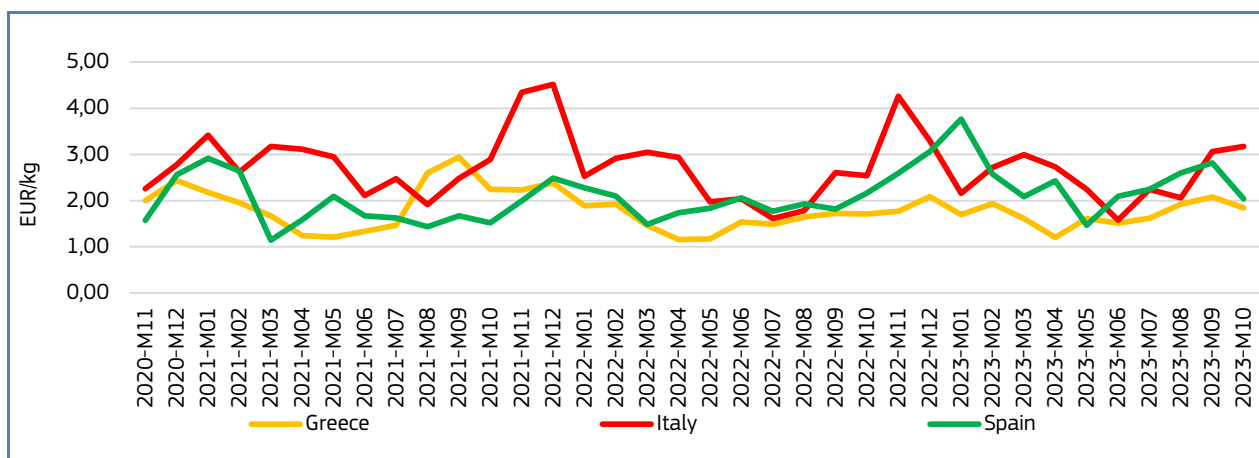
<sup>7</sup> First sales data updated on 23. 01.2024.

Figure 19. **FIRST SALES PRICES OF CRAB IN BELGIUM, IRELAND AND SWEDEN**



EU first sales of **crab** occur in **Belgium, Ireland** and **Sweden** among others. In October 2023, average first-sales prices of crab were: 3,40 EUR/kg in Belgium (up by 24% from the previous month and down by 14% from October 2022); 2,40 EUR/kg in Ireland (up by 2% from previous month and down by 25% from October 2022) and 2,27 EUR/kg in Sweden (up by 38% from the previous month and down by 6% from the previous year). In October 2023, supply decreased in the three markets analysed and specifically: Belgium (-17%), Ireland (-21%), and Sweden (-4%). Supply shows strong seasonality and fluctuates strongly in the three countries analysed, peaking in similar periods. In Belgium and Sweden supply seems to peak between October-November, while in Ireland supply seems to peak between August-October. Between months 11/2020 to 10/2023, prices fluctuated strongly in Belgium with peaks in prices between February and April, reaching the maximum price of 11,74 EUR/kg in April 2024. In Ireland prices seem to peak in January-February, while in Sweden falls in prices occurred between February and April.

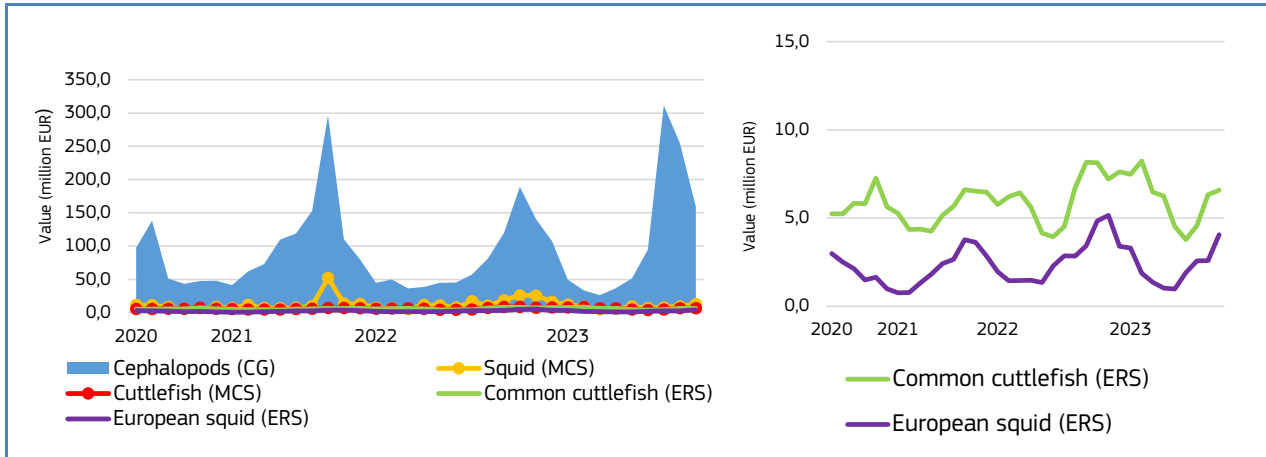
Figure 20. **FIRST SALES PRICES OF ANCHOVY IN GREECE, ITALY AND SPAIN**



EU first sales of **anchovy** occur in several countries as well as **Greece, Italy** and **Spain**. In October 2023, average first-sales prices of anchovy were 1,84 EUR/kg in Greece (down from the previous month by 11% and up from the previous year by 8%); 3,17 EUR/kg in Italy (up from the previous month by 4% and from October 2022 by 25%); and 2,04 EUR/kg in Spain (down by 28% from September 2023, and by 6% from October 2022). In October 2023, supply decreased in Italy (-12%) and Spain (-3%), while it increased in Greece (+125%), relative to the previous year. Supply is strongly seasonal and fluctuates highly with the highest peaks occurring between April and June in Greece, May-June in Italy and between May-April in Spain. Between months 11/2020 and 10/2023, prices fluctuated strongly, decreasing in Greece and increasing in Spain and Italy. In Greece seasonal drops in prices occur in April-May when supply is high. In both Italy and Spain peaks in prices seem to occur between November and January.

## 1.5. Commodity group of the month: Cephalopods<sup>8</sup>

Figure 21. **FIRST-SALES COMPARISON AT CG, MCS, AND ERS LEVELS FOR REPORTING COUNTRIES<sup>9</sup>, NOVEMBER 2020 - OCTOBER 2023**



In October 2023, the “**Cephalopods**” commodity group (CG<sup>10</sup>) recorded the 9<sup>th</sup> highest first-sales value and 7<sup>th</sup> highest volume out of the 10 CGs in the countries monitored by EUMOFA<sup>11</sup>. In the reporting countries covered by the EUMOFA database, first sales of this group of species in October 2023 totalled EUR 158,9 million and 5.640 tonnes, representing a 33% increase in value and a 50% decrease in volume compared to October 2022. In the past 36 months, the highest first-sales value of Cephalopods was registered in July 2021 at about EUR 71,9 million.

The “cephalopods” CG includes four main commercial species (MCS): cuttlefish, octopus, squid and other cephalopods<sup>12</sup>. At the Electronic Recording and Reporting System (ERS) level, European squid (3%) and common cuttlefish (4%) together accounted for 7% of the total first-sales value of CG Cephalopods recorded in October 2023.

## 1.6. Focus on European squid



European squid or common squid (*Loligo vulgaris*) belongs to the family Loliginidae. It is a widespread species, found throughout Europe, mostly the North Sea and the Mediterranean. The species lives at depths of 50-100 m, but moves to shallower waters to spawn. They become sexually mature within their first year, and their life span is 1,5 to 2 years for females and 3 to 3,5 years for males. Male and female adults usually die shortly after spawning or brooding, respectively<sup>13</sup>. In the western Mediterranean, European squid spawn throughout the year with peaks occurring in March and April. It is a predator which hunts small fishes as well as other squids. European squid growth, migration and spawning is highly correlated with water temperature. In the Atlantic and Mediterranean, the species is exploited by commercial fisheries and is also caught as bycatch in fisheries targeting various fish species.

Bottom trawl nets are one of the main gear types used to catch European squid. It is also caught using beach-seines, gillnets and trammel nets. In the Mediterranean, near the coasts where the species concentrates during autumn and winter for spawning, small-scale artisanal and sport fishers usually target the species using squid-jigs<sup>14</sup>. There is no dedicated European squid management at EU level, except a technical measure that sets minimum mesh size at 40 mm for direct squid fishery<sup>15</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> First sales data updated on 24. 01. 2024.

<sup>9</sup> Norway, the Faroe Islands and the UK excluded from the analyses.

<sup>10</sup> Annex 3: <http://eumofa.eu/supply-balance-and-other-methodologies>

<sup>11</sup> More data on commodity groups can be found in Table 1.2 of the Annex.

<sup>12</sup> \*EUMOFA aggregation for species (Metadata 2, Annex 3: <http://eumofa.eu/supply-balance-and-other-methodologies>).

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.sealifebase.ca/summary/Loligo-vulgaris.html>

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Cooperative%20Research%20Report%20\(CRR\)/CRR303.pdf](https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Cooperative%20Research%20Report%20(CRR)/CRR303.pdf)

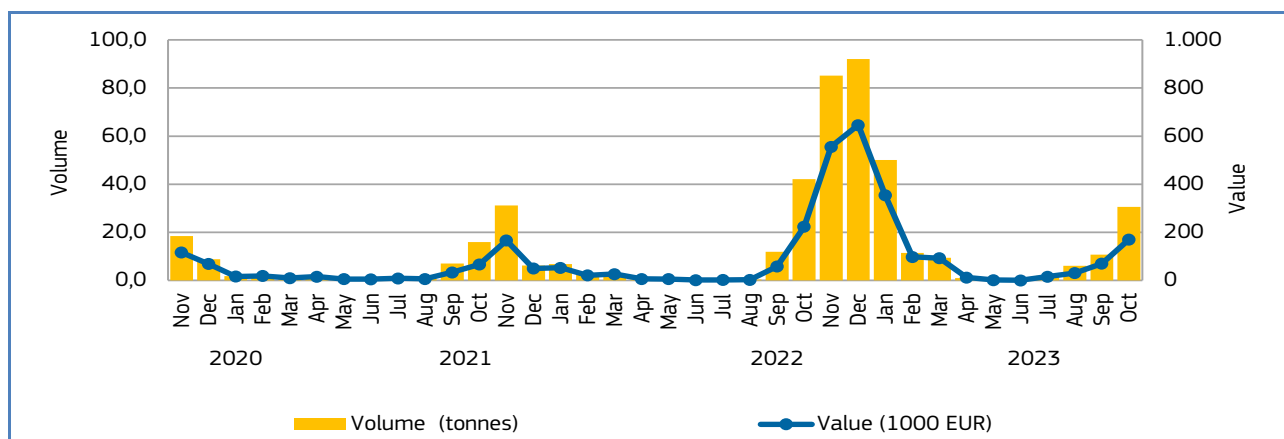
<sup>15</sup> REGULATION (EU) 2019/1241 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019R1241&from=EN>

## Selected countries

Table 20. COMPARISON OF EUROPEAN SQUID FIRST-SALES PRICES, MAIN PLACES OF SALE, AND CONTRIBUTION TO OVERALL SALES OF “CEPHALOPODS” IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

European squid		Changes in European squid first sales Jan-Oct 2023 (%)		Contribution of European squid to total “Cephalopods” first sales in October 2023 (%)	Principal places of sale Jan-Oct 2023 in terms of first-sales value
		Compared to Jan-Oct 2022	Compared to Jan-Sept 2021		
France	Value	+110%	+78%	1%	Caen, Boulogne-sur-Mer, St-Vaast-la-Hougue.
	Volume	+82%	+73%	1%	
the Netherlands	Value	363+%	+81%	81%	IJmuiden/Velsen, Urk, Scheveningen
	Volume	+366%	+81%	66%	
Spain	Value	-16%	+21%	13%	Sanlucar De Barrameda, Isla Cristina, Vigo.
	Volume	-20%	+12%	5%	

Figure 22. EUROPEAN SQUID: FIRST SALES IN FRANCE, NOVEMBER 2020 – OCTOBER 2023



Over the past 36 months in **France**, the highest first sales value and volume of European squid were in December 2023 when approximately 92 tonnes were sold for EUR 0,6 million. European squid fishery was lowest in spring and summer time when the species move into deep waters.



Figure 23. **FIRST SALES: COMPOSITION OF “CEPHALOPODS” (ERS LEVEL) IN FRANCE IN VALUE AND VOLUME, OCTOBER 2023**

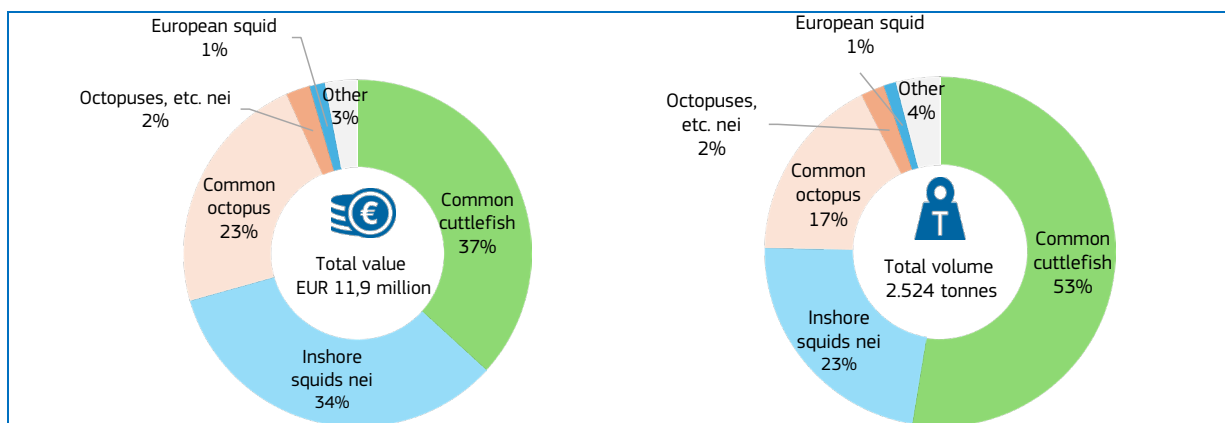
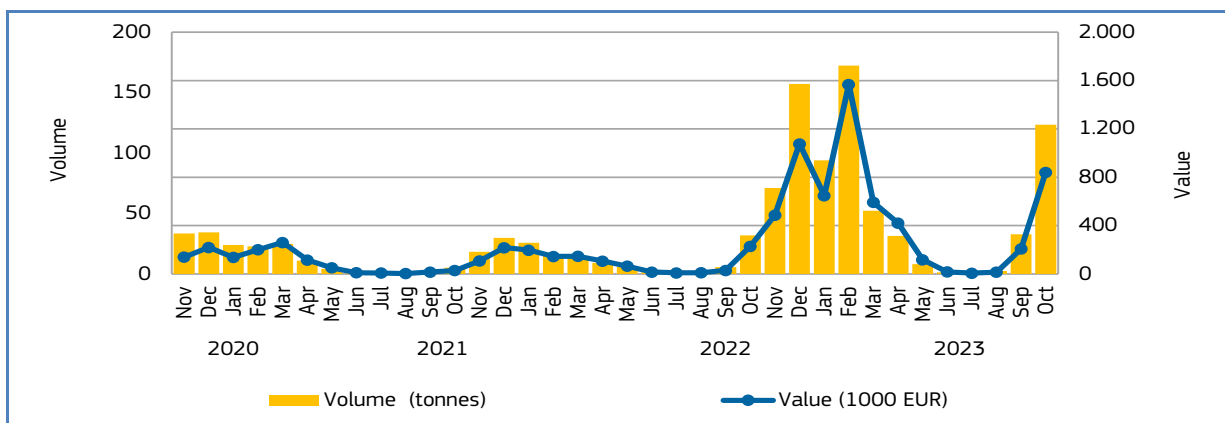


Figure 24. **EUROPEAN SQUID: FIRST SALES IN THE NETHERLANDS, NOVEMBER 2020 – OCTOBER 2023**



Over the past 36 months in **the Netherlands**, the highest first sales value and volume of European squid were in February 2023 when approximately 172 tonnes were sold for EUR 1,6 million. European squid fishery was lowest in the summertime when the species moves into deep waters.

