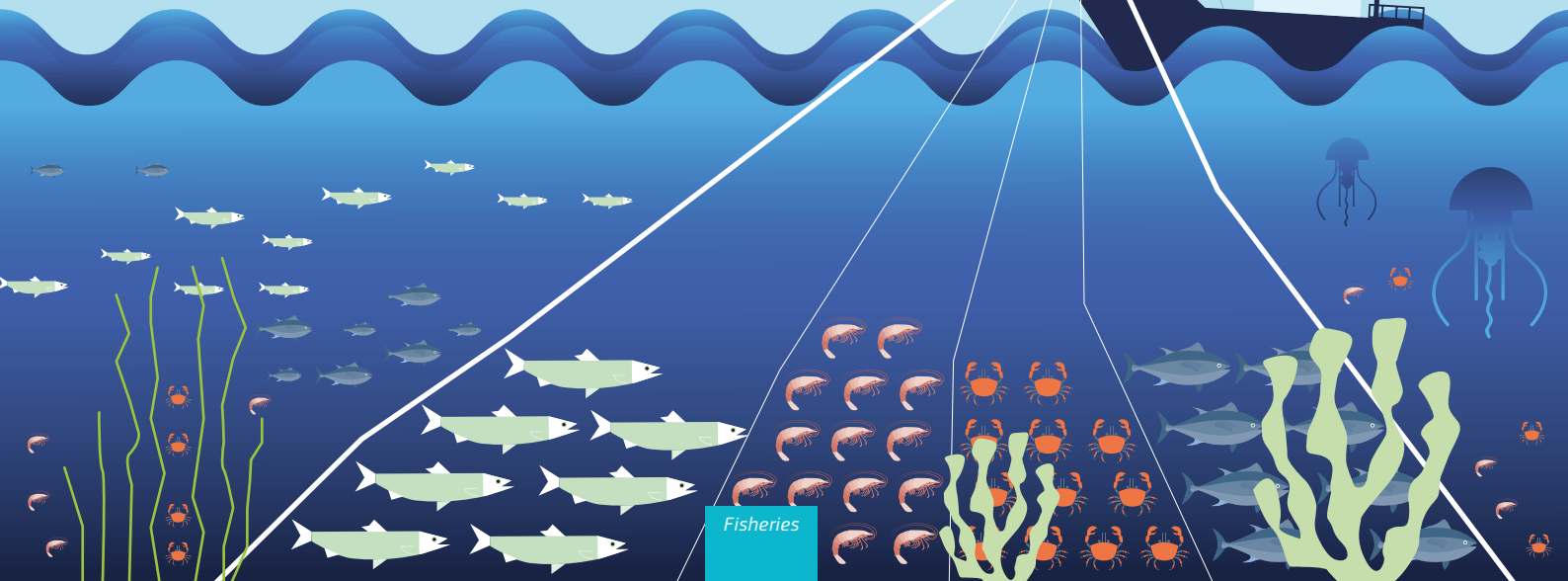




European
Commission

Facts and Figures on the Common Fisheries Policy

Basic statistical data – 2022



Fisheries

Facts and Figures on the **Common Fisheries Policy**

Basic statistical data – 2022

Manuscript completed in February 2022

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Foreword

Dear reader,

People have been fishing since the dawn of time. This noble profession is often tough, yet deeply rewarding. It is a source of food, income and pride. With this booklet, I invite you to explore the complex and captivating universe of European Union fisheries. You will find key facts from across the entire value chain, ranging from production to consumption. You will learn about fishing fleets, aquaculture and trade. You will discover what the EU does to ensure the environmental, economic and social sustainability of EU fisheries, and the role it plays in doing the same around the world. Through facts and figures, you will be able to witness the success stories of sustainable fishing and coastal economies in the EU.

On the other hand, we must not forget global challenges. Our planet is facing an unprecedented climate challenge. Restoring the health of our seas and oceans is key to our survival. In 2019, with the European Green Deal, the EU has pledged to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. Fisheries and aquaculture are part of that deal, and are indispensable to creating a sustainable food system for the future – a system that will benefit the ocean, consumers and fishers alike.

Over the past decade, we have made great progress towards fishing more responsibly and sustainably. With the help of science and by working together, we have been restoring and maintaining our fish stocks at maximum sustainable yield levels where they can regenerate easily.

In the North-East Atlantic and the adjacent waters, to a large extent, we were able to turn the tide and greatly improve the state of the stocks, thanks to our ambitious policy and the daily efforts of our fishermen and women.

These persistent efforts extend beyond our own waters to the fish stocks we share with our non-EU neighbours. In the northern waters, through our long-standing engagement with Norway, the Faroe, and Iceland – and more recently the United Kingdom - we remain committed to the joint, sustainable management of shared stocks.

In the Mediterranean and Black Seas, significant challenges remain, but we are making progress here too. The recently adopted, EU-sponsored 2030 strategy of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean heralds a new approach to fisheries governance, one that includes immediate steps to improve the state of the stocks in this sea basin.

