

Monthly Highlights

No. 2 / 2024

E U M O F A

European Market Observatory for
Fisheries and Aquaculture Products

Over the 36-month observation period (January 2021 to December 2023), the weighted average first-sales price of Great Atlantic scallop in Ireland was 4,31 EUR/kg, 56% higher than in France (2,76 EUR/kg) and 60% higher than in Belgium (2,70 EUR/kg).

Between weeks 02/2021 and 01/2024 prices of frozen cuttlefish from Morocco fluctuated greatly following an increasing trend and ranging between 2,83 EUR/kg (week 03/2021) and 7,63 EUR/kg (week 41/2022).

During the three-year period between January 2021–December 2023, hake consumption showed a decreasing trend in Italy, France, Portugal, and Spain.

In 2022, the Ukrainian aquaculture sector suffered damage worth nearly EUR 20,6 million, equivalent to 63% of its annual sales value, while the fishery sector experienced losses of EUR 24,1 million.

In 2023, reported first sales of Norway lobster in EU countries amounted to a volume of 13.515 tonnes and a value of EUR 154 million.

On 2 February, the 12th annual meeting of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) ended. It marked significant progress toward sustainable fisheries management under the leadership of the EU.



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Great Atlantic scallop (Belgium, France, Ireland) and common edible cockle (Denmark, Portugal, Spain)



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Consumption

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Case studies

Fisheries and aquaculture in Ukraine
Norway lobster in the EU



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1. First sales in Europe

During **January–December 2023**, 13 EU Member States (MS), Norway and the United Kingdom reported first-sales data for 10 commodity groups¹. 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 EUMOFA².

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

Increases in value and volume: Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland and Portugal recorded an increase in both first-sales value and volume. The highest increase in volume was observed in Bulgaria due to sprat and red mullet. Finland experienced the highest increase in value due mainly to herring and sprat.

Decreases in value and volume: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and the UK 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–DECEMBER OVERVIEW OF FIRST SALES FROM THE REPORTING COUNTRIES**
(volume in tonnes and value in million EUR) *

Country	January – December 2021		January – December 2022		January – December 2023		Change from January – December 2022	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Belgium	13.337	69,70	14.883	91,82	14.257	87,32	-4%	-5%
Bulgaria	4.012	2,92	1.946	1,36	2.783	1,50	43%	10%
Cyprus	848	3,77	661	3,19	655	3,30	-1%	3%
Denmark	691.404	441,24	617.373	465,57	733.379	541,05	19%	16%
Estonia	65.762	17,25	66.916	18,76	72.667	30,61	9%	63%
Finland	56.171	11,97	54.021	13,56	56.254	17,41	4%	28%
France	264.150	726,90	276.133	792,60	247.775	730,53	-10%	-8%
Germany	63.771	87,24	36.307	105,95	32.783	64,55	-10%	-39%
Italy	87.024	365,31	83.855	376,55	76.638	345,16	-9%	-8%
Lithuania	2.676	1,15	792	0,62	296	0,64	-63%	4%
Portugal	129.992	291,54	111.772	291,59	122.328	299,04	9%	3%
Spain	489.318	1.528,66	456.473	1.589,56	415.483	1.428,08	-9%	-10%
Sweden	138.360	83,95	124.490	82,16	49.018	53,62	-61%	-35%
Norway	2.857.717	2.668,66	2.886.786	3.310,28	2.897.860	3.120,82	0%	-6%
United Kingdom	329.463	632,71	310.180	656,09	301.663	634,08	-3%	-3%

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.

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

² First sales data updated on 23.2.2024

1.2. December 2023 compared to December 2022

Increases in value and volume: First sales increased in Denmark, Estonia, and Portugal. In Denmark and Estonia mainly herring and sprat were behind the increases. Increases in Portugal were due to clam and sardine.

Decreases in value and volume: First sales decreased in Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Lithuania, Spain, Sweden and Norway. Lithuania and Bulgaria experienced the most significant falls in both volume and value. The decrease in Lithuania was mainly due to falls in first sales of cod and European flounder, while in Bulgaria they were due to clam and red mullet.

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

Country	December 2021		December 2022		December 2023		Change from December 2022	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Belgium	1.453	6,8	1.651	9,2	1.394	8,3	-16%	-10%
Bulgaria	79	0,1	41	0,1	26	0,048	-37%	-42%
Cyprus	30	0,2	35	0,3	26	0,2	-26%	-24%
Denmark	29.220	24,7	26.309	25,1	33.776	35,5	28%	41%
Estonia	6.926	1,4	5.607	1,6	6.596	3,1	18%	94%
Finland	5.811	1,1	5.055	1,4	3.808	1,5	-25%	5%
France	19.147	80,1	19.624	84,5	15.873	72,0	-19%	-15%
Germany	3.656	5,1	3.748	15,8	6.712	4,4	79%	-72%
Italy	6.648	32,7	7.257	34,8	7.284	35,6	0%	2%
Lithuania	282	0,136	15	0,082	5	0,031	-65%	-62%
Portugal	4.293	18,0	3.590	14,7	4.840	17,4	35%	18%
Spain	27.912	138,6	27.063	124,2	20.321	106,7	-25%	-14%
Sweden	5.894	4,6	3.881	4,0	948	3,3	-76%	-17%
Norway	92.039	148,0	76.675	127,8	73.212	105,9	-5%	-17%
United Kingdom	11.648	38,6	12.020	37,1	12.269	36,3	2%	-2%

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.³

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


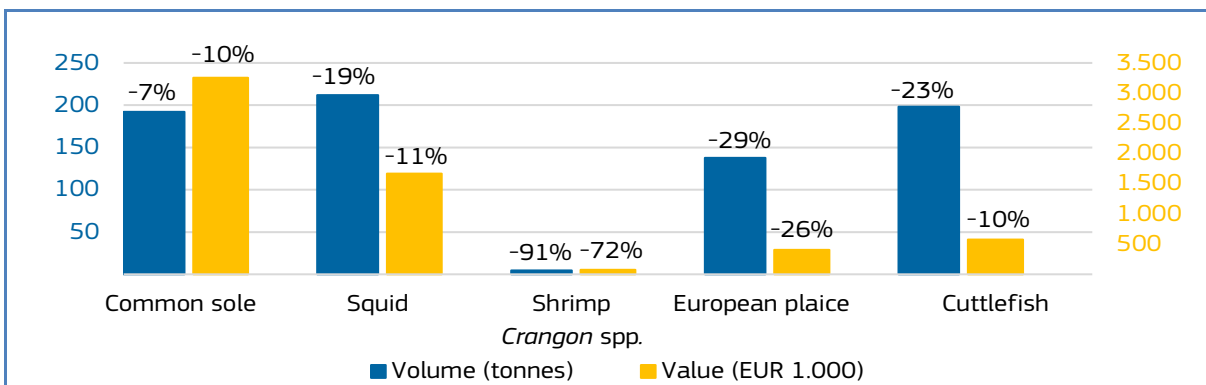
 Belgium	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Dec 2023 vs Jan-Dec 2022	EUR 87,3 million, -5%	14.257 tonnes, -4%	Shrimp <i>Crangon</i> spp., European plaice, common sole, turbot.
Dec 2023 vs Dec 2022	EUR 8,3 million, -10%	1.394 tonnes, -16%	Common sole, squid, shrimp <i>Crangon</i> spp., European plaice, cuttlefish.

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



Percentages show change from the previous year.

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


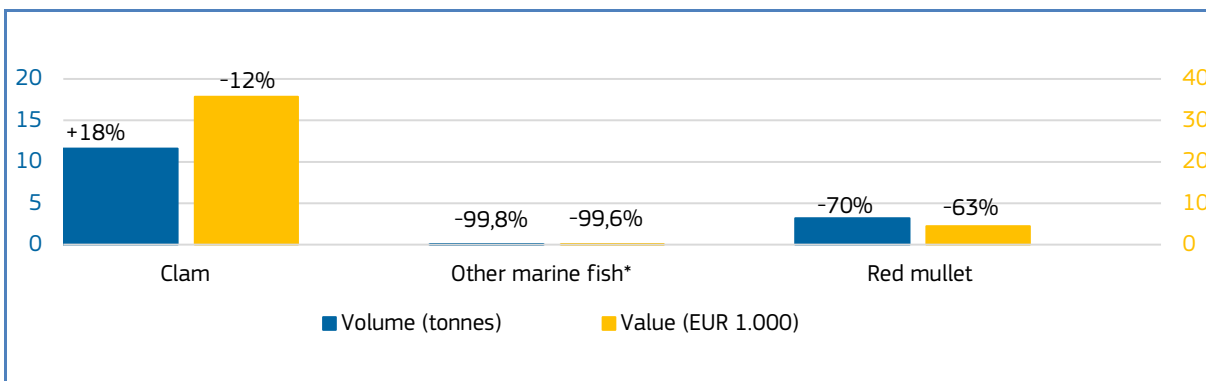
 Bulgaria	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Dec 2023 vs Jan-Dec 2022	EUR 1,5 million, +10%	2.783 tonnes, +43%	Sprat, red mullet, other molluscs and aquatic invertebrates*.
Dec 2023 vs Dec 2022	EUR 0,05 million, -42%	26 tonnes, -37%	Clam, red mullet, other marine fish*..

Figure 2. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN BULGARIA, DECEMBER 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>).

³ First-sales data updated on 21.02.2024.

Table 5. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN IN CYPRUS, DECEMBER 2023**


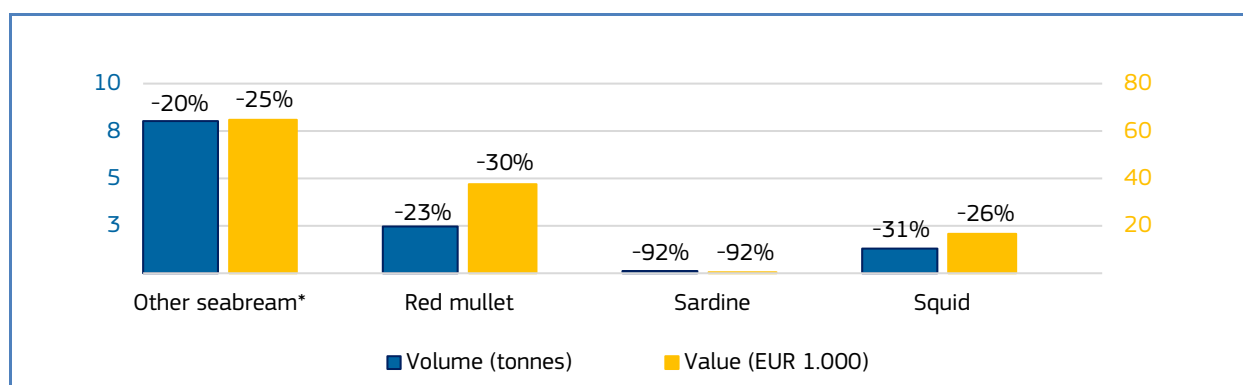

 Cyprus	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Dec 2023 vs Jan-Dec 2022	EUR 3,3 million, +3%	655 tonnes, -1%	Value: swordfish, other marine fish*, other seabream*, picarel. Volume: albacore tuna, miscellaneous small pelagics, red mullet.
Dec 2023 vs Dec 2022	EUR 0,2 million, -24%	26 tonnes, -26%	Other seabream*, red mullet, sardine, squid.

Figure 3. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN CYPRUS, DECEMBER 2023**



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

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

 Denmark	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species	Notes
Jan-Dec 2023 vs Jan-Dec 2022	EUR 541,0 million, +16%	733.379 tonnes, +19%	Sprat, herring, other groundfish*, blue whiting.	In December 2023, there was an increase in first sales of herring compared to December 2022. Herring is a pelagic species, whose abundance can vary a lot from one year to another. Danish production increased from 5.700 tonnes in December 2022 to 20.200 tonnes in December 2023, which is still higher than the production recorded in previous months of December (e.g. 9.000 tonnes in 2021; 10.200 tonnes in 2020; 3.800 tonnes in 2019). ICES ⁴⁵ , recommended a 28% increase of the TAC, because the herring stock is considered to be in good shape. It should also be noted that Danish production for the whole year 2023 only exceeded 2022 production by 17% in volume, suggesting that herring fishery started later in 2023.
Dec 2023 vs Dec 2022	EUR 35,5 million, +41%	33.776 tonnes, +28%	Herring, sprat, cod, blue whiting.	

⁴ North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel. ICES Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d

⁵ ICES Advice 2023 – her.27.3a47d – <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21907947>

Figure 4. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN DENMARK, DECEMBER 2023**

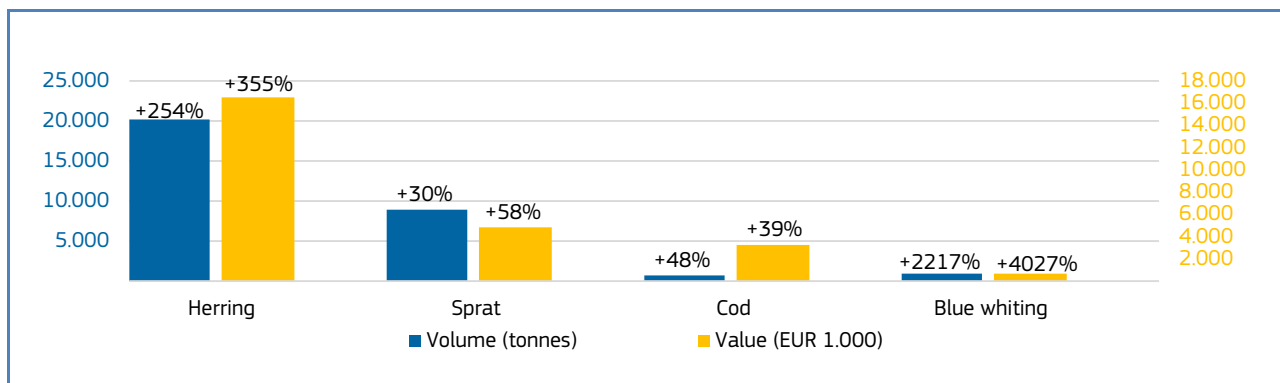


Table 7. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN ESTONIA**


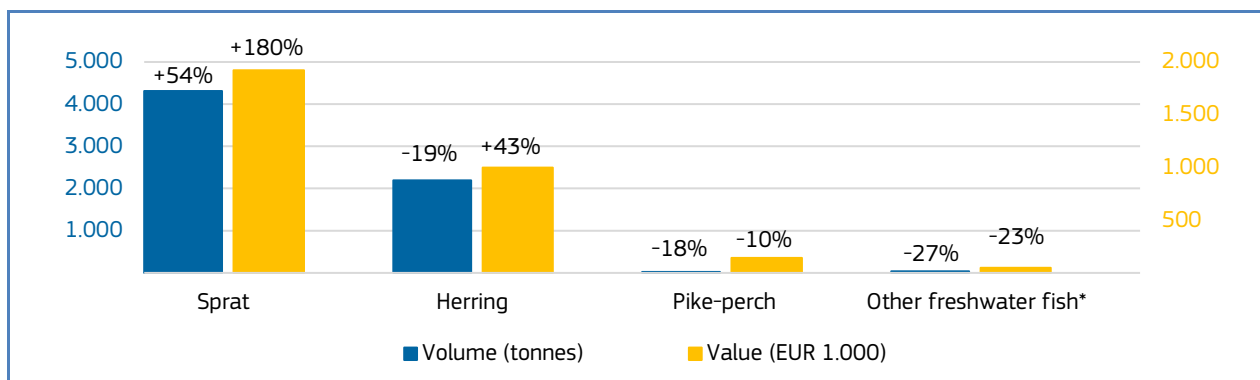
 Estonia	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Dec 2023 vs Jan-Dec 2022	EUR 30,6 million, +63%	72.667 tonnes, +9%	Herring, sprat, other freshwater fish*, smelt.
Dec 2023 vs Dec 2022	EUR 3,1 million, +94%	6.596 tonnes, +18%	Herring, sprat, other marine fish*, pike.

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



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

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


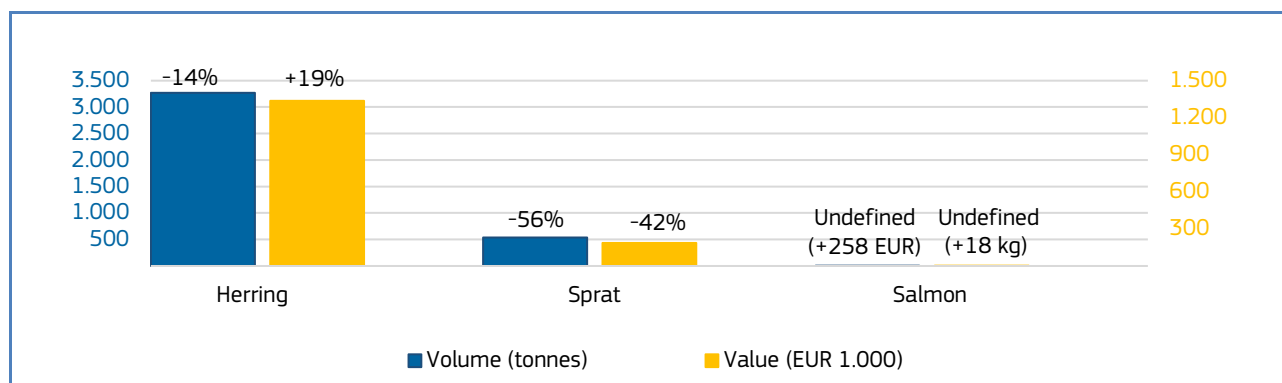
 Finland	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Dec 2023 vs Jan-Dec 2022	EUR 17,4 million, +28%	56.254 tonnes, +4%	Herring, sprat, cod, salmon.
Dec 2023 vs Dec 2022	EUR 1,5 million, +5%	3.808 tonnes, -25%	Value: Herring. Volume: salmon, sprat.

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

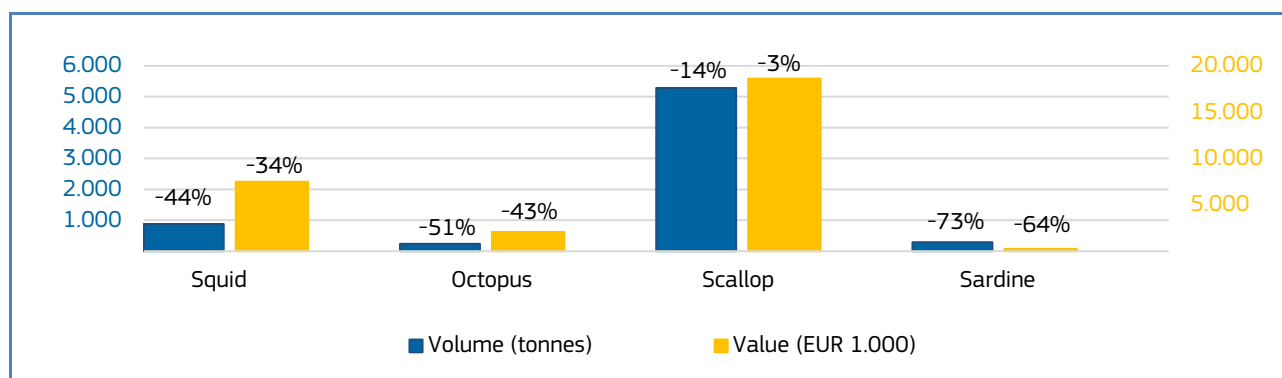


Percentages show change from the previous year.

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

France	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Dec 2023 vs Jan-Dec 2022	EUR 730,5 million, -8%	247.775 tonnes, -10%	Albacore tuna, octopus, squid, seaweed and other algae.
Dec 2023 vs Dec 2022	EUR 72,0 million, -15%	15.873 tonnes, -19%	Scallop, octopus, squid, sardine.

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



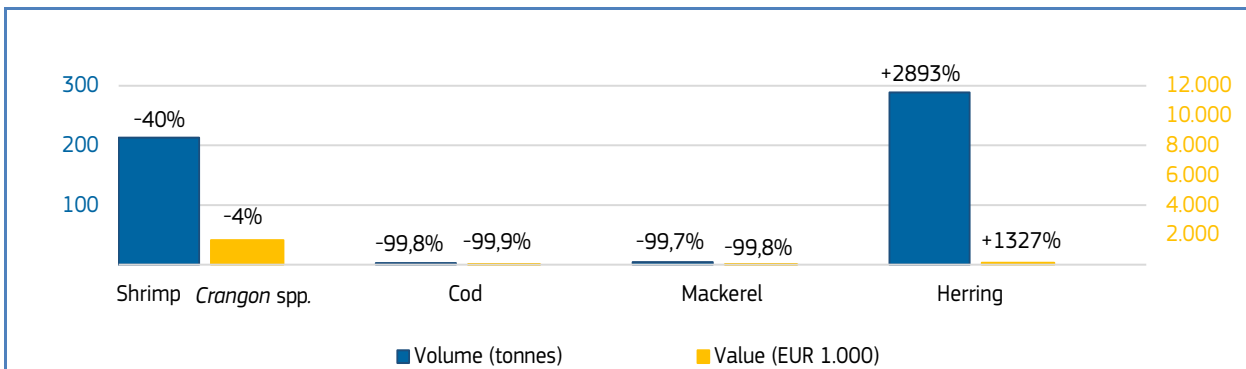
Percentages show change from the previous year.

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

Germany	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species	Notes
Jan-Dec 2023 vs Jan-Dec 2022	EUR 64,5 million, -39%	32.783 tonnes, -10%	Shrimp <i>Crangon</i> spp., cod, herring, mackerel.	In December 2023, there was an overall decrease in value and increase in volume compared to December 2022. Such a counter intuitive situation can be explained by several drivers operating in opposite ways: 1) A huge decrease in cod production: minus 1.350 tonnes and minus EUR 11,6 million 2) An increase in
Dec 2023 vs Dec 2022	EUR 4,4 million, -72%	6.712 tonnes, +79%	Value: cod, mackerel, shrimp <i>Crangon</i> spp. Volume: herring, European flounder,	

			whiting, pike.	the production of several small pelagic species, mainly: blue whiting, horse mackerel. In December 2023, there was a decrease in first sales of cod compared to December 2022. This fishery is severely affected by several factors ⁶ , especially the decline in cod stocks across the Baltic Sea, while the state of the North Sea stocks is still complicated, especially the northwestern and Viking sub-stocks, where the Dutch (cutter) fleet mostly operates. In this context, the following measures are affecting the cod fisheries: 1) A decommissioning scheme was planned from 2020, resulting in a reduction in the fishing fleet. 2) Remedial measures were established in the North Sea. ⁷ 3) Remedial measures were established in the Kattegat.
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Figure 8. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN GERMANY, DECEMBER 2023**



Percentages show change from the previous year.

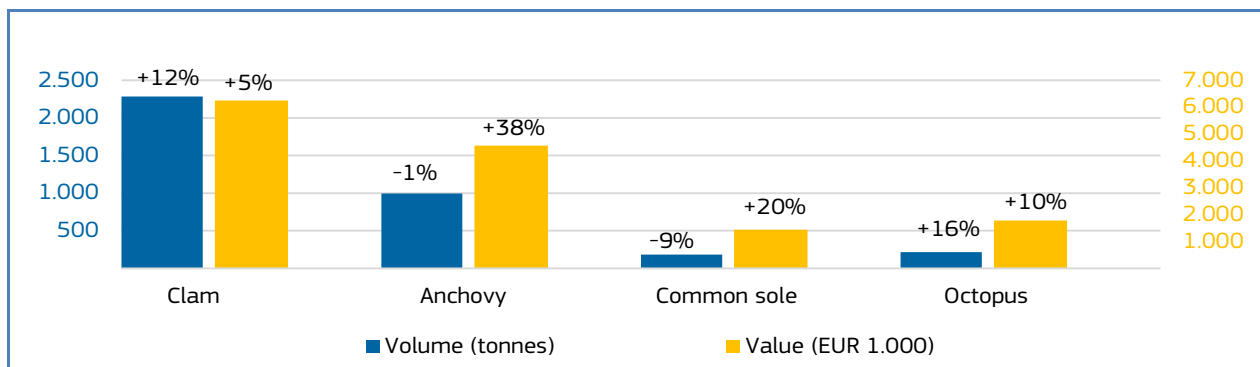
Table 11. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN ITALY**

Italy	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Dec 2023 vs Jan-Dec 2022	EUR 345,2 million, -8%	76.638 tonnes, -9%	Miscellaneous shrimps*, clam, anchovy, deep-water rose shrimps.
Dec 2023 vs Dec 2022	EUR 35,6 million, +2%	7.284 tonnes, 0%	Clam, anchovy, common sole, octopus.