Figure 25. **FIRST SALES: COMPOSITION OF “CEPHALOPODS” (ERS LEVEL) IN THE NETHERLANDS IN VALUE AND VOLUME, OCTOBER 2023**

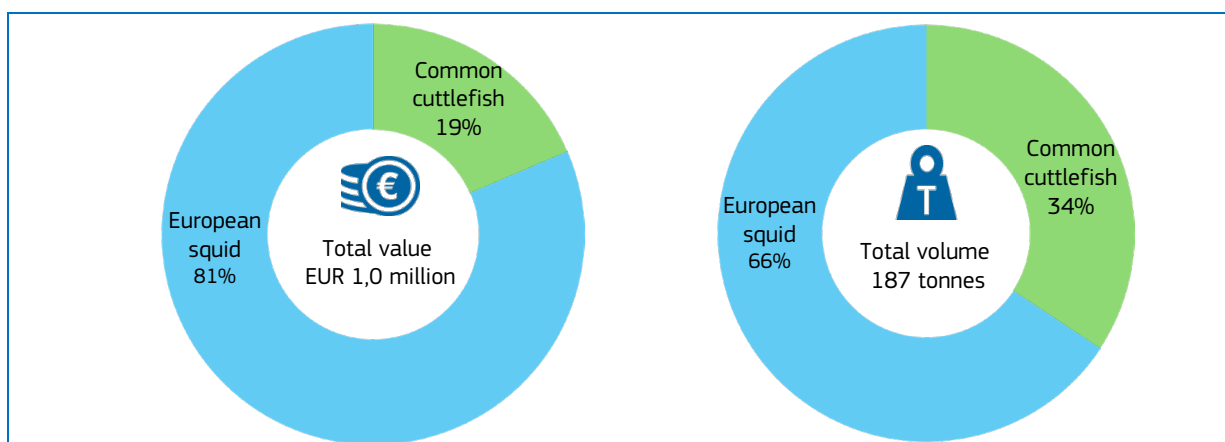
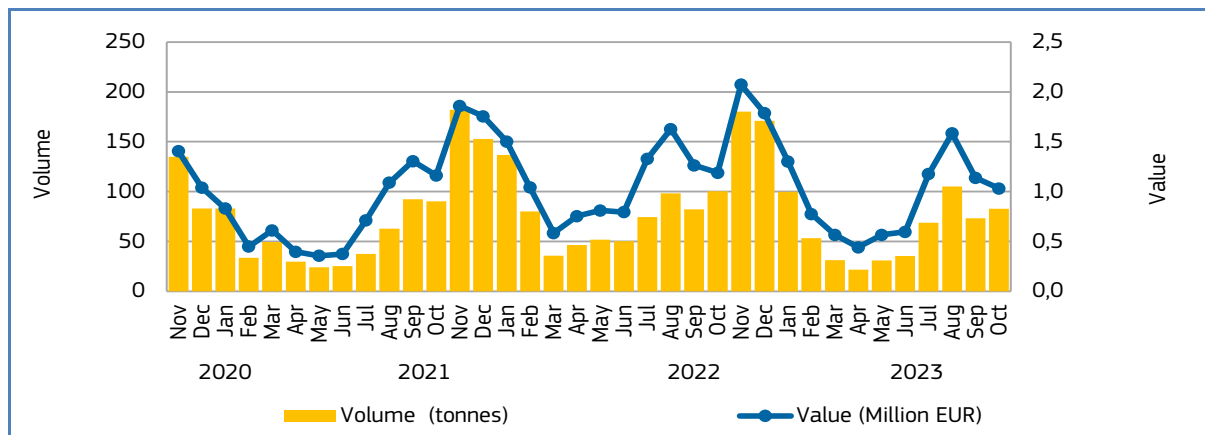
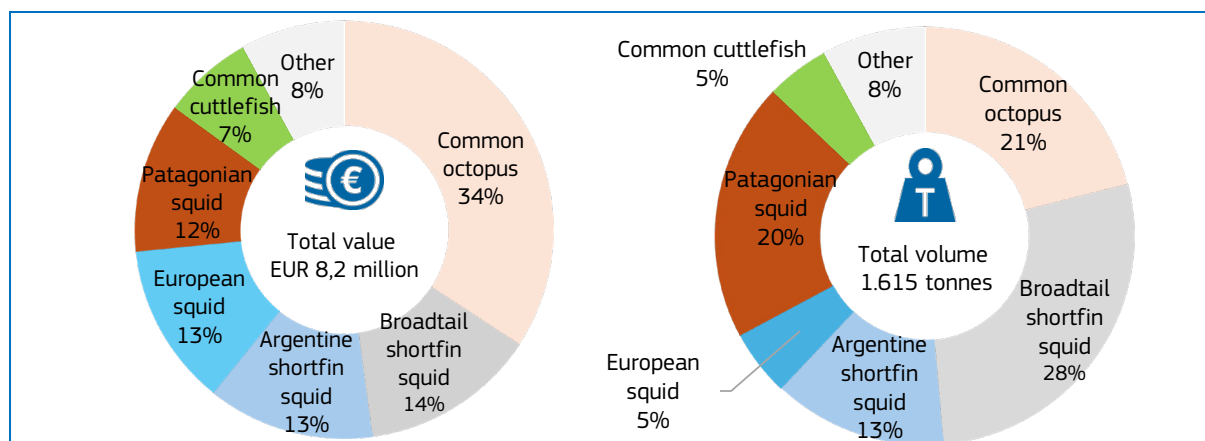


Figure 26. EUROPEAN SQUID: FIRST SALES IN SPAIN, NOVEMBER 2020 – OCTOBER 2023



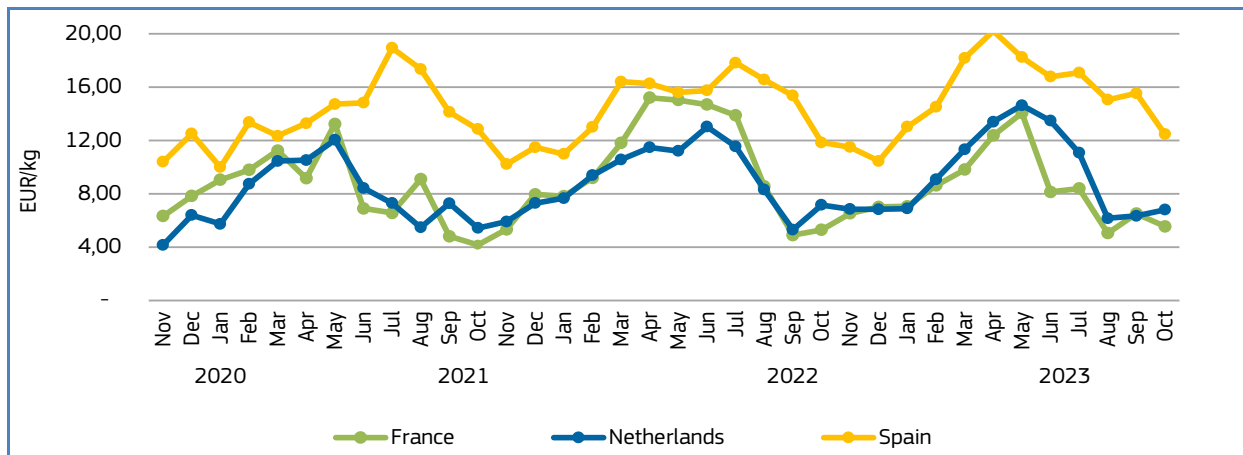
In **Spain**, over the 36-month observation period from November 2020 to October 2023, the highest first sales of European squid were registered in November 2022 and 2021, when 180 and 181 tonnes were sold for EUR 2,1 and EUR 1,9 million respectively. In Spain the squid fishery peaked in the last quarter of the year.

Figure 27. FIRST SALES: COMPOSITION OF “CEPHALOPODS” (ERS LEVEL) IN SPAIN IN VALUE AND VOLUME, OCTOBER 2023



## Price trend

Figure 28. **EUROPEAN SQUID: FIRST-SALES PRICES IN SELECTED COUNTRIES, NOVEMBER 2020 - OCTOBER 2023**



Over the 36-month observation period (November 2020 to October 2023), the weighted average first-sales price of European squid in **Spain** was 13,36 EUR/kg, 103% higher than in **France** (6,58 EUR/kg) and 69% higher than in **the Netherlands** (7,91 EUR/kg).

In **France** in October 2023, the average first-sales price of European squid (5,55 EUR/kg) increased by 5% compared to October 2022 and by 33% compared to October 2021. Over the past 36 months, the average price ranged from 4,18 EUR/kg for 16 tonnes in October 2021 to 15,22 EUR/kg for about 0,5 tonnes in April 2022.

In **the Netherlands** in October 2023, the average first-sales price of European squid (6,81 EUR/kg) decreased by 5% compared to October 2022 and increased by 25% compared to October 2021. In the 36-month period observed, the lowest average price at 4,17 EUR/kg for 33,4 tonnes was registered in November 2020, while the highest average price (14,64 EUR/kg for 8,1 tonnes) was recorded in May 2023.

In **Spain** in October 2023, the average first-sales price of European squid (12,47 EUR/kg) increased by 5% compared to October 2022 and decreased by 3% compared to 2021. During the period observed, the average price ranged from 10,00 EUR/kg for 83,1 tonnes in January 2021 to 20,22 EUR/kg for 21,8 tonnes in April 2023.

We have covered **European squid** in previous *Monthly Highlights*:

**First sales:** MH 1/2022 (Italy, Portugal, Spain), MH 1/2020 (Italy, Portugal, Spain), MH 1/2017 (Italy), MH 10/2015 (the United Kingdom), MH 1/2015 (France), MH1/2014 (the United Kingdom)

### 1.7. Focus on common cuttlefish



Common cuttlefish (*Sepia officinalis*) is a migratory short-lived species that belongs to the order of Sepiida. It is distributed along the south and west coasts of the Northeast Atlantic, and in the Mediterranean, including the Adriatic Sea. It lives on sandy and muddy seafloors and prefers moderately warm, shallow coastal waters. The species feeds on small molluscs, crabs and shrimps. Spawning takes place throughout the year in shallow waters, mostly in water temperatures of 13–15°C (between April and July in the Mediterranean). Cuttlefish reproduce

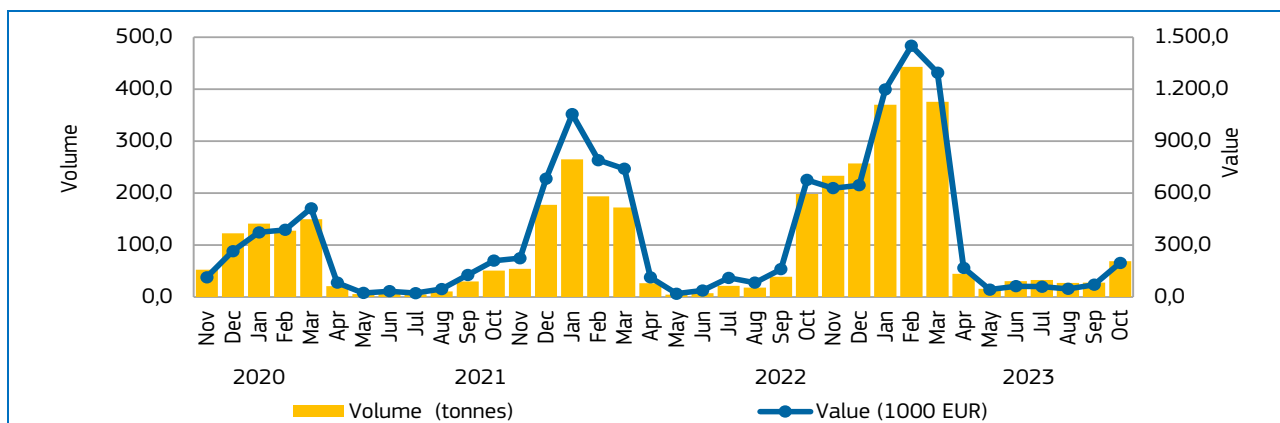
only once during their lifetime, at about 2 years, and typical life span is 1 to 2 years. The species is usually caught as target species with trawl nets and as bycatch in demersal fisheries. Artisanal fisheries utilise a larger variety of highly selective gear types, such as spears, pots and traps, often combined with the use of light<sup>16</sup>. In the EU, the smallest weight at which cuttlefish can be sold is 0,1 to 0,3 kg<sup>17</sup>. Common cuttlefish is frequently marketed as fresh and frozen and is a highly regarded food item in Japan, South Korea, Italy, and Spain<sup>18</sup>.

#### Selected countries

Table 21. COMPARISON OF COMMON CUTTLEFISH FIRST-SALES PRICES, MAIN PLACES OF SALE, AND CONTRIBUTION TO OVERALL SALES OF "CEPHALOPODS" IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

Common cuttlefish		Changes in common cuttlefish first sales Jan-Oct 2023 (%)		Contribution of common cuttlefish to total "Cephalopods" first sales in October 2023 (%)	Principal places of sale Jan-Oct 2023 in terms of first-sales value
		Compared to Jan-Oct 2022	Compared to Jan-Oct 2021		
Belgium	Value	+21%	+60%	57%	Zeebrugge, Oostende, Nieuwpoort.
	Volume	+52%	+62%	70%	
the Netherlands	Value	+43%	+25%	19%	Vlissingen, IJmuiden/Velsen, Scheveningen.
	Volume	+87%	+42%	34%	
Portugal	Value	+26%	+6%	70%	Aveiro, Olhão, Setúbal.
	Volume	+41%	+2%	72%	

Figure 29. COMMON CUTTLEFISH: FIRST SALES IN BELGIUM, NOVEMBER 2020 – OCTOBER 2023



<sup>16</sup> [http://seafish.org/media/Publications/SeafishSpeciesGuide\\_Cuttlefish\\_201401.pdf](http://seafish.org/media/Publications/SeafishSpeciesGuide_Cuttlefish_201401.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 2406/96 <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/9e7930c8-61f9-4f8e-8b65-ccbcfeea30d5/language-en>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2711/en>

In **Belgium** over the 36-month period observed, the highest first-sales value and volume of common cuttlefish were recorded in February 2023 at about 443 tonnes sold for EUR 1,4 million. The cuttlefish fishing season and first sales generally occur in the winter from December to March.

Figure 30. **FIRST SALES: COMPOSITION OF “CEPHALOPODS” (ERS LEVEL) IN BELGIUM IN VALUE AND VOLUME, OCTOBER 2023**

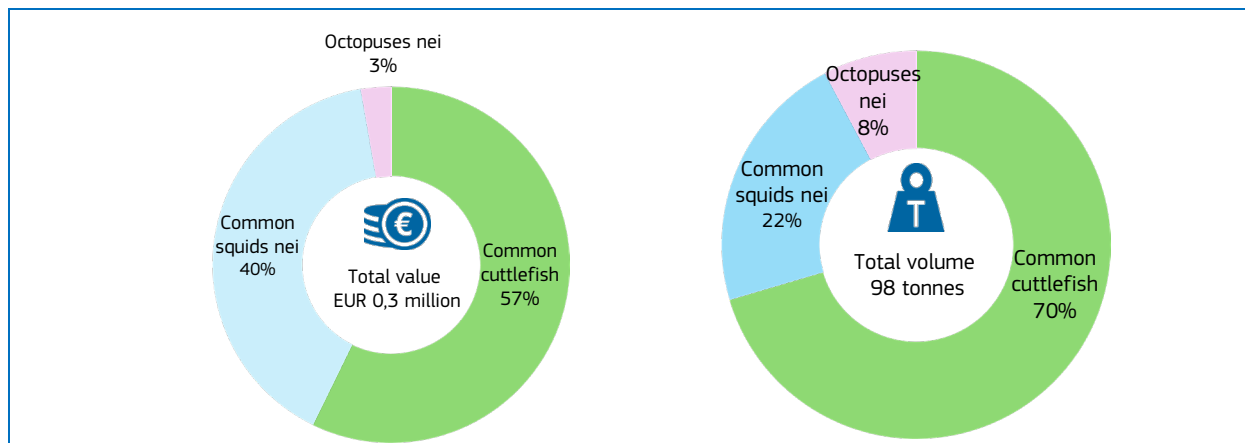
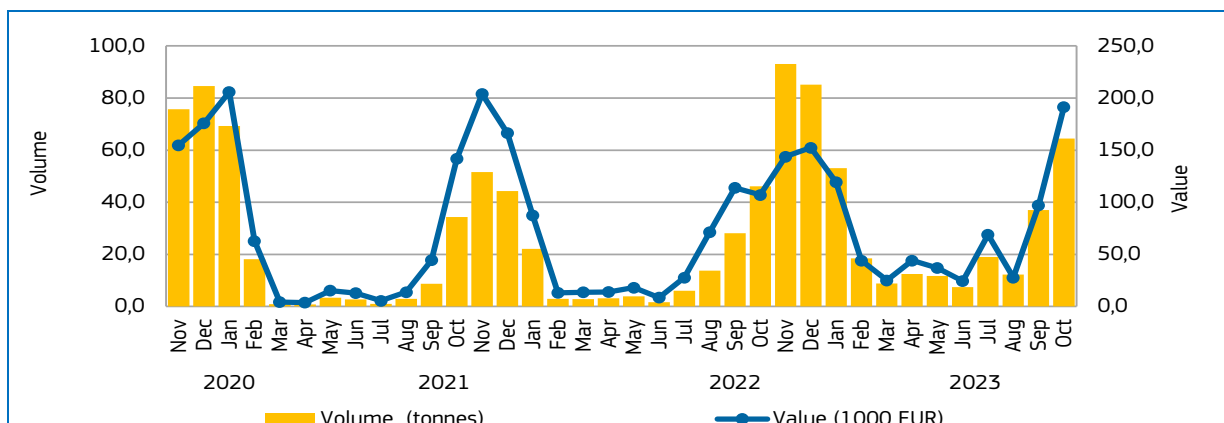
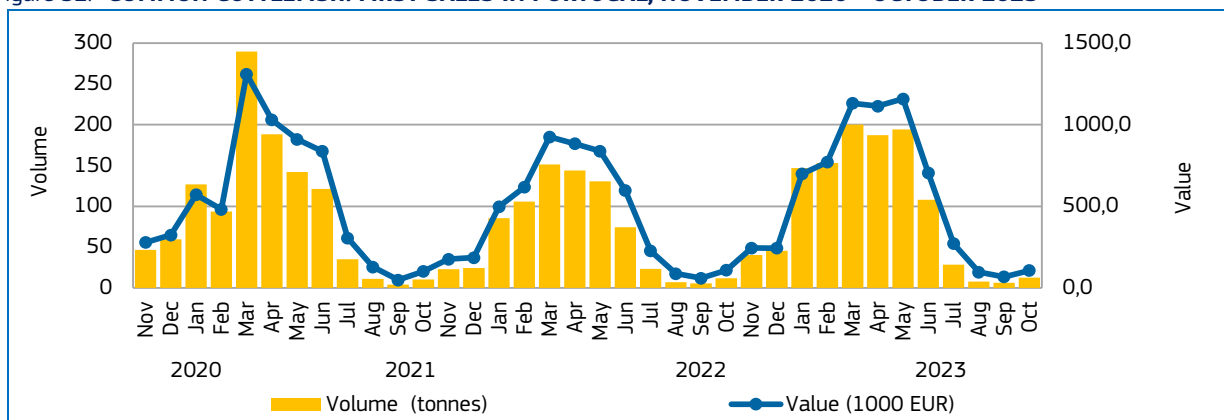


Figure 31. **COMMON CUTTLEFISH: FIRST SALES IN THE NETHERLANDS, NOVEMBER 2020 – OCTOBER 2023**



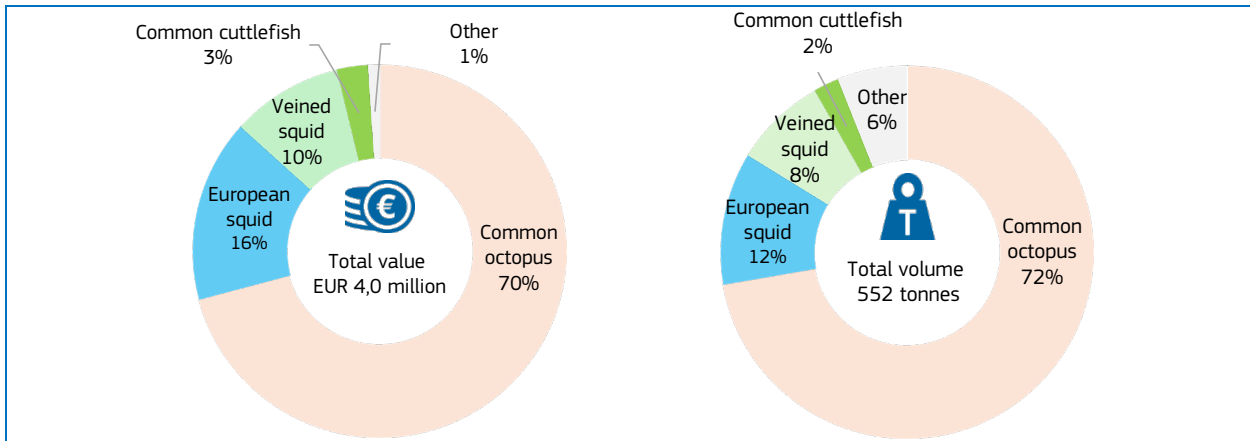
In **the Netherlands** over the 36-month period observed, the highest first-sales value was registered in January 2021 when about EUR 206 were sold. The peak in volume was reached in November 2022 when 93 tonnes were sold for about EUR 144.000. The fishery season occurred in a colder period of year as in Belgium.