In the EU, we have seen that fishing communities remain resilient and stand to gain from fish stocks that are in good health, and that economic performance depends on sustainable fishing practices. In recent years, the net profitability of the EU fleet has remained high. This is significant progress, considering that the fleet was barely breaking even in 2008.

Supplementing capture fisheries, EU aquaculture is another successful example of the sustainable production of seafood. In 2019, it produced around 1.37 million tonnes in volume and nearly EUR 5 billion in value. Our new guidelines for sustainable aquaculture will foster significant business opportunities in the sector for the years and decades to come, in line with the EU's farm-to-fork strategy.

Beyond EU waters, we continue to play a leading role in improving the health of the oceans and fish stocks. The EU is the world's biggest seafood market and the fishing industry has global reach like few others. We constantly push for sustainable practices, be it through our work in the regional fisheries management organisations or in fisheries partnerships with non-EU countries.

Our actions don't stop at regulations and policies. In the 2014–2020 period, through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, we financially supported many local projects. In 2020, fisheries and aquaculture were among the economic sectors hardest hit by the global pandemic. The EU acted quickly, reallocating financial resources and simplifying procedures to make EU funds more readily available to fishers, aquaculture farmers and producer organisations who needed support.

In 2021, we entered a new cycle with the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund. With a budget of EUR 6.108 billion, the fund supports the implementation of the common fisheries policy and the fulfillment of the European Green Deal objectives until 2027.

The following pages offer a unique insight into the many different aspects of our common fisheries policy. They show its fundamental principles and values at work, bearing fruit in the EU and beyond. They tell the story of our seas and of our fishermen and women. In one way or another, each and every one of us plays a part in this story, and that is what I hope you will discover in the pages of this brochure.



Virginijus Sinkevičius

European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

1 | Responsible and sustainable fishing



1.1. State of stocks

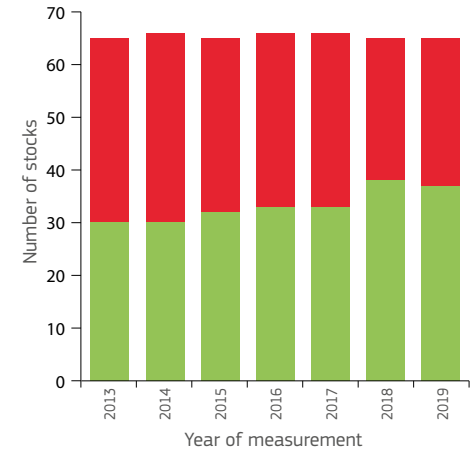
In order to achieve the objective of progressively restoring and maintaining populations of fish stocks above biomass levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield (MSY), the European Union agreed that the MSY exploitation rate would be achieved for all stocks by 2020.

In the North-East Atlantic and adjacent waters (North Sea, English Channel, Baltic Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat, west of Scotland, west of Ireland, Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, Bay of Biscay, Iberian Atlantic waters), EU fisheries ministers set overall catch limits based on scientific advice. These total allowable catches are then divided into national quotas, which set limits on the amount of fish that can be landed.

The chart on the right shows the number of stocks that were fished according to the MSY objective (in green) and the number of stocks that were overfished compared to that objective (in red).

In the Mediterranean Sea, scientists assessed 23 stocks in 2019 ⁽¹⁾. In 2021, no new information was available for Black Sea stocks. The previous assessments showed that six out of eight assessed stocks were overfished. Overall, fish stocks were exploited at between 170 % and 270 % of the MSY rate in the period from 2003 to 2018, with a slightly decreasing trend of the average (median value) from 231 % to 213 % of the MSY rate from 2013 to 2018.

North-East Atlantic and adjacent waters



■ Number of stocks overfished
■ Number of stocks within MSY

Source: Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), *Monitoring the Performance of the Common Fisheries Policy* (STECF-Adhoc-19-01), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2019, ISBN 978-92-76-02913-7, doi:10.2760/22641, JRC116446.

⁽¹⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the state of play of the common fisheries policy and consultation on the fishing opportunities for 2020 (COM(2019) 274 final).

1.2. Regional fisheries management organisations

Regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) are international bodies formed by non-EU countries and international organisations (i.e. the EU) with fishing interests in the same region or in the same (group of) species. Within these bodies, non-EU countries and the EU collectively set forth science-based binding measures such as catch and fishing-effort limits, technical measures and control obligations to ensure conservation, along with ensuring the fair and sustainable management of shared marine resources.