⁶ Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy

⁷ EC, 2023 : COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2023/194 of 30 January 2023.

Figure 9. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN ITALY, DECEMBER 2023**



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

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


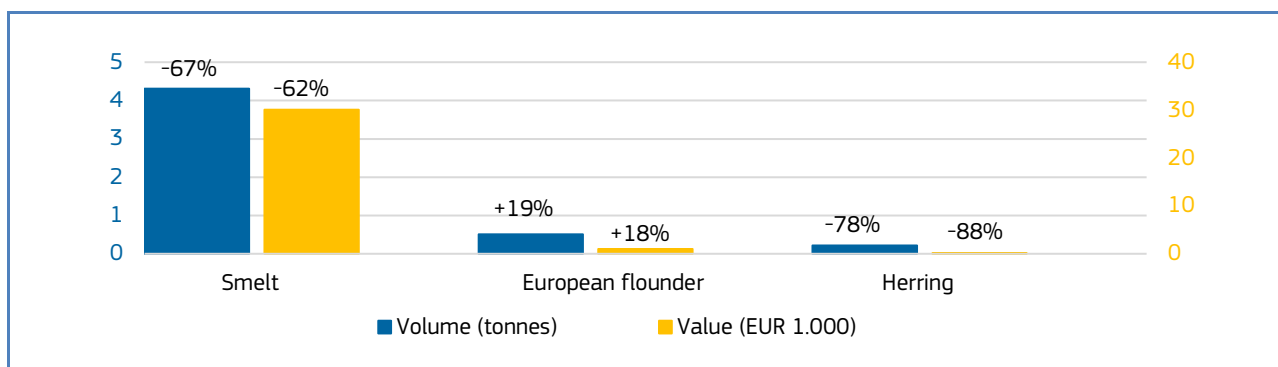

 Lithuania	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume/ trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Dec 2023 vs Jan-Dec 2022	EUR 0,6 million, +4%	296 tonnes, -63%	Value: Smelt, turbot, miscellaneous small pelagics*. Volume: Herring, sprat, other groundfish*.
Dec 2023 vs Dec 2022	EUR 0,03 million, -62%	5 tonnes, -65%	Cod, European flounder, herring.

Figure 10. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN LITHUANIA, DECEMBER 2023**



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

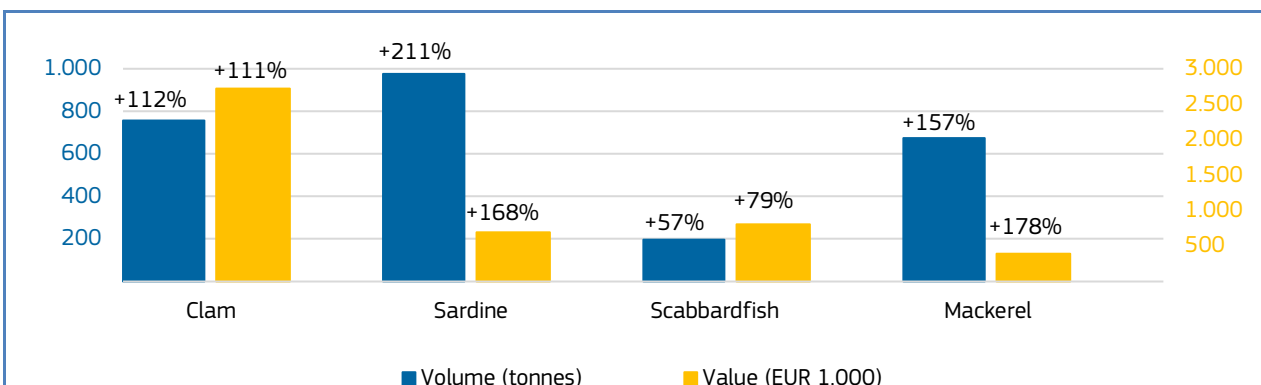
Table 13. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN PORTUGAL**

 Portugal	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species	Notes
Jan-Dec 2023 vs Jan- Dec 2022	EUR 299,0 million, +3%	122.328 tonnes, +9%	Mackerel, scabbardfish, clam, anchovy.	In December 2023, there was an increase in first sales of sardine compared to December 2022. The biological status of the sardine is assessed by ICES, and their latest report on the biomass on the Portuguese west coast indicates an improvement in the stock population. In particular, the main indicators exceed the minimum levels ⁹ for a sustainable fishery, which suggests a correlation between
Dec 2023 vs Dec 2022	EUR 17,4 million, +18%	4.840 tonnes, +35%	Clam, sardine, scabbardfish, mackerel.	

⁹ | ICES. 2022. Sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) in divisions 8.c and 9.a. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, pil.27.8c9a. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19772455>

			<p>the good state of the sardine stock and the increase in volume. Moreover, shared management⁹ practices between Spain and Portugal must also be attributed to this increase, enabling the fishery to begin with a 20% higher quota compared to previous years¹⁰. As for value, it is remarkable that during the central months of the year, landing volumes were higher, leading to lower prices per unit, but with higher demand. This trend persisted until almost the end of the year, despite the rapid decline in volumes. However, demand was lower at the end of the year.</p> <p>In December 2023, there was an increase in first sales of clam compared to December 2022. The increases are related to the common edible cockle and Japanese carpet shell species (which are included in the commercial name of clams). In particular, the cockle increased by 466 % and the Japanese carpet shell by 321% compared to the previous period. By location, the largest economic increase in percentage value for both species are in Sesimbra, Setubal and Aveiro, which represent almost the entire production in Portugal. The increase in value is closely linked to increased demand from the neighbouring market, specifically Galicia in NW Spain, during the Christmas season. Notably, a reduction in local shellfish production in Galicia has led to increased reliance on imports from Portugal^{11,12}. This shift aligns with a surge in production observed since November and December 2020, strategically avoiding the summer months (June-September), traditionally the most productive season in the years that have been documented since 2013.</p>
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Figure 11. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN PORTUGAL, DECEMBER 2023**



Percentages show change from the previous year.

⁹ <https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia-77954-sec-Portada>

¹⁰ <https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia-76626-seccion-Pol%C3%ADtica%20de%20Pesca>

¹¹ <https://www.galiciae.com/blog/veronica-nunez/negra-navidad-rias/20231218182627097483.html>

¹² <https://www.vozpopuli.com/espana/galicia/navidad-atipica-almejas-lusas-berberechos-escoceses-navajas-holanda-suplen-escasez-moluscos-gallegos.html>

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


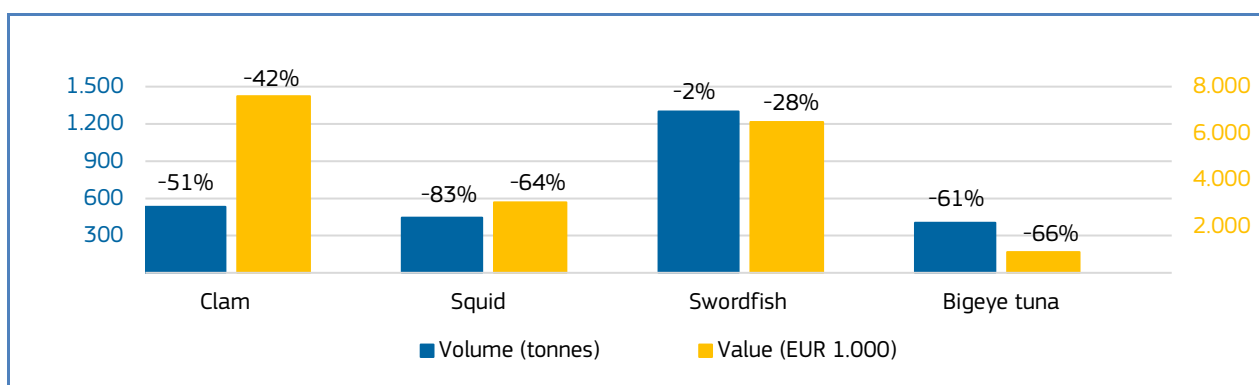
 Spain	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Dec 2023 vs Jan-Dec 2022	EUR 1.428,1 million, -10%	415.483 tonnes, -9%	Swordfish, mackerel, squid, yellowfin tuna.
Dec 2023 vs Dec 2022	EUR 106,7 million -14%	20.321 tonnes, -25%	Clam, squid, swordfish, bigeye tuna.

Figure 12. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN SPAIN, DECEMBER 2023**



Percentages show change from the previous year.

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


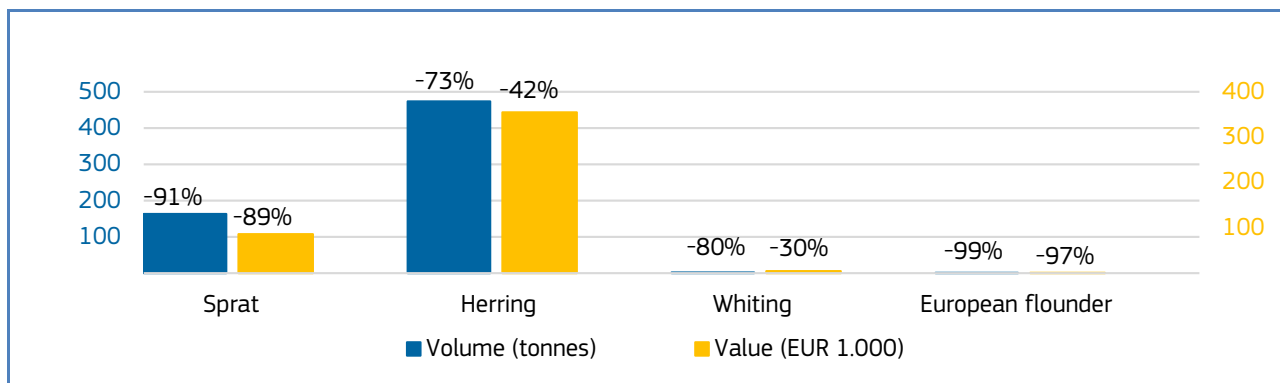
 Sweden	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species	Notes
Jan-Dec 2023 vs Jan-Dec 2022	EUR 53,6 million, -35%	49.018 tonnes, -61%	Sprat, herring, cold-water shrimps, Norway lobster.	In December 2023, there was a decrease in first sales of sprat compared to December 2022. It was observed that in December 2023, the sales quantities of sprat were 11% of all sprat catches by the Swedish fleet, while in December 2022, sales volumes exceeded by 300% sprat catches by the Swedish fleet. It is probable that in December 2022, foreign suppliers provided additional supplies of sprat to the market. When comparing 2023 sales with 2022, it looks like a similar decrease in volume in most months was observed in 2023. From January to December, except October 2023, sales were lower than during the same period in 2022. So significant sales above the sprat catch by the Swedish fleet were observed only in December 2022. The sprat catches by the Swedish fleet in December 2023 were 144% higher compared with December 2022. The price in December 2023 was 19% higher compared with December 2022, which indicates that market demand was not satisfied.
Dec 2023 vs Dec 2022	EUR 3,3 million, -17%	948 tonnes, -76%	Herring, sprat, whiting, European flounder.	

Figure 13. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN SWEDEN, DECEMBER 2023**

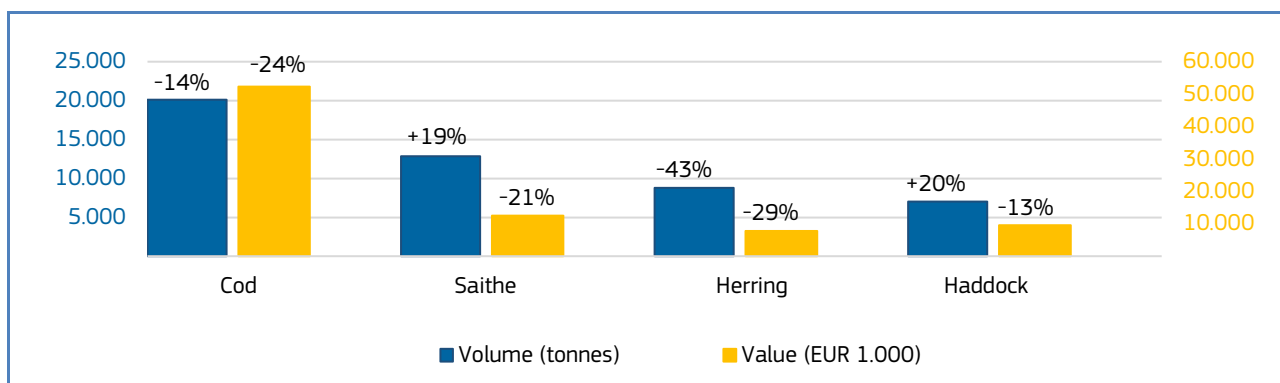


Percentages show change from the previous year.

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

Norway	First-sales value / trend %	First-sales volume / trend %	Main contributing species
Jan-Dec 2023 vs Jan-Dec 2022	EUR 3.120,8 million, -6%	2.897.860 tonnes, 0%	Cod, crab, haddock, herring.
Dec 2023 vs Dec 2022	EUR 105,9 million, -17%	73.212 tonnes, -5%	Cod, saithe, herring, haddock.

Figure 14. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN NORWAY, DECEMBER 2023**

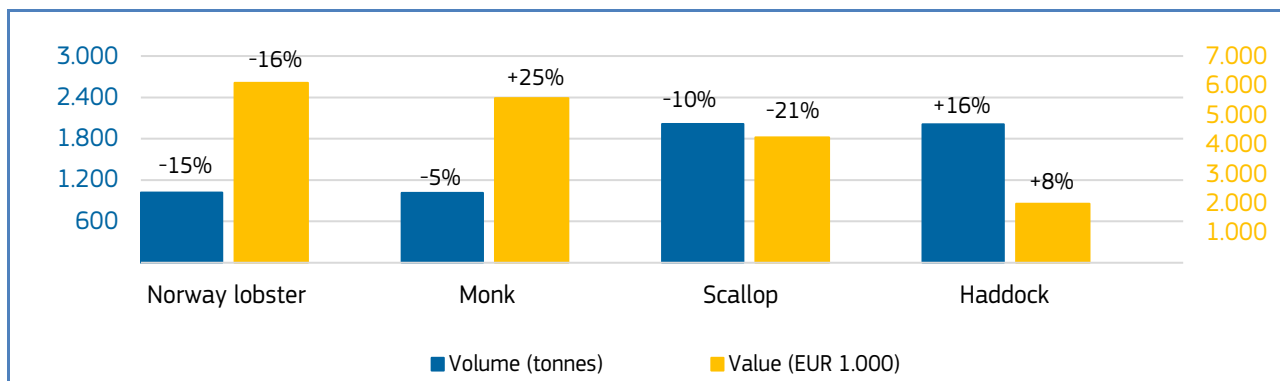


Percentages show change from the previous year.

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
Jan-Dec 2023 vs Jan-Dec 2022	EUR 634,1 million, -3%	301.663 tonnes, -3%	Mackerel, Norway lobster, monk, scallop.
Dec 2023 vs Dec 2022	EUR 36,3 million, -2%	12.269 tonnes, +2%	Value: scallop, Norway lobster, squid. Volume: haddock, cod, herring.

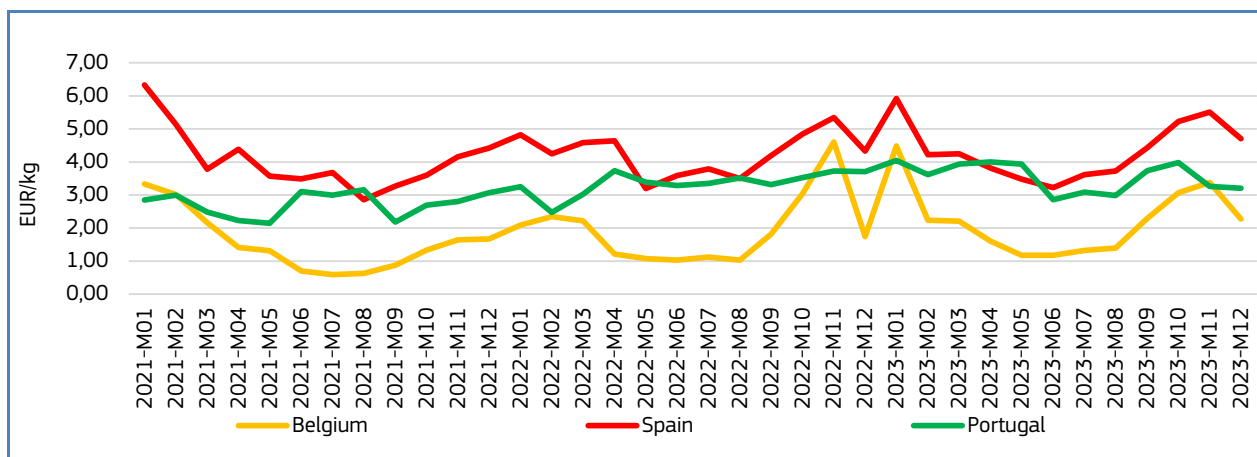
Figure 15. **FIRST SALES OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, DECEMBER 2023**



Percentages show change from the previous year.

1.4. Comparison of first sales prices of selected species in selected countries¹³

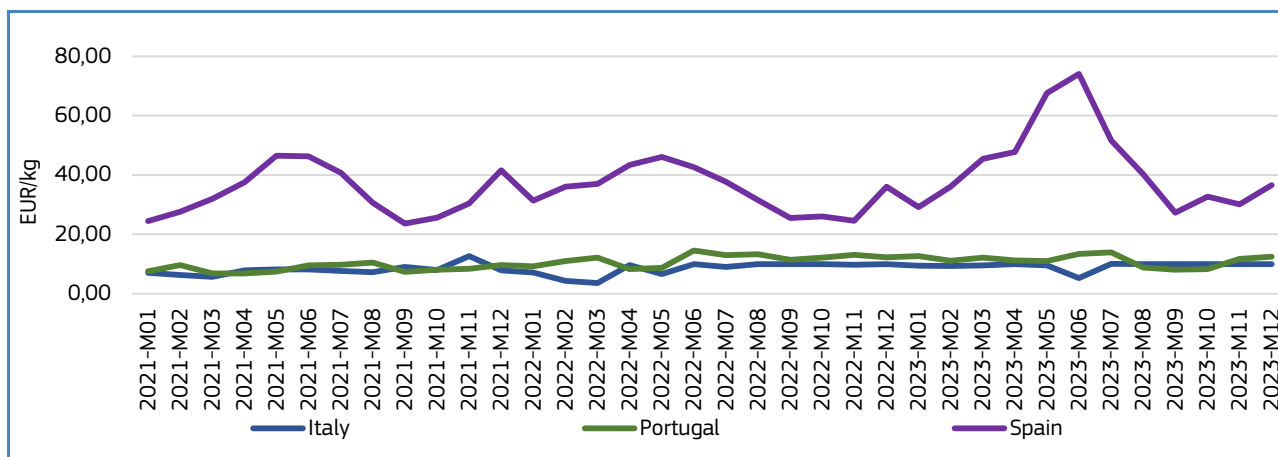
Figure 16. **FIRST SALES PRICES OF MEGRIM IN BELGIUM, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL**



EU first sales of **megrim** occur in several countries including **Belgium, Spain** and **Portugal**. In December 2023, average first sales prices of megrim were 2,28 EUR/kg in Belgium (down by 33% from the previous month and up by 30% from the previous year); 4,71 EUR/kg in Spain (down by 15% from November 2023 and up by 9% from December 2022); and 3,21 EUR/kg in Portugal (down by 2% from the previous month and by 14% from the previous year). In December 2023, supply relative to the previous year decreased in Belgium (-14%) and Spain (-12%), while it increased in Portugal (+74%). In the three countries analysed, volume seems to peak in July-August in Belgium and in May in Portugal. In Spain, no specific seasonality is recorded. Between months 01/2021 to 12/2023, prices fluctuated strongly and increased in Portugal, while they decreased in Belgium and Spain. In Belgium peaks in prices followed availability of supply, with highest peaks in prices occurring in November, January and February. In Spain the highest price 6,33 EUR/kg was recorded in January 2021.

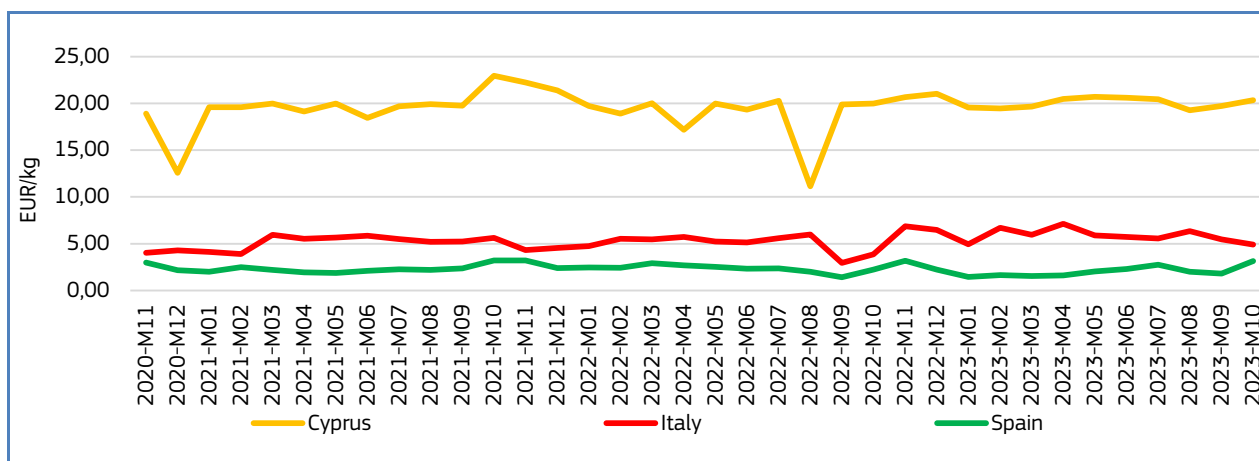
¹³ First sales data updated on 16.02.2024.

Figure 17. **FIRST SALES PRICES OF COMMON PRAWN IN ITALY, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN**



EU first sales of **common prawn** occur mainly in **Italy, Portugal** and **Spain**. In December 2023, the average first-sales prices of common prawn were: 9,96 EUR/kg in Italy (price compared to the previous month and to December 2022 was stable); 12,44 EUR/kg in Portugal (up by 6% from previous month and by 1% from December 2022) and 36,62 EUR/kg in Spain (up by 21% from the previous month and by 2% from the previous year). In December 2023, supply decreased in Spain (-16%), while it increased in Italy (+104%) and in Portugal (+126%). Supply fluctuates strongly in the three countries analysed. In Italy supply seems to peak in November-December and January, and in Portugal between January and March, while in Spain supply seems to peak in July and September. Between months 01/2021 to 12/2023, prices fluctuated strongly and have been increasing in the three markets analysed. Prices fluctuated particularly strongly in Spain ranging between 23,61 EUR/kg (M09-2021) and 74,11 EUR/kg (M06-2023), closely following supply. In Italy prices seem to peak between August and January. In Portugal peaks in prices occurred between June and August, corresponding with drops in supply.