Figure 32. **COMMON CUTTLEFISH: FIRST SALES IN PORTUGAL, NOVEMBER 2020 - OCTOBER 2023**



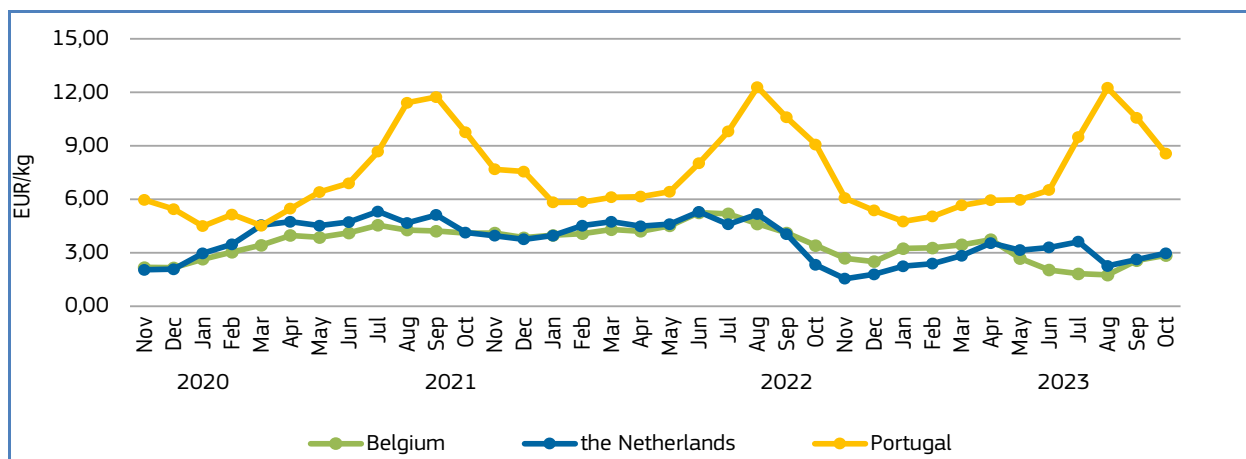
In **Portugal** over the 36-month period observed, the highest first-sales value and volume were registered in March 2021 when 290 tonnes were sold at about EUR 1,3 million. The cuttlefish fishery in Portugal is most intense in spring, when the species moves into shallow waters.

Figure 33. **FIRST SALES: COMPOSITION OF “CEPHALOPODS” (ERS LEVEL) IN PORTUGAL IN VALUE AND VOLUME, OCTOBER 2023**



## Price trend

Figure 34. **COMMON CUTTLEFISH: FIRST-SALES PRICES IN SELECTED COUNTRIES, NOVEMBER 2020 – OCTOBER 2023**



Over the 36-month observation period (November 2020 – October 2023), the weighted average first-sales price of common cuttlefish in **Portugal** was 5,95 EUR/kg, 113% higher than in **the Netherlands** (2,80 EUR/kg), and 79% above the average price in **Belgium** (3,33 EUR/kg).

In **Belgium** in October 2023, the average first-sales price of common cuttlefish (2,86 EUR/kg) decreased by 16% compared to October 2022, and by 31% compared to October 2021. Over the past 36 months, the average price ranged from 1,76 EUR/kg for 27,2 tonnes in August 2023 to 5,25 EUR/kg for 7,2 tonnes in June 2022.

In **the Netherlands** in October 2023, the average first-sales price of common cuttlefish (2,97 EUR/kg) increased by 28% compared to October 2022, and fell by 28% from October 2021. In the 36-month period observed, the lowest average price at 1,55 EUR/kg for 93,1 tonnes was registered in November 2022, while the highest average price of 5,31 EUR/kg for about 1 tonne was recorded in July 2021.

In **Portugal** in October 2023, the average first-sales price of common cuttlefish (8,56 EUR/kg) decreased by 6% from October 2022 and decreased by 12% compared to October 2021. During the period observed, the average price ranged from 4,49 EUR/kg for 127 tonnes in January 2021 to 12,29 EUR/kg for 7,1 tonnes in August 2022.

We have covered **common cuttlefish** in previous *Monthly Highlights*:

**First sales:** MH 1/2022 (France, Italy, Spain), MH 1/2020 (France, Italy, Spain), MH 8/2018 (Belgium, Italy, Portugal), MH6/2017 (France, Italy, Portugal, the United Kingdom), MH8/2016 (Portugal), MH6/2015 (France), MH3/2013 (France)

**Topic of the month:** Species profile on cuttlefish (MH4/2021).

## 2. Extra-EU imports

The weekly extra-EU import prices (weighted average values per week, in EUR per kg) for nine different species are examined every month. The three most relevant species in terms of value and volume remain consistent: fresh or chilled Atlantic and Danube salmon from Norway, frozen Alaska pollock fillets from China, and frozen tropical shrimp (*Penaeus* spp.) from Ecuador. The other six species change each month; three are chosen from the commodity group of the month, and three are randomly selected. The commodity group for this month is “Cephalopods”<sup>19</sup>.

Data analysed in the section “Extra-EU imports” are extracted from EUMOFA, as collected from the European Commission<sup>20</sup>.

Table 22. **EVOLUTION OF WEEKLY PRICE AND VOLUME OF THE THREE MOST RELEVANT FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS IMPORTED INTO THE EU**

Extra-EU Imports		Week 51/2023	Preceding 4-week average	Week 51/2022	Notes
Atlantic salmon and Danube salmon, excluding liver and roes, fresh imported from Norway ( <i>Salmo salar</i> , <i>Hucho hucho</i> CN code 03021400)	Price (EUR/kg)	8,24	7,37 (+12%)	7,81 (+6%)	From weeks 01/2023 to 51/2023 prices fluctuated, showing a decreasing trend, while they increased over the three-year period analysed. Prices ranged between 4,62 EUR/kg (week 01/2021) and 11,28 EUR/kg (week 16/2022). Prices show seasonality, with the highest peaks occurring between weeks 10 and 18.
	Volume (tonnes)	6.116	15.714 (-61%)	8.815 (+31%)	Volumes fluctuated strongly with values ranging between 5.672 tonnes (week 15/2022) and 19.507 tonnes (week 35/2022). Supply is seasonal with peaks occurring most often in weeks 34/37, 39/42 and 48/49. Lowest peaks seem to occur in weeks 13/14 and 50/51.
Frozen Alaska pollock fillets imported from China ( <i>Theragra chalcogramma</i> , CN code 03047500)	Price (EUR/kg)	2,54	2,68 (-5%)	3,76 (-33%)	Between weeks 01/2023 and 51/2023 prices showed some fluctuations and followed a decreasing trend. Prices ranged between 1,84 EUR/kg registered in week 48/2022 and 4,03 EUR/kg registered in week 41/2022.
	Volume (tonnes)	1.612	7.316 (-78%)	1.781 (-9%)	Supply fluctuated strongly but does not seem to follow a clear seasonality. Highest peaks in supply seem to occur in the last weeks of the year between week 46 and 50. Over the period analysed, weekly volumes ranged between 843 tonnes (week 17/2022) to 13.680 tonnes (week 50/2023).
Frozen tropical shrimp imported from Ecuador (genus <i>Penaeus</i> , CN code 03061792)	Price (EUR/kg)	5,93	5,78 (+3%)	5,93 (0%)	From week 01/2023 and week 51/2023 prices fluctuated slightly, while they showed an increasing trend over the past three years. Prices fluctuated between 4,58 EUR/kg (week 10/2021) to 7,19 EUR/kg (week 17/2023).
	Volume (tonnes)	2.805	2.533 (+11%)	3.361 (-17%)	In the period analysed volumes showed high fluctuations, with peaks in supply most often between weeks 14/17, 21/23, 30/33 and 45/46. Volume fluctuated between 891 tonnes (week 37/2023) and 4.925 tonnes (week 33/2021).

<sup>19</sup> The featured species of the commodity group of the month are live, fresh or chilled, cuttle fish from Tunisia, frozen squid from China and frozen squid from Morocco. The three randomly selected species this month are prepared or preserved fillets known as “loins” of skipjack from Ecuador, frozen catfish from Vietnam, and caviar substitutes prepared from fish eggs from the United States.

<sup>20</sup> Last update: 22. 01.2024.



Figure 35. **IMPORT PRICE OF FRESH AND WHOLE ATLANTIC SALMON FROM NORWAY, 2020 - 2023**

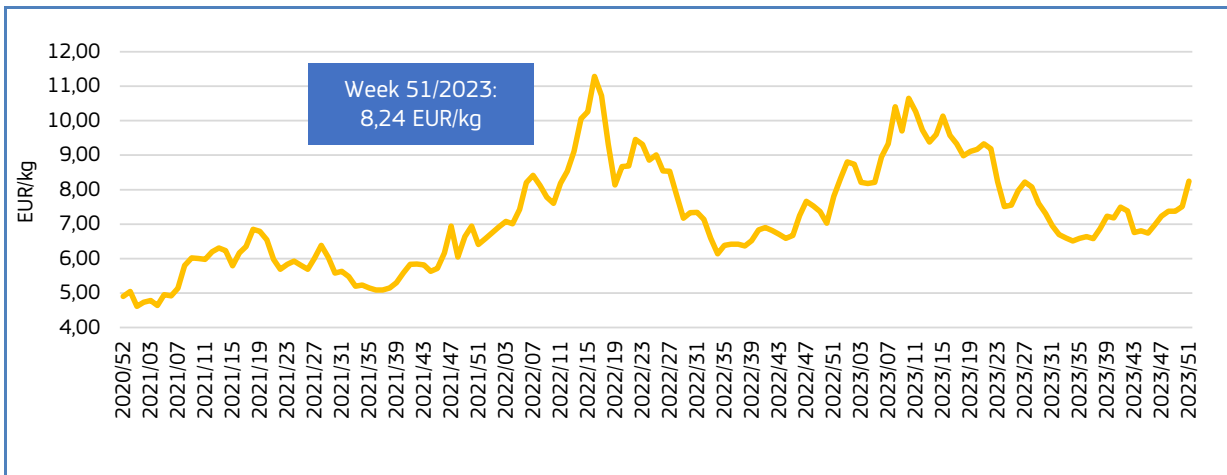


Figure 36. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN ALASKA POLLOCK FILLETS FROM CHINA, 2020 - 2023**

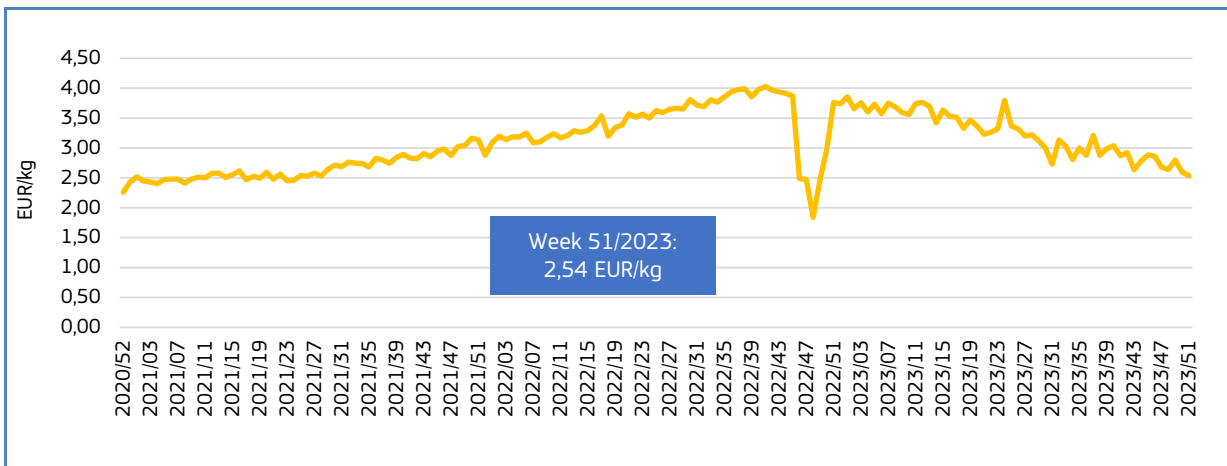


Figure 37. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN TROPICAL SHRIMP FROM ECUADOR, 2020 - 2023**

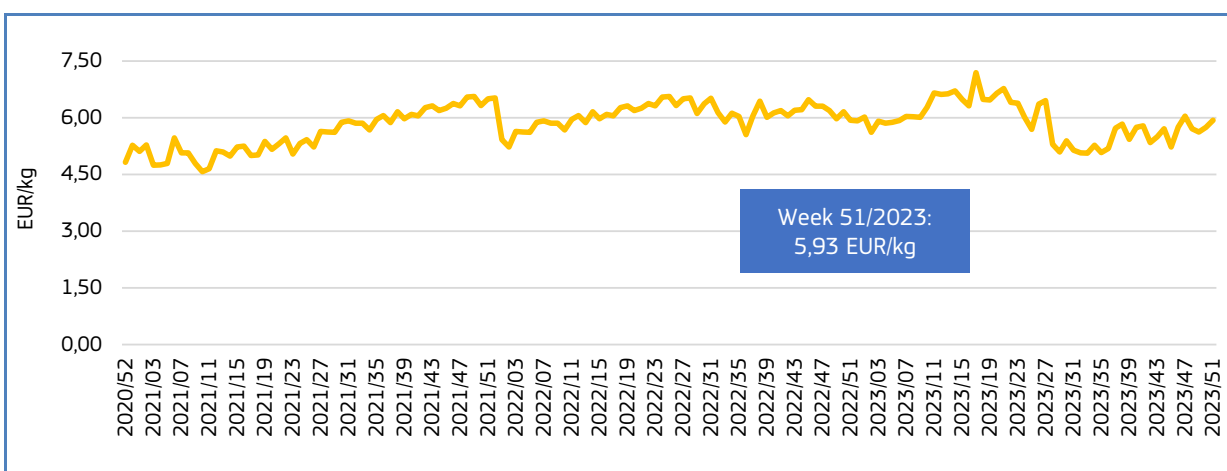
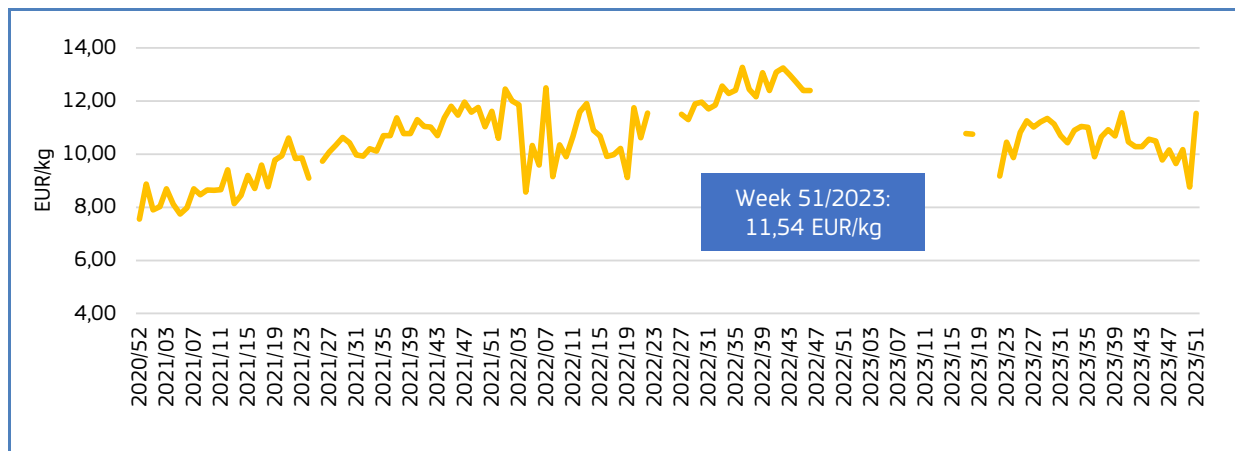


Table 23. **EVOLUTION OF WEEKLY PRICE AND VOLUME OF THIS MONTH'S THREE FEATURED COMMODITY PRODUCTS IMPORTED INTO THE EU**

Extra-EU Imports		Week 51/2023	Preceding 4-week average	Week 51/2022	Notes
Cuttlefish live, fresh or chilled, with or without shell from <b>Tunisia</b> (" <i>Sepia officinalis</i> , <i>Rossia macrosoma</i> , <i>Sepioloa</i> spp.", CN code 03074210)	<b>Price (EUR/kg)</b>	11,54	9,69 (+19%)	n/a	Between weeks 52/2020 and 51/2023 prices fluctuated strongly following an increasing trend overall. The minimum price of 7,56 EUR/kg was registered in week 52/2020 and the maximum price of 13,27 EUR/kg in week 36/2022. 54% of the weekly prices are between 10,00 EUR/kg and 12,00 EUR/kg.
	<b>Volume (tonnes)</b>	2	5 (-57%)	n/a	Volumes showed high fluctuations ranging from 36 kg (week 13/2023) to 9 tonnes (week 50/2023). 44% of the weekly supply was less than 90 tonnes. There is no clear seasonality in supply, but the highest peaks were registered in weeks 28/29 and 50.
Frozen <b>squid</b> from <b>China</b> (" <i>Illex</i> spp.", CN code 03074392)	<b>Price (EUR/kg)</b>	4,75	4,74 (0%)	5,03 (-6%)	Between weeks 52/2020 and 51/2023 prices showed a slight increase, fluctuating between 3,52 EUR/kg (week 40/2021) and the maximum price of 5,90 (week 34/2022). 54% of the weekly prices were between 4,00 EUR/kg and 5,00 EUR/kg.
	<b>Volume (tonnes)</b>	102	174 (-41%)	170 (-40%)	Volumes showed high fluctuations ranging from 16 tonnes (week 13/2021) to 722 tonnes (week 26/2021). 60% of the weekly supply was less than 250 tonnes. No clear seasonality is registered, while the highest peaks were registered in 2021 weeks 26, 44 and 48 respectively.
Frozen <b>squid</b> from <b>Morocco</b> (" <i>Loligo vulgaris</i> ", CN code 03074331)	<b>Price (EUR/kg)</b>	9,71	9,22 (+5%)	11,64 (-17%)	Prices fluctuated strongly in the period analysed, increasing from the minimum price 6,58 EUR/kg (week 52/2020) to the maximum price 14,52 EUR/kg (week 38/2022), to then decrease until the latest week analysed. The price increase could be related to a decrease in supply. 45% of the weekly prices were below 10,00 EUR/kg.
	<b>Volume (tonnes)</b>	146	293 (-50%)	170 (-14%)	Very high fluctuations in supply from 11 tonnes (week 28/2022) to 1.112 tonnes (week 11/2021). 47% of the weekly supply was below 200 tonnes. The highest peak was registered in 2021, while in the following years a drop in supply was recorded.