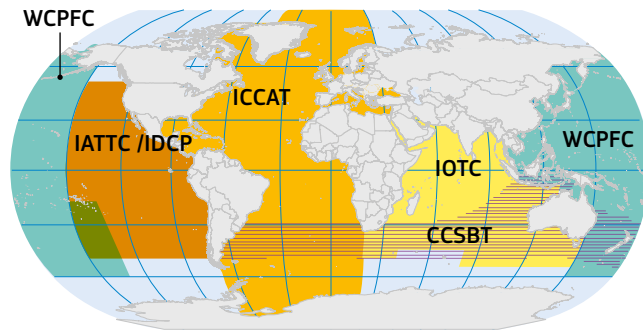
Today, the majority of the world's seas are covered by RFMOs. They can broadly be divided into RFMOs that manage only highly migratory

fish stocks, mainly tuna, and RFMOs that manage other fish stocks (i.e. pelagic or demersal). The collective efforts and work of RFMOs mean that stocks have improved significantly over the past few years. Under the external policy of the common fisheries policy (CFP), one of the main objectives of the EU is to contribute to sustainable fishing and support scientific knowledge in RFMOs.






RFMOs are open both to the coastal states of a region and to countries that fish or have other fisheries-related interests in that region. Represented by the European Commission, the EU plays an active role in five tuna RFMOs, 13 non-tuna RFMOs, regional fisheries bodies

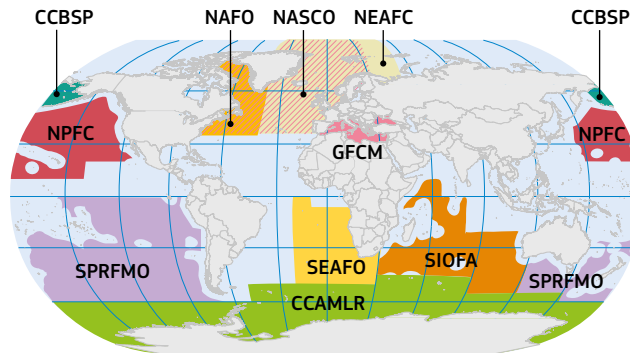
that have a purely advisory role and other organisations. On 23 March 2022, the EU officially became member of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission. This achievement supports sustainable stocks in the region, promotes further involvement by the EU fleets and increases to 18 the number of RFMOs and regional fisheries bodies where the EU participates. This makes the EU the most prominent actor in RFMOs and fisheries bodies worldwide.

Regional fisheries management organisations of which the EU is a member



RFMOs for highly migratory fish stocks (tuna and associated species)

-  CCSBT Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
-  IATTC/IDCP Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission / International Dolphin Conservation Program
-  ICCAT International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
-  WCPFC Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
-  IOTC Indian Ocean Tuna Commission



RFMOs for non-tuna species

-  CCAMLR Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
-  CCBSP Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea
-  NPFC North Pacific Fisheries Commission
-  GFCM General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
-  NEAFC North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
-  NASCO North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation
-  NAFO North-West Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
-  SEAFO South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
-  SPRFMO South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
-  SIOFA South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

Source: European Commission – Eurostat/GISCO. Administrative boundaries:
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1.3. Sustainable fisheries partnership agreements and northern agreements

A transparent, coherent and mutually beneficial tool that enhances fisheries governance for sustainable exploitation, fish supply and the development of the fisheries sector with partner countries.

The sustainable fisheries partnership agreements that the European Union signs with non-EU countries provide specific EU funds to the partner country in exchange for fishing activities on the part of EU vessels. They allow EU vessels to fish in a partner country's exclusive economic zone. Tuna agreements allow EU vessels to target and catch highly migratory fish stocks, while mixed agreements give them access to a wide range of fish stocks, especially groundfish species (mainly shrimps and cephalopods) and pelagic species.

An important part of the financial contribution – sector support – addresses the development of the fisheries, maritime and marine sectors. Partnership agreements are a win-win instrument for the EU and for the partner countries.

To ensure sustainable fishing, EU vessels are allowed to target exclusively surplus resources that the partner country is not willing to fish or not capable of fishing. In exchange, the EU pays a fee for the right to access the partner country's exclusive economic zone, and provides sectoral support tailored to the partner country's needs. This support aims to reinforce fisheries governance, strengthen administrative and scientific capacities, foster monitoring and control

activities, and support small-scale fisheries, thereby leading to improved sustainability. In addition, EU vessel operators pay a licence fee for access. The burden of payment is shared between the EU and the industry.

Today, sustainable fisheries partnership agreements set the standard for international fishing policy. They are all centred on resource conservation and environmental sustainability, with EU vessels subject to strict supervision and transparency rules. All protocols contain a clause concerning the respect for human rights in the partner country.

The agreements are negotiated and concluded between the Commission, on behalf of the EU, and the partner country. Transparency and accountability are the driving principles of the negotiation process; the texts of the agreements are public and open to the scrutiny of other public institutions and civil society.