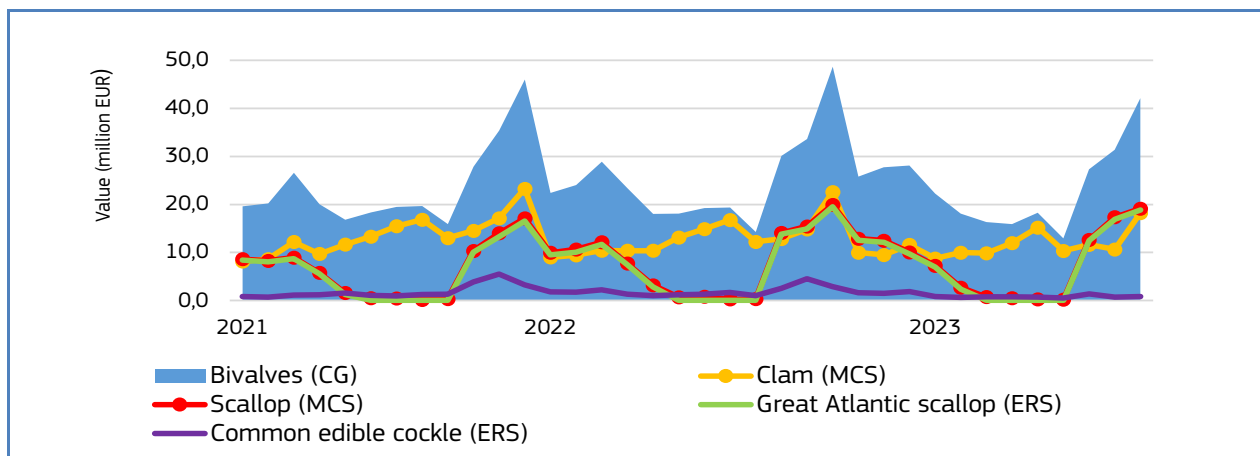
Figure 18. **FIRST SALES PRICES OF BLACK SEABREAM IN CYPRUS, ITALY AND SPAIN**



EU first sales of **black seabream** occur in several countries as well as in **Cyprus, Italy** and **Spain**. In December 2023, the average first-sales prices of black seabream were 20,36 EUR/kg in Cyprus (up by 3% from the previous month and by 2% from the previous year); 4,91 EUR/kg in Italy (down by 10% from the previous month and up by 27% from December 2022); and 3,15 EUR/kg in Spain (up by 75% from November 2023, and by 42% from December 2022). In December 2023, supply decreased in Italy (-40%) and Spain (-49%), while it increased in Cyprus (+93%), relative to the previous year. Supply is strongly seasonal with the highest peaks occurring in March and September-October in Cyprus, March-April in Italy and in February-March, October-November in Spain. Between months 01/2021 to 12/2023, prices increased in the three countries analysed, with the highest price of 22,97 EUR/kg registered in December 2021 in Cyprus. In Spain highest peaks in prices seems to occur in October-November.

1.5. Commodity group of the month: Bivalves¹⁴

Figure 19. **FIRST-SALES COMPARISON AT CG, MCS, AND ERS LEVELS FOR REPORTING COUNTRIES¹⁵, JANUARY 2021 - DECEMBER 2023**



In December 2023, the “bivalves” commodity group (CG¹⁶) recorded the 4th highest first-sales value and 3rd highest volume out of the 10 CGs in the countries monitored by EUMOFA¹⁷. In the reporting countries covered by the EUMOFA database, first sales of this group of species in December 2023 totalled EUR 42,1 million and 10.302 tonnes, representing a 13% decrease in value and a down by 26% in volume compared to December 2022. In the past 36 months, the highest first-sales value of bivalves was registered in December 2022 at about EUR 48,6 million.

The bivalves and other molluscs and aquatic invertebrates commodity group includes 10 main commercial species (MCS): abalone, clam, jellyfish, mussel *Mytilus* spp., other mussels, oyster, scallop, sea cucumber, sea urchin, other molluscs, and other invertebrates.¹⁸ At the Electronic Recording and Reporting System (ERS) level, Great Atlantic scallop (45%) and common edible cockle (2%) together accounted for 47% of the total first-sales value of CG bivalves recorded in December 2023.

1.6. Focus on Great Atlantic scallop



The great Atlantic scallop (*Pecten maximus*), also called the king scallop, is a marine bivalve mollusc belonging to the family Pectinidae and is found in the North-east Atlantic. It is distributed from Norway to the Atlantic coast of Spain, and throughout the North Sea¹⁹. In the UK and the Republic of Ireland it is distributed along the coast. It grows up to 15 cm, lives up to 20 years, and reaches sexual maturity between 2–4 years of age.²⁰ It is usually partially buried in sand, at depths ranging from 5 to 150 metres. Three methods are traditionally used for harvesting scallops: diving, bottom trawling, and dredging. The main fishing gear used is the scallop dredge. Among European countries, France and the UK catch most in terms of value.²¹ For great Atlantic scallops, current EU legislation specifies a minimum conservation reference size length of 110 mm in the Irish Sea and English Channel, and 100 mm in other fishing areas²². Gear selectivity measures and minimum landing sizes (MLS) are common measures to ensure that scallops are not harvested before they grow large enough to breed. The minimum marketing size for scallops is 10 cm.²³

¹⁴ First sales data updated on 24. 2. 2024.

¹⁵ Norway, the Faroe Islands and the UK excluded from the analyses.

¹⁶ Annex 3: <http://eumofa.eu/supply-balance-and-other-methodologies>

¹⁷ More data on commodity groups can be found in Table 1.2 of the Annex.

¹⁸ *EUMOFA aggregation for species (Metadata 2, Annex 3: <http://eumofa.eu/supply-balance-and-other-methodologies>).

¹⁹ http://species-identification.org/species.php?species_group=mollusca&id=890

²⁰ <http://www.martin.ac.uk/biotic/browse.php?sp=4236>

²¹ <http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/3516/en>

²² Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019R1241>

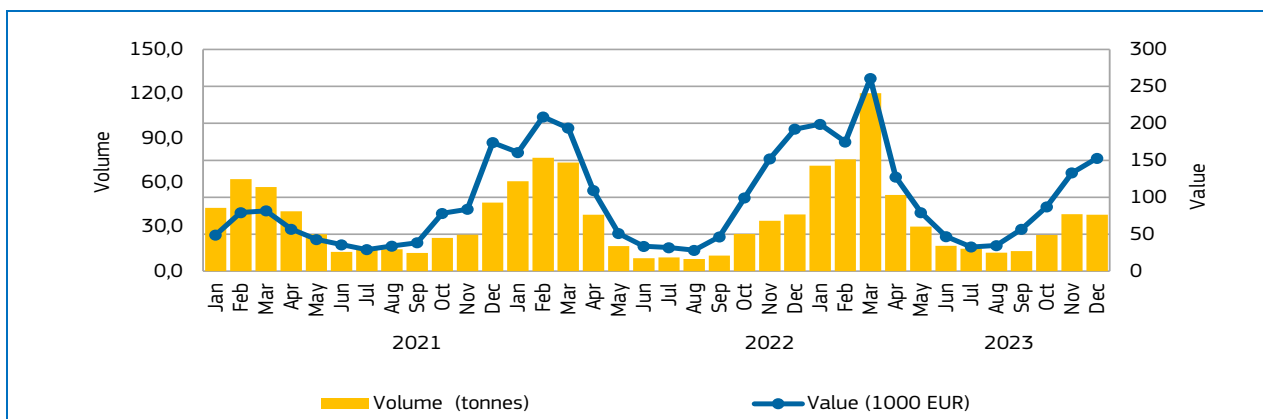
²³ REGULATION (EU) 2015/812 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32015R0812>

Selected countries

Table 18. **COMPARISON OF GREAT ATLANTIC SCALLOP FIRST-SALES PRICES, MAIN PLACES OF SALE, AND CONTRIBUTION TO OVERALL SALES OF “CEPHALOPODS” IN SELECTED COUNTRIES**

Great Atlantic scallop		Changes in Great Atlantic scallop first sales Jan-Dec 2023 (%)		Contribution of Great Atlantic scallop to total “Cephalopods” first sales in December 2023 (%)	Principal places of sale Jan-Dec 2023 in terms of first-sales value
		Compared to Jan-Dec 2022	Compared to Jan-Dec 2021		
Belgium	Value	+6%	+43%	65%	Oostende, Zeebrugge, Nieuwpoort.
	Volume	+27%	+26%		
France	Value	+2%	+22%	83%	Dieppe, Port-en-Bessin-Huppain, Saint Quay Portrieux.
	Volume	+6%	+19%		
Ireland	Value	+44%	-6%	23%	Kilmore Quay
	Volume	+138%	+73%		

Figure 20. **GREAT ATLANTIC SCALLOP: FIRST SALES IN BELGIUM, JANUARY 2021 – DECEMBER 2023**



Over the past 36 months in **Belgium**, the highest first sales value and volume of great Atlantic scallop were in March 2023 when approximately 120 tonnes were sold for EUR 261.000.

Figure 21. **FIRST SALES: COMPOSITION OF “BIVALVES” (ERS LEVEL) IN BELGIUM IN VALUE AND VOLUME, DECEMBER 2023**

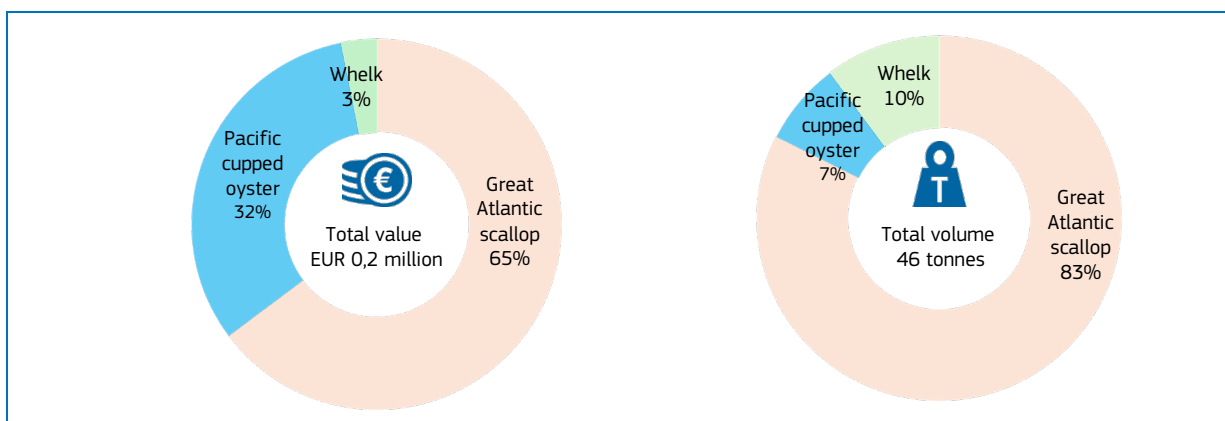
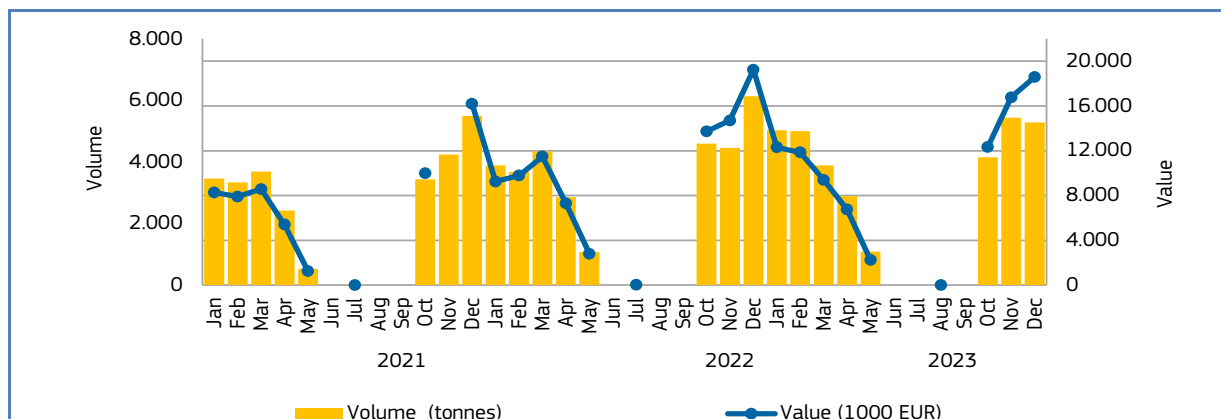


Figure 22. **GREAT ATLANTIC SCALLOP: FIRST SALES IN THE FRANCE, JANUARY 2021 – DECEMBER 2023**



Over the past 36 months in **France**, the highest first sales value and volume of great Atlantic scallop were in December 2022 when approximately 6.132 tonnes were sold for EUR 19,2 million.

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

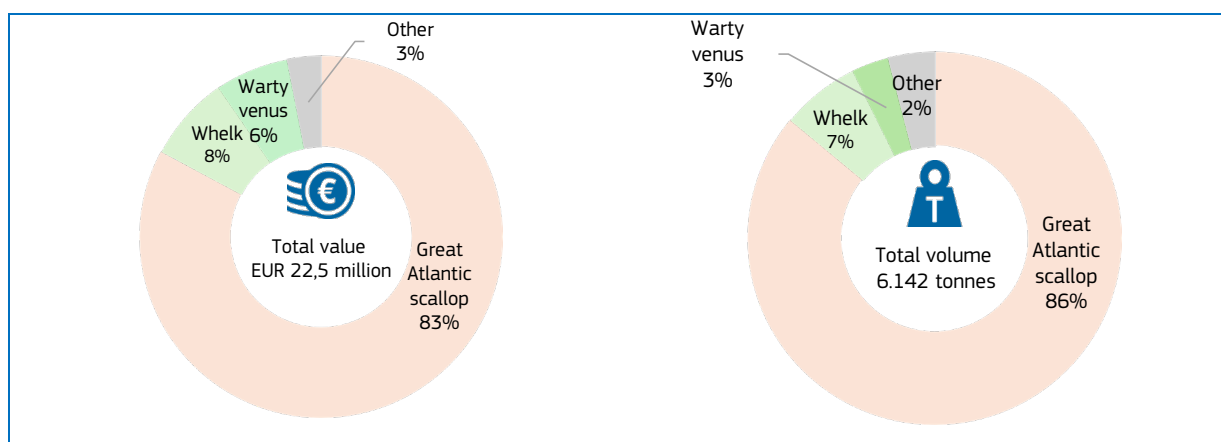
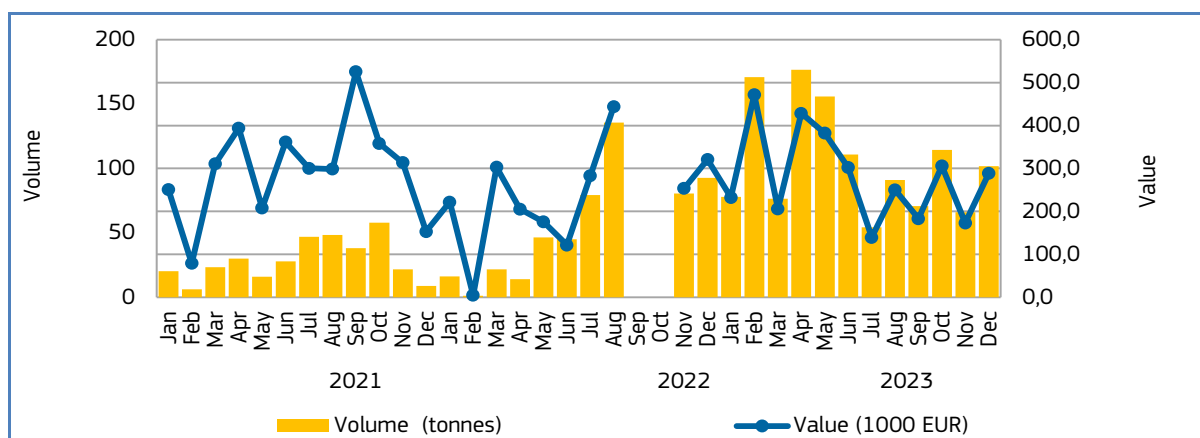
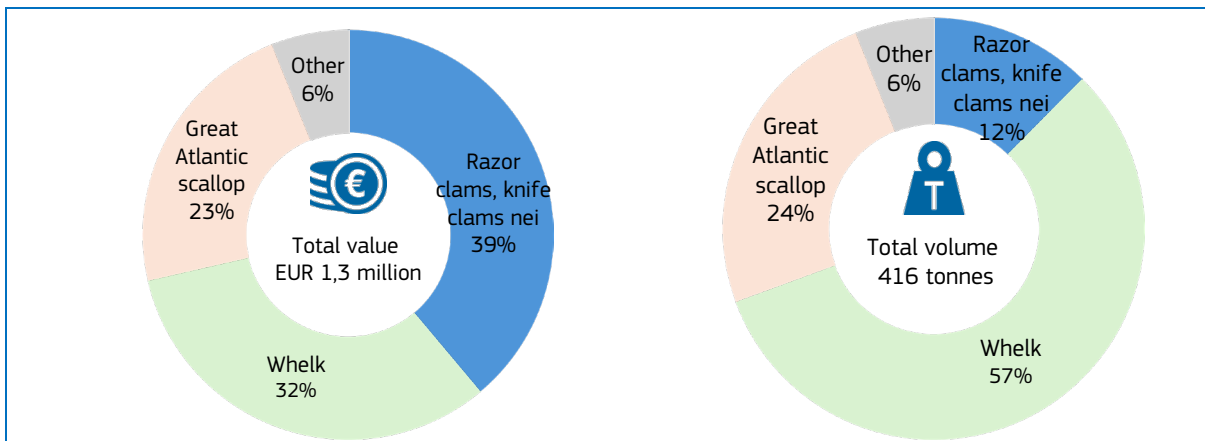


Figure 24. **GREAT ATLANTIC SCALLOP: FIRST SALES IN IRELAND, JANUARY 2021 – DECEMBER 2023**



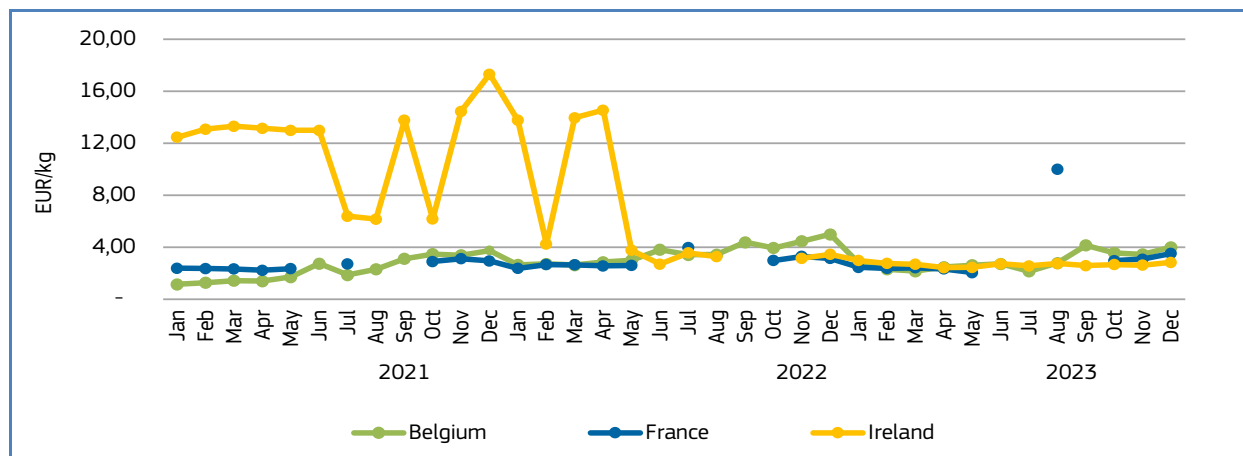
In **Ireland**, over the 36-month observation period from January 2021 to December 2023, the highest first sales value of great Atlantic scallop were registered in September 2021 when 38 tonnes were sold for EUR 0,5 million.

Figure 25. **FIRST SALES: COMPOSITION OF “BIVALVES” (ERS LEVEL) IN IRELAND IN VALUE AND VOLUME, DECEMBER 2023**



Price trend

Figure 26. **GREAT ATLANTIC SCALLOP: FIRST-SALES PRICES IN SELECTED COUNTRIES, JANUARY 2021 - DECEMBER 2023**



Over the 36-month observation period (January 2021 to December 2023), the weighted average first-sales price of Great Atlantic scallop in **Ireland** was 4,31 EUR/kg, 56% higher than in **France** (2,61 EUR/kg) and 60% higher than in **Belgium** (2,70 EUR/kg).

In **Belgium** in December 2023, the average first-sales price of great Atlantic scallop (4,00 EUR/kg) decreased by 20% compared to December 2022 while it increased by 7% compared to December 2021. Over the past 36 months, the average price ranged from 1,14 EUR/kg for 43 tonnes in January 2021 to 4,99 EUR/kg for about 38 tonnes in December 2022.

In **France** in December 2023, the average first-sales price of great Atlantic scallop (3,52 EUR/kg) increased by 12% and by 19%, compared to December 2022 and 2021, respectively. In the 36-month period observed, the lowest average price at 2,05 EUR/kg for 1.092 tonnes was registered in May 2022, while apart from the non-representative price of 10 EUR/kg for 2 kg recorded in August 2023, the highest average price of 3,98 EUR/kg for 6 tonnes was recorded in July 2022.

In **Ireland** in December 2023, the average first-sales price of great Atlantic scallop (2,84 EUR/kg) decreased by 18% compared to December 2022 and by 84% compared to 2021. During the period observed, the average price ranged from 2,43 EUR/kg for 177 tonnes in April 2023 to 17,32 EUR/kg for 9 tonnes in December 2021.

We have covered **Great Atlantic scallop** in previous *Monthly Highlights*:

First sales: MH 2/2022 (Italy, Portugal, 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 great Atlantic scallop (MH4/2021).

The species was also covered in the EUMOFA case study:

Scallop in the EU – Price structure in the supply chain (France, Ireland, United Kingdom) 11/2023.

1.7. Focus on common edible cockle



Common edible cockle (*Cerastoderma edule*) is a species of saltwater clam, a marine bivalve mollusc that belongs to the Cardiidae (cockle) family. It is found in waters off Europe and western Africa, from Iceland to Senegal. It lives under the surface on sand, mud and gravel bottoms, buried at a maximum depth of a few metres, mainly in intertidal habitats with some arrival of fresh water. It can reach a maximum length of 5 to 6 cm, although is more commonly 3 to 4 cm long. The lifespan of cockle is generally two to four years on average, but they can occasionally reach ten years. Sexual maturity is generally reached during the second year. Spawning occurs in early summer

and autumn. The common cockle is harvested commercially and eaten in much of its range.