Figure 38. **IMPORT PRICE OF LIVE, FRESH OR CHILLED CUTTLEFISH FROM TUNISIA, 2020 - 2023**



Overview | 1. First sales in Europe | 2. Extra-EU imports | 3. Consumption

4. Fisheries and aquaculture in Colombia | 5. Skipjack tuna in the EU | 6. Global highlights | 7. Macroeconomic context

Figure 39. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN SQUID FROM CHINA, 2020 - 2023**

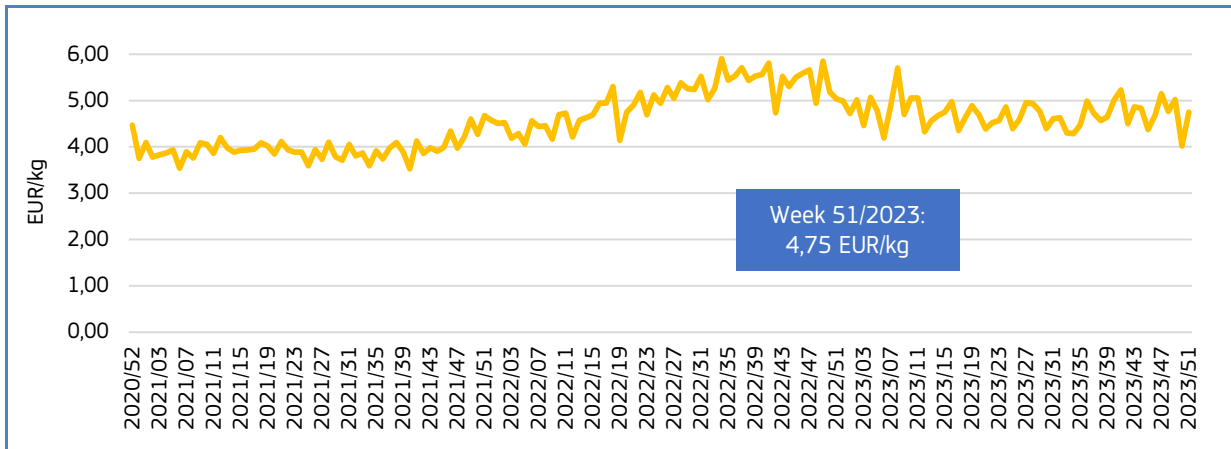
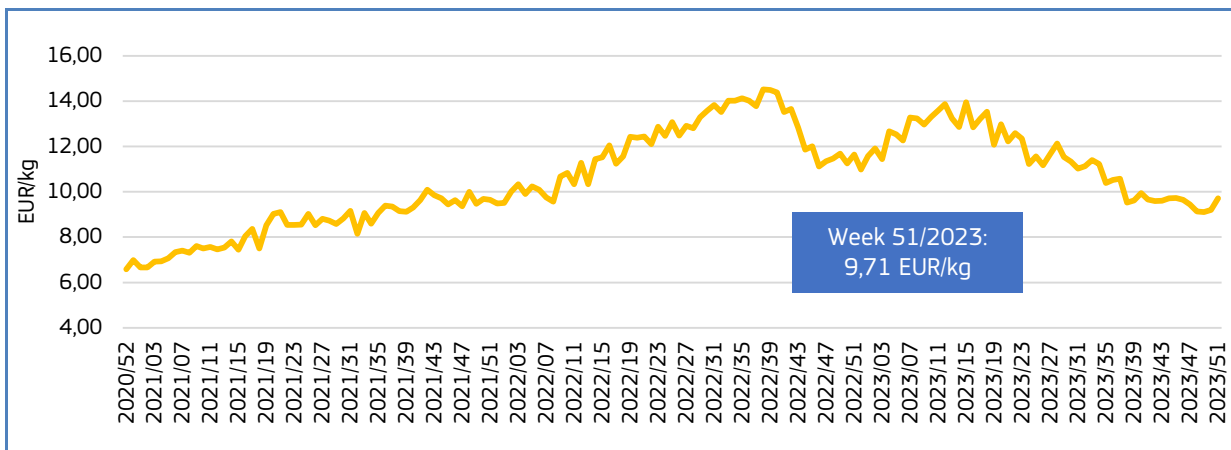


Figure 40. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN SQUID FROM MOROCCO, 2020 - 2023**



Between week 13/2023\* and week 51/2023, the price of frozen fillets of live, fresh or chilled **cuttlefish** from **Tunisia** showed fluctuations and an upward trend. The price ranged between 8,76 EUR/kg and 11,56 EUR/kg, and volume fluctuated strongly between 36 kg and 9 tonnes.

Between week 1/2023 and week 51/2023, the price of frozen **squid** from **China** fluctuated slightly ranging from 4,02 EUR/kg to 5,90 EUR/kg. Supply fluctuated strongly between 29 tonnes and 487 tonnes.

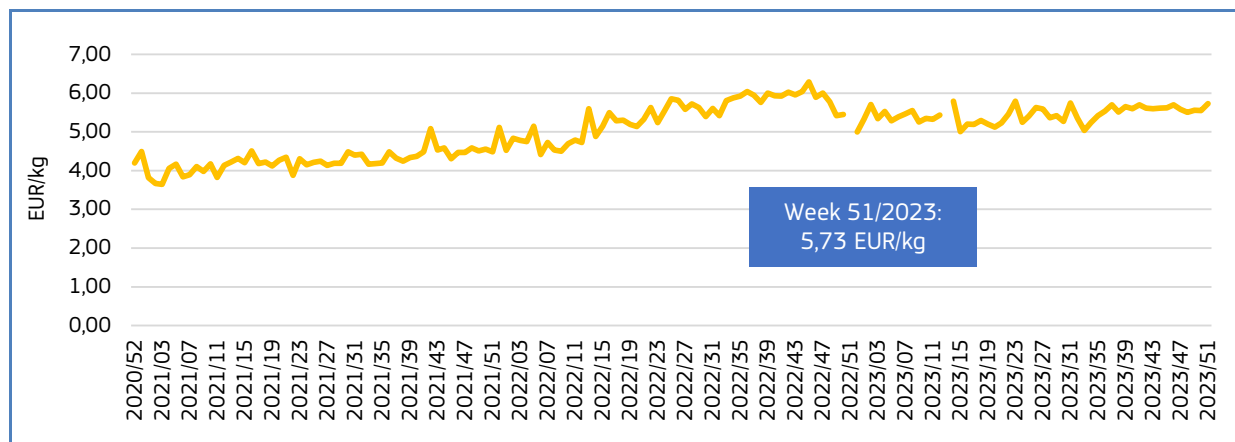
In 2023, the price of frozen **squid** from **Morocco** showed a fluctuating and decreasing trend. Price ranged from 9,10 EUR/kg to 13,94 EUR/kg, and volume fluctuated strongly between 64 tonnes and 557 tonnes.

\*Most recent data available for 2023.

Table 24. **EVOLUTION OF WEEKLY PRICE AND VOLUME OF EU IMPORTS OF THREE OTHER FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS RELEVANT TO THE EU MARKET**

Extra-EU Imports		Week 51/2023	Preceding 4-week average	Week 51/2022	Notes
Fillets known as "loins" of <b>skipjack</b> , prepared or preserved, whole or in pieces (excl. such products in vegetable oil or minced), from <b>Ecuador</b> (CN code 16041426)	<b>Price (EUR/kg)</b>	5,73	5,55 (+3%)	n/a	Between weeks 52/2020 and 51/2023 prices fluctuated following an increasing trend ranging between 3,64 EUR/kg (week 03/2021) to 6,29 EUR/kg (week 45/2022). 42% of the weekly prices were below 5,00 EUR/kg.
	<b>Volume (tonnes)</b>	14	223 (-94%)	n/a	Supply fluctuated greatly ranging from 14 tonnes (week 51/2023) to 1.658 tonnes (week 31/2021). Supply does not show a clear seasonality, and 2021 was the year with the highest peaks in supply in weeks 29 and 21. 46% of the weekly supply was more than 400 tonnes.
Frozen <b>catfish</b> from <b>Viet Nam</b> (" <i>Pangasius</i> spp., <i>Silurus</i> spp., <i>Clarias</i> spp., <i>Ictalurus</i> spp.". CN code 03032400)	<b>Price (EUR/kg)</b>	1,65	2,04 (-19%)	2,57 (-36%)	In the period analysed prices fluctuated highly following an increasing trend from the minimum price of 1,20 EUR/kg to the maximum price of 3,60 EUR/kg in week 25/2022, to then decrease again but registering additional spikes in prices in weeks 29 and 40 of 2023. 52% of the weekly prices were between 2,00 EUR/kg and 3,00 EUR/kg.
	<b>Volume (tonnes)</b>	35	113 (-69%)	32 (+10%)	Volumes showed high fluctuations ranging from 8 tonnes (week 33/2021) to 202 tonnes (week 07/2023). Highest peaks in supply were recorded occurring most often between weeks 7/9, 19/23 45/49. 39% of the weekly supply was below 50 tonnes.
<b>Caviar</b> substitutes prepared from fish eggs from <b>United States</b> (CN code 16043200)	<b>Price (EUR/kg)</b>	41,46	26,39 (+57%)	54,22 (-24%)	Between weeks 52/2020 and 51/2023 prices ranged between 14,95 EUR/kg (week 15/2021) and 102,02 EUR/kg (week 47/2022). Spikes in prices follow availability of supply. 38% of the weekly prices were higher than 60,00 EUR/kg.
	<b>Volume (tonnes)</b>	0,2	14 (-99%)	0,5 (-59%)	Volumes showed high fluctuations ranging from 12 kg (week 24/2021) to 29 tonnes (week 44/2023). Highest peaks in supply seem to occur between weeks 7 -15, and 41 - 49. 78% of the weekly supply was more than 5 tonnes.

Figure 41. **IMPORT PRICE OF PREPARED OR PRESERVED FILLETS OF SKIPJACK FROM ECUADOR, 2020 - 2023**



Overview | [1. First sales in Europe](#) | [2. Extra-EU imports](#) | [3. Consumption](#)

| [4. Fisheries and aquaculture in Colombia](#) | [5. Skipjack tuna in the EU](#) | [6. Global highlights](#) | [7. Macroeconomic context](#)

Figure 42. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN CATFISH FROM VIET NAM, 2020 - 2023**

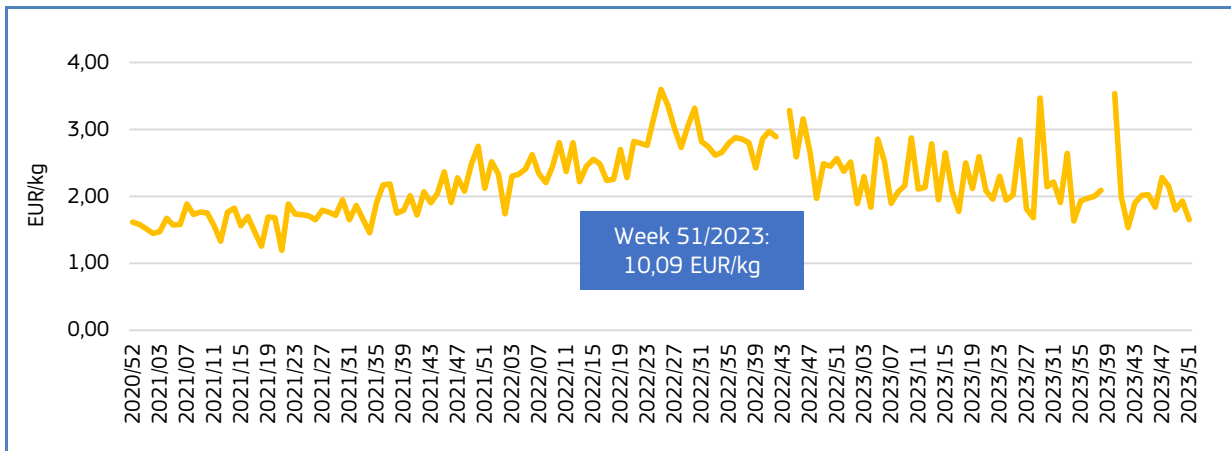
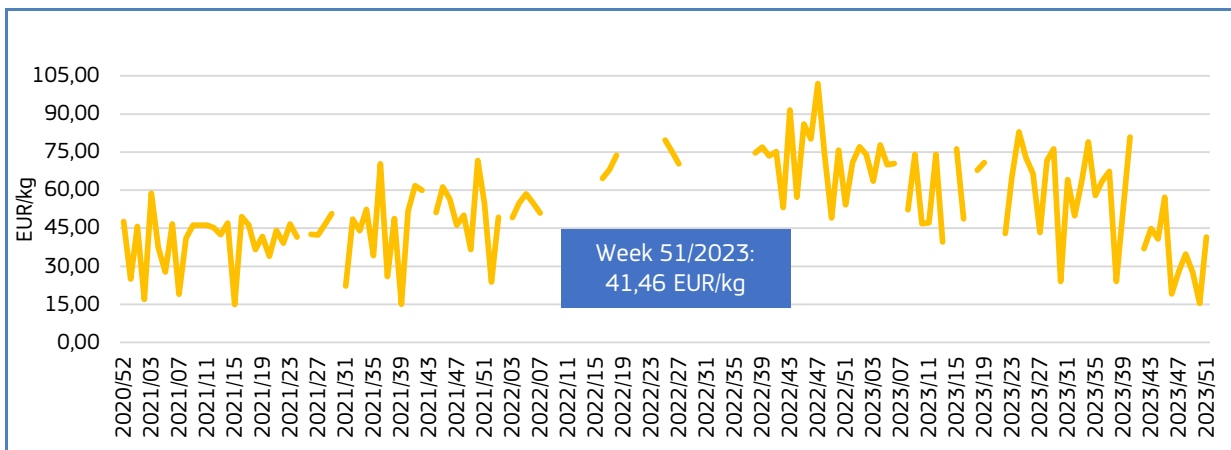


Figure 43. **IMPORT PRICE OF CAVIAR SUBSTITUTES PREPARED FROM FISH EGGS FROM UNITED STATES, 2020 - 2023**



Between weeks 01/2023 and 51/2023, the price of prepared or preserved fillets of **skipjack** from **Ecuador** showed fluctuations and an upward trend. The price ranged between 5,04 EUR/kg and 6,29 EUR/kg, and volume fluctuated highly ranging between 14 tonnes and 794 tonnes.

Between week 01/2023 and week 51/2023, the price of frozen **catfish** from **Vietnam** fluctuated and decreased. The price ranged from 1,54 EUR/kg to 3,53 EUR/kg. Supply fluctuated strongly between 15 tonnes and 202 tonnes.

In 2023, the price of **caviar** substitutes prepared from fish eggs from the **United States** showed strong fluctuations and a decreasing trend. Price ranged between 15,36 EUR/kg and 82,89 EUR/kg, and volume fluctuated strongly between 12 kg and 29 tonnes.

## 3. Consumption

### 3.1. HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION IN THE EU

Data analysed in the section “Consumption” are extracted from EUMOFA, as collected from Europanel<sup>21</sup>.

In October 2023 compared with October 2022, household consumption of fresh fisheries and aquaculture products decreased in France, Germany and Portugal in both volume and value, while in Ireland, Poland and Sweden an increase was observed in both parameters. In Ireland the increase was largely based on shrimp (49% of volume and 47% of value) and salmon (9% of volume and 17% of value). Salmon (17% of volume and 42% of value) was also the main species responsible for the increase observed in Poland, while in Sweden mainly halibut (57% of volume and 49% of value), salmonids (33% of volume and 40% of value), and cod (28% of volume and 30% of value) contributed to the increase. The highest decrease was detected in France due to a lower consumption of hake (73% of volume and 68% of value) and mackerel (37% of volume and 37% of value).

Table 25. **OCTOBER OVERVIEW OF THE HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION OF FRESH FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS IN THE REPORTING COUNTRIES (volume in tonnes and value in million EUR)**

Country	Per capita apparent consumption 2021* (live weight equivalent, LWE) kg/capita/year	October 2021		October 2022		September 2023		October 2023		Change from October 2022 to October 2023	
		Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Denmark	20,00-25,00	1.085	17,97	988	18,21	951	18,16	973	18,98	2%	4%
France	32,18	19.288	215,58	17.944	215,20	16.930	207,62	15.649	200,21	13%	7%
Germany	12,51	6.081	81,66	5.406	77,42	4.322	72,07	4.730	73,76	13%	5%
Hungary	6,55	409	2,82	339	2,42	202	2,00	248	2,45	27%	1%
Ireland	14,56	925	14,19	798	13,14	963	17,29	843	14,98	6%	14%
Italy	30,15	24.179	269,26	18.262	218,83	24.260	291,06	18.322	216,89	0%	1%
Netherland	21,08	2.894	43,65	2.158	39,61	3.023	53,00	2.155	39,81	0%	1%
Poland	14,26	3.792	25,86	3.139	24,77	2.810	28,12	3.376	34,62	8%	40%
Portugal	56,52	5.696	39,14	5.215	39,57	5.341	38,46	4.675	36,13	10%	9%
Spain	42,98	49.643	426,77	40.521	377,27	41.298	398,41	38.571	378,95	5%	0%
Sweden	22,71	925	13,03	787	11,39	507	8,23	999	14,70	27%	29%

\* EUMOFA estimates. The supply balance is built on the basis of the equation catches + aquaculture production + imports – exports = apparent consumption and is calculated in live weight equivalent. The methodologies for estimating apparent consumption at EU and Member State levels are different, the first based on data and estimates, the latter also requiring the adjustment of abnormal trends due to the higher impact of stock changes. Where EUMOFA estimations on per capita apparent consumption continued to show high annual volatility even with these adjustments, national contact points were contacted to confirm these estimates or to provide their own figures. For the Netherlands and Poland, sources are the Dutch Fish Marketing Board and Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics - National Research Institute, respectively. The estimate for Denmark was provided by the University of Copenhagen.