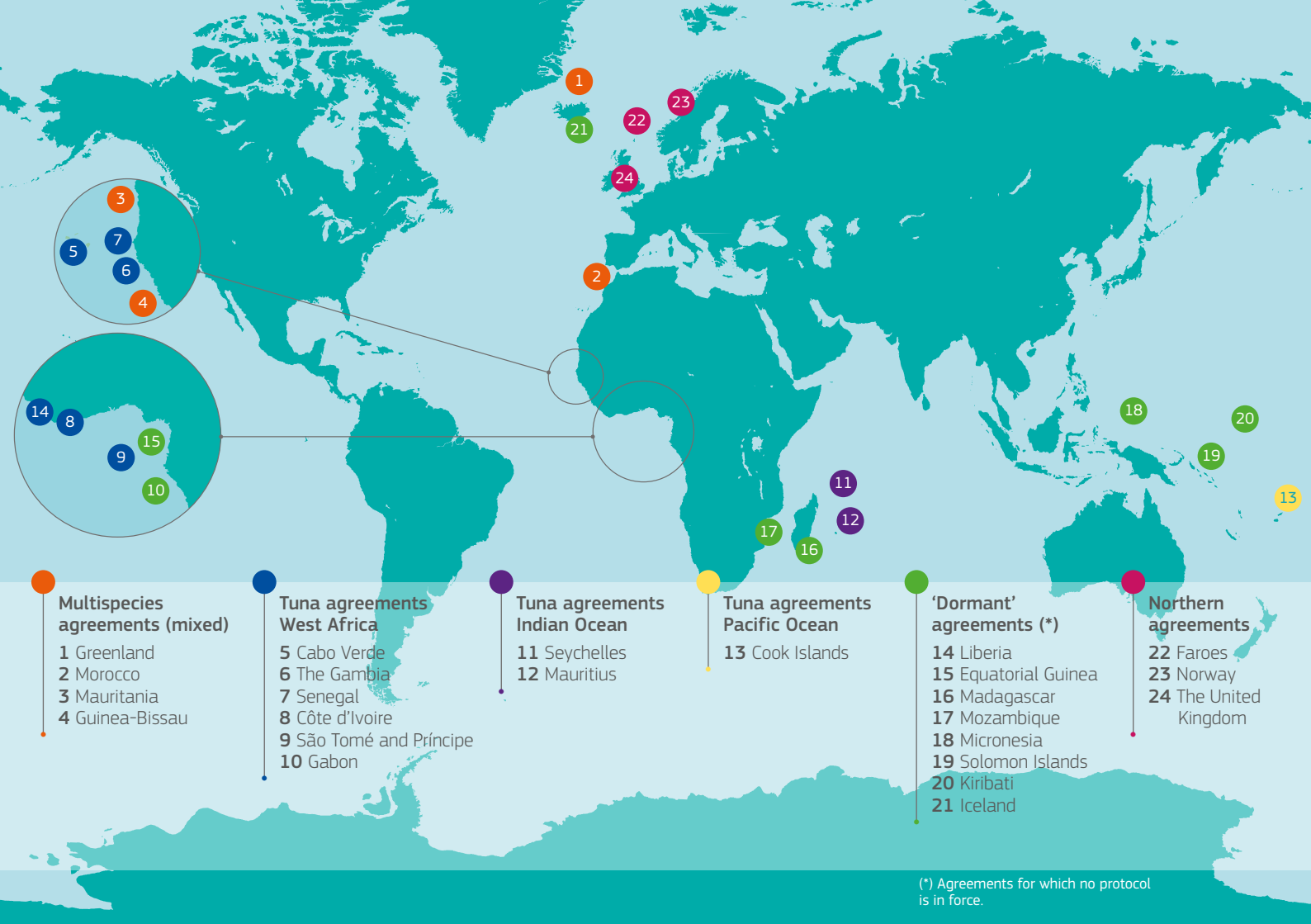
The EU has had fisheries agreements with Norway and the Faroes since the late 1970s, and with Iceland since the early 1990s, while fisheries relations with the United Kingdom have been covered by the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) since 2021.

The TCA covers the cooperation between the EU and the United Kingdom on the joint management of fishing activities for shared stocks, in an effort to ensure long-term sustainable exploitation

and achieve economic and social benefits. The agreement, based on shared principles and objectives for sustainable cooperation, outlines the procedures for setting total allowable catches and quotas, the development of long-term strategies, dispute settlement mechanisms, the annual consultation framework and discussions through the Specialised Committee on Fisheries in order to maintain a close relationship on shared fisheries.

The fisheries agreement with Norway covers the joint management of shared fish stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak areas, notably through total allowable catches and quotas, and, where possible, within the framework of long-term management strategies that ensure sustainable fisheries. It also includes an annual exchange of fishing possibilities. After the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union, formerly bilaterally shared stocks in the North Sea have become part of the annual trilateral consultations between the EU, Norway and the United Kingdom, in order to guarantee the continuation of fishing activities.

The agreements with the Faroes and Iceland are based solely on the annual exchange of fishing possibilities in each other's waters with the associated access. Since the 2008 fishing season, no annually agreed exchange of quotas has taken place with Iceland and the agreement has become dormant.