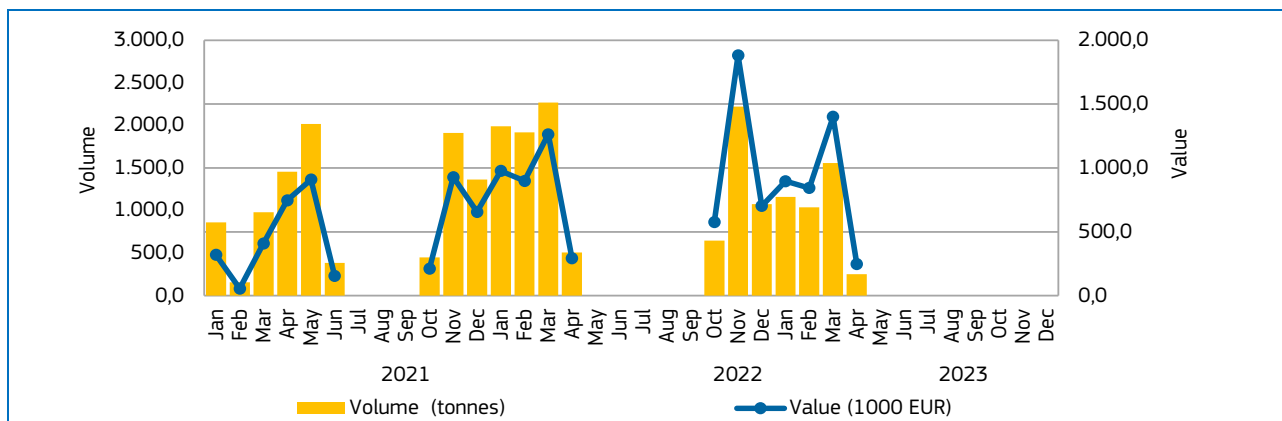
An important species for the fishing industry, it is commercially fished in the United Kingdom, Ireland and France by suction dredge and raking by hand. Previously the biggest catch was from the Netherlands, but fisheries restrictions have now been put in place due to environmental concerns. Similar measures have been established elsewhere, for example in Scotland.²⁴ This species is also used in aquaculture which is ongoing in the UK²⁵, the Netherlands²⁶ and Portugal²⁷.

Selected countries

Table 19. COMPARISON OF COMMON EDIBLE COCKLE FIRST-SALES PRICES, MAIN PLACES OF SALE, AND CONTRIBUTION TO OVERALL SALES OF "CEPHALOPODS" IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

Common edible cockle		Changes in common edible cockle first sales Jan-Dec 2023 (%)		Contribution of common edible cockle to total "Cephalopods" first sales in December 2023 (%)	Principal places of sale Jan-Dec 2023 in terms of first-sales value
		Compared to Jan-Dec 2022	Compared to Jan-Dec 2021		
Denmark	Value	-49%	-30%	No data reported in December 2023.	Confidential.
	Volume	-62%	-139%	No data reported in December 2023.	
Portugal	Value	+53%	-40%	21%	Aveiro, Olhão, Peniche.
	Volume	+93%	-40%	35%	
Spain	Value	-61%	-143%	2%	A Coruña, Cabo De Cruz-Boiro, Noia.
	Volume	-79%	-329%	2%	

Figure 27. COMMON EDIBLE COCKLE: FIRST SALES IN DENMARK, JANUARY 2021 – DECEMBER 2023



²⁴ Aikens, Tom. Fish Archived 2023-10-07 at the Wayback Machine, p. 547 (Random House, 2012).

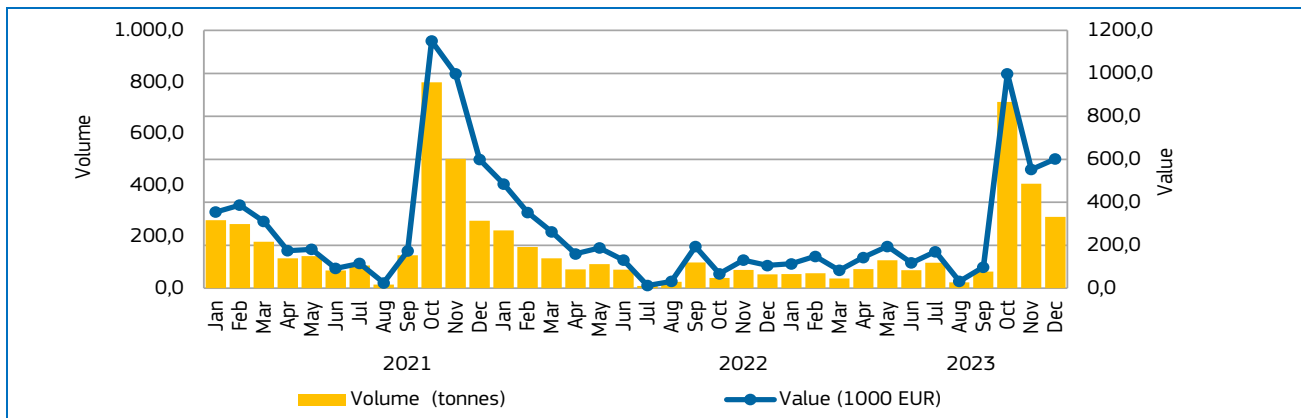
²⁵ <https://eol.org/pages/46473663/articles>

²⁶ <https://aquaculture.ifremer.fr/en/Sectors/Mollusc-sector/Discoveries/Cockles>

²⁷ <https://ethnobiomed.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13002-022-00507-x>

In **Denmark** over the 36-month period observed, the highest first-sales value was recorded in November 2022 (EUR 1,9 million), while the highest volume was seen in March 2022 (2.267 tonnes). There were no first sales of common edible cockle reported in December 2023.

Figure 28. **COMMON EDIBLE COCKLE: FIRST SALES IN PORTUGAL, JANUARY 2021 – DECEMBER 2023**



In **Portugal** over the 36-month period observed, the highest first-sales value was registered in October 2021 when 799 tonnes of common edible cockles were sold for EUR 1,2 million.

Figure 29. **FIRST SALES: COMPOSITION OF “BIVALVES” (ERS LEVEL) IN PORTUGAL IN VALUE AND VOLUME, DECEMBER 2023**

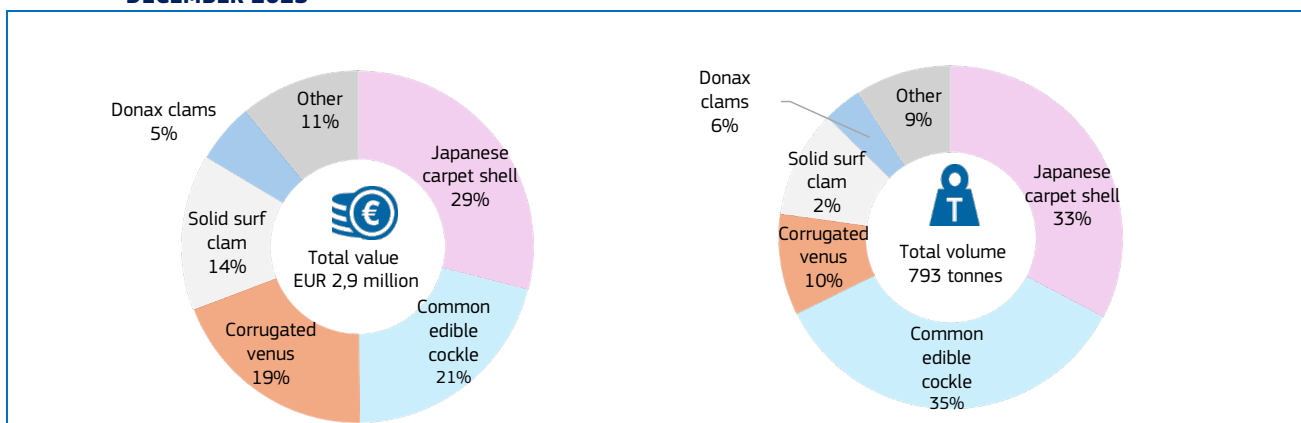
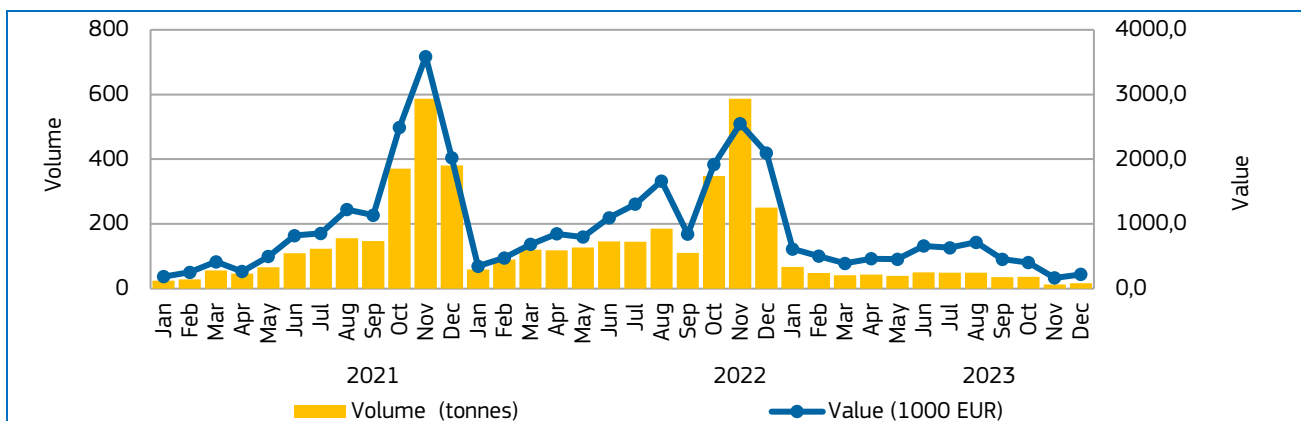
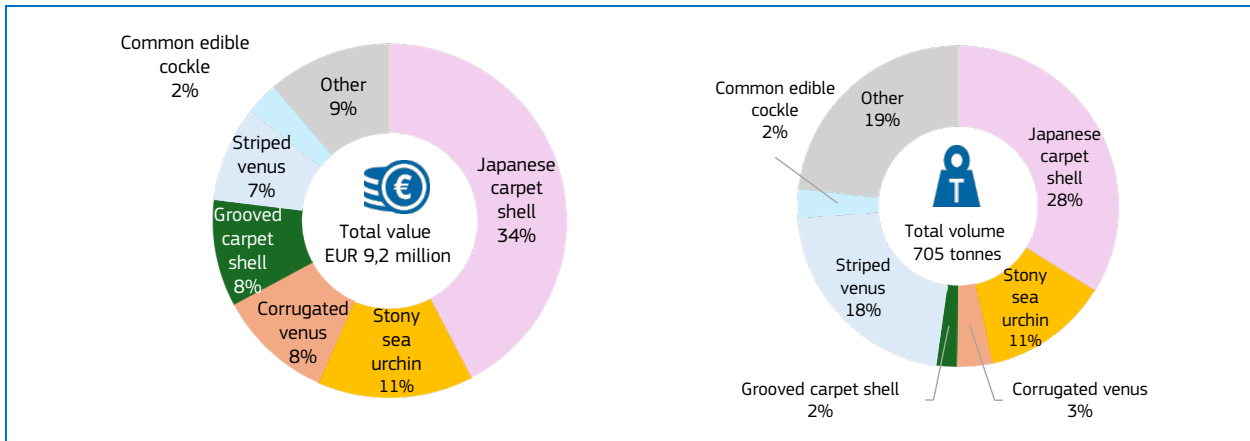


Figure 30. **COMMON EDIBLE COCKLE: FIRST SALES IN SPAIN, JANUARY 2021 – DECEMBER 2023**



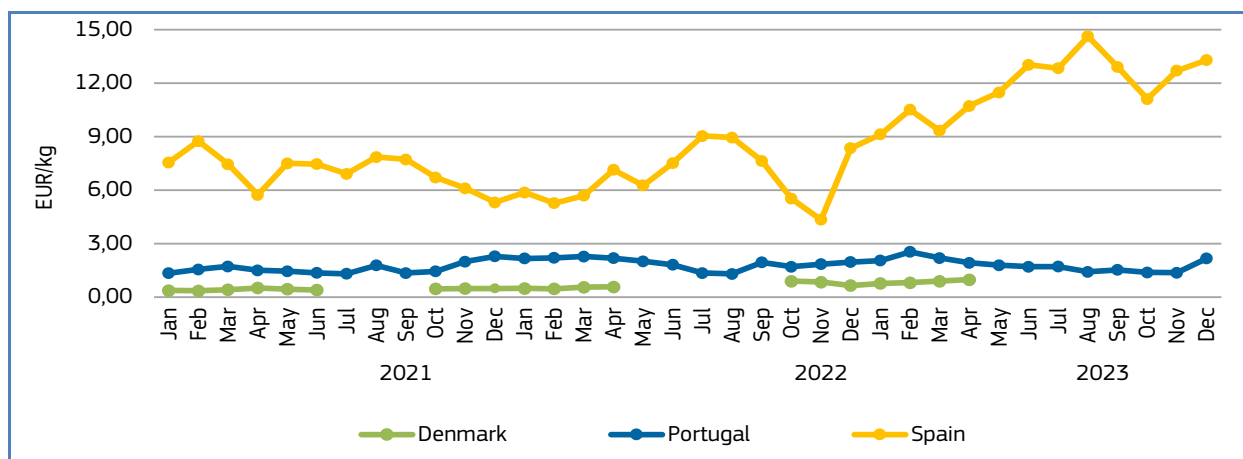
In **Spain** over the 36-month period observed, the highest first-sales value and volume were registered in November 2021 when about 587 tonnes were sold for EUR 3,6 million.

Figure 31. **FIRST SALES: COMPOSITION OF “BIVALVES” (ERS LEVEL) IN SPAIN IN VALUE AND VOLUME, DECEMBER 2023**



Price trend

Figure 32. **COMMON EDIBLE COCKLE: FIRST-SALES PRICES IN SELECTED COUNTRIES, JANUARY 2021 – DECEMBER 2023**



Over the 36-month observation period (January 2021 – December 2023), the weighted average first-sales price of common edible cockle in **Spain** was 6,99 EUR/kg, 309% higher than in **Portugal** (1,71 EUR/kg), and 1077% above the average price in **Denmark** (0,59 EUR/kg).

In **Denmark** in December 2023, there were no first sales of common edible cockle reported. Over the past 36 months, the average price ranged from 0,36 EUR/kg for 156 tonnes in February 2021 to 0,98 EUR/kg for 252 tonnes in April 2023.

In **Portugal** in December 2023, the average first-sales price of common edible cockle (2,17 EUR/kg) increased by 10% compared to December 2022 and decreased by 5% compared to December 2021. In the 36-month period observed, the lowest average price of 1,30 EUR/kg for 25 tonnes was registered in August 2022, while the highest average price of 2,54 EUR/kg for about 59 tonnes was recorded in February 2023.

In **Spain** in December 2023, the average first-sales price of common edible cockle (13,30 EUR/kg) increased by 59% compared to December 2022 and by 150% compared to December 2021. During the period observed, the average price ranged from 4,35 EUR/kg for 587 tonnes in November 2022 to 14,63 EUR/kg for 49 tonnes in August 2023.

We have covered **common edible cockle** in the previous *Monthly Highlights*:

First sales: MH 1/2020 (Denmark, Portugal, Spain).

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 “bivalves”²⁸.

Data analysed in the section “Extra-EU imports” are extracted from EUMOFA, as collected from the European Commission²⁹.

Table 20. **EVOLUTION OF WEEKLY PRICE AND VOLUME OF THE THREE MOST RELEVANT FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS IMPORTED INTO THE EU**

Extra-EU Imports		Week 01/2024	Preceding 4-week average	Week 01/2023	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)	9,36	8,62 (+9%)	8,80 (+6%)	From weeks 02/2021 to 01/2024 prices fluctuated, showing an increasing trend. Prices show seasonality following supply, with the highest peaks occurring between weeks 10 and 18. Prices ranged between 4,64 EUR/kg (week 04/2021) and 11,28 EUR/kg (week 16/2022). Volumes fluctuated strongly ranging between 1.309 tonnes (week 52/2023) 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 51/52.
	Volume (tonnes)	11.838	7.886 (+50%)	8.702 (+36%)	
Frozen Alaska pollock fillets imported from China (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i> , CN code 03047500)	Price (EUR/kg)	2,67	2,72 (-2%)	3,86 (-31%)	Between weeks 02/2021 and 01/2024 prices showed some fluctuations, increasing to the maximum price of 4,03 EUR/kg (week 41/2022), decreasing to the minimum price of 1,84 EUR/kg (week 48/2022). Prices then recovered and decreased to week 01/2024. Supply fluctuated strongly but does not seem to follow a clear seasonality. Over the period analysed, weekly volumes ranged between 682 tonnes (week 53/2023) to 13.765 tonnes (week 50/2023). Highest peaks in supply seem to occur in the last weeks of the year between week 46 and 50.
	Volume (tonnes)	985	5.587 (-82%)	1.832 (-46%)	
Frozen tropical shrimp imported from Ecuador (genus <i>Penaeus</i> , CN code 03061792)	Price (EUR/kg)	4,86	5,02 (-3%)	5,10 (-5%)	From week 02/2021 to week 01/2024 prices fluctuated between 4,58 EUR/kg (week 10/2021) and 7,19 EUR/kg (week 41/2022). Prices showed a decreasing trend over the past three years. In the period analysed volumes showed high fluctuations between 891 tonnes (week 09/2023) and 4.925 tonnes (week 33/2021). Highest peaks in supply seemed to occur most often between weeks 14/17, 21/23, 30/33 and 45/46.
	Volume (tonnes)	2.699	2.444 (+10%) *	2.175 (+24%) *	

*Data refers to weeks 53/51/50 of 2023.

²⁸ The featured species of the commodity group of the month are frozen scallops, from the United States, live, fresh or chilled mussels from Norway and prepared or preserved mussels from Chile. The three randomly selected species this month are live, fresh or chilled squid from Morocco, frozen cuttlefish from Morocco and frozen tilapia from China.

²⁹ Last update: 19. 2.2024.

Figure 33. **IMPORT PRICE OF FRESH AND WHOLE ATLANTIC SALMON FROM NORWAY, 2021 - 2023**

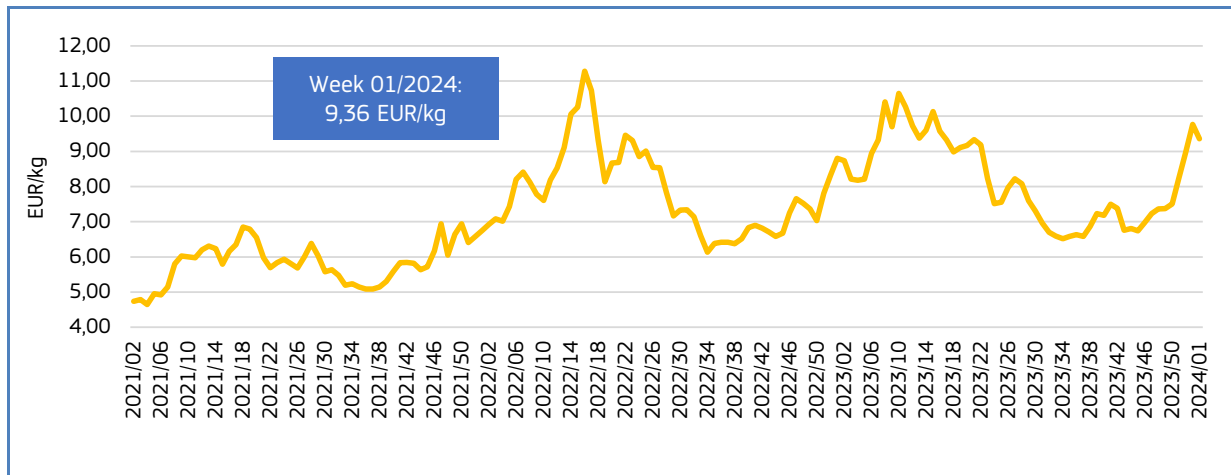


Figure 34. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN ALASKA POLLOCK FILLETS FROM CHINA, 2021 - 2023**

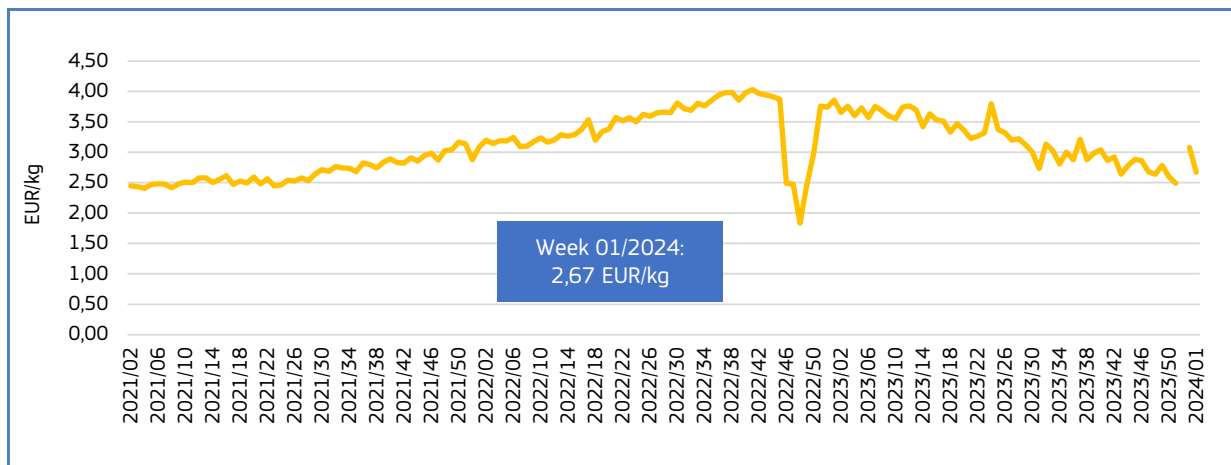
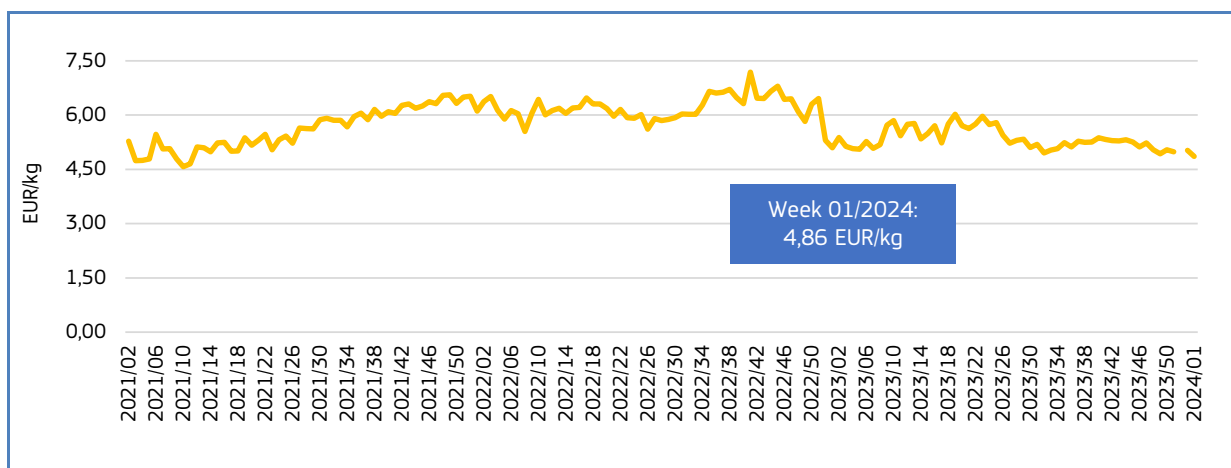


Figure 35. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN TROPICAL SHRIMP FROM ECUADOR, 2021 - 2023**