Over the past three years, the average household consumption of fresh fisheries and aquaculture products in October has been below the annual average in both volume and value in all countries except Sweden, where volume increased by 22% and value by 25%. In France volume was slightly (1%) above average.

<sup>21</sup> Last update: 23.01.2024.

The most recent monthly consumption data (up to **December 2023**) are available on the EUMOFA website and can be accessed [here](#).

## 3.2. Flounder<sup>22</sup>

**Habitat:** A flatfish living in marine, fresh, and brackish waters, up to depths of 100 m.

**Catch area:** Eastern Atlantic (coastal and brackish waters of western Europe), from the White Sea to the Mediterranean and the Black Sea<sup>23</sup>.

**Catching countries in the EU:** Denmark, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland.

**Production method:** Caught.

**Main consumers in the EU:** Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands.

**Presentation:** Whole, fillets.

**Preservation:** Fresh, chilled, frozen,<sup>24</sup>

**Means of preparation:** Steamed, fried, boiled, microwaved and baked<sup>25</sup>.

### 3.2.1. Overview of household consumption in Denmark and Sweden

Based on EUMOFA estimates, per capita apparent consumption of fishery and aquaculture products in Denmark and Sweden in 2021 was around the EU average of 23,28 kg LWE. For Sweden consumption was estimated to be 22,71 kg LWE in 2021, while according to estimates made by the University of Copenhagen, per capita apparent consumption in Denmark was around 20-25 kg LWE in the same year.

In the three-year period of November 2020–October 2023 flounder consumption in Denmark (2.211 tonnes) was 490% higher than in Sweden (375 tonnes), while the average price in the same period was 16% lower (in Denmark 17,45 EUR/kg, in Sweden 20,83 EUR/kg). Volumes consumed showed a decreasing trend in both countries within the same three-year period. In 2023 it was 414 tonnes in Denmark, 30% and 45% lower than in the same period in 2022 and 2021. In Sweden, however, the amount of 79 tonnes of flounder consumed in 2023 does not show any change compared to the same period in 2022 but fell by 50% compared to the same period in 2021.

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

**First sales:** MH 6 2021 (DK, PL, NL), MH 3 2018 (EE, LV, LT), MH 6 2016 (LT), MH 10 2015 (LV); MH 7 2015 (ES); MH 2 2015 (LT), MH 1 2014 (LT), MH May 2013 (SE).

**Consumption:** MH 4 2021 (DK, SE), MH 11 2018 (SE), MH 7 2016 (DK, SE).

<sup>22</sup> According to data monitored by Europanel, there is no detail on the flounder species purchased.

<sup>23</sup> <https://fishbase.mnhn.fr/summary/platichthys-flesus>

<sup>24</sup> MH 4 2021

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.fishbase.se/summary/1341>

Figure 44. PRICES OF FLOUNDER PURCHASED BY DANISH AND SWEDISH HOUSEHOLDS

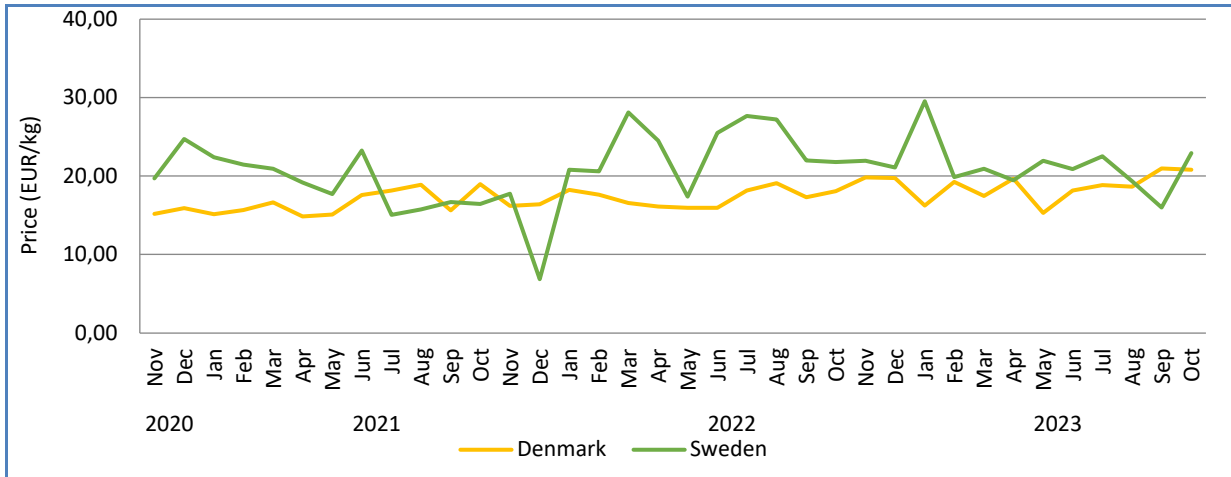
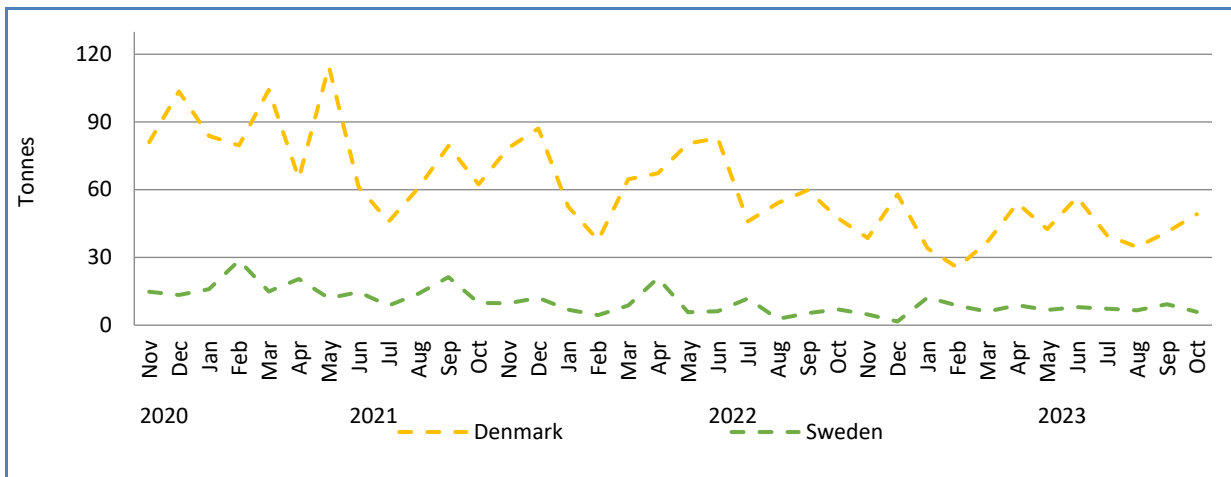


Figure 45. HOUSEHOLD PURCHASES OF FLOUNDER IN DENMARK AND SWEDEN



### 3.2.2. Household consumption trends in Denmark

**Long-term trend (October 2020 to September 2023):** Downward trend in volume and a slightly upward trend in price.

**Yearly average price:** 15,70 EUR/kg (2020), 16,60 EUR/kg (2021), 17,71 EUR/kg (2022).

**Yearly consumption:** 1.122 tonnes (2020), 923 tonnes (2021), 689 tonnes (2022).

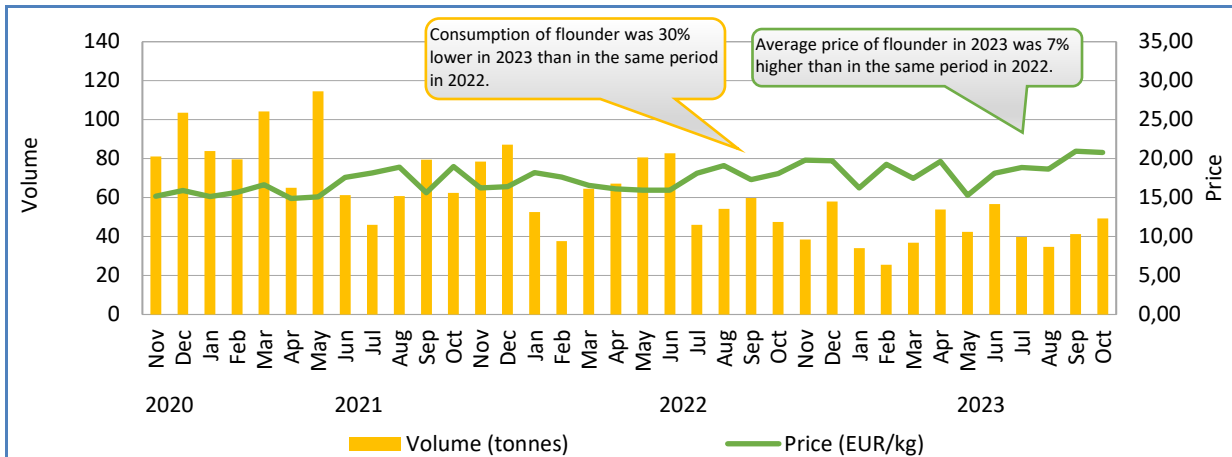
**Short-term trend (January to September 2023):** Slightly upward trend both in volume and price.

**Price:** 18,53 EUR/kg.

**Consumption:** 414 tonnes.



Figure 46. **RETAIL PRICE AND VOLUME OF FLOUNDER PURCHASED BY HOUSEHOLDS IN DENMARK, NOVEMBER 2020 – OCTOBER 2023**



### 3.2.3. Household consumption trends in Sweden

**Long-term trend (October 2020 to September 2023):** Downward trend in volume and fluctuating prices.

**Yearly average price:** 17,86 EUR/kg (2020), 17,78 EUR/kg (2021), 23,21 EUR/kg (2022).

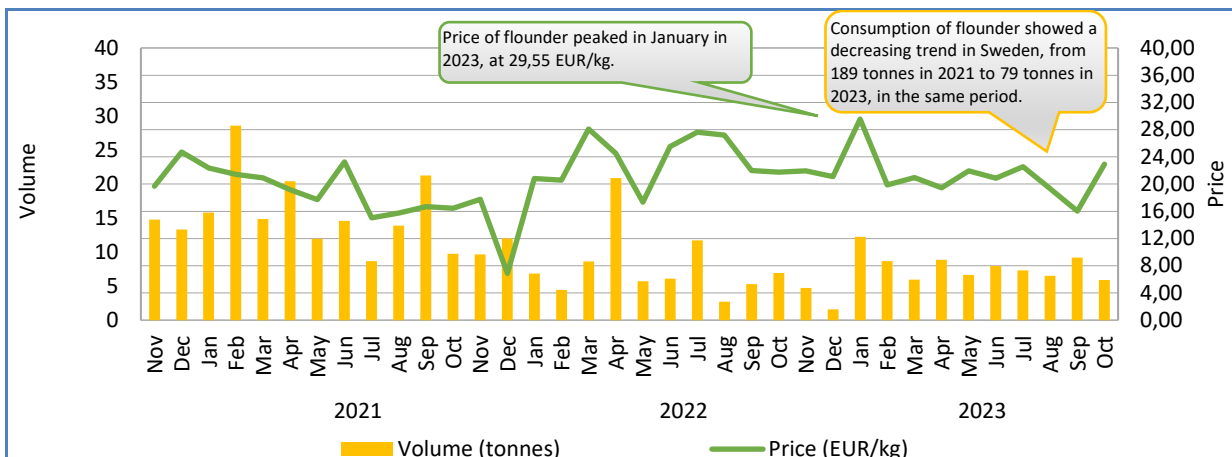
**Yearly consumption:** 137 tonnes (2020), 182 tonnes (2021), 86 tonnes (2022).

**Short-term trend (January to September 2023):** Slightly downward trend both in volume and price.

**Price:** 21,35 EUR/kg.

**Consumption:** 79 tonnes.

Figure 47. **RETAIL PRICE AND VOLUME OF FLOUNDER PURCHASED BY HOUSEHOLDS IN SWEDEN, NOVEMBER 2020 – OCTOBER 2023**



## 4. Case study: Fisheries and aquaculture in Colombia

Colombia lies in the northwestern part of South America, bordering Panama, Venezuela, Brazil, Peru and Ecuador<sup>26</sup>. The coastline of Colombia, which is divided by Panama, has a 1.600 km coastline in the Caribbean Sea in the northwestern part, and a 1.300 km coastline in the Pacific Ocean. The San Andrés y Providencia archipelago located around 650 km northwest of the Colombian mainland in the Caribbean, close to the Nicaraguan coast, became a part of Colombia in 1822.

As a former colony, Colombia has strong cultural ties to Spain and is the most populous nation of Spanish-speaking South America<sup>26</sup>. Most of the population lives in the mountainous interior, with more than one-third of the population living in one of the six largest metropolitan areas<sup>27</sup>. Agriculture makes the largest contribution to the country's economy, particularly the production of coffee and fruit. In addition, industries and services have become increasingly important.

River fish make up most of the wild caught fish in Colombia as ocean fishing is little developed. However, aquaculture accounts for more than 90% of the fishery and aquaculture products consumed in the country, which mainly consist of tilapia, trout, cachama and shrimp.<sup>28</sup>



Source: CIA, the world factbook

### 4.1. Production

With coastlines on both the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean and exclusive economic zones that cover over 800.000 km<sup>2</sup>, fisheries in Colombia are extensive and diverse<sup>29</sup>. The coastline also provides excellent grounds and high resources for developing aquaculture<sup>28</sup>. In addition to the long coastline, Colombia possesses several watersheds, a range of reservoirs and natural water bodies that provide water as a resource for aquaculture and fishing grounds for artisanal fishers. Colombia also has one of the highest biodiversity indices and greatest diversity of fish on the planet, which implies a relatively low abundance of each species<sup>30</sup>. Due to the variety, richness and geographical spread of Colombia's water ecosystems and the complex situation of fishing communities, management of the fishery and aquaculture sectors in the country is challenging.

<sup>26</sup> McGreevey, W.P., et al. (2023). *Colombia*.

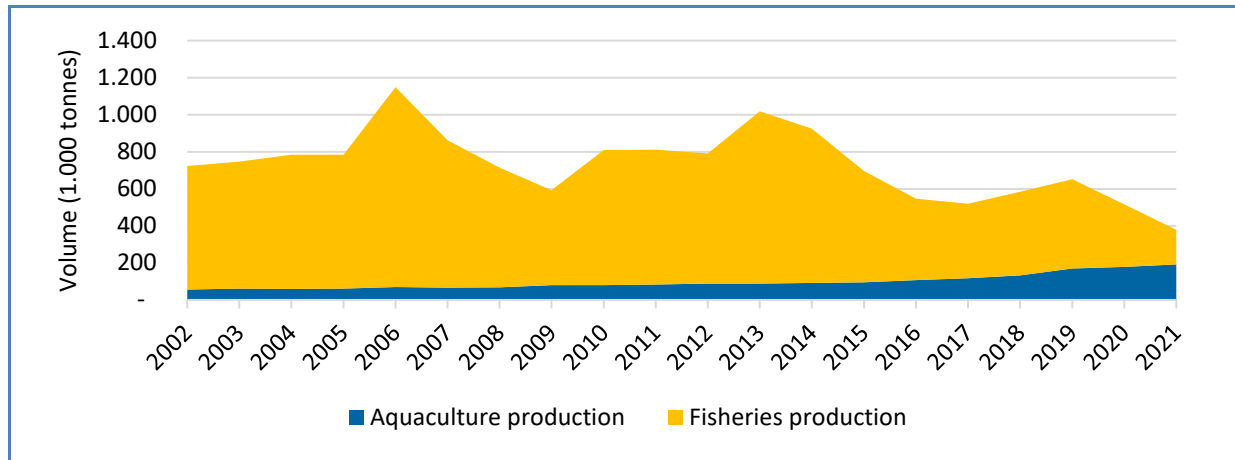
<sup>27</sup> The six largest metropolitan areas consist of greater Bogotá, greater Medellín, greater Cali, greater Barranquilla, greater Cartagena de Indias and greater Bucaramanga.

<sup>28</sup> Carrera-Quintana, S.C., et al. (2022). *An overview on the aquaculture development in Colombia: Current status, opportunities and challenges*.

<sup>29</sup> FAO (2023). *Colombia*.

<sup>30</sup> OECD (2016). *Fisheries and aquaculture in Colombia*.

Figure 50. **FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION IN COLOMBIA, 2002-2021**



Source: EUMOFA elaboration of Eurostat-Comext data.

Fisheries production in Colombia has decreased over the past two decades, mainly due to overfishing, which has caused a decline in important fish stocks, both in coastal and inland waters<sup>31</sup>. In recent years, aquaculture has compensated for some of the decline in fisheries production (Figure 50). In 2018, the fishery and aquaculture sector, including processing, accounted for 393.680 jobs. Since 2012, employment in the sector has decreased by 40%, but productivity has increased in both fishery and aquaculture production over the same period.

Before the establishment of the National Aquaculture and Fisheries Authority (AUNAP) in 2011, the framework for governing fisheries and aquaculture in Colombia was fragmented and frequently changing, and an impediment to proper management<sup>31</sup>. Today, governance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector is a shared responsibility of environmental and agricultural authorities. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) is given central responsibility for designing policies for the sector and is required to follow the long-term national development objectives and medium-term targets and priorities outlined in the National Development Plan.

The AUNAP oversees data collection, research and planning; regulation and registration of fishing and aquaculture activities; allocation of fishing rights; promotional efforts; inspection, monitoring and control of fishing and aquaculture activities; undertaking administrative investigations into behaviour that violates the law; and applying sanctions as required. The AUNAP also authorises and regulates the import and export of fishery and aquaculture products and represents the national government and the MADR in relevant missions, commissions and international organisations.

## Fisheries

Both industrial and artisanal fleets operate along the coasts of Colombia, while fishing in inland waters is essentially artisanal<sup>31</sup>. In 2018, Colombia's fleet consisted of 120 powered vessels, a decrease of 40% since 2008<sup>31</sup>. The industrial fleet catches more than half of the marine harvest, while the contribution from the artisanal fleet varies greatly, from less than 20% to nearly 50%<sup>32</sup>. The industrial fleet mainly targets tuna and shrimp, most of which is exported. Artisanal fishers mainly target fish for local consumption both on the coast and in inland waters. However, fishers in inland waters also target ornamental fish destined for the export market. The Magdalena watershed is the most important freshwater resource for inland fisheries, supplying between 40-70% of the capture volume of inland fisheries annually<sup>33</sup>.