Multispecies agreements (mixed)

- 1 Greenland
- 2 Morocco
- 3 Mauritania
- 4 Guinea-Bissau

Tuna agreements West Africa

- 5 Cabo Verde
- 6 The Gambia
- 7 Senegal
- 8 Côte d'Ivoire
- 9 São Tomé and Príncipe
- 10 Gabon

Tuna agreements Indian Ocean

- 11 Seychelles
- 12 Mauritius

Tuna agreements Pacific Ocean

- 13 Cook Islands

'Dormant' agreements (*)

- 14 Liberia
- 15 Equatorial Guinea
- 16 Madagascar
- 17 Mozambique
- 18 Micronesia
- 19 Solomon Islands
- 20 Kiribati
- 21 Iceland

Northern agreements

- 22 Faroes
- 23 Norway
- 24 The United Kingdom

(*) Agreements for which no protocol is in force.

1.4. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a major threat to global marine resources. It depletes fish stocks, destroys marine habitats, distorts competition, puts honest fishers at an unfair disadvantage and destroys the livelihoods of coastal communities, particularly in developing countries.

It is estimated that the value of illegally caught fish amounts to around EUR 10 billion each year, corresponding to almost 20 % of the value of the world's catches.

As the world's largest importer of fisheries products, the EU has adopted an innovative policy to fight IUU fishing worldwide:

- firstly, by not allowing fisheries products to access the EU unless they are certified as legal (the catch certification scheme);
- secondly, by holding flag, coastal, port and market states responsible for their international obligations in the fight against IUU fishing (dialogues and cooperation).

The EU regulation on IUU fishing ^(?) entered into force on 1 January 2010. It relates to EU Member States and non-EU countries alike, applies to all vessels that commercially exploit fisheries resources destined for the EU market and covers all fishery products imported into the EU (with a few exemptions).

The catch certifications scheme under the IUU regulation has helped to improve the EU's capacity to identify and deny permission for the import of fishery products from IUU sources. It allows Member States to better verify and, if appropriate, refuse imports into the EU. This is reinforced by a system for sharing intelligence, the annual publication of the EU IUU vessel list and CATCH, an IT system designed to support checks by Member States under the catch certification scheme.

Under the IUU regulation, the EU can enter into a structured process of dialogue and cooperation with those non-EU countries that have problems

meeting international IUU rules, with the aim of helping them undertake the necessary reforms (see the illustration on the next page).

In this context, since 2010 the EU has entered into dialogue with over 60 non-EU countries. Thanks to this cooperation, most of these countries have improved their systems and have committed to join the EU in fighting IUU fishing.

All EU fishing vessels are governed by a legal framework and a control system that apply anywhere they fish through the regulations on fisheries control, sustainable management of external fishing fleets and IUU fishing.

Find out more: https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/fisheries/rules/illegal-fishing_en

^(?) Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (OJ L 286, 29.10.2008 – <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/1005/oj>).

The IUU process explained

PRE-IDENTIFICATION

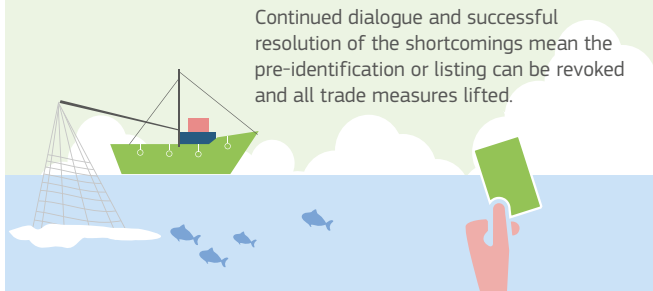


When a given country has problems fighting IUU fishing that have not been successfully resolved through informal discussions, the Commission opens a formal dialogue through pre-identification. This process lasts at least 6 months.



While the country makes progress in resolving the shortcomings, the 6-month period can be extended as needed and, ultimately, **the pre-identification status can be revoked**.

DELISTING



Continued dialogue and successful resolution of the shortcomings mean the pre-identification or listing can be revoked and all trade measures lifted.

IDENTIFICATION



If the country does not resolve the problems, it will be identified by the Commission as being non-cooperative.

No fisheries products with a catch certificate validated after this decision can be imported into the EU.

LISTING BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

Following identification by the Commission, the Council of the European Union also lists the country. This listing triggers further measures, including a ban on EU vessels fishing in its waters.



2 | Fishing fleet



Managing fleet capacity is an essential part of ensuring sustainable fishing, one of the main objectives of the common fisheries policy (CFP).

The EU fishing fleet is very diverse, with vessels ranging from under 6 metres to over 75 metres. Under EU law, the total capacity of the fishing fleet needs to remain below set ceilings. Any decommissioning of vessels or reduction in fleet capacity achieved with public financial support must be permanent.




Over the past several years the capacity of the EU fishing fleet has continued to decline in terms of both tonnage and engine power. The number of EU vessels in July 2021 was 74 635, i.e. 6 186 fewer than in July 2013 for the 27 Member States that now make up the EU. Nevertheless, the capacity of several fleet segments in the Member States is still not in balance with their fishing opportunities. The Member States concerned must adopt action plans to remedy this situation.