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

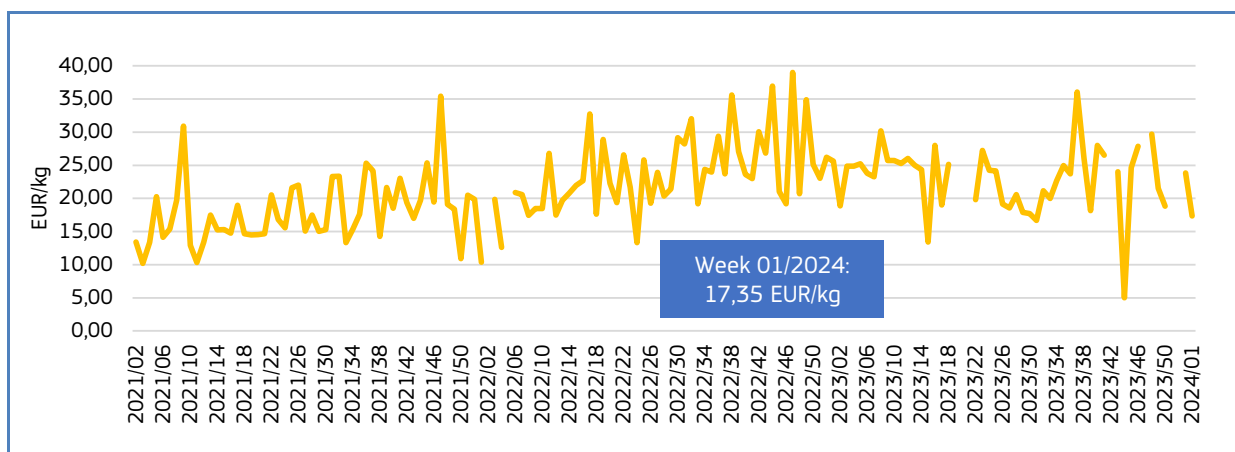
| [4. Fisheries and aquaculture in Ukraine](#) | [5. Norway lobster in the EU](#) | [6. Global highlights](#) | [7. Macroeconomic context](#)

Table 21. **EVOLUTION OF WEEKLY PRICE AND VOLUME OF THIS MONTH'S THREE FEATURED COMMODITY PRODUCTS IMPORTED INTO THE EU**

Extra-EU Imports		Week 01/2024	Preceding 4-week average	Week 01/2023	Notes
Scallops , incl. queen scallops, of, frozen, even in shell (excl. Coquilles St Jacques "Pecten maximus") from United States (the genera Pecten, Chlamys or Placopecten CN code 03072290)	Price (EUR/kg)	17,53	21,35 (-19%)	25,64 (-32%)	Between weeks 02/2021 to 01/2024 prices fluctuated strongly following an overall increasing trend. The minimum price 5,02 EUR/kg was registered in week 44/2023 and the maximum price 39,01 EUR/kg in week 47/2022. 43% of the weekly prices were below 20,00 EUR/kg. Volumes showed high fluctuations ranging from 1 kg (week 04/2022) to 112 tonnes (week 45/2022). 68% of the weekly supply was less than 10 tonnes. Over the period analysed, 2022 recorded the highest supply of 653 tonnes, 58% higher than 2021 and 71% than 2023.
	Volume (tonnes)	0,5	4 (-89%)	0,6 (-19%)	
Mussels live, fresh or chilled, with or without shell from Norway ("Mytilus spp.", CN code 03073110)	Price (EUR/kg)	5,61	4,43 (+27%) *	4,00 (+40%)	Between weeks 02/2021 to 01/2024 prices showed an increasing trend, fluctuating between 0,94 EUR/kg (week 05/2021) and the maximum price 5,70 EUR/kg (week 49/2023). 76% of the weekly prices were between 3,00 EUR/kg and 4,00 EUR/kg. Volumes showed strong fluctuations ranging from 84 kg (week 42/2023) to 10 tonnes (week 05/2021). 85% of the weekly supply was less than 800 kg. No clear seasonality was registered in the period assessed
	Volume (tonnes)	0,3	0,8 (-63%) *	0,5 (-35%)	
Mussels , prepared or preserved, in airtight containers (excl. merely smoked) from Chile (CN code 6055310)	Price (EUR/kg)	2,65	2,52 (+5%) **	2,17 (+22%)	Prices fluctuated strongly in the period analysed, increasing from the minimum price 1,63 EUR/kg (week 22/2021) to the maximum price 5,03 EUR/kg (week 52/2022), to then decrease until the latest week analysed. 37% of the weekly prices were between 2,00 and 3,00 EUR/kg. Very high fluctuations in supply from 40 kg (week 51/2021) to 805 tonnes (week 33/2023). 70% of the weekly supply was below 200 tonnes. The highest peaks were registered in 2023, and the highest peaks seem to occur between weeks 27 and 33.
	Volume (tonnes)	81	19 (+322%) **	20 (+303%)	

*Data refers to weeks 53/51/50 of 2023. **Data refers to weeks 50 of 2023, the most recent data available.

Figure 36. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN SCALLOPS FROM THE UNITED STATES, 2021 - 2023**



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

| [4. Fisheries and aquaculture in Ukraine](#) | [5. Norway lobster in the EU](#) | [6. Global highlights](#) | [7. Macroeconomic context](#)

Figure 37. **IMPORT PRICE OF LIVE, FRESH OR CHILLED MUSSELS FROM NORWAY, 2021 - 2023**

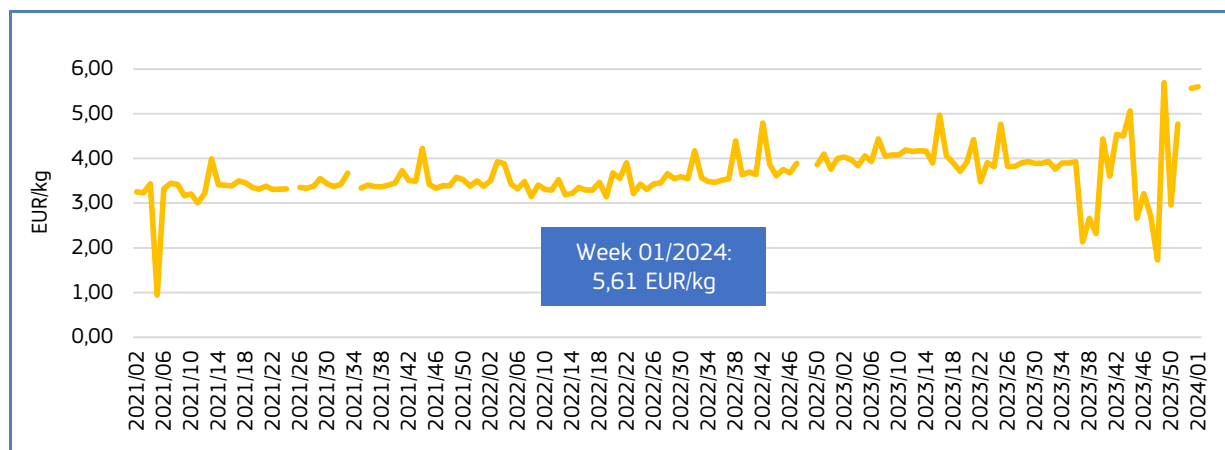


Figure 38. **IMPORT PRICE OF PREPARED OR PRESERVED MUSSELS FROM CHILE, 2021 - 2023**

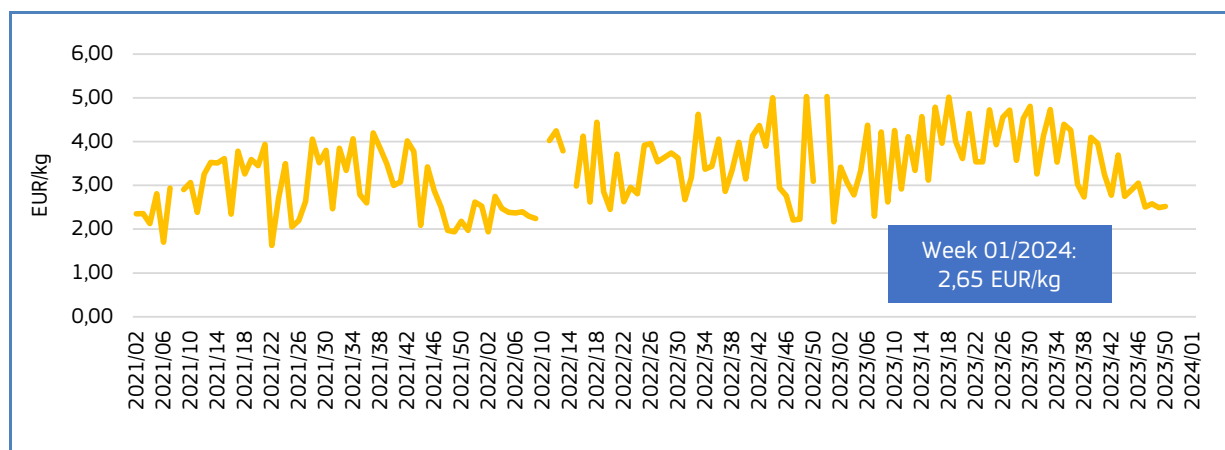
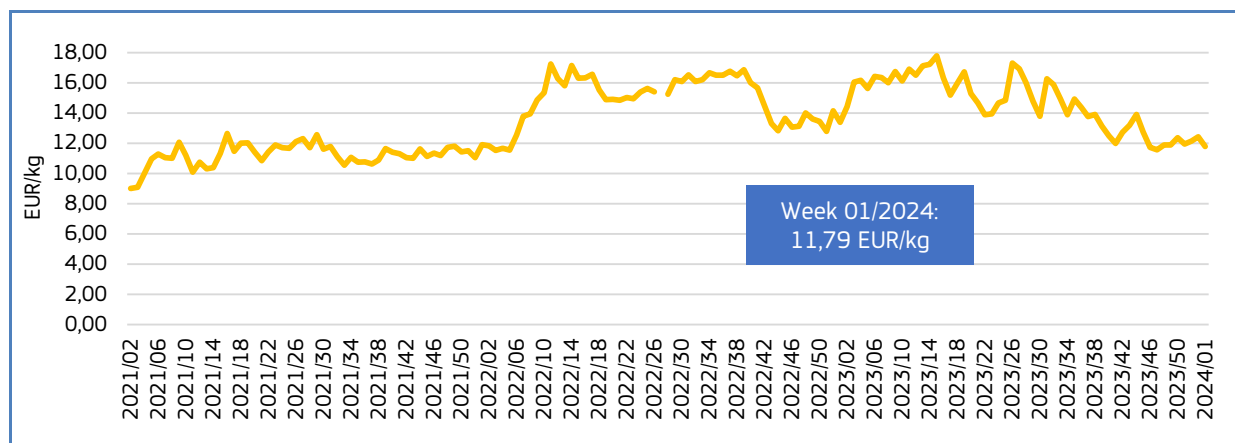


Table 22. **EVOLUTION OF WEEKLY PRICE AND VOLUME OF EU IMPORTS OF THREE OTHER FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS RELEVANT TO THE EU MARKET**

Extra-EU Imports		Week 01/2024	Preceding 4-week average	Week 01/2023	Notes
Squid , live, fresh or chilled, from Morocco ("Loligo spp." CN code 03074220)	Price (EUR/kg)	11,79	12,22 (-4%)	13,40 (-12%)	Between weeks 02/2021 to 01/2024 prices fluctuated strongly following an increasing trend ranging between 9,01 EUR/kg (week 02/2021) to 17,79 EUR/kg (week 15/2023). Price trends seem to follow supply. 43% of the weekly prices were above 14,00 EUR/kg.
	Volume (tonnes)	25	30 (-16%)	12 (+103%)	Supply fluctuated greatly ranging from 0,2 tonnes (week 52/2023) to 126 tonnes (week 31/2021). The highest peaks in supply were in 2021. 58% of the weekly supply was more than 40 tonnes.
Cuttlefish frozen, with or without shell from Morocco ("Sepia officinalis, Rossia macrosoma". CN code 03074329)	Price (EUR/kg)	5,61	6,01 (-7%) *	5,16 (+9%)	In the period analysed prices fluctuated highly following an increasing trend from the minimum price of 2,83 EUR/kg (week 03/2021) to the maximum price of 7,63 EUR/kg in week 41/2022, to then decrease again. Spikes in prices follow availability of supply. 72% of the weekly prices were below 6,00 EUR/kg.
	Volume (tonnes)	179	225 (-20%) *	175 (+3%)	Volumes showed high fluctuations ranging from 7 tonnes (week 51/2022) to 1.260 tonnes (week 08/2023). Highest peaks in supply were recorded occurring most often between weeks 8/9, 20/22 41/42. 53% of the weekly supply was below 400 tonnes.
Frozen tilapia from China ("Oreochromis spp.". CN code 03032300)	Price (EUR/kg)	1,86	1,76 (+6%) **	1,93 (-4%)	Between weeks 02/2021 to 01/2024 prices ranged between 1,29 EUR/kg (week 05/2021) and 3,18 EUR/kg (week 39/2022). 61% of the weekly prices were between 1,00 and 2,00 EUR/kg.
	Volume (tonnes)	160	165 (-3%) **	135 (+18%)	Volumes showed high fluctuations ranging from 17 tonnes (week 24/2021) to 525 tonnes (week 06/2022). Supply does not seem to follow a clear seasonality. 51% of the weekly supply was lower than 150 tonnes.

*Data refers to weeks 53/51/50 of 2023. **Data refers to weeks 53/51/50 of 2023.

Figure 39. **IMPORT PRICE OF LIVE, FRESH OR CHILLED SQUID FROM MOROCCO, 2021 - 2023**



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

| [4. Fisheries and aquaculture in Ukraine](#) | [5. Norway lobster in the EU](#) | [6. Global highlights](#) | [7. Macroeconomic context](#)

Figure 40. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN CUTTLEFISH FROM MOROCCO, 2021 - 2023**

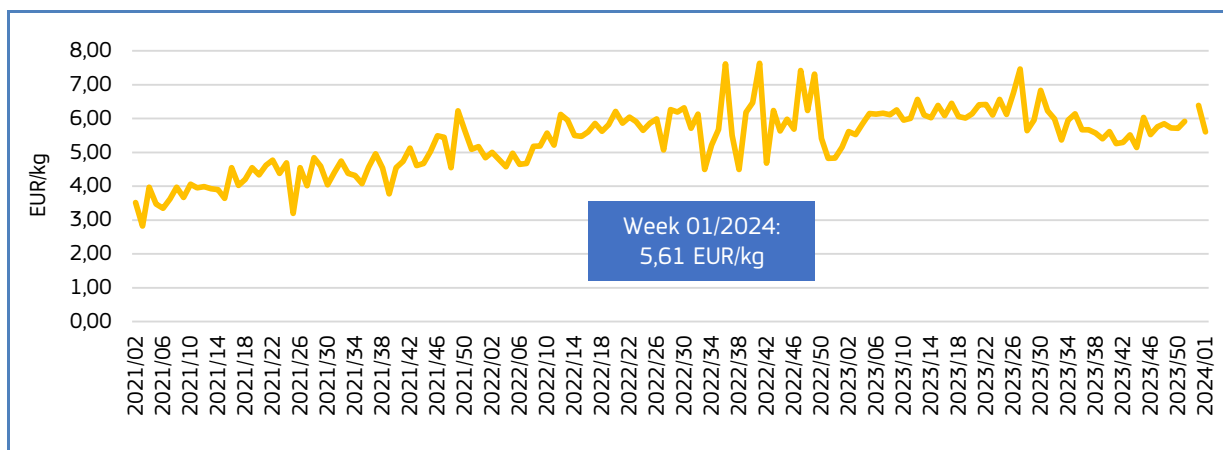
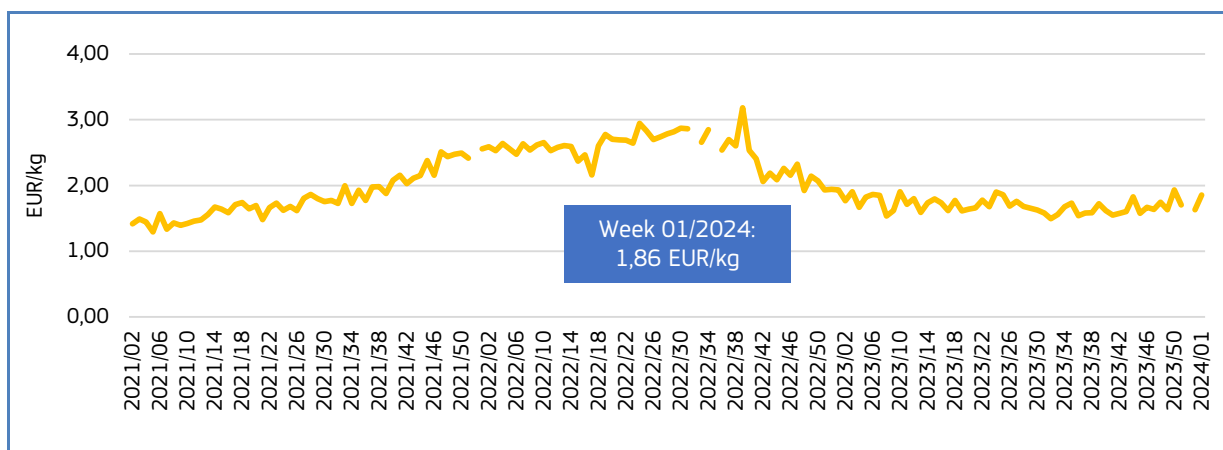


Figure 41. **IMPORT PRICE OF FROZEN TILAPIA FROM CHINA, 2021 - 2023**

























3. Consumption

3.1. HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION IN THE EU

Data analysed in the section “Consumption” are extracted from EUMOFA, as collected from Europanel³⁰.

In December 2023 compared with December 2022, household consumption of fresh fisheries and aquaculture products decreased in Germany, Italy and Spain, while in Denmark, Ireland, Portugal and Sweden an increase was observed, both in volume and value. In Denmark, where the highest increase was observed, it was largely based on consumption of mussels *Mytilus* spp. (410% of volume and 471% of value) and halibut (46% of volume and 95% of value). The highest decrease was reported in Italy due to a lower consumption of clam (31% of volume and 41% of value) and anchovy (21% of volume and 19% of value).

Table 23. **DECEMBER 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	December 2021		December 2022		November 2023		December 2023		Change from December 2022 to December 2023	
		Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Denmark	20,00-25,00	1.206	22,94	814	17,36	876	17,29	1.109	24,50		
France	32,18	27.213	343,24	23.634	317,96	16.401	206,95	23.450	318,44		
Germany	12,51	9.474	131,43	6.737	105,18	4.840	73,82	6.390	100,01		
Hungary	6,55	1.980	11,66	1.278	9,96	366	3,11	1.225	10,76		
Ireland	14,56	1.234	20,68	1.115	20,80	818	14,46	1.176	22,67		
Italy	30,15	41.975	494,33	35.743	457,80	18.109	224,45	32.157	417,39		
Netherland	21,08	4.070	78,45	3.752	81,16	2.305	45,32	3.709	81,65		
Poland	14,26	10.652	72,82	10.169	83,13	3.241	33,57	9.968	92,16		
Portugal	56,52	6.315	52,14	5.754	52,06	4.717	37,17	6.020	54,57		
Spain	42,98	55.558	538,81	46.357	483,98	40.049	398,39	43.705	480,42		
Sweden	22,71	1.134	15,15	820	13,00	781	10,99	1.032	15,94		

* 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 December has been above the annual average in both volume and value in all reporting countries.

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

³⁰ Last update: 23.02.2024.

3.2. Hake

Habitat: Hake is a demersal species, usually found at a depth range of 70-400 m. Adults live close to the bottom during daytime but move away from the bottom at night.

Catch area: Eastern Atlantic: from Norway and Iceland, to southward to Mauritania. Hake also inhabits the Mediterranean Sea and along the southern coast of the Black Sea³¹.

Producing countries in the EU: Spain, France, Portugal.

Production method: Caught.

Main consumers in the EU: Spain, France, Portugal³².

Presentation: Fresh, whole, filleted.

Preservation: Fresh, dried or salted, frozen.

Means of preparation: Steamed, fried, microwaved, baked³³.



3.2.1. Overview of household consumption in Italy, France, Portugal and Spain

Based on EUMOFA estimates, per capita apparent consumption of fishery and aquaculture products in all four countries were above the EU average of 23,28 kg LWE. With an estimated 56,52 kg Portugal had the highest per capita consumption among the four countries, as well as within the EU. Spain had the second highest consumption among the EU countries (42,98 kg), France the third (32,18 kg), while Italy came fifth (30,15 kg), after Luxembourg.

In the three-year period of January 2021–December 2023, the average monthly volume of hake consumed in the four countries was highest in Spain at 4.590 tonnes, and lowest in France, at 236 tonnes. However, over the three-year period, hake consumption shows a decreasing trend in all four countries. The highest decrease was observed in France, where the average monthly hake consumption in 2023 was 12% lower than the three-year average of 2021–2023, and prices of hake were highest (an average of 13,29 EUR/kg in 2023). In Spain, where the highest increase in price was observed (7% in 2023 compared to the three-year average), the decrease in volume was only 9% when the average volume of consumption in 2023 was compared to the three-year average.

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

First sales: **MH 8 2022** (FR, IT, ES); **MH 2 2018** (FR, IT, ES); **MH 7 2016** (EL); **MH 1 2016** (FR); **MH 5 2015** (PT); **MH 3 2014** (EL); **MH May 2013** (PT); **MH Oct 2013** (DK).

Consumption: **MH 8 2020** (IE, IT, FR); **MH 9 2018** (FR, PT, ES); **MH 4 2016** (FR,EL,PT,ES); **MH 9 2016** (FR, EL, IE, PT, ES); **MH 7 2015** (EL,FR,IT,ES); **MH 6 2014** (ES,SE,UK,ES,FR,PT,IT); **Oct 2013** (ES, SE, UK).

Extra-EU imports: Chile **MH 7 2023**; Namibia **MH 6 2023**; South Africa **MH 4 2023**; US **MH 3 2023**; Namibia **MH 8 2022**; Argentina **MH 7 2021**; US **MH 3 2021**; Chile **MH 4 2020**; Namibia **MH 1 2020**; Namibia **MH 6 2019**; South Africa **MH 5 2019**; Chile **MH 6 2018**, Namibia and Argentina **MH 2 2018**, Namibia and South Africa **MH 1 2018**.

Topic of the month: First sales of European hake in major places of sale **MH 8 2019**; Hake in Spain **MH 9 2015**; Hake in France **MH 3 2015**.