In 2021, fisheries production in Colombia amounted to 185.889 tonnes<sup>34</sup>. This was a 45% decrease in volume compared to 2020. The decreased production could be attributed to reduced catches of spectacled caiman which has shown a decreasing

<sup>31</sup> OECD (2016). *Fisheries and aquaculture in Colombia*.

<sup>32</sup> This variation could be related to data collection issues.

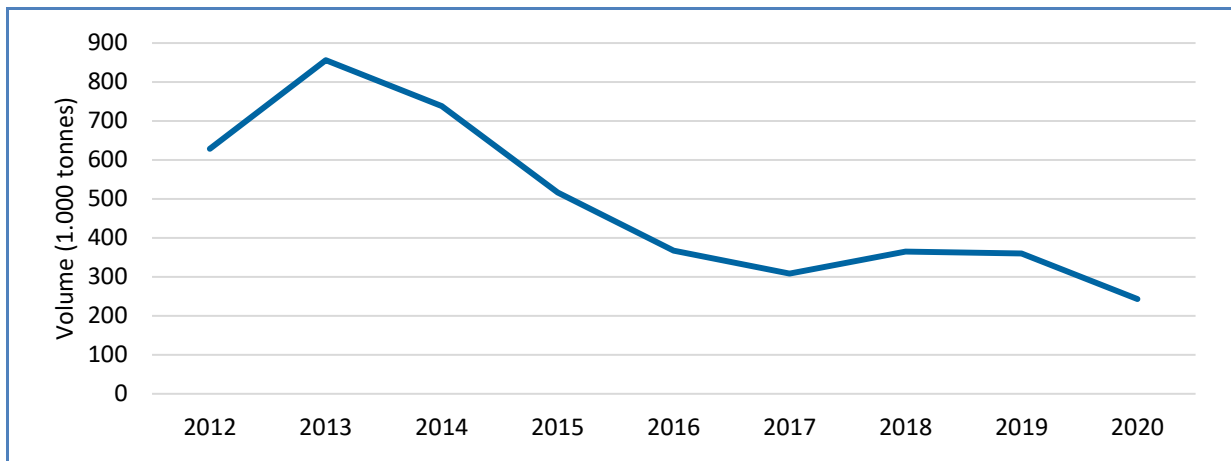
<sup>33</sup> Hernández-Rodríguez, C. et al. (2022). *Environmental crisis, food crisis and resisting fisherpersons. The case of the Magdalena River, Colombia*.

<sup>34</sup> FAO statistics.

trend over the past decade (Figure 51). Catches of other species overall increased by 37% in 2021 compared to 2020. Catches of tuna species increased by 61% and made the biggest contribution to increase in volume.

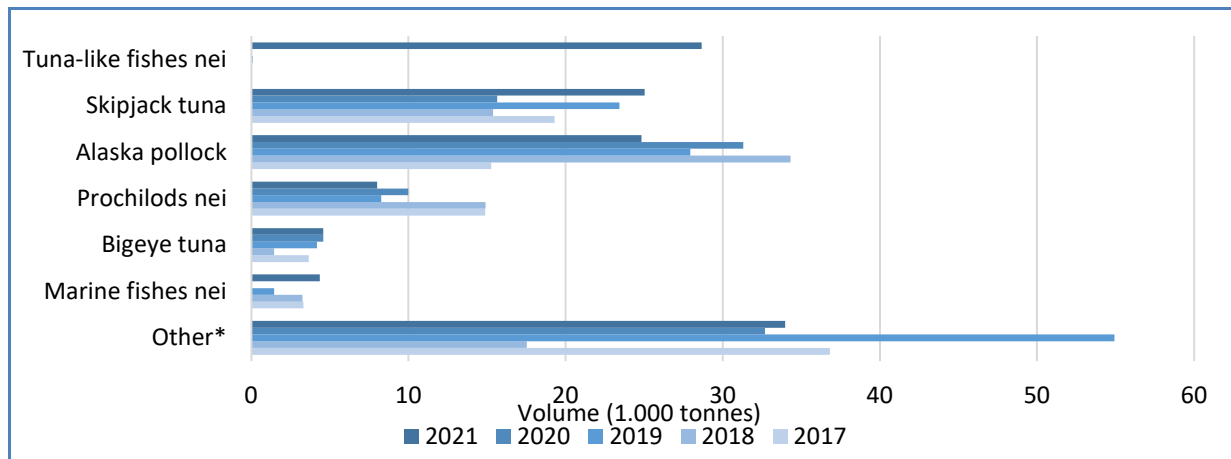
The six indigenous taxa of crocodile species<sup>35</sup> in Colombia<sup>36</sup> have long been overexploited due to their valuable and sought-after skin<sup>37</sup>. Today, there is a permanent hunting ban for five of the six crocodile species and only the spectacled caiman is not protected by a ban on hunting. However, two subspecies of spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus fuscus* and *Caiman crocodilus apaporiensis*) have specific regulations related to hunting. Farming initiatives where young crocodile individuals are bred and released into the wild have been started for several of the species in order to protect wild populations. However, only spectacled caiman meets the requirements for international trade, and the Colombian crocodile market relies entirely on farmed spectacled caiman. Despite efforts to regulate illegal skin trade and poaching, it remains a major concern in Colombia today.

Figure 51. **CATCHES OF SPECTACLED CAIMAN IN COLOMBIA, 2012-2021**



Source: FAO.

Figure 52. **TOP FISHERIES SPECIES CAUGHT IN COLOMBIA BY VOLUME (excluding spectacled caiman), 2017-2021**



Source: FAO. \*American crocodile on average made up 13% of other species captured in the period, capture volume has declined since 2019 and only made up 2% of other species captured in 2021.

<sup>35</sup> Reptiles are classified as meat and are not considered fishery or aquaculture products.

<sup>36</sup> American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*), orinoco crocodile (*Crocodylus intermedius*), black caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*), spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*), dwarf caiman (*Paleosuchus palpebrosus*) and smooth-fronted caiman (*Paleosuchus trigonatus*).

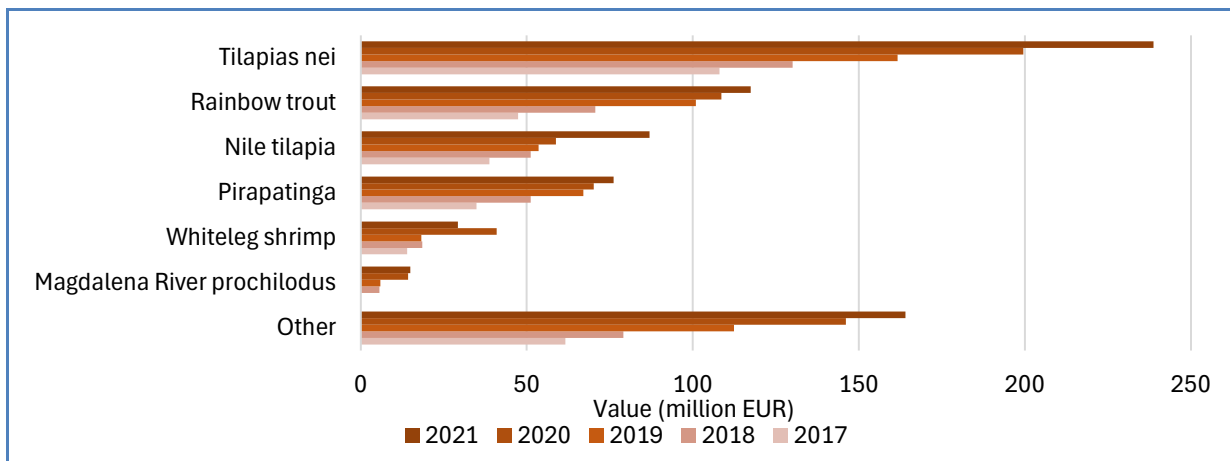
<sup>37</sup> Balaguera-Reina, S.A., et al. (2014). *Legislation and conservation efforts concerning crocodiles in Colombia: A historical review*.

## Aquaculture

The Colombian aquaculture sector is low in productivity and profitability due to several difficulties, such as the high price of fuel and imported goods, and processing plants in need of modernisation.<sup>38</sup> Currently it is not competitive on an international scale. Aquaculture production is largely dominated by inland freshwater pisciculture in ponds or floating cage aquaculture systems.<sup>39</sup> Aquaculture production mainly takes place in the regions of Antioquia, Tolima, Huila, Meta, Cundinamarca-Boyacá and Cordoba.<sup>36</sup>

In 2021, aquaculture production in Colombia amounted to 192.521 tonnes at a value of EUR 607 million<sup>40</sup>. Compared to 2020, this was a 7% increase in production volume and a 18% increase in production value. Production volume increased for many of the top valued species (Figure 53), especially for tilapia species and rainbow trout. However, production volume of pirapatinga, whiteleg shrimp and Magdalena River prochilodus<sup>41</sup> decreased by 10%, 27% and 4% respectively. Production value also decreased for whiteleg shrimp (27%), but increased for all other top valued species. Tilapia species made the biggest contribution to the total value increase, with a value growth of 20% (48% for Nile tilapia).

Figure 53. TOP AQUACULTURE SPECIES PRODUCED IN COLOMBIA BY VALUE, 2017 – 2021



Source: FAO.

## 4.2. International trade

Colombia currently has 17 trade agreements with various countries and groups, including Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Andean Community, Caribbean Community, Chile, EFTA States, Canada, United States, MERCOSUR, Venezuela, Cuba, European Union, Pacific Alliance, Costa Rica, South Korea, Nicaragua and Israel. Colombia has also negotiated Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) with China, India and the United Kingdom<sup>42</sup>. Colombia has gained recognition for its responsible practices, including certifications from the Global Aquaculture Alliance and Aquaculture Stewardship Council. The industry is also investing in social responsibility and plans to boost buyer confidence with a new origin seal introduced in 2022<sup>43</sup>.

## Export

In 2022, Colombia exported 62.251 tonnes of fishery and aquaculture products (FAPs) at a value of EUR 178 million, which was a 6% decrease in volume and a 29% increase in value compared to 2021. Other non-food use<sup>44</sup> (32%), tilapia (28%) and yellowfin tuna (21%) made up 81% of the total volume of exported FAPs, while tilapia (51%), miscellaneous tuna (11%)

<sup>38</sup> Carrera-Quintana, S.C., et al. (2022). *An overview on the aquaculture development in Colombia: Current status, opportunities and challenges*.

<sup>39</sup> OECD (2016). *Fisheries and aquaculture in Colombia*.

<sup>40</sup> FAO statistics.

<sup>41</sup> Magdalena River prochilodus (*Prochilodus magdalenae*) is a tropical prochilodontid freshwater fish from Colombia, it also has a growing role in fisheries.

<sup>42</sup> International trade administration (2023). *Colombia – country commercial guide*.

<sup>43</sup> SeafoodSource (2022). With sustainable standards for its fresh aquaculture, Colombia aims to consolidate its share of US market. [Seafoodsource.com](https://www.seafoodsource.com)

<sup>44</sup> Excluding fishmeal and fish oil. In 2022, that was 100% live ornamental freshwater fish. 41% (or 8.350 t) is destined for the US market, 18% (or 3.628 t) for the EU market, 9% for Japan, 5% for both Mexico and Singapore (each 5%).

and miscellaneous shrimp (10%) constituted most of the value (72%). Fresh whole tilapia constituted 23% of exports. An extra 9.800 tonnes of fresh tilapia were exported as fillets. Exports of yellowfin tuna and miscellaneous shrimp were made up of frozen whole/gutted fish (93%), prepared/preserved other cuts of miscellaneous tuna and other marine fish (99%). However, most of the value came from fresh tilapia fillets (35%), fresh whole/gutted tilapia (12%) and prepared/preserved other cuts of miscellaneous tuna (11%).

In the first eight months of 2023, Colombia's export volume and value of FAPs amounted to 52.928 tonnes at a value of EUR 157 million. Compared to the same period in 2022, this was a 23% increase in volume and a 43% increase in value. Tilapia (39%) and other non-food use (24%), followed by miscellaneous shrimp (10%), made up most of the value of exports.

In 2022, most Colombian exports went to the United States (44%), Ecuador (16%) and Spain (5%), while exports to the United States (66%), Spain (8%), France (6%) and Italy (5%) accounted for most of the value. This was also the case for the first eight months of 2023. Of the fishery and aquaculture products exported from Colombia, 18% of the volume and 21% of the value went to the EU in 2022.

Table 26. **TOTAL EXPORTS BY MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES FROM COLOMBIA (volume in tonnes, value in 1.000 EUR)**

MCS	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023 <sup>1</sup>	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Other non-food use	41.613	29.511	21.856	9.180	26.948	11.486	20.201	7.306	26.386	38.014
Tilapia	7.025	38.586	11.596	52.801	13.096	57.363	17.241	91.422	11.014	61.991
Yellowfin tuna	6.532	7.331	11.428	8.082	14.056	8.673	13.148	9.224	6.302	8.402
Miscellaneous shrimp	4.434	23.704	4.676	19.988	3.173	14.005	3.710	17.582	3.181	15.647
Miscellaneous tuna	10.247	17.725	6.793	25.056	5.324	18.959	3.537	18.962	3.369	13.286
Trout	1.696	11.323	1.303	8.564	1.530	9.892	1.744	13.906	1.278	10.460
Other marine fish	401	707	80	194	392	782	1.670	3.701	804	1.886
Other products	73	1.137	211	553	10	331	377	1.955	37	552
Other crustaceans	304	5.857	281	4.921	325	7.962	340	8.915	239	5.081
Rock lobster and sea crawfish	187	5.928	182	5.651	147	5.587	95	4.098	40	1.210
Other	9.816	14.999	2.029	5.461	1.109	2.968	189	924	277	798
<b>Total</b>	<b>82.328</b>	<b>156.809</b>	<b>60.434</b>	<b>140.449</b>	<b>66.111</b>	<b>138.009</b>	<b>62.251</b>	<b>177.996</b>	<b>52.928</b>	<b>157.326</b>

Source: EUMOFA elaboration of figures from Trade Data Monitor. Data are up to and including August. In 2022, Other non-food use is constituted mostly of fish or marine mammal solubles and ornamental live fish. In 2022, the MCS miscellaneous shrimp was an aggregation of 2 HS items and most of the value came from frozen other shrimps and prawns (98%). In 2022, the MCS miscellaneous tuna was an aggregation of 4 HS items and most of the value came from tunas, skipjack and bonito (*Sarda spp.*), whole or in pieces, but not minced, prepared or preserved (99%). In 2022, the MCS other marine fish was an aggregation of 8 HS items and most of the value came from other prepared or preserved fish (99,6%). In 2022, the MCS other products was an aggregation of 6 HS items and most of the value came from soups and broths and preparation (68%). In 2022, the MCS other crustaceans was an aggregation of 2 HS items and most of the value came from other crustaceans prepared or preserved (99%).

## Import

In 2022, Colombia imported 162.215 tonnes of fishery and aquaculture products at a value of EUR 497 million, which was a 18% decrease in volume and a 5% increase in value compared to 2021. Miscellaneous tuna (32% of value, 21% of volume), other marine fish (13% of value, 20% of volume), freshwater catfish (7% of value, 15% of volume), salmon (17% of value, 6% of volume) and miscellaneous shrimp (12% of value, 7% of volume) made up most of the value and volume of imported fishery and aquaculture products.

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Frozen whole (41%) prepared/preserved other cuts (38%) were the most imported categories of fishery and aquaculture products. Imports of freshwater catfish, other marine fish and miscellaneous shrimp were made up of frozen whole (56%) and prepared/preserved (89%) of miscellaneous tuna and other marine fish, while salmon imports comprised mainly frozen whole salmon (62%), frozen fillets (22%) and fresh fillets (14%). Imports of miscellaneous tuna were made up of prepared/preserved other cuts (99%). Imports of other marine fish comprised mainly prepared/preserved other cuts of unidentified fish (62%) and frozen whole unidentified fish (35%). However, most of the value was from prepared/preserved other cuts of miscellaneous tuna (31%), whole frozen miscellaneous shrimp (11%) and prepared/preserved other cuts of unidentified fish (9%).

In the first eight months of 2023, Colombia's import volume and value of fishery and aquaculture products amounted to 163.762 tonnes at a value of EUR 370 million. Compared to the same period in 2022, this was a 48% increase in volume and a 12% increase in value. Miscellaneous tuna (17%), other non-food use (13%), salmon (13%) and other marine fish (10%) made up most of the value of imports. In 2022, most imports came from Ecuador (39%), Vietnam (18%), Chile (8%), Colombia Free Zones<sup>45</sup> (7%), and China (6%) while imports from Ecuador (42%), Chile (17%), Colombia Free Zones (12%), Vietnam (8%), China (5%) and the USA (3%) accounted for most of the value. Of imported fishery and aquaculture products, 0,5% of the volume and 0,6% of the value came from the EU in 2022.

Table 27. **TOTAL IMPORTS BY MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES TO COLOMBIA (volume in 1.000 tonnes, value in million EUR)**

MCS	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Miscellaneous tuna	31.460	132.017	46.618	174.857	40.226	145.057	34.358	157.515	20.921	96.407
Other marine fish	50.361	83.417	48.170	80.498	41.329	69.119	32.975	66.578	20.040	37.814
Freshwater catfish	17.396	24.821	15.938	17.224	26.021	30.706	23.941	32.784	13.473	16.797
Miscellaneous shrimp	7.317	35.737	8.502	35.446	11.096	48.323	11.434	57.419	6.858	27.794
Salmon	7.939	50.959	10.469	44.962	11.245	68.256	10.495	82.474	6.426	46.773
Skipjack tuna	7.983	10.073	7.097	8.238	12.502	16.188	7.139	10.088	8.977	14.025
Other cephalopods	4.319	5.881	3.531	3.718	5.967	7.556	6.133	7.540	3.762	3.909
Tilapia	6.567	14.499	6.550	12.174	8.551	18.040	5.993	14.164	4.472	8.039
Other freshwater fish	5.832	6.968	5.263	5.098	7.906	8.897	4.679	5.486	2.742	2.695
Fish oil	3.366	6.839	4.075	7.918	4.104	8.232	4.132	11.491	2.769	11.524
Other	170.097	156.961	25.377	46.489	29.311	51.074	20.935	51.042	73.321	104.452
<b>Total</b>	<b>312.637</b>	<b>528.172</b>	<b>181.590</b>	<b>436.621</b>	<b>198.258</b>	<b>471.447</b>	<b>162.215</b>	<b>496.581</b>	<b>163.762</b>	<b>370.230</b>

Source: EUMOFA elaboration of figures from Trade Data Monitor.