Healthier stocks contribute to a more sustainable industry. The EU fleet was profitable in 2019, generating an amount of gross value added (GVA) of EUR 3.4 billion, and of gross profit (all excluding subsidies) of EUR 1.2 billion. After accounting for capital costs, 9 % of the revenue

generated by the fleet was retained as net profit (EUR 595 million). This consolidates the gradual recovery seen in recent years, in which the EU

fleet appears to be more financially resilient than previously, thanks to the progress made under the CFP to manage stocks at sustainable levels.




EU fishing fleet capacity by length category (2021)

	Length	Number of vessels	Gross tonnage	Engine power in kW	Average age
	< 12	63 841	149 758	2 166 459	34.4
	12-24	8 524	321 324	1 510 853	33
	> 24	2 270	847 287	1 623 963	27.4
	TOTAL	74 635	1 318 368	5 301 274	31.5

NB: Length refers to total length.

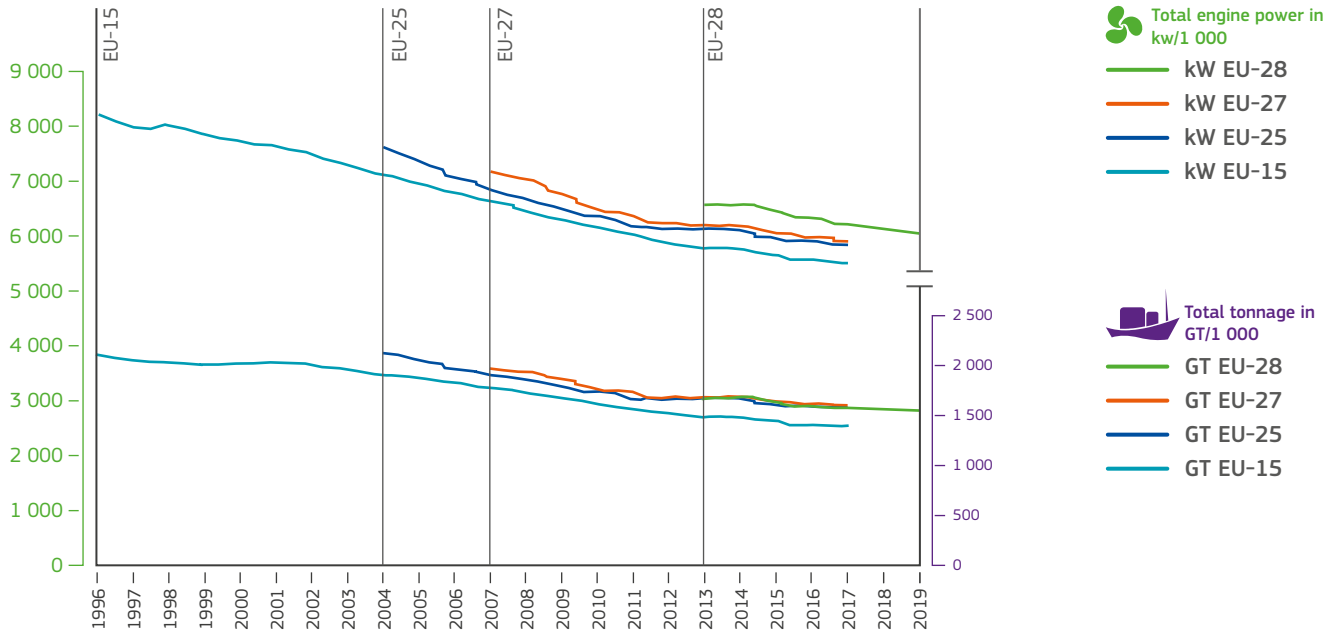
Source: EU fishing fleet register. Situation as in July 2021.

EU fishing fleet (July 2021)

MS						
	Number of vessels	%	Gross tonnage	%	Engine power in kW	%
BE	67	0.1 %	13 627	1.0 %	44 733	0.8 %
BG	1 816	2.4 %	6 005	0.5 %	53 117	1.0 %
DK	2 005	2.7 %	66 815	5.1 %	216 798	4.1 %
DE	1 281	1.7 %	57 293	4.3 %	128 391	2.4 %
EE	1 856	2.5 %	17 551	1.3 %	49 182	0.9 %
IE	1 935	2.6 %	58 954	4.5 %	173 852	3.3 %
EL	14 581	19.5 %	69 016	5.2 %	414 943	7.8 %
ES	8 776	11.7 %	329 374	25.0 %	772 803	14.6 %
FR	6 262	8.4 %	176 331	13.4 %	970 535	18.3 %
HR	7 535	10.1 %	43 272	3.3 %	342 999	6.5 %
IT	12 168	16.3 %	146 777	11.1 %	937 532	17.7 %
CY	814	1.1 %	3 808	0.3 %	38 985	0.7 %
LV	659	0.9 %	22 371	1.7 %	39 384	0.7 %
LT	137	0.2 %	36 030	2.7 %	41 913	0.8 %
MT	884	1.2 %	6 451	0.5 %	72 279	1.4 %
NL	720	1.0 %	99 440	7.5 %	244 503	4.6 %
PL	821	1.1 %	32 396	2.5 %	80 430	1.5 %
PT	7 791	10.4 %	86 945	6.6 %	344 925	6.5 %
RO	178	0.2 %	1 624	0.1 %	6 343	0.1 %
SI	137	0.2 %	671	0.05 %	8 853	0.2 %
FI	3 179	4.3 %	15 922	1.2 %	171 440	3.2 %
SE	1 136	1.5 %	28 577	2.2 %	148 208	2.8 %
EU-27	74 738	100.0 %	1 319 250	100.0 %	5 302 148	100.0 %