³¹ <https://www.fishbase.se/summary/Merluccius-merluccius.html>

³² EUMOFA: MH 8 2020

³³ <https://www.fishbase.se/summary/Merluccius-merluccius.html>

Figure 42. PRICES OF FRESH HAKE PURCHASED BY ITALIAN, FRENCH, PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH HOUSEHOLDS

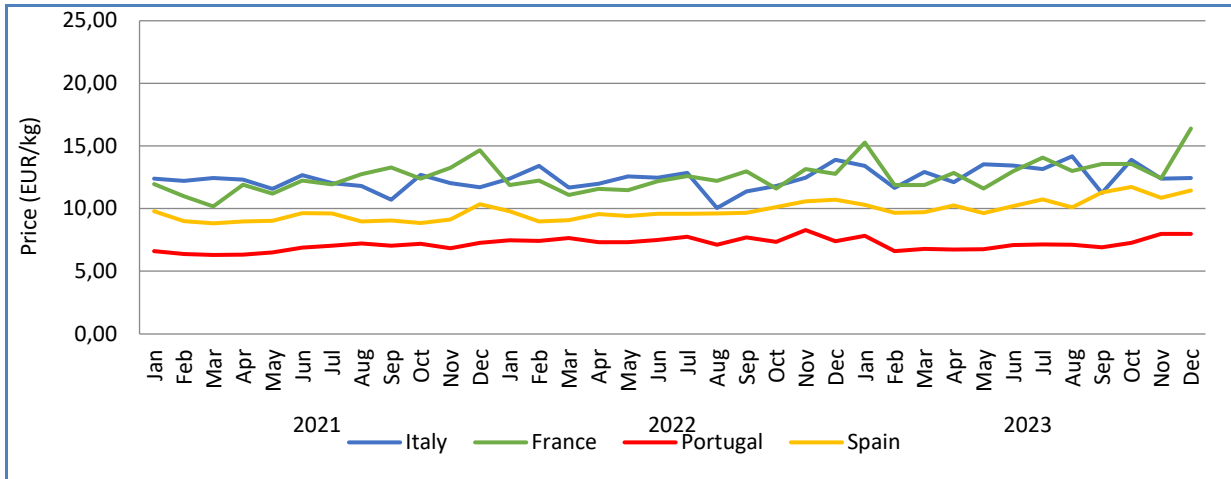
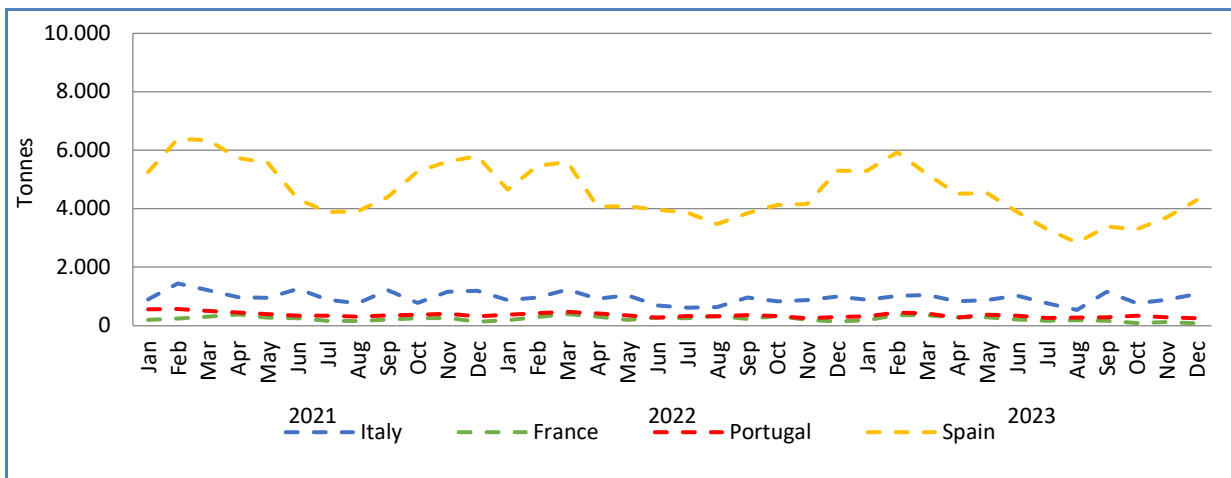


Figure 43. HOUSEHOLD PURCHASES OF FRESH HAKE IN ITALY, FRANCE, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN



3.2.2. Household consumption trends in Italy

Long-term trend (January 2021 to December 2023): Downward trend in volume and fluctuating prices.

Yearly average price: 10,88 EUR/kg (2020), 12,05 EUR/kg (2021), 12,24 EUR/kg (2022).

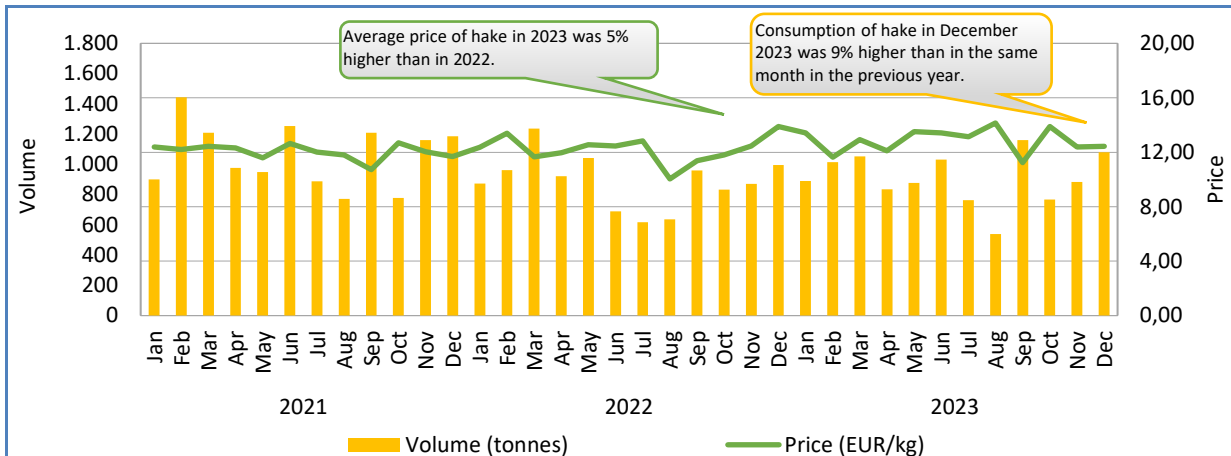
Yearly consumption: 11.422 tonnes (2020), 12.729 tonnes (2021), 10.644 tonnes (2022).

Short-term trend (January to December 2023): Slight downward trend in volume and fluctuating prices.

Price: 12,86 EUR/kg.

Consumption: 10.903 tonnes.

Figure 44. **RETAIL PRICE AND VOLUME OF FRESH HAKE PURCHASED BY HOUSEHOLDS IN ITALY, JANUARY 2021 – DECEMBER 2023**



3.2.3. Household consumption trends in France

Long-term trend (January 2021 to December 2023): Downward trend in volume and fluctuating prices.

Yearly average price: 11,07 EUR/kg (2020), 12,23 EUR/kg (2021), 12,15 EUR/kg (2022).

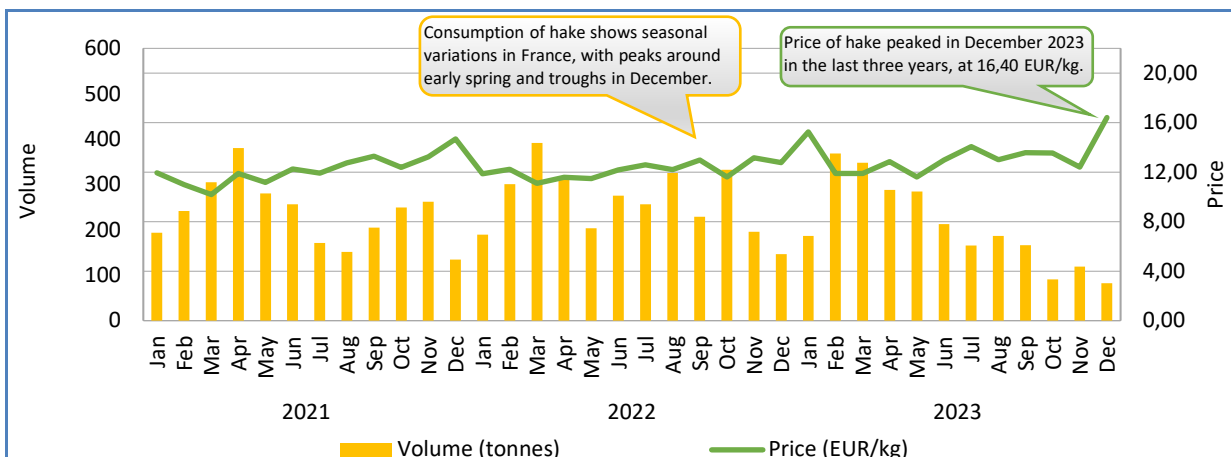
Yearly consumption: 3.217 tonnes (2020), 2.831 tonnes (2021), 3.161 tonnes (2022).

Short-term trend (January to December 2023): Downward trend in volume and slight upward trend in price.

Price: 13,29 EUR/kg.

Consumption: 2.498 tonnes.

Figure 45. **RETAIL PRICE AND VOLUME OF FRESH HAKE PURCHASED BY HOUSEHOLDS IN FRANCE, JANUARY 2021 – DECEMBER 2023**



3.2.4. Household consumption trends in Portugal

Long-term trend (January 2021 to December 2023): Downward trend in volume and fluctuating prices.

Yearly average price: 6,65 EUR/kg (2020), 6,80 EUR/kg (2021), 7,52 EUR/kg (2022).

Yearly consumption: 5.747 tonnes (2020), 4.935 tonnes (2021), 4.204 tonnes (2022).

Short-term trend (January to December 2023): Downward trend in volume and fluctuating prices.

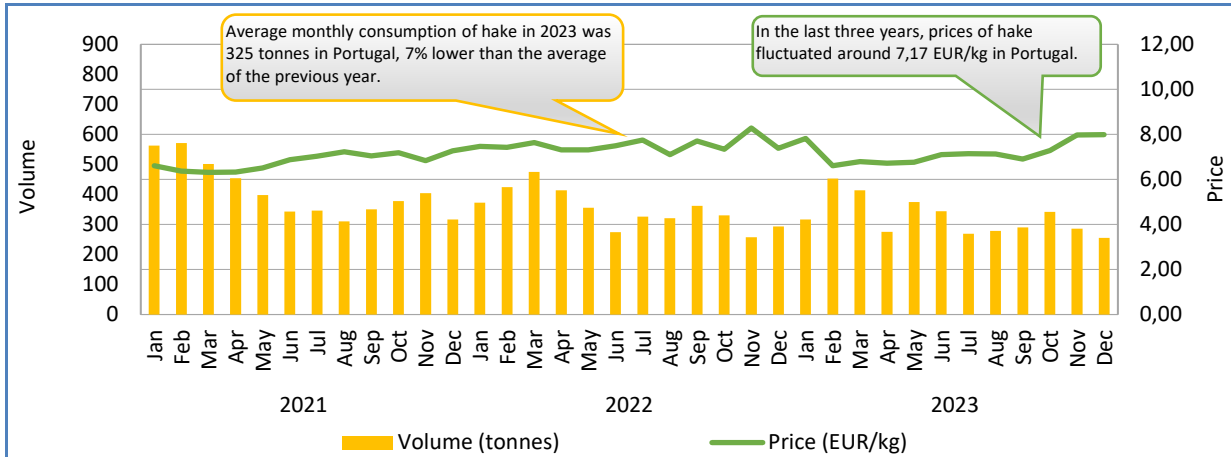
Price: 7,18 EUR/kg.

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Consumption: 3.896 tonnes.

Figure 46. **RETAIL PRICE AND VOLUME OF FRESH HAKE PURCHASED BY HOUSEHOLDS IN PORTUGAL, JANUARY 2021 – DECEMBER 2023**



3.2.5. Household consumption trends in Spain

Long-term trend (January 2021 to December 2023): Downward trend in volume and fluctuating prices.

Yearly average price: 8,46 EUR/kg (2020), 9,27 EUR/kg (2021), 9,72 EUR/kg (2022).

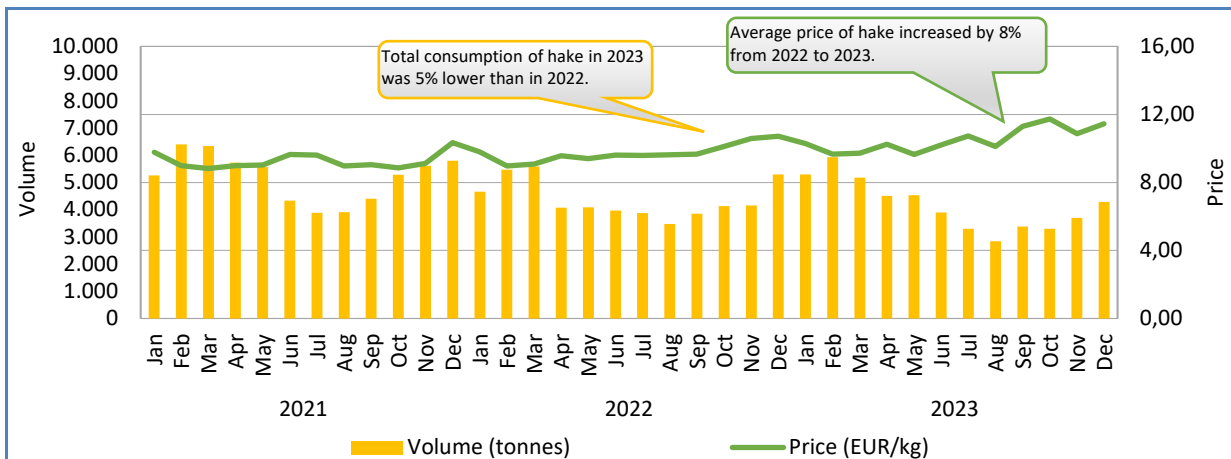
Yearly consumption: 71.862 tonnes (2020), 62.496 tonnes (2021), 52.607 tonnes (2022).

Short-term trend (January to December 2023): Downward trend in volume and slight upward trend in price.

Price: 10,50 EUR/kg.

Consumption: 50.144 tonnes.

Figure 47. **RETAIL PRICE AND VOLUME OF FRESH HAKE PURCHASED BY HOUSEHOLDS IN SPAIN, JANUARY 2021 – DECEMBER 2023**



4. Case study: Fisheries and aquaculture in Ukraine

Ukraine, the second largest European country, is situated along the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov to the south, and shares its borders with Belarus, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, and Slovakia. Most of Ukraine comprises flat terrain, the primary exceptions being the Carpathian Mountains in the west and the Crimean Mountains in the south of the Crimean Peninsula. Its fertile plains, referred to as steppes, are well-suited for cultivating crops like wheat, earning Ukraine the nickname "the breadbasket of Europe".

Several major rivers, including the Dnieper, Dniester, Inhul, and Donets, face serious pollution due to chemical fertilizers, pesticides from agricultural runoff, and inadequately treated sewage. Coastal water pollution in the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea has forced the closure of beaches and caused a significant decline in fish catches. Additionally, the diversion of freshwater into the Sea of Azov for irrigation has substantially increased salinity³⁵. Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, which led to the destruction of vital infrastructure such as the Kakhovka Dam on the Dnipro River and other factors like a seaport blockade, fisheries production in Ukraine reached its lowest point, estimated to be around 10,000 tonnes. Fish farms in conflict-affected regions of Ukraine suffered extensive damage, losing ponds, equipment, and fish. Additionally, landmines and unexploded shells now cover around 30% of the country, impacting both agriculture and accessibility.³⁶



Source: CIA, the world factbook.³⁴

4.1. Fisheries and aquaculture production in Ukraine

Ukraine has fisheries operations in high seas, in the Black and Azov seas within the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of Ukraine and neighbouring countries. Fisheries operations also extend to national inland waters, specifically freshwater aquaculture.³⁷

In 2017, Ukraine's fishing fleet comprised 12 unpowered boats under 12 metres in length, 3,196 powered gillnetters without decks, and 116 decked vessels, mainly multipurpose and under 24 metres in length. Additionally, fisheries in inland water bodies were managed by 40 cooperatives and several hundred private individuals who were licensed for fishing and given specific catch quotas.³⁸ However, Ukraine has experienced a decline in fisheries production over the past two decades, influenced by various events.

³⁴ CIA. <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>

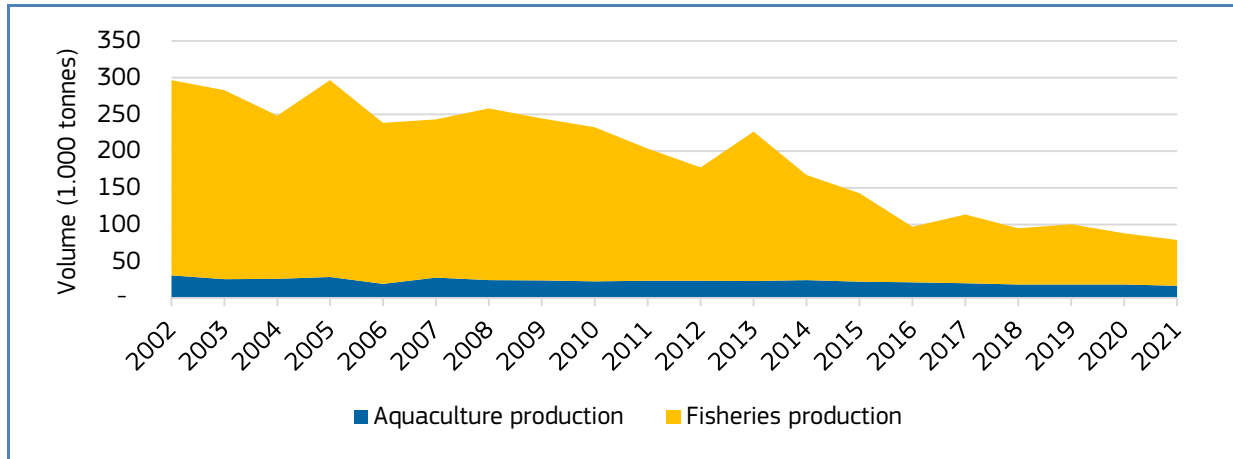
³⁵ Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/summary/Babi-Yar-massacre-site-Ukraine>

³⁶ Worldfishing. <https://www.worldfishing.net/insight-/ukrainian-fisheries-and-aquaculture-in-tatters/1487127.article>

³⁷ FAO. <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/facp/ukr?lang=en>

³⁸ FAO. <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/facp/ukr?lang=en>

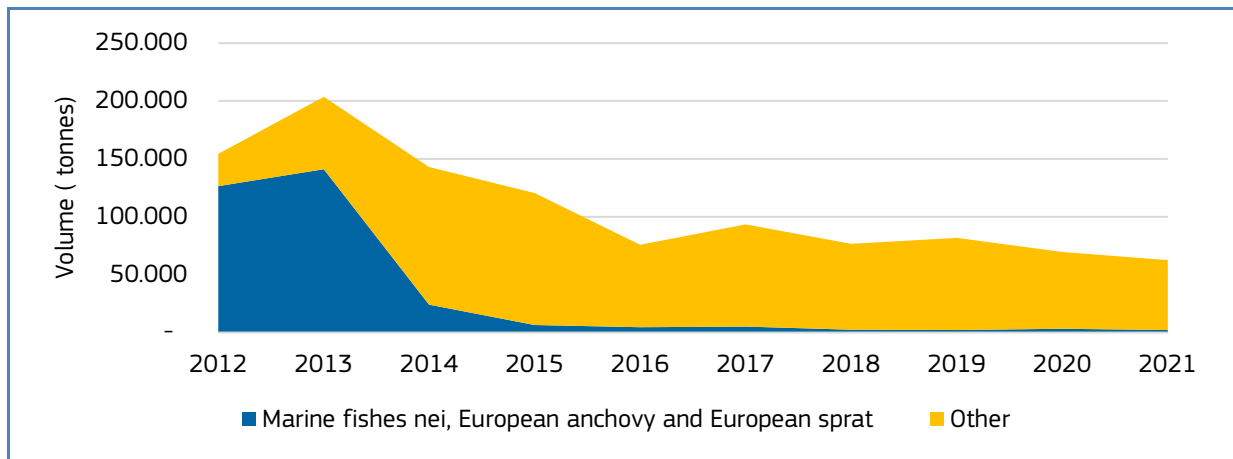
Figure 48. FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION IN UKRAINE, 2002-2021



Source: FAO

Before the February 2022 invasion, the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014 led to a significant reduction in Ukraine's fish harvesting capacity in the Black and Azov Seas. Domestic production, which was around 204,000 tonnes in 2013, dropped to 93,000 tonnes between 2014 and 2017, and decreased further to 62,500 tonnes in 2021.³⁹ Distant water fishing for krill in Antarctic waters remains unaffected but is conducted by only one Ukrainian trawler. In addition, Ukraine has been allocated a quota of 150 tonnes for catching seabass in the Atlantic in 2024.⁴⁰ Catch volumes have shown a decreasing trend since 2013, with the most significant reduction observed in marine fishes nei,⁴¹ European anchovy, and European sprat from 2012 to 2014. In 2021, these constituted only 3% of the total catch volumes, compared to 82%, 69%, and 17%, respectively, in the 2012-2014 period.⁴²

Figure 49. SHARE OF MARINE FISHES NEI⁴³, EUROPEAN ANCHOVY AND EUROPEAN SPRAT (volume in tonnes)



Source: FAO

In 2021, fisheries production in Ukraine amounted to 62,506 tonnes⁴⁴. This was a 10% decrease in volume compared to 2020. Of the total catch, Antarctic krill accounted for 35% of total volume, followed by goldfish (13%) and Black and Caspian Sea sprat (10%).

³⁹ EUROFISH. <https://eurofish.dk/ukraine-seafood-imports-impacts-of-russias-war-against-ukraine/>

⁴⁰ NAFO. <https://www.nafo.int/Portals/0/PDFs/COM/2023/comdoc23-28.pdf>

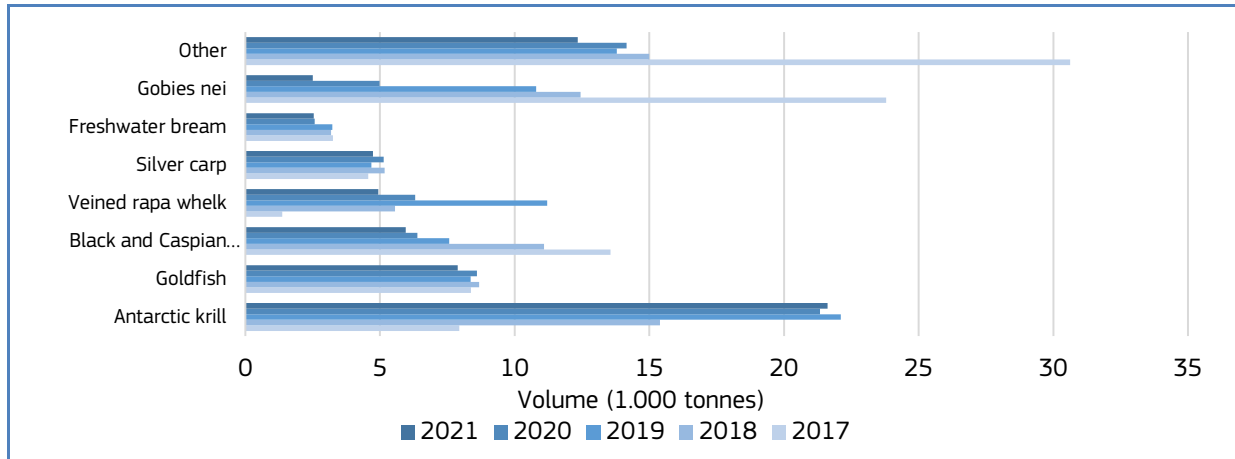
⁴¹ Not elsewhere included.

⁴² FAO. <https://www.fao.org/home/en/>

⁴³ Not elsewhere included.