Data are up to and including August. In 2022, the MCS miscellaneous tuna was an aggregation of 3 HS items and most of the value came from tunas, skipjack and bonito (*Sarda spp.*), whole or in pieces, but not minced, prepared or preserved (98%). In 2022, the MCS other marine fish was an aggregation of 10 HS items and most of the value came from unidentified fish, whole or in pieces, but not minced, prepared or preserved (44%), unidentified, excluding edible fish offal of subheading, frozen (25%), and other unidentified prepared or preserved fish (23%). In 2022, the MCS miscellaneous shrimp was an aggregation of 4 HS items and most of the value came from unidentified shrimps and prawns, frozen (99%). In 2022, the MCS other cephalopods was an aggregation of 3 HS items and most of the value came from cuttle fish and squid, frozen (56%) and other cuttle fish and squid (41%). In 2022, the MCS other freshwater fish was an aggregation of 3 HS items and most of the value came from other fish of the genus *Tilapias* (*Oreochromis spp.*), catfish (*Pangasius spp.*, *Silurus spp.*, *Clarias spp.*, *Ictalurus spp.*), Carp (*Cyprinus spp.*, *Carassius spp.*, *Ctenopharyngodon idellus*, *Hypophthalmichthys spp.*, *Cirrhinus spp.*, *Mylopharyngodon piceus*, *Catla* (72%) and *Tilapias* (*Oreochromis spp.*), catfish (*Pangasius spp.*, *Silurus spp.*, *Clarias spp.*, *Ictalurus spp.*), carp (*Cyprinus spp.*, *Carassius spp.*, *Ctenopharyngodon idellus*, *Hypophthalmichthys spp.*, *Cirrhinus spp.*, *Mylopharyngodon piceus*, *Catla catla*, *Labeo spp.*, *Ost* (23%).

<sup>45</sup> Colombian Free Trade Zones are specific areas where businesses enjoy special tax rates (20% for qualified entities) and customs advantages. These zones, located outside the National Customs Territory, exempt the movement of goods within them from being classified as imports or exports.  
<https://cms.law/en/col/publication/the-possible-end-of-the-free-trade-zones-in-colombia>

### 4.3. Trade flows with the EU

The EU-Colombia-Ecuador-Peru Trade Agreement involves reducing or eliminating tariffs, providing duty-free quotas, removing non-tariff barriers, and introducing measures to ease trade. For 17 years, Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador have been gradually reducing tariffs for the European Union. Once completed, all EU industrial and fishery products can be exported to these countries without duties, with some conditions<sup>46</sup>.

#### EU exports to Colombia

In 2022, the EU exported 5.750 tonnes of fishery and aquaculture products at a value of EUR 11 million to Colombia. In terms of ranking of EU exports destinations, Columbia stands as 46th in terms of volume and 38th in terms of value. Compared to 2021, this was a decrease of 27% in volume and 6% in value. Lower export volumes of skipjack tuna and yellowfin tuna from EU to Colombia caused this drop in volume and value from 2021 to 2022.

In terms of volume, the most important species exported to Colombia from the EU in 2022 were skipjack tuna (60%), followed by yellowfin tuna (11%). The most valuable species exported to Colombia were skipjack tuna (45%), fish oil (12%), and yellowfin tuna (9%). Skipjack tuna was mainly exported as frozen whole from Spain (72%) and France (26%), while yellowfin tuna was mainly exported frozen whole from France (98%). Exports of fish oil mainly exited the EU from France (99,8%).

Table 28. **TOTAL EXPORTS TO EU MS FROM COLOMBIA (volume in tonnes, value in 1.000 EUR)**

MCS	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023*	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Skipjack tuna	3.092	3.786	2.083	2.473	5.020	5.869	3.475	4.961	2.423	3.833
Yellowfin tuna	481	829	462	586	1.215	1.629	640	1.031	189	304
Fish oil	403	801	271	639	178	375	430	1.289	224	1.062
Bigeye tuna	1.031	1.214	119	179	445	522	354	428	1.111	1.737
Other non-food use	151	484	107	223	184	426	202	459	62	142
Salmon	163	391	355	566	401	596	193	497	222	417
Other products	213	380	54	233	52	260	176	574	76	268
Sardine	35	219	60	377	94	573	88	511	81	495
Other freshwater fish	0	0	112	155	94	137	47	86		
Octopus	21	230	14	185	41	441	28	356	1	26
Other	136	857	200	960	197	967	116	868	137	817
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.725</b>	<b>9.192</b>	<b>3.836</b>	<b>6.577</b>	<b>7.922</b>	<b>11.795</b>	<b>5.750</b>	<b>11.060</b>	<b>4.526</b>	<b>9.100</b>

Source: EUMOFA elaboration of Eurostat-Comext data. \*Up to and including August

<sup>46</sup> European Commission (2023). *EU-Colombia-Peru-Ecuador trade agreement*.



## 4.4. Consumption

Colombia, rich in fish resources due to its Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea coastlines, has a relatively low per capita consumption of fish and shellfish compared to global and regional standards. The average Colombian consumes 8,8 kg/year of fish and shellfish<sup>47</sup>. In contrast, the global average per capita consumption of fish products is 20,5 kg/year<sup>48</sup>.

By 2030, a 33% increase in fish consumption is anticipated in Latin America and the Caribbean, according to the UN FAO report<sup>49</sup>. The region is also expected to experience a 49% growth in fish production for human consumption, rising from 2,7 million to over 4,0 million tonnes. The future focus on animal nutrition revolves around improving productivity and resource efficiency while maintaining environmental preservation and animal welfare<sup>50</sup>.

<sup>47</sup> MADR (2021). <https://sioc.minagricultura.gov.co/Acuicultura/Documentos/2021-03-31%20Cifras%20Sectoriales.pdf>

<sup>48</sup> Castellanos-Garzón, J. A., et al. (2023). *Characteristics related to fish consumption and the risk of ichthyozoonosis in a Colombian population*. [Scielosp.org](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scieo.2023.100000)

<sup>49</sup> FAO (2022). *The state of world fisheries and aquaculture*.

<sup>50</sup> Seafood media (2022). *The Colombian aquaculture sector in numbers*.

## 5. Case study: Skipjack tuna in the EU

Skipjack tuna is the most abundant and fast-growing of the tuna species and accounts for nearly 40% of global tuna production. It is thus one of the main raw materials for the tuna canning industry. Skipjack tuna is targeted by the EU fleet in tropical waters of the Atlantic and Indian oceans. In 2021, EU catches amounted to 216.000 tonnes, whilst landings in the EU (mostly frozen products) reached more than 150.000 tonnes of which the large majority was destined for the Spanish tuna canning sector. Complementing EU production, significant volumes of skipjack tuna are imported (both as preserved loins or cans). In 2022, extra-EU imports reached 337.103 tonnes of skipjack tuna at a value of EUR 1,5 billion.

### 5.1. Biology exploitation and management

The skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) is a member of the family Scombridae, which includes “true tuna” such as the yellowfin tuna, and other members of the genus *Thunnus*. It is generally similar in appearance to other species of tuna, albeit significantly smaller.

The skipjack tuna, also known as stripe-bellied bonito, has a torpedo-like shape with a streamlined and muscular body and a cone-shaped head. The skipjack tuna is a highly migratory species, found throughout the world's oceans in tropical and subtropical waters. They



*Scandinavian Fishing Year Book*

are generally pelagic, inhabiting offshore waters generally near the surface. They are known as a shoaling species, sometimes forming groups of up to 50.000 individuals<sup>51</sup>. Skipjack tuna spawn in batches throughout the year in equatorial waters, and from spring to early autumn in subtropical waters. Maximum fork length is about 108 cm corresponding to a weight of 32,5 to 34,5 kg, with the average adult reaching 80 cm fork length and a weight of 8 to 10 kg<sup>52</sup>.

Skipjack tuna is caught at the surface, mostly with purse seines and pole-and-line gear but also incidentally by longlines. Other (artisanal) gear includes gillnets, traps, harpoons, and beach seines<sup>53</sup>. Skipjack tuna is mostly marketed canned as well as fresh and frozen. Although skipjack tuna is one of the main species used as a raw material by the EU tuna canning industry, the processing production breakdown by species is not available at EU level.

Skipjack tuna stocks are mostly managed by four international tuna commissions to ensure the sustainability of fishery targeting this species. The most relevant commissions for EU tuna fishery are the ICCAT (Atlantic Ocean) and the IOTC (Indian Ocean). These commissions evaluate the stocks status and set management measures, such as TACs and quotas.

### 5.2. Production

#### Global production

In 2021, global production of skipjack tuna reached 2,79 million tonnes, mostly caught in the Central Pacific (58%) and to a lesser extent in the Indian Ocean (23%) and in the Central Atlantic (7%). In 2021, skipjack tuna accounted for about 40% of the global tuna species catch. The main producers were Indonesia (14%), the EU27 (8%), Ecuador, the Republic of Korea

<sup>51</sup> <https://biologydictionary.net/skipjack-tuna/>

<sup>52</sup> <https://fishbase.se/summary/107>

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/species/2494/en>

and Taiwan (7% each). Other major producers were Kiribati, Maldives, Japan, Micronesia and Papua New Guinea. Skipjack tuna is not farmed in aquaculture, so there is no farmed production.

Over the last decade (2012-2021), the global production of skipjack tuna increased slightly (+5%), though with significant interannual fluctuations. A 10-year peak was reached in 2019 with 3,29 million tonnes. Among main producing countries, trends were contrasted with strong increases in Kiribati (+142%), Maldives (+122%), smaller increases in Indonesia (+10%), the EU27 (+22%) and Ecuador (+20%) and decreases in Japan (-57%) and Korea (-11%).

Table 29. **WORLD CATCHES OF skipjack tuna (volume in 1.000 tonnes live weight)**

Country	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Indonesia	369	457	409	348	417	402	371	428	374	404
EU27	177	199	195	185	203	215	290	251	185	216
Ecuador	168	189	187	217	193	199	194	230	199	202
Korea, Republic of	212	202	229	238	231	204	235	286	213	189
Taiwan	181	193	219	166	150	132	165	205	127	182
Province of China										
Kiribati	59	61	85	120	135	125	155	197	163	142
Others	1.498	1.609	1.635	1.518	1.513	1.507	1.665	1.695	1.503	1.453
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.664</b>	<b>2.910</b>	<b>2.958</b>	<b>2.791</b>	<b>2.842</b>	<b>2.784</b>	<b>3.075</b>	<b>3.293</b>	<b>2.764</b>	<b>2.789</b>

Source: FAO.

## EU production

In 2021, the EU27 catches of skipjack tuna reached 215.520 tonnes. Most of these catches occurred in the Indian Ocean (67%) and in the Central Atlantic (22%). The main EU producers were Spain (65% of the total EU catch) and France (29%). Other producers were Portugal and Italy (3% each). Over the last decade (2012-2021), EU production of skipjack tuna increased by 22%. However, a decade peak was reached in 2018 at 289.550 tonnes. Among major fishing countries, Spanish catches decreased slightly over the period (-5%), whereas French catches soared (+151%).

Table 30. **EU CATCHES OF SKIPJACK TUNA (volume in tonnes live weight)**

Country	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Spain	147.894	164.085	153.895	140.933	148.114	160.458	202.333	184.189	135.880	140.586
France	25.137	30.363	38.059	41.073	52.162	49.921	75.130	61.434	45.053	63.078
Portugal	3.150	4.038	2.466	1.349	744	1.798	7.480	2.793	1.045	6.888
Italy	-	-	-	1.315	1.767	3.237	4.601	2.488	2.835	4.957
Others	571	150	94	21	371	16	6	3	2	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>176.752</b>	<b>198.636</b>	<b>194.514</b>	<b>184.691</b>	<b>203.158</b>	<b>215.430</b>	<b>289.550</b>	<b>250.907</b>	<b>184.815</b>	<b>215.520</b>

Source: FAO.

Due to the fact that EU vessels targeting skipjack tuna are fishing in tropical areas of the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic, a share of the catches is not landed in Europe, but rather close to the fishing areas (especially for the French fleet landing in Western Africa, Seychelles, Mauritius and other places, then reported as extra-EU exports). In In 2021, landings of skipjack tuna in the EU27 amounted to 152.098 tonnes at a value of EUR 219 million. Most of these landings occurred in Spain (92%). Other landing countries were Portugal (4%) and Italy (3%). Over the 2012-2021 period, EU landings increased by 43%, due mostly to increased landings in Spain (+36%) and Portugal (+112%). Skipjack landings in the EU almost exclusively consist of frozen fish (95% of the total volume, 5% fresh fish).

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Table 31. **LANDINGS OF SKIPJACK TUNA IN THE EU (volume in tonnes net weight)<sup>54</sup>**

Country	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Spain	103.228	169.651	241.022	124.304	126.699	146.995	191.795	173.046	128.384	140.569
Portugal	3.091	4.031	1.678	1.292	750	1.792	7.400	2.806	1.035	6.556
Italy	-	-	-	480	2.061	3.176	4.601	2.295	3.173	4.957
France	43	8	26	1.859	267	3.285	1.828	321	69	6
Others	-	-	0	-	-	5	7	5	3	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>106.362</b>	<b>173.691</b>	<b>242.725</b>	<b>127.936</b>	<b>129.776</b>	<b>155.253</b>	<b>205.631</b>	<b>178.473</b>	<b>132.664</b>	<b>152.098</b>

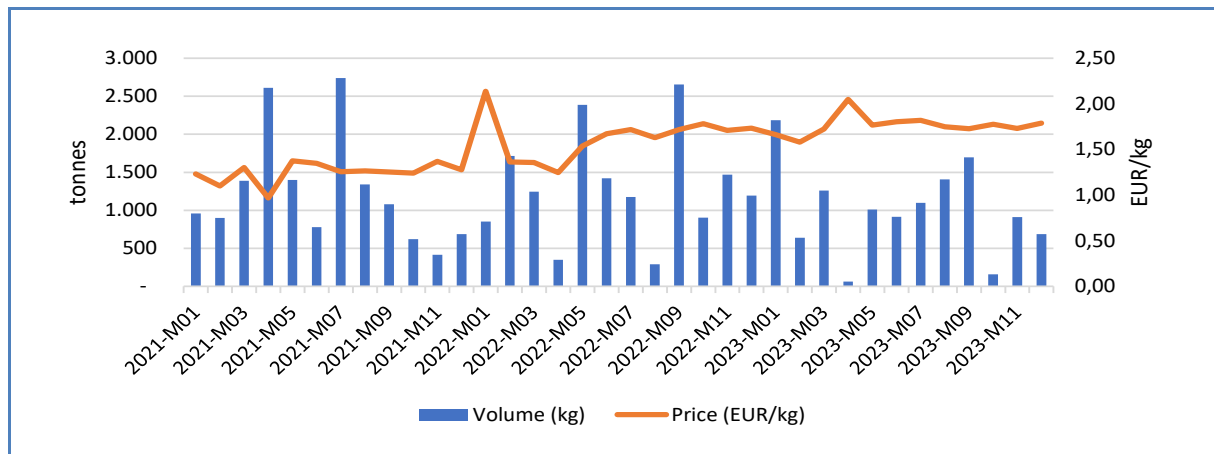
Source: EUROSTAT.

### 5.3. First sales in the EU

Most of the skipjack tuna landed in the EU is sold via contracts or within vertically integrated companies, so is not registered in first sales statistics (for confidentiality reasons for instance). In 2023, reported first sales of skipjack tuna in EU countries<sup>55</sup> amounted to a volume of 18.036 tonnes and a value of 28,9 million EUR<sup>56</sup>. The main EU country in terms of first-sales volume and value was by far Spain (77% of total volume and 79% of total value), followed by Portugal (22% of total volume) and Italy (1%). Most of Spanish first-sales are frozen products (91% of total volume in 2023), whereas in other countries reported first-sales are exclusively fresh products. In 2023, first sales volumes decreased by 15% in volume and 11% in value compared to 2022. Increases were reported in Italy and France, whereas decreases were reported in Spain and Portugal.

In 2023, the most important Spanish place of sale for skipjack tuna in volume terms was Bermeo (76% of the total volume in Spain), followed by A Coruña (10%). In Portugal, the main places of sales were Ribeira Grande in Azores (43% of total volume in Portugal), Funchal in Madeira (25%), Santa Maria Island Apt and Ilha do Faial (14% each), both on the Azores. First sales data showed no significant seasonality for frozen skipjack tuna in Spain, whereas high seasonality was observed for fresh skipjack tuna first-sales. Frozen tuna landings are less dependent on fishing season as they are caught by vessels operating far from EU waters and with large storage capacity onboard. In Spain, over the 2021-2023 period, monthly first sales of frozen whole skipjack tuna peaked at approximately 2.740 tonnes in July 2021, and reached their lowest level at 60 tonnes in April 2023. Peaks in volume do not occur at the same period each year. Over the three-year period, monthly prices of frozen whole skipjack tuna fluctuated between 0,97 and 2,14 EUR/kg at an average value of 1,52 EUR/kg. A general increasing trend was observed over the period, probably linked to reduced first-sales volumes.

Figure 54. **FIRST SALES: SKIPJACK TUNA (frozen whole) IN SPAIN**



Source: EUMOFA.

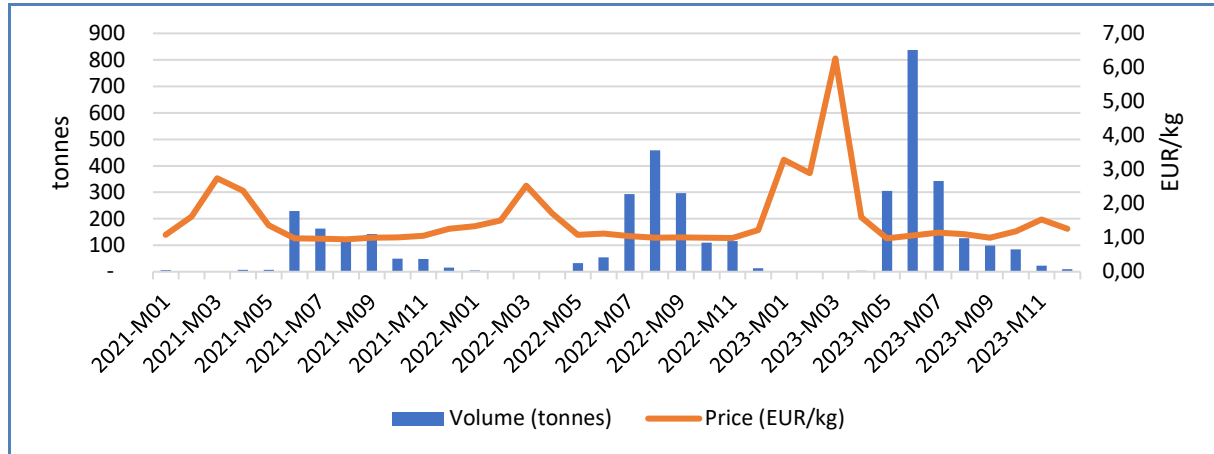
<sup>54</sup> Totals do not correspond exactly to the actual sums because of roundings.