Source: EU fishing fleet register. Situation as in July 2021.

Evolution of EU fishing fleet capacity between 1996 and 2019

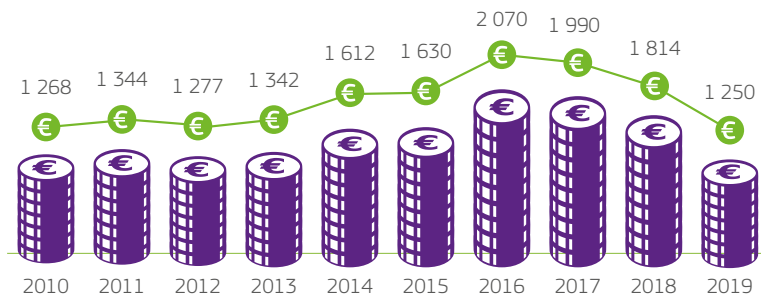


Source: EU fleet register.

EU fishing fleet economic performance indicators between 2010 and 2019

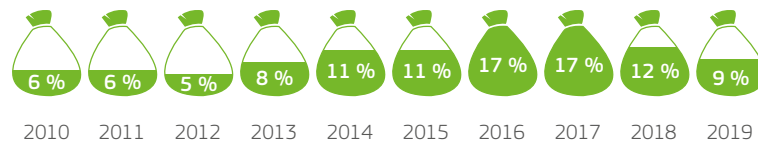
Gross profit

(million EUR)



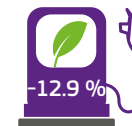
Net profit margin

(as percentage of income)



Energy consumption

(in millions of litres of fuel)



Fuel decrease from 2009 to 2019 (in green)



NB: Estimate based on a sample of national fleets.

Source: Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), *The 2020 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet* (STECF-20-06), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020, ISBN 978-92-76-27164-2, doi:10.2760/500525, JRC123089.

3 | Employment



Fishing plays a crucial role in employment and economic activity in several EU regions – in some European coastal communities, the fishing sector accounts for as many as half the local jobs.

Employment in the fishing sector tends to be concentrated in a handful of Member States. Spain alone accounts for a quarter of the total employment, and the three Member States with the highest levels of employment – Spain, Greece and Italy – make up around 62 %.

Aquaculture employs roughly 70 000 people, including part-time and full-time jobs in both marine and freshwater aquaculture.

The processing industry consists of approximately 3 500 companies. The mainstay of EU production is canned products and ready meals consisting of fish, crustaceans and molluscs.

Employment in the fisheries, aquaculture and processing sectors (measured in full-time equivalents)

NB: Aquaculture figures include marine, shellfish and freshwater.

(*) Eurostat data as Member States did not submit data for the data call.

Sources:

For fisheries: Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), *The 2020 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet* (STECF-20-06), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020, ISBN 978-92-76-27164-2, doi:10.2760/500525, JRC123089.

For aquaculture: Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), *Economic Report of the EU Aquaculture Sector* (STECF-20-12), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2021, ISBN 978-92-76-36192-3, doi:10.2760/441510, JRC124931.

For processing: Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), *The EU Fish Processing Sector – Economic report* (STECF-19-15), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2019, ISBN 978-92-76-14666-7, doi:10.2760/30373, JRC119498.



Fisheries (2019)

BE	207
BG	938
CZ	N/A
DK	984
DE	991
EE	326
IE	2 758
EL	16 109
ES	27 805
FR	7 533
HR	3 125
IT	17 124
CY	741
LV	262
LT	396
LU	N/A
HU	—
MT	564
NL	1 673
AT	N/A
PL	2 252
PT	7 408
RO	59
SI	56
SK	N/A
FI	258
SE	729
UK	7 984



Aquaculture (2018)

BE	48
BG	1 023
CZ	901
DK	358
DE	1 254
EE	33
IE	1 099
EL	3 524
ES	6 528
FR	9 535
HR	1 730
IT	3 287
CY	406
LV	166
LT	220
LU	N/A
HU	877
MT	283
NL	201
AT	186
PL	3 459
PT	921
RO	2 560
SI	22
SK	698
FI	348
SE	267
UK	N/A



Processing (2017)

BE	1 373
BG	1 490
CZ	741 (*)
DK	3 153
DE	5 885
EE	1 348 (*)
IE	3 138
EL	2 130
ES	19 826
FR	11 021 (*)
HR	1 672
IT	4 568
CY	14
LV	3 125
LT	3 744
LU	N/A
HU	14 (*)
MT	72
NL	2 227 (*)
AT	117 (*)
PL	17 578
PT	7 415 (*)
RO	1 006
SI	130
SK	569
FI	760
SE	1 591
UK	19 118

4 | Fisheries and aquaculture production





The EU is the fifth largest fisheries and aquaculture producer worldwide, accounting for about 3 % of global production. 78 % of this production comes from fisheries and 22 % from aquaculture.