⁴⁴ FAO statistics. <https://www.fao.org/home/en/>

Figure 50. **TOP FISHERIES SPECIES CAPTURED IN UKRAINE (volume in 1.000 tonnes)**

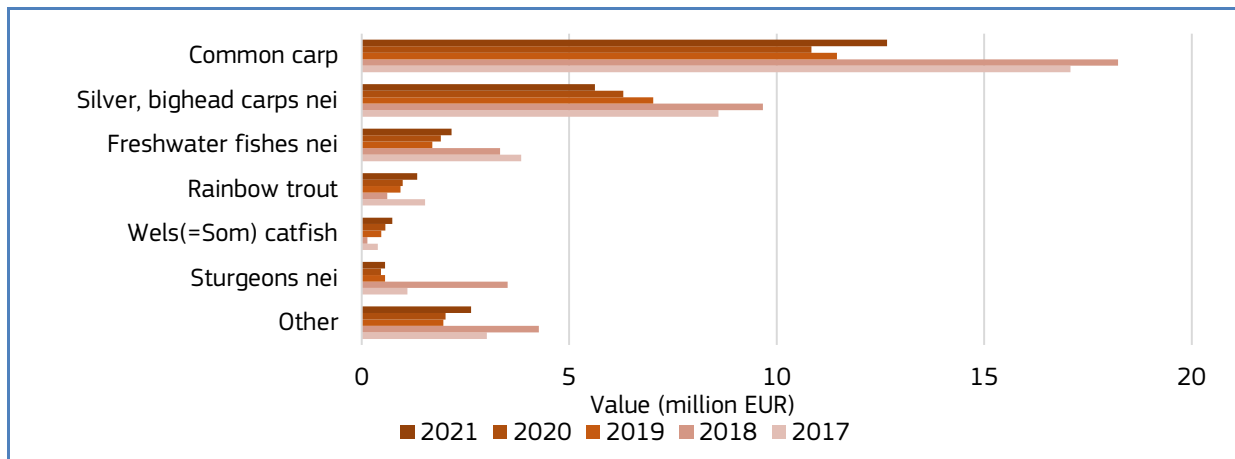


Source: FAO

Ukrainian aquaculture production has mirrored the same declining pattern as fisheries, particularly in the years following 2022. Fish farms, mainly in areas that since 2022 have seen conflict, have suffered damage, with numerous establishments losing ponds, equipment, and fish.⁴⁵

The dominant technology is the semi-intensive pond cultivation of carp in polyculture with herbivorous fish. The waste of processed grain crops is used as additional forage for carp. The general fish production of the ponds in the best facilities does not exceed one tonne per hectare. Marine aquaculture is practically undeveloped.⁴⁶ In terms of regions, herbivorous fish are mainly grown in the south, common carp in the west, north, and central areas, trout facilities are in the west, and sturgeon aquaculture is most active in the central (Kyiv) and south regions of Ukraine.⁴⁷

Figure 51. **TOP AQUACULTURE SPECIES PRODUCED IN UKRAINE BY VALUE**



Source: FAO

In 2021, aquaculture production reached 16.882 tonnes and EUR 23 million, which was a 9% decrease compared to volumes in 2020 and a 10% increase in value compared to 2020. Common carp is the dominant aquaculture species, with volumes of 7.411 tonnes in 2021 and value of EUR 12,6 million. Compared to the year before, this was an 8% decrease in volume and 17% increase in value.

⁴⁵ Worldfishing. <https://www.worldfishing.net/insight-/ukrainian-fisheries-and-aquaculture-in-tatters/1487127.article>

⁴⁶ FAO. https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/countrysector/naso_ukraine

⁴⁷ FAO. https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/countrysector/naso_ukraine

The Ukrainian aquaculture sector in 2022 faced nearly EUR 20,6 million in damages, equivalent to 63% of its annual sales value. The Ukrainian fishery sector experienced EUR 24,1 million in losses, surpassing its annual sales value by 121%. Front-line areas were hardest hit, with reduced harvesting operations, damaged infrastructure, and disrupted access to goods and services, particularly due to population evacuations.⁴⁸

4.2. International trade

Ukraine is part of several Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with various countries and international organizations. Some of these are the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Russia) from which Ukraine has been gradually withdrawing since the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014. Thus, its FTAs with CIS countries remain formally effective except for the one with Russia. Furthermore, Ukraine is part of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) with the European Union, as well as several FTAs with various countries, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Canada, Georgia, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Russia, Switzerland, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Israel, Great Britain, and Turkey.⁴⁹ Generally, Ukraine is a net importer of fishery and aquaculture products, with limited exports compared to imports.

Export

In 2022, Ukraine exported 7.497 tonnes of fishery and aquaculture products at a value of EUR 42 million, which was a 40% decrease in volume and a 26% decrease in value compared to 2021.⁵⁰ Other marine fish⁵¹ (26%), salmon (15%), prepared/preserved miscellaneous small pelagics⁵² (13%) and carp (13%) made up 76% of the total volume of exported products, while salmon (33%, mainly frozen), other marine fish⁵³ (22%), and trout (18%) constituted most of the value (73%). Frozen and prepared/preserved products made up 55% and 26% of the total volume and 73% and 14% of the total value of exported fishery and aquaculture products. Fillets and whole/gutted presentation forms were the most significant in 2022 both in terms of volume and value. Fillets contributed 45% of the total volume and 70% of the total value of exported fishery and aquaculture products, and whole/gutted 26% of volume and 11% of value.

In the first ten months of 2023, Ukraine's export volume and value of fishery and aquaculture products amounted to 34.182 tonnes at a value of EUR 30,8 million. Compared to the same period in 2022, this was a 423% increase in volume and a 14% decrease in value. This increase in volume was driven by products classified as other non-food use, that contributed to 87% of the total volume exported in first ten months of 2023, and 38% of the total value. In 2019, other non-food use export volumes amounted to 25.730 tonnes. Since 2020, other non-food use exports were below 65 tonnes per year, and in 2022 there were no quantities registered as other non-food use export. Except for other non-food use, in first ten months of 2023 there was a 31% decrease of in terms of volume, and a 47% decrease in terms of value compared to the same period 2023.

In 2022, the majority of Ukrainian exports were directed towards the EU (46%), Saudi Arabia (16%), Israel (14%), and South Korea (11%), while the EU (49%), the USA (10%), Israel (6%) and Moldova (6%) accounted for most of the value. In the initial ten months of 2023, Moldova received 51% of the exported volume of fishery and aquaculture products from Ukraine, while the EU received 30%. Additionally, the EU accounted for 47% of the export value, and Moldova 28%.

⁴⁸ Relief web. <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-damages-and-losses-aquaculture-and-fishery-sectors-report-impact-ongoing-war-january-2023>

⁴⁹ International Trade Administration. <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/ukraine-trade-agreements>

⁵⁰ Trade data monitor statistics. <https://tradedatamonitor.com/>

⁵¹ No detail available in terms of species.

⁵² Ibidem.

⁵³ Ibidem.

Table 24. **TOTAL EXPORTS BY MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES FROM UKRAINE (volume in tonnes, value in 1.000 EUR)**

MCS	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023*	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Other marine fish	1.914	7.170	2.222	9.181	2.885	13.128	1.934	9.432	1.447	8.173
Salmon	1.638	12.392	1.425	10.499	2.183	21.693	1.153	13.918	214	2.957
Miscellaneous small pelagics	2.965	2.890	3.024	3.462	2.457	3.015	1.008	1.896	1.026	1.937
Carp	445	510	589	703	836	1.002	1.001	1.181	925	1.026
Cod	1.210	5.399	753	3.433	811	3.081	633	2.631	17	266
Trout	122	983	491	4.739	343	4.040	537	7.637	40	662
Other products	0	0	103	233	169	442	387	816	8	12
Caviar, livers and roes	101	1.769	162	1.521	200	2.015	114	1.180	192	1.727
Alaska pollock	8	19	12	34	21	82	110	461	0	1
Herring	123	379	169	474	213	625	101	359	78	261
Other	28.804	21.784	3.261	9.851	2.286	7.733	518	2.700	30.235	13.791
Total	37.330	53.295	12.213	44.127	12.404	56.858	7.497	42.211	34.182	30.813

Source: EUMOFA elaboration of Trade Data Monitor data. *Up to and including October.

Import

In 2022, Ukraine imported 617.976 tonnes of fishery and aquaculture products at a value of EUR 618 million, which was a 35% decrease in volume and a 29% decrease in value compared to 2021.⁵⁴ Herring (21%), other marine fish⁵⁵ (17%), hake (14%) and mackerel (12%) made up most of the volume of imported fishery and aquaculture products in 2022, while salmon (20%), other marine fish⁵⁶ (14%) and hake (12%) made up most of the value.

Frozen whole (73% of volume, 52% of value), prepared other cuts (7% of volume, 9% of value), and fresh whole (6% of volume, 20% of value) were the most imported categories of fishery and aquaculture products. In terms of volume, herring, hake, mackerel, and other marine fish accounted for 24%, 18%, 16% and 13%, respectively of the frozen whole category. In terms of value, hake (22%), mackerel (21%) and herring (15%) accounted for most of the frozen whole category.

Other marine fish was mainly imported frozen whole (54% volume and 40% value) and as frozen other cuts (32% volume and 34% value), as well as prepared/preserved other cuts (12% volume and 23% value). Salmon was mainly imported frozen whole (54% of volume and 19% of value), and fresh whole (36% volume and 68% value). Hake was mainly imported as frozen whole (96% volume and 94% value).

In the first ten months of 2023, Ukraine's import volume and value of fishery and aquaculture products amounted to 342.715 tonnes at a value of EUR 812 million. Compared to the same period in 2022, this was a 39% increase in volume and a 51% increase in value.

In 2022, most imports came from the EU (30%), Norway (19%), Iceland (15%), the Faroe Islands (6%), and the USA (6%), imports from Norway (30%), the EU (20%), Iceland (10%), the USA (7%), and the Faroe Islands (5%) accounted for most of the value.

⁵⁴ Trade data monitor statistics. <https://tradedatamonitor.com/>

⁵⁵ No detail available in terms of species.

⁵⁶ Ibidem.

Table 25. **TOTAL IMPORTS BY MAIN COMMERCIAL SPECIES TO UKRAINE (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
Herring	116	85	102	77	91	80	58	64	56	66
Other marine fish	47	74	40	68	55	92	49	88	52	102
Hake	56	82	62	82	62	89	39	74	34	69
Mackerel	53	89	52	81	64	99	33	67	30	62
Miscellaneous small pelagics	28	18	30	22	25	17	31	32	23	26
Salmon	30	114	33	106	48	184	30	121	25	133
Trout	7	31	13	54	10	48	6	34	7	44
Shrimp, coldwater	4	14	7	20	8	24	4	18	5	25
Alaska pollock	7	10	6	8	6	7	4	7	4	8
Blue whiting	3	3	3	3	2	1	3	3	1	2
Other	128	248	58	189	67	224	26	109	104	276
Total	478	768	404	709	437	866	283	618	343	812

Source: EUMOFA elaboration of Trade Data Monitor data. *Up to and including October.

4.3. Trade flows in the EU

The Association Agreement/Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (AA/DCFTA) between the EU and Ukraine aims to enhance trade by reducing tariffs and aligning Ukraine's regulations with those of the EU. In response to Russia's actions in Crimea and the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine, the EU has implemented trade-related restrictive measures, including bans on certain imports. Additionally, the EU has temporarily suspended import duties and quotas for Ukrainian exports through the Autonomous Trade Measures (ATM) Regulation, to support Ukraine's economy.⁵⁷

EU exports to Ukraine

In 2022, the EU exported 99.874 tonnes of fishery and aquaculture products at a value of EUR 150 million to Ukraine. Compared to 2021, this was a decrease of 15% in terms of volume and 1% in terms of value. Lower export volumes of herring, hake and mackerel, among other species, from EU to Ukraine were one of the causes for lower volumes from 2021 to 2022.

In terms of volume, the most important species exported to Ukraine from the EU in 2022 were herring (29%), followed by sprat (16%), hake (12%) and miscellaneous small pelagics⁵⁸ (10%). The most valuable species exported to Ukraine were hake (15%), herring (10%), and miscellaneous small pelagics (10%). Herring was mainly exported frozen whole from Estonia (52%) and Latvia (34%); sprat was mainly exported frozen whole from Estonia (81%), and hake was mainly exported frozen whole from Spain (83%). In 2022, main exports of frozen whole coldwater shrimp from the EU to Ukraine came from Denmark (85%). In the first ten months of 2023, the EU's export volume and value of fishery and aquaculture products to Ukraine amounted to 78.068 tonnes at a value of EUR 137 million. Compared to the same period in 2022, this was a 2% decrease in volume and a 15% increase in value.

⁵⁷ European Commission. [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/ukraine_en#:~:text=The%20EU%20has%20granted%20Ukraine,Trade%20Measures%20\(ATM\)%20Regulation.](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/ukraine_en#:~:text=The%20EU%20has%20granted%20Ukraine,Trade%20Measures%20(ATM)%20Regulation.)

⁵⁸ Details on the species exported by the EU can be consulted in the dashboard at the link <https://eumofa.eu/import-export>

Table 26. **TOTAL EXPORTS FROM EU MS TO UKRAINE (volume in tonnes, value in 1.000 EUR)**

MCS	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023*	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Herring	41.446	14.119	41.344	16.070	34.857	13.602	29.029	15.583	26.376	16.663
Sprat	9.818	2.595	10.949	3.610	12.196	4.413	15.737	7.167	9.416	5.156
Hake	14.961	19.664	12.107	16.045	18.919	27.861	11.568	22.522	10.002	19.117
Miscellaneous small pelagics	8.694	5.844	8.784	6.880	8.280	7.031	10.044	14.312	6.260	8.230
Mackerel	14.126	24.888	11.338	18.067	7.290	11.371	5.719	11.739	3.000	6.263
Other marine fish	5.890	7.919	6.268	9.424	5.252	8.075	3.467	7.720	4.250	9.119
Other products	1.889	4.535	1.629	4.088	2.423	4.264	3.237	7.204	1.754	5.249
Surimi	2.867	4.696	3.040	5.576	2.813	5.764	2.827	7.295	2.061	6.192
Salmon	5.618	8.199	4.030	8.779	3.004	6.580	2.791	7.887	1.326	5.351
Shrimp, coldwater	1.568	5.883	3.595	11.010	3.859	11.158	2.605	11.262	2.755	12.427
Other	18.359	48.583	17.181	48.512	18.278	51.424	12.850	37.082	10.868	43.663
Total	125.235	146.924	120.264	148.061	117.172	151.542	99.874	149.772	78.068	137.428

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

EU imports from Ukraine

In 2022, the EU imported 7.025 tonnes of fishery and aquaculture products at a value of EUR 24 million from Ukraine. Compared to 2021, this was a decrease of 28% in terms of volume and 13% in terms of value. In terms of volume and value, the most important species imported from Ukraine to the EU in 2022 were other freshwater fish⁵⁹ (33% volume, 32% value), cod (22% volume, 16% value), salmon (13% volume, 27% value) and other marine fish (12% volume, 6% value). In terms of volume and value, frozen fillets (71% volume, 75% value) were the main imported presentation and preservation categories for all main commercial species, followed by frozen whole (12% volume, 7% value) and dried whole (10% volume, 6% value) products.

Table 27. **TOTAL IMPORTS TO EU MS FROM UKRAINE (volume in tonnes, value in 1.000 EUR)**

MCS	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023*	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Herring	41.446	14.119	41.344	16.070	34.857	13.602	29.029	15.583	26.376	16.663
Sprat	9.818	2.595	10.949	3.610	12.196	4.413	15.737	7.167	9.416	5.156
Hake	14.961	19.664	12.107	16.045	18.919	27.861	11.568	22.522	10.002	19.117
Miscellaneous small pelagics	8.694	5.844	8.784	6.880	8.280	7.031	10.044	14.312	6.260	8.230
Mackerel	14.126	24.888	11.338	18.067	7.290	11.371	5.719	11.739	3.000	6.263
Other marine fish	5.890	7.919	6.268	9.424	5.252	8.075	3.467	7.720	4.250	9.119
Other products	1.889	4.535	1.629	4.088	2.423	4.264	3.237	7.204	1.754	5.249
Surimi	2.867	4.696	3.040	5.576	2.813	5.764	2.827	7.295	2.061	6.192
Salmon	5.618	8.199	4.030	8.779	3.004	6.580	2.791	7.887	1.326	5.351
Shrimp, coldwater	1.568	5.883	3.595	11.010	3.859	11.158	2.605	11.262	2.755	12.427
Other	18.359	48.583	17.181	48.512	18.278	51.424	12.850	37.082	10.868	43.663
Total	125.235	146.924	120.264	148.061	117.172	151.542	99.874	149.772	78.068	137.428

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

⁵⁹ Ibidem.

4.4. Processing and consumption

In 2019, the Ukrainian processing sector of fishery and aquaculture products covered a diverse range of techniques, with canning emerging as a dominant force, constituting almost half of the total processed output. However, the processing sector also relied significantly on imported raw materials such as herring, sprat, sardines, and mackerel, contributing to the country's role as a net importer of fishery and aquaculture products. The sector's responsiveness to global demand for higher value-added fish products was evident in the rising production of fish fillets, either frozen, fresh, smoked, dried, or salted.

The consumption patterns showed that larger volumes of imported species were consumed in urban areas, while rural and coastal regions leaned towards locally caught or farmed fish. However, since 2022, the fish processing industry in Ukraine has faced significant challenges following missile attacks that have destroyed large fish processing facilities in several places in Ukraine and importing enough raw materials has been a struggle. Some facilities, like Odesa, have adapted by increasing the use of freshwater fish, but their raw material supply is limited.

Overall, food security concerning fishery and aquaculture products in Ukraine has significantly deteriorated, attributed directly to the impact of the Russian aggression, affecting both product availability and affordability.⁶⁰ Per capita consumption reached 12,9 kg (live weight equivalent) in 2019 compared to 11,8 kg (live weight equivalent) in 2018.⁶¹ Average fish consumption in Ukraine in 2022-2023 was approximately 13 kg (live weight equivalent) per capita annually.⁶²

⁶⁰ EUROFISH The war in Ukraine has severely affected fisheries and aquaculture production - Eurofish

⁶¹ EUROFISH Resource-rich Ukraine expands fishing, farming, and its links to international markets - Eurofish

⁶² Association "Ukrainian importers of fish and seafood" <https://uifsa.ua/en/news/news-of-ukraine/overview-of-the-fish-market-of-ukraine-for-2022-and-2023>

5. Case study: Norway lobster in the EU

Norway lobster is a valuable crustacean species, commercially important for several mixed fisheries along the EU coast, from the North Sea to the Mediterranean. In 2021, EU catches amounted to 21.247 tonnes. Landings are seasonal, with higher volumes available in summer. For complementing the EU production, more than 12.000 tonnes of Norway lobster are imported each year from non-EU countries, mostly from the UK. France, Italy and Spain are the main consumption market for this species in the EU-27.

5.1. Biology exploitation and management

Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) is a crustacean species belonging to the genus *Nephrops* and is an arthropod in the order Decapoda. Found in the EU's Atlantic waters, from the Azores to the North Sea, it can also be found in the Mediterranean Sea (Central and Western). It commonly lives in burrows on muddy seabeds at depths ranging from a few metres to 500 m or more. It is nocturnal and its feed is mainly composed of crustaceans, worms, molluscs and echinoderms. The species' normal size is between 10 and 20 cm in length, but it can reach up to 25 cm. After mating in summer, Norway lobster spawns in September and carries eggs under its tail until hatching in April–May. The larvae enter a non-swimming stage before becoming a juvenile post-larval with a total length of approximately 16 mm. The juveniles settle on the bottom and enter the burrows of adults before creating their own burrows. They remain there for approximately a year, protected from predators, such as cod and haddock.⁶³



The most important commercial stocks in European waters are located in the Irish Sea, the North Sea, the Bay of Biscay, and along the Atlantic–Iberian coast. The main gear is the nephrops trawl, but seine nets and baited traps are also used (mostly in UK). Trawling occurs commonly at dawn and dusk, when the species is not burrowed in the bottom. Norway lobster fisheries occur in mixed fisheries with, for example, hake.⁶⁴ Norway lobster is managed under total allowable catches (TAC), and most of the EU quota is taken around the British Isles, the Bay of Biscay, the Norwegian Sea, and the Faroe Islands. In 2024, the agreed EU TAC reaches 14.447 tonnes, 7% higher than in 2023.⁶⁵ This increasing trend is due to increased TAC in the Bay of Biscay (+25% compared to 2023).

⁶³ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/agricultural-and-biological-sciences/nephrops-norvegicus>

⁶⁴ https://fish-commercial-names.ec.europa.eu/fish-names/species/nephrops-norvegicus_en

⁶⁵ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/68966/total-allowable-catches-2024.pdf> based on Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257.

5.2. Production

Global production

The global production of Norway lobster (*Nephrops* species) reached 54.307 tonnes in 2021. The main producers were the UK (59% of the global catches) and the EU27 (39%). Other minor producers were Norway, Albania and Iceland (less than 500 tonnes).

Over the last decade (2012-2021), the global production of Norway lobster slightly decreased (-9%) though with some interannual fluctuations. A 10-year peak was reached in 2016 with 59.076 tonnes. Among main producing countries, trends were contrasted with stability in the UK (-2%) and decreasing trend in the EU (-12%). On the contrary, among lesser producers, Norwegian catches doubled over the period (+99%) whereas Icelandic catches strongly declined (-94%).

Table 28. **WORLD CATCHES OF NORWAY LOBSTER (volume in tonnes live weight)**

Country	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
UK	32.708	28.484	30.523	25.884	31.488	30.878	25.876	34.521	23.672	32.108
EU-27	24.222	20.896	21.990	21.277	25.344	24.070	22.084	24.520	17.520	21.247
Norway	243	208	198	219	262	274	394	395	460	483
Albania	435	398	400	405	411	389	257	213	194	211
Iceland	1.914	1.724	1.964	1.453	1.397	1.194	728	259	194	106
Others	179	152	146	166	174	211	184	169	180	152
Total	59.701	51.862	55.221	49.404	59.076	57.017	49.522	60.077	42.220	54.307

Source: FAO.

EU production

In 2021, the EU-27 catches of Norway lobster reached 21.247 tonnes. The main EU producers were Ireland (30% of the total EU catch), Denmark (26%) and France (15%). Other significant producers were Sweden (7%), the Netherlands (6%) and Italy (3%).

Over the last decade (2012-2021), the EU production of Norway lobster decreased by 12%. However, a decade peak was reached in 2016 at 25.344 tonnes. Among major fishing countries, Irish catches strongly decreased over the period (-38%) whereas Danish catches increased in the meantime (+46%) and French catches slightly increased (8%). The strong decline of Irish catches could be linked with the reduction of fishing opportunities in the UK waters following the Brexit starting from 2020.

Table 29. **EU CATCHES OF NORWAY LOBSTER (volume in tonnes live weight)**

Country	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Ireland	10.389	8.435	9.081	8.378	9.364	8.063	7.216	8.172	5.126	6.396
Denmark	3.700	3.033	3.469	2.780	4.190	4.297	5.241	6.047	4.288	5.420
France	2.981	3.136	3.258	3.998	4.680	3.874	2.542	2.571	2.494	3.218
Sweden	1.360	1.134	1.270	1.136	1.370	1.422	1.861	1.904	1.797	1.578
Netherlands	1.024	910	1.154	1.160	1.464	1.487	837	1.409	931	1.275
Italy	2.051	2.002	1.489	1.355	1.294	1.707	1.781	1.420	713	756
Belgium	382	317	503	624	884	1.116	651	755	678	732
Spain	1.192	723	574	609	545	556	682	628	508	725
Others	1.143	1.206	1.192	1.237	1.553	1.548	1.273	1.614	985	1.146
Total	24.222	20.896	21.990	21.277	25.344	24.070	22.084	24.520	17.520	21.247

Source: FAO.

In 2021, landings of Norway lobster in the EU-27 amounted to 19.724 tonnes⁶⁶ for a value of EUR 197 million. Most of these landings include live/fresh Norway lobster landed in Ireland (33% of the total volume), Denmark (27%) and France (16%). Other main landing countries were the Netherlands (8%), Sweden (6%) and Italy (4%). Over the 2012-2021 period, EU landings were stable in volume and value terms although experiencing fluctuations over the decade. Among major producing countries, contrasted trends were observed in landings volume over the decade, with a strong increasing trend in Denmark (+50%) and significant decline in Italy and Spain (-63% and 50%, respectively).