<sup>55</sup> Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

<sup>56</sup> Source: EUMOFA.

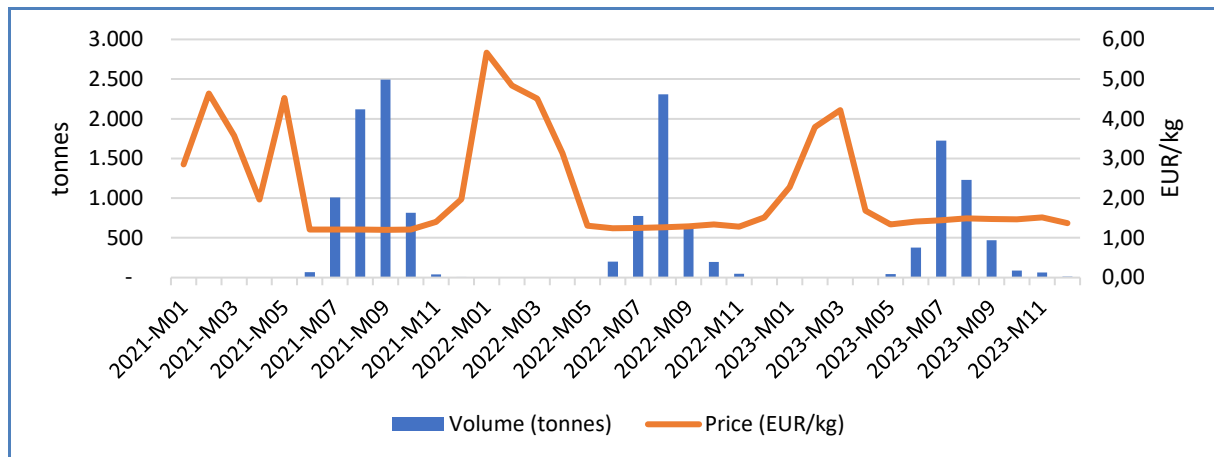
For fresh skipjack tuna, first-sales volumes are highly seasonal in Spain and Portugal with peaks in summer and almost no sales in winter. Thus first-sales prices follow this seasonality with high prices in winter (4,00-5,00 EUR/kg) when the volumes are very low, and lower prices in summer (1,00-2,00 EUR/kg) during the high fishing season.

Figure 55. **FIRST SALES: FRESH WHOLE SKIPJACK TUNA IN SPAIN**



Source: EUMOFA.

Figure 56. **FIRST SALES: FRESH WHOLE SKIPJACK TUNA IN PORTUGAL**



Source: EUMOFA.

## 5.4. Import – Export

In the combined nomenclature (CN) used for registering EU import-export data, skipjack tuna is specifically reported as fresh, frozen and prepared/preserved (whole in oil or in fillets). For fresh and frozen products, different reporting codes exist depending on whether it is destined for industrial processing (mostly canning) or not.<sup>57</sup>

In 2022, the EU27 imported 337.103 tonnes of skipjack tuna at a value of EUR 1,5 billion, mostly prepared and preserved (97% of the imports total value). A share of these imports includes EU catches landed in third countries for processing and

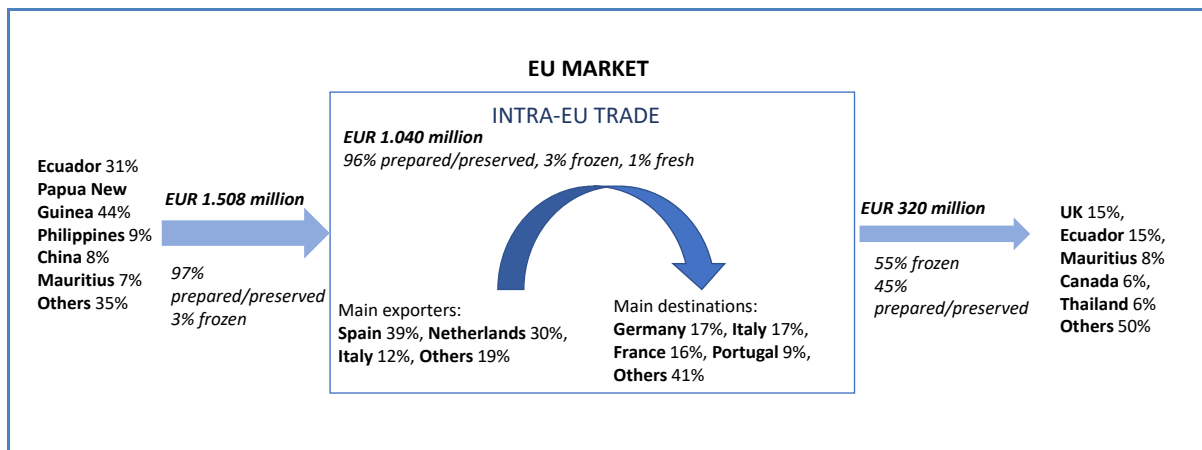
<sup>57</sup> 03023310 - Fresh or chilled skipjack or stripe-bellied bonito for industrial processing or preservation  
 03023390 - Fresh or chilled skipjack or stripe-bellied bonito (excl. for industrial processing or preservation)  
 03034310 - Frozen skipjack or stripe-bellied bonito "Euthynnus -Katsuwonus- pelamis" for industrial processing or preservation  
 03034390 - Frozen skipjack or stripe-bellied bonito "Euthynnus -Katsuwonus- pelamis" (excl. for industrial processing or preservation)  
 16041421 - Prepared or preserved skipjack, whole or in pieces, in vegetable oil (excl. minced)  
 16041426 - Fillets known as "loins" of skipjack, prepared or preserved, whole or in pieces (excl. such products in vegetable oil or minced)  
 16041428 - Prepared or preserved skipjack, whole or in pieces (excl. minced, fillets known as "loins" and such products in vegetable oil)

re-exported to consumption markets including the EU. The major provider of skipjack tuna to the EU market was Ecuador, accounting for 31% of the extra-EU import value, followed by Papua New Guinea (11%), Philippines (9%), China (8%) and Mauritius (7%). Spain was the main importer accounting for 35% of the skipjack tuna extra-EU imports value, followed by Germany and Italy (16% each), the Netherlands (11%) and France (11%).

In the same year, EU exports to third countries amounted to 150.526 tonnes at a value of EUR 320 million. Frozen products accounted for 55% of the total extra-EU export value. These frozen exports mostly consisted of landings of EU vessels in countries close to fishing areas (Ecuador, Mauritius, Morocco, Seychelles, etc.). Prepared/preserved skipjack tuna accounted for 45% of the total extra-EU export value. The main destinations in value terms were the UK and Ecuador (15% of the total export value each), Mauritius (8%), Canada and Thailand (6% each) and Morocco (5%).

In 2022, intra-EU exports amounted to 204.007 tonnes of skipjack tuna products at a value of EUR 1 billion. The intra-EU trade was dominated by prepared/preserved skipjack tuna, which accounted for 96 % of the trade value, whereas frozen products only accounted for 3% of the total export value. The main exporting countries within the EU were Spain (39% of the intra-EU export value) and the Netherlands (30%, mostly an entry point to the EU market for imports from third countries). Germany and Italy (each accounted for 17% of the total intra-EU export value), France (16%), and Portugal (9%) were the main destinations for the intra-EU exports.

Figure 57. THE SKIPJACK TUNA TRADE MARKET IN 2022 (in value)



Source: EUMOFA elaboration of Eurostat-COMEXT data.



## 6. Global highlights

**EU / Fishery:** New rules for a reinforced control system entered into force on 9 January 2024. The revised rules modernise the way fishing activities are controlled, both for EU vessels and vessels fishing in EU waters. They will help prevent overfishing, create a more effective and harmonised fisheries control system, and ensure a level playing field between different sea basins and fleets. The revised EU fisheries control regulation updates most of the rules for controlling fishing vessels to bring them in line with technological developments and make EU fishing more sustainable. The main changes relate to improved monitoring of fishing activities and traceability of catches by making use of the best available technology and sanctioning those breaching the rules<sup>58</sup>.



**GFCM / Mediterranean / Eel:** The future of the European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), an iconic fish species, is currently at risk. A management plan that includes a partial closure of eel fisheries each year, a complete ban on recreational eel fishing, and the setting-up of a monitoring network to identify effective management measures could help reverse the situation. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) of FAO responded to the situation and between 2020 and 2022 pioneered a comprehensive [research programme](#) in nine Mediterranean countries. As was reported on 20 December 2023, the outcomes of this work, published in the [report](#) “European eel in the Mediterranean Sea: Outcomes of the GFCM research programme”, provide a detailed overview of eel fisheries, habitats, and the biological and ecological features of local stocks. The report also offers a comprehensive look at the current management and conservation measures and performs a model-based appraisal of the core measures<sup>59</sup>.

**EU / Norway / UK / Fisheries:** As reported on 19 December 2023, discussions on 2024 fishing opportunities between the EU, UK and Norway concluded with a deal that was broadly welcomed in Scotland, but much less so in Southwest England. There were increases in most of the stocks in the mixed demersal fisheries that are vital to the Scottish fleet, including a 15% increase in northern shelf cod – a significant reversal of the 17% cut that had been proposed. But there was dismay in Southwest England, where a bycatch-only TAC for pollack will cause major problems for many vessels, both inshore and offshore. Bilateral fisheries negotiations between the UK and Norway and between the UK and the Faroe Islands on additional exchanges of access and quota opportunities are ongoing. The UK, EU and Norway also agreed to continue work in 2024 on the development of long-term management strategies for these stocks<sup>60</sup>.

**EU / Spanish Presidency:** The Spanish presidency of the Council of the EU has culminated in agreements to ensure that the agricultural and fisheries sectors are better prepared for the challenges of the future and continue progressing with open strategic autonomy. Improvements were introduced in the decision-making procedure for setting TACs and annual fishing quotas, thus making the process more comprehensible and transparent. For the first time, an [agreement](#) was reached on setting multi-annual fishing quotas for certain species. The Spanish presidency also promoted a debate on the need to advance a strategy to decarbonise the sector, as well as to analyse the necessary investments to improve its sustainability<sup>61</sup>.

**North-East Atlantic / Fisheries:** On 22 January 2024, members of the Committee on Fisheries approved a proposal to transpose into EU law new rules on management, conservation and control for the area under the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). Ports in the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission area, where there are landings above 10 tonnes of certain pelagic stocks, will need to install surveillance systems for landings. The aim is to ensure surveillance of ‘large’ landings, while contracted parties are also banned from discarding or releasing catches of listed species<sup>62</sup>.

<sup>58</sup> [https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-fisheries-control-system-gets-major-revamp-2024-01-09\\_en](https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-fisheries-control-system-gets-major-revamp-2024-01-09_en)

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.fao.org/gfcm/news/detail/en/c/1674454/>

<sup>60</sup> <https://fishingnews.co.uk/uncategorised/mixed-fortunes-on-2024-tacs/>

<sup>61</sup> <https://spanish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/news/main-achievements-agriculture-fisheries-spanish-presidency-council-eu-agrifish/>

<sup>62</sup> <https://thefishingdaily.com/featured-news/north-east-atlantic-fisheries-cameras-in-ports-to-enforce-landing-obligation/>

## 7. Macroeconomic Context

### 7.1. Marine fuel

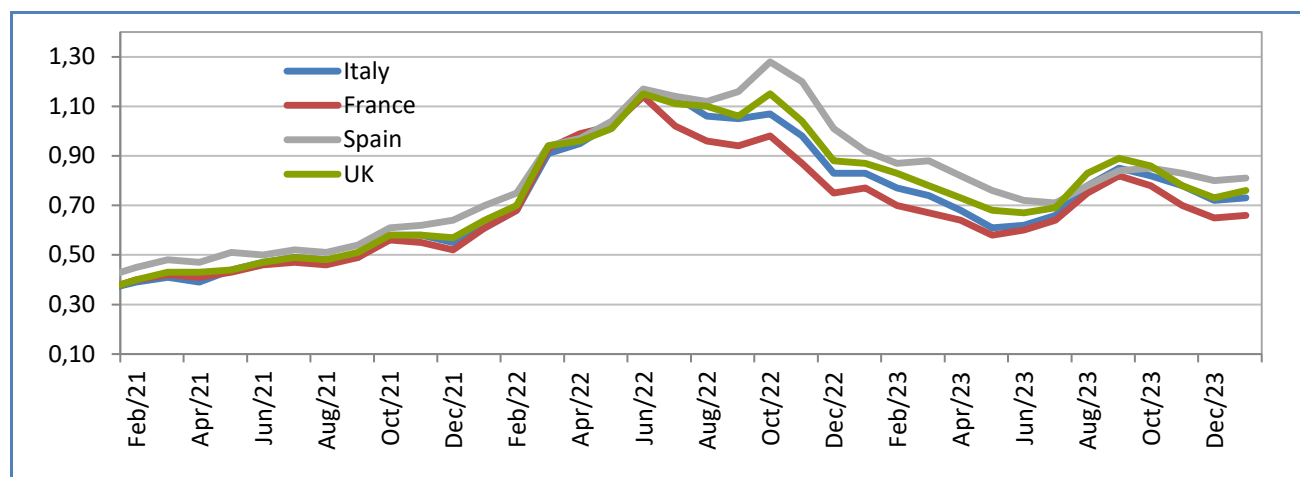
Average prices for Marine fuel in **January 2024** ranged between 0,66 and 0,81 EUR/litre in ports in **France, Italy, Spain** and the **UK**. Prices increased by an average of about 2,1% compared with the previous month and fell by an average of 12,7% compared with the same month in 2022.

Table 31. **AVERAGE PRICE OF MARINE DIESEL IN FRANCE, ITALY, SPAIN, AND THE UK (EUR/litre)**

Member State	January 2024	Change from December 2023	Change from January 2023
France <i>(ports of Lorient and Boulogne)</i>	0,66	2%	-14%
Italy <i>(ports of Ancona and Livorno)</i>	0,73	1%	-12%
Spain <i>(ports of A Coruña and Vigo)</i>	0,81	1%	-12%
The UK <i>(ports of Grimsby and Aberdeen)</i>	0,76	4%	-13%

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

Figure 63. **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 3,4% in December 2023, down from 3,1% in November 2023. A year earlier, the rate was 10,4%.

**Inflation: lowest rates in December 2023, compared with December 2023.**



**Inflation: highest rates in December 2023, compared with December 2023.**





Table 32. HARMONISED INDEX OF CONSUMER PRICES IN THE EU (2015 = 100)

	Dec 2021	Dec 2022	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Change from Nov 2023		Change from Dec 2022	
<b>Food and non-alcoholic beverages</b>	113,30	133,49	141,29	141,32	↑	0,02%	↑	5,9%
<b>Fish and seafood</b>	117,25	132,90	139,33	138,83	↓	-0,4%	↑	4,5%

Source: Eurostat.

### 7.3. Exchange rates

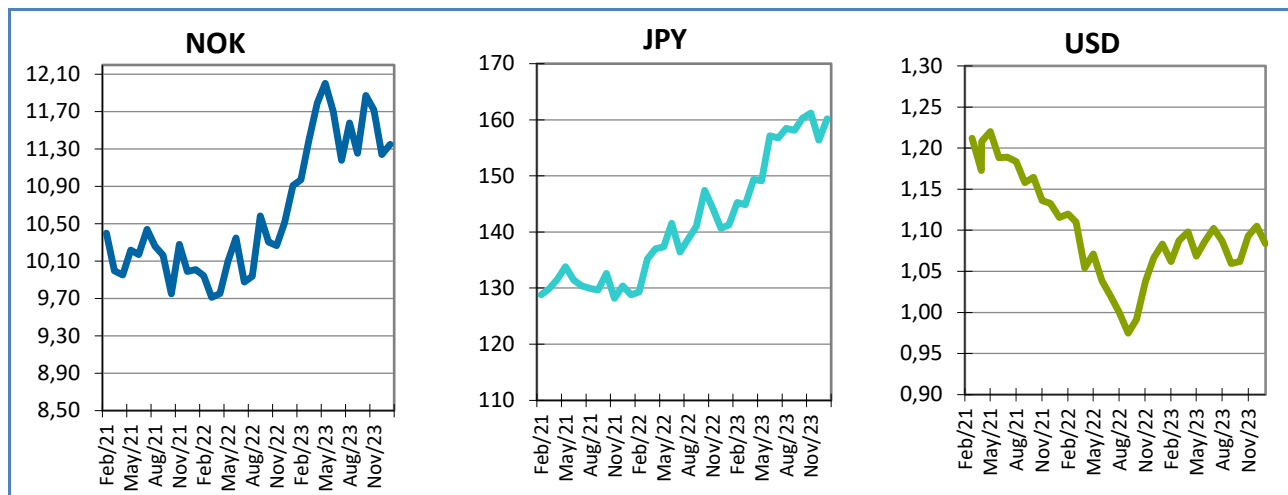
Table 33. EURO EXCHANGE RATES FOR SELECTED CURRENCIES

Currency	Jan 2022	Jan 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024
NOK	10,0085	10,9083	11,2405	11,3510
JPY	128,79	141,27	156,33	160,19
USD	1,1645	1,0833	1,1050	1,0837

Source: European Central Bank.

In January 2024, the euro appreciated against the Norwegian krone (1,0%), the Japanese yen (2,5%), and the US dollar (1,9%), relative to the previous month. For the past six months, the euro has fluctuated around 11,5031 against the Norwegian krone. Compared with January 2023, the euro has appreciated 4,1% against the Norwegian krone and 13,4% against the Japanese yen, while no change was observed against the US dollar.

Figure 64. 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:** EUR-lex, ICES, Scottish Government, MSC, FAO, Fishbase, seafish.org, galiciae.com, vozpopuli.com.

**Consumption:** Dutch Fish Marketing Board, Polish Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics - National Research Institute, University of Copenhagen, FishBase.

**Case studies:** Britannica, ScienceDirect, FAO, OECD, OpenEdition Journals, ResearchGate, International Trade Administration, European Commission, SIOC, SciELO, FiskerForum, Biology Dictionary, FishBase, EUROSTAT Comext.

**Global highlights:** European Commission, FAO, Fishing News, EU23.

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

The underlying first-sales data are in an 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.

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