Table 30. **LANDINGS OF NORWAY LOBSTER IN THE EU (volume in tonnes net weight)⁶⁷**

Country	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Ireland	6.586	5.623	6.254	8.300	9.753	6.812	7.167	8.672	6.088	6.534
Denmark	3.530	2.874	3.276	2.652	4.047	4.100	4.957	5.754	4.209	5.296
France	2.892	2.926	3.113	3.880	4.516	3.743	2.338	2.361	2.399	3.127
Netherlands	1.532	951	994	1.475	1.658	1.971	1.132	1.318	847	1.540
Sweden	1.198	951	1.059	888	288	991	1.433	1.461	1.400	1.144
Italy	2.051	2.002	1.489	1.355	1.294	1.707	1.781	1.420	713	756
Spain	1.281	722	573	629	600	555	696	721	644	524
Others	657	937	944	875	841	1.586	790	814	772	802
Total	19.726	16.985	17.702	20.053	22.997	21.466	20.292	22.521	17.071	19.724

Source: EUROSTAT.

5.3. First sales in the EU

In 2023, reported first sales of Norway lobster in EU countries⁶⁸ amounted to a volume of 13.515 tonnes and a value of EUR 154 million.⁶⁹ The main EU countries in terms of first-sales volume and value were by far Denmark (34% of total volume and 26% of the value), Ireland (28% of the total volume and 26% of the total value) followed by France (15% of the total volume and 18% of total value). Most of first sales consist of whole fresh (51% of the total volume), frozen (25%) or live (24%) Norway lobster. In 2023, first sales decreased by 10% in volume and 18% in value compared to 2022. This trend was observed in all major producing countries.

In 2023, the most important places of sale⁷⁰ for Norway lobsters in volume terms were Göteborg in Sweden (63% of the total volume in Sweden), Clogherhead and Kilmore Quay in Ireland (24% and 16% of the total volume in Ireland, respectively), Lorient, le Guilvinec and Concarneau in France (28%, 25%, and 21% of the total volume in France, respectively), Urk in the Netherlands (63% of the national first-sale volume) and Vigo in Spain (34% of the national first-sale volume).

First sale data shows a significant seasonality pattern with higher volumes sold in summer and lesser volumes in winter. Prices trends are related to these volume fluctuations with higher prices in winter and lower prices in summer when higher volumes are available. However, this price pattern is not so obvious in Denmark with lesser monthly fluctuations.

In **Denmark**, over the 2021-2023 period, monthly first sales of Norway lobster peaked at approximately 767 tonnes in August 2022, and reached their lowest level at 57 tonnes in February 2023. Monthly prices of Norway lobster fluctuated between 6,04 and 11,51 EUR/kg.

⁶⁶ The difference between the amount of catches in live weight equivalent and the amount of landings in net weight in 2021 may come from a share of landings that are landed already processed (head off and frozen for example). This difference can also come from small volumes landed in third countries (UK, Norway, etc.)

⁶⁷ Totals do not correspond exactly to actual sums because of roundings.

⁶⁸ Denmark, France, Ireland, Spain, Sweden, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Belgium, Greece, and Germany.

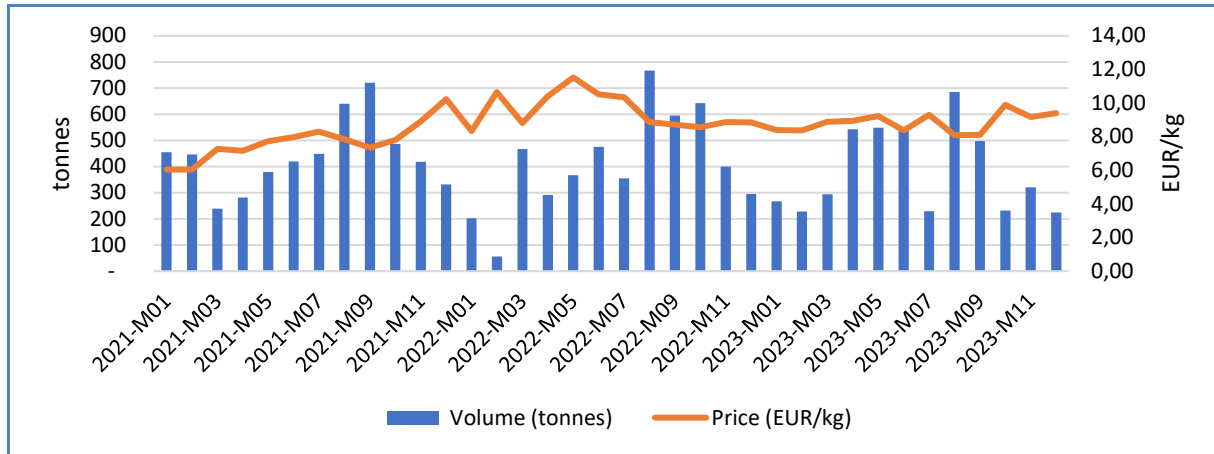
⁶⁹ Source: EUMOFA.

⁷⁰ Places of sale for Denmark are not available.

In **France**, over the 2021-2023 period, monthly first sales of Norway lobster peaked at approximately 544 tonnes in June 2021, and reached their lowest level at 34 tonnes in November 2022. Monthly prices of Norway lobster fluctuated between 9,23 and 21,59 EUR/kg.

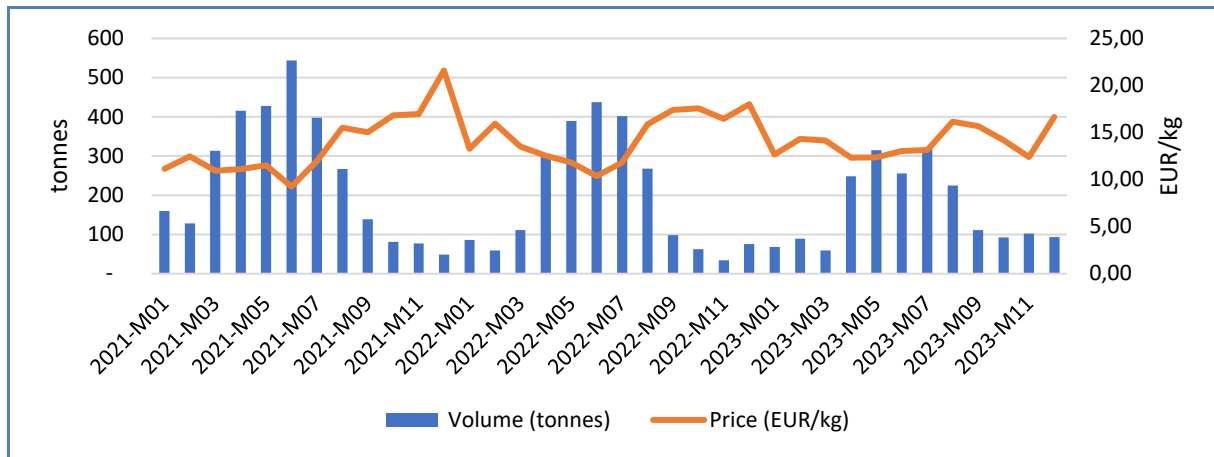
In **Ireland**, over the 2021-2023 period, monthly first sales of Norway lobster peaked at approximately 608 tonnes in June 2022, and reached their lowest level at 84 tonnes in January 2023. Monthly prices of Norway lobster fluctuated between 5,95 and 20,20 EUR/kg.

Figure 52. **FIRST SALES: NORWAY LOBSTER IN DENMARK (volume in tonnes net weight and price in EUR/kg)**



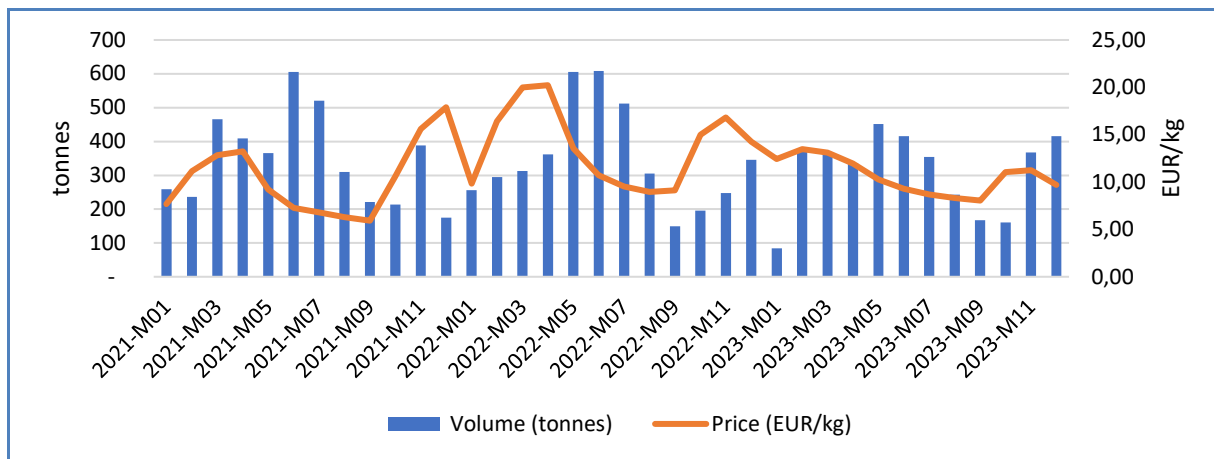
Source: EUMOFA.

Figure 53. **FIRST SALES: NORWAY LOBSTER IN FRANCE (volume in tonnes net weight and price in EUR/kg)**



Source: EUMOFA.

Figure 54. **FIRST SALES: NORWAY LOBSTER IN IRELAND (volume in tonnes net weight and price in EUR/kg)**



Source: EUMOFA.

5.4. Import – Export

In the Combined Nomenclature (CN) used for registering EU import-export data, Norway lobster is specifically reported as fresh, frozen and dried/salted/smoked/in brine.⁷¹

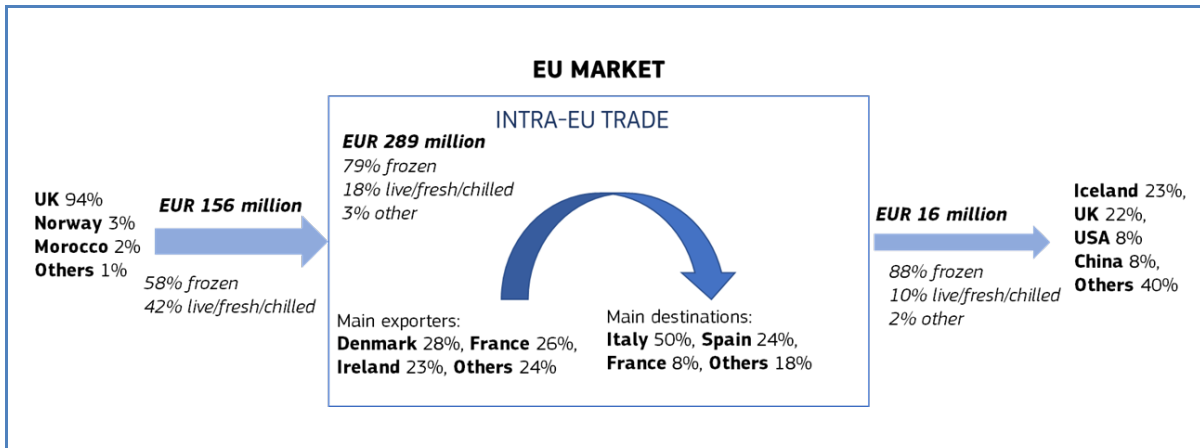
In 2022, the EU-27 imported 12.382 tonnes of Norway lobster at a value of EUR 156 million, mostly frozen (58% of the imports total value) and fresh (42%). The major provider of Norway lobster to the EU market was by far the UK, accounting for 94% of the extra-EU import value, followed by Norway (3%), Morocco (2%), and Tunisia (1%). France was the main importer accounting for 84% of the Norway lobster extra-EU imports value, followed by Spain (5%) and Denmark, Italy and Ireland (3% each).

In the same year, EU exports to third countries amounted to 1.058 tonnes at a value of EUR 16 million. Frozen products accounted for 88% of the total extra-EU export value. Fresh Norway lobster accounted for 10% of the total extra-EU export value. The main destinations in value terms were Iceland (23% of the total value) and the UK (22%), followed by the USA and China (8% each). Denmark (34% of the extra-Export value), Ireland (28%) and France (15%) were the main EU exporter of Norway lobster to third countries.

In 2022, intra-EU exports amounted to 23.146 tonnes of Norway lobster products at a value of EUR 289 million. The intra-EU trade was dominated by frozen products, which accounted for 79% of the export value, whereas fresh products only accounted for 18% of the total export value. The main exporting countries within the EU were Denmark (28% of the intra-EU export value), France (26%) and Ireland (23%). Italy was the main destination of intra-EU exports (50% of intra-EU export value), followed by Spain (24%) and France (8%).

⁷¹ 03061500 - Frozen Norway lobsters "Nephrops norvegicus", even smoked, whether in shell or not, incl. lobsters in shell, cooked by steaming or by boiling in water
03063400 - Norway lobsters "Nephrops norvegicus", whether in shell or not, live, fresh or chilled
03069400 - Norway lobsters "Nephrops norvegicus", whether in shell or not, dried, salted, smoked or in brine, incl. lobsters in shell, cooked by steaming or by boiling in water

Figure 55. **THE NORWAY LOBSTER TRADE MARKET IN 2022 (in value)**



Source: EUMOFA elaboration of Eurostat-COMEXT data.

6. Global highlights

EU-SPRFMO / Fishery: On 2 February, the 12th annual meeting of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) concluded, marking significant progress toward sustainable fisheries management under the leadership of the EU. A major accomplishment was the consensus on a new allocation for Chilean jack mackerel, setting a stable framework for the industry for the next decade. Notably, the EU's quota share increased by 22%, reaching 74.047 tonnes in 2024, marking a significant milestone in science-driven stock management after the near-collapse of the Chilean jack mackerel stock. SPRFMO members also agreed on stricter transshipment rules, enhanced observer coverage in squid fisheries, and better labour standards for fishing vessel crews, highlighting the EU's commitment to science-based marine ecosystem management during the meeting⁷².



EU / Maritime accidents: The European Commission welcomes the updated Directive on maritime accident investigation, applicable to vessels under international conventions or fishing vessels. Despite high maritime safety, over 2.000 accidents occur annually. The revised Directive now covers serious incidents involving smaller fishing vessels. The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) will provide operational support, while respecting the independence of national authorities. The update aligns EU law with international standards and mandates peer reviews among Member States to improve investigation procedures⁷³.

EU-NEAFC / Fishery: EU Member States representatives have approved an agreement between the Council and the Parliament on updated fisheries measures within the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) area. Once formally adopted the regulation will integrate new rules on management, conservation, and control for the NEAFC area, along with control measures for certain pelagic species. It consolidates existing NEAFC measures into a single regulation, facilitating cooperation with international partners and ensuring sustainability in the North-East Atlantic fisheries sector. The update includes improved control of transshipment operations, rules on waste from vessels, and retrieval of lost gear. It also expands the list of 22 species for which discarding catches is prohibited, adds protection for vulnerable marine ecosystems until 2027, and implements control measures for four pelagic fisheries. Notably, the use of camera and sensor technology is mandated for monitoring at landing and processing facilities under specific conditions⁷⁴.

EU – UK / Fishery: On February 15 in the Dáil Éireann session, Minister Charlie McConalogue addressed concerns about fisheries quotas and the EU-UK Trade Agreement's impact on Ireland, highlighting a 15% reduction in quotas and efforts to secure additional quotas through agreements with the EU and Norway. The Minister defended his negotiating approach, including discussions with Iceland, amidst criticism from Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn about the lack of support for the fishing industry and calls for financial aid. The debate underscored ongoing challenges in the fishing sector, with the Minister defending government support measures while facing demands for more immediate action from the Opposition⁷⁵.

Iceland / Fisheries: In January 2024, Icelandic vessels caught 88.000 tonnes of fish, showing a 20% decrease from January 2023. Pelagic catches amounted to 53.000 tonnes, down by 31% from last year, while demersal catches increased by 2% to 33.000 tonnes compared to January 2023. Over the 12-month period from February 2023 to January 2024, the total catch reached 1,4 million tonnes, marking a 12% increase from the previous 12 months. However, demersal catches decreased by 14%, while pelagic catches increased by 30%. These figures, released by the Directorate of Fisheries, are preliminary and subject to change.⁷⁶

⁷² https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-leads-sustainable-fisheries-south-pacific-fisheries-meeting-2024-02-07_en

⁷³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_24_727

⁷⁴ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/02/14/updated-fisheries-measures-in-the-north-east-atlantic-green-light-from-eu-member-states-representatives/>

⁷⁵ <https://thefishingdaily.com/featured-news/government-and-opposition-clash-on-fisheries-policy-in-dail-debate/>

⁷⁶ <https://www.statice.is/publications/news-archive/fisheries/fish-catch-in-january-2024/>

6. Macroeconomic Context

7.1. Marine fuel

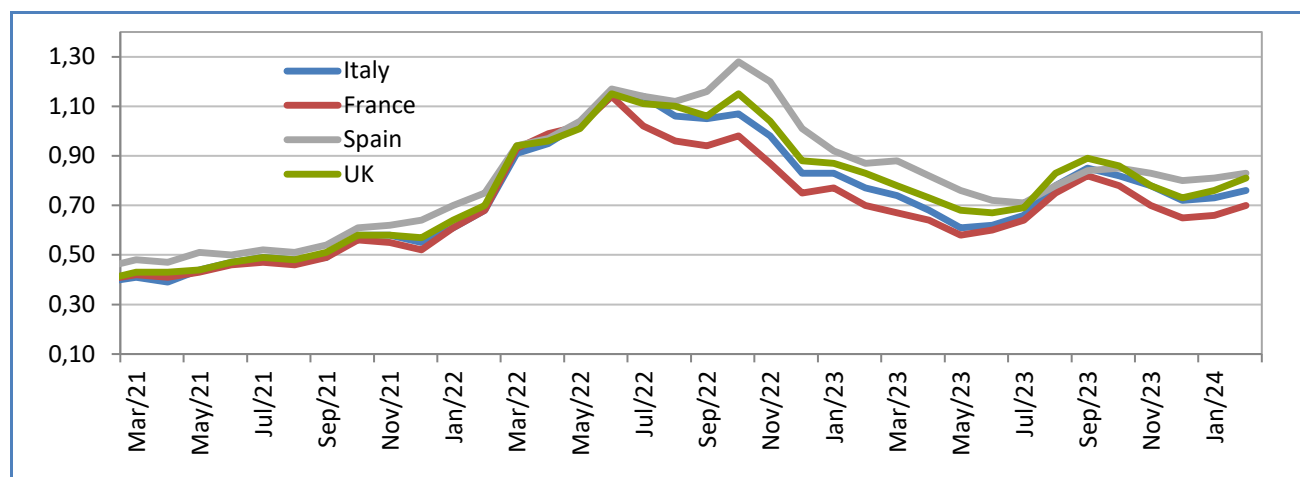
Average prices for Marine fuel in **February 2024** ranged between 0,70 and 0,83 EUR/litre in ports in **France, Italy, Spain** and the **UK**. Prices increased by an average of about 4,7% compared with the previous month and fell by an average of 2,2% compared with the same month in 2023.

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

Member State	February 2024	Change from January 2024	Change from February 2023
France <i>(ports of Lorient and Boulogne)</i>	0,70	6%	0%
Italy <i>(ports of Ancona and Livorno)</i>	0,76	4%	-1%
Spain <i>(ports of A Coruña and Vigo)</i>	0,83	2%	-5%
The UK <i>(ports of Grimsby and Aberdeen)</i>	0,81	7%	-2%

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

Figure 56. **AVERAGE PRICE OF MARINE DIESEL IN ITALY, FRANCE, SPAIN, AND THE UK (EUR/litre)**

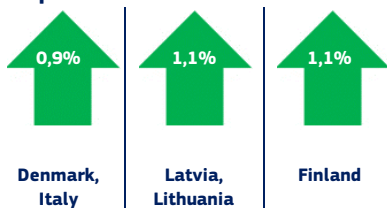


Source: Chamber of Commerce of Forlì-Cesena, Italy; DPMA, France; MABUX.

7.2. Consumer prices

The EU annual inflation rate was 3,1% in January 2024, down from 3,4% in December 2023. A year earlier, the rate was 10,0%.

Inflation: lowest rates in January 2024, compared with December 2023.



Inflation: highest rates in January 2024, compared with December 2023.



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

	Jan 2022	Jan 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Change from Dec 2023		Change from Jan 2023	
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	114,92	135,60	141,32	142,47	↑	0,8%	↑	5,1%
Fish and seafood	119,51	136,13	138,83	141,31	↑	1,8%	↑	3,8%

Source: Eurostat.

7.3. Exchange rates

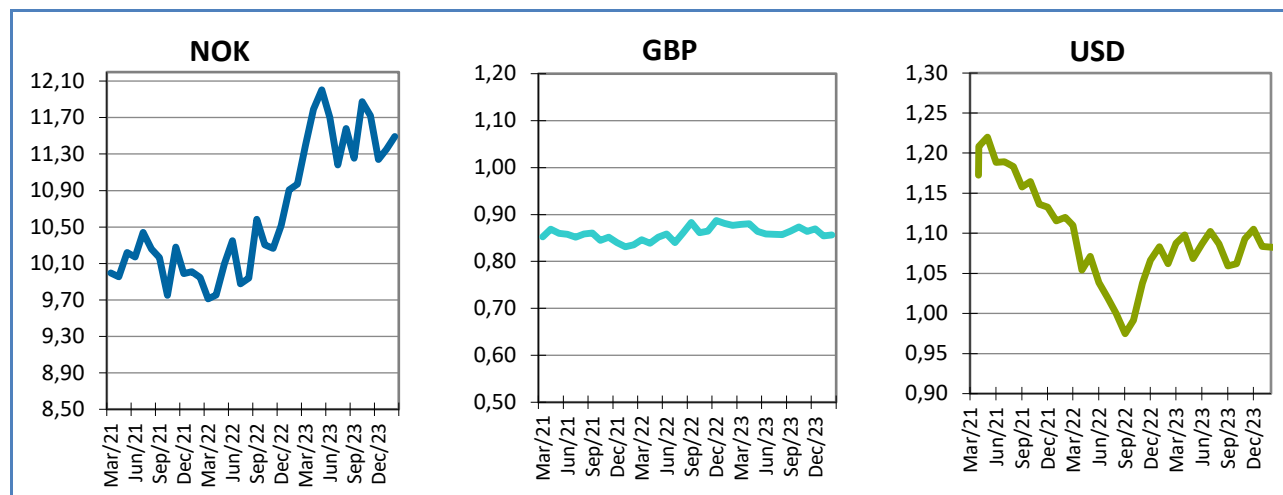
Table 33. EURO EXCHANGE RATES FOR SELECTED CURRENCIES

Currency	Feb 2022	Feb 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024
NOK	9,9465	10,9713	11,3510	11,4920
GBP	0,8355	0,88	0,85	0,86
USD	1,1199	1,0619	1,0837	1,0826

Source: European Central Bank.

In February 2024, the euro appreciated against the Norwegian krone (1,2%), and the British pound sterling (0,3%), and depreciated against the US dollar (0,1%), relative to the previous month. For the past six months, the euro has fluctuated around 1,0810 against the US dollar. Compared with February 2023, the euro has appreciated 4,7% against the Norwegian krone, and 1,9% against the US dollar, and depreciated 2,3% against the British pound sterling.

Figure 57. 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, European Commission, Industrias pesqueras, Galicia e' o diario galego, Voz populi, Marlin, FAO, Fish Archived, EOL, Ifremer, Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine.

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

Case studies: CIA, Britannica, Worldfishing, FAO, Eurofish, NAFO, Relief web, International Trade Administration, Trade data monitor statistics, Ibidem, European Commission, UIFSA, ScienceDirect.

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.

The EUMOFA website is publicly available at the following address: www.eumofa.eu.

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