Spain, Denmark and France are the largest producers in terms of volume in the EU.

Main world producers (2019) (catches and aquaculture)

(volume in tonnes live weight and percentage of total)

	 Catches	 Aquaculture	Total production	% Total
China	14 169 893	68 423 859	82 593 752	38.66 %
Indonesia	7 524 705	15 893 400	23 418 105	10.96 %
India	5 477 100	7 800 300	13 277 400	6.22 %
Vietnam	3 429 029	4 455 557	7 884 586	3.69 %
EU-28	4 824 384	1 366 682	6 191 066	2.90 %
United States	4 803 630	490 305	5 293 935	2.48 %
Russia	4 983 145	248 293	5 231 438	2.45 %
Peru	4 851 310	153 940	5 005 250	2.34 %
Philippines	2 056 669	2 358 238	4 414 907	2.07 %
Bangladesh	1 895 619	2 488 600	4 384 219	2.05 %
Japan	3 230 560	943 748	4 174 309	1.95 %
Norway	2 472 399	1 453 042	3 925 441	1.84 %
Chile	2 376 682	1 407 286	3 783 968	1.77 %
South Korea	1 366 962	2 406 351	3 773 313	1.77 %
Myanmar	1 951 120	1 082 153	3 033 273	1.42 %
Thailand	1 542 465	964 266	2 506 731	1.17 %
Others	26 563 712	8 167 662	34 731 374	16.26 %
Total	93 519 384	120 103 682	213 623 066	100 %

NB: FAO estimates for extra-EU countries.

Source: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data.

4.1. Catches

The EU accounts for 5.1 % of total fisheries production worldwide.

Although the EU fleet operates worldwide, catches are taken primarily in the North-East Atlantic. The most-fished species are Atlantic herring, European sprat, blue whiting and mackerel, which together account for 42 % of EU landings.

The leading Member States (without taking into account the United Kingdom) in terms of fishing volume are Denmark, Spain, the Netherlands and France, which together account for 58 % of all EU catches.

Total EU catches in fishing areas (2019) (volume in tonnes live weight and percentage of total)

Atlantic, North-East	3 518 976	72.9 %
Mediterranean	418 287	8.7 %
Atlantic, Eastern Central	282 701	5.9 %
Indian Ocean, West	267 209	5.5 %
Atlantic, South-West	139 123	2.9 %
Inland waters	101 023	2.1 %
Atlantic, North-West	49 937	1.0 %
Atlantic, South-East	29 710	0.6 %
Black Sea	17 418	0.4 %
Total fishing areas	4 824 384	100.0 %

Total catches of world's main producers (2019)

(volume in tonnes live weight and percentage of total)

China	14 169 893	15.15 %
Indonesia	7 524 705	8.05 %
India	5 477 100	5.86 %
Russia	4 983 145	5.33 %
Peru	4 851 310	5.19 %
EU-28	4 824 384	5.16 %
United States	4 803 630	5.14 %
Vietnam	3 429 029	3.67 %
Japan	3 230 560	3.45 %
Norway	2 472 399	2.64 %
Chile	2 376 682	2.54 %
Philippines	2 056 669	2.20 %
Myanmar	1 951 120	2.09 %
Bangladesh	1 895 619	2.03 %
Mexico	1 581 127	1.69 %
Thailand	1 542 465	1.65 %
Others	26 348 963	28.18 %
Total	93 518 800	100.00 %

NB: FAO estimates for extra-EU countries.

Source: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data.

Total catches per Member State (2019)

(volume in tonnes live weight and percentage of total)

Spain	843 216	17.48 %
Denmark	636 678	13.20 %
United Kingdom	618 448	12.82 %
France	526 226	10.91 %
Netherlands	320 361	6.64 %
Ireland	238 439	4.94 %
Germany	224 395	4.65 %
Poland	199 250	4.13 %
Italy	184 514	3.82 %
Sweden	184 337	3.82 %
Portugal	183 973	3.81 %
Finland	163 916	3.40 %
Latvia	106 917	2.22 %
Lithuania	101 970	2.11 %
Estonia	86 640	1.80 %
Greece	83 172	1.72 %
Croatia	64 582	1.34 %
Belgium	21 344	0.44 %
Romania	10 928	0.23 %
Bulgaria	10 329	0.21 %
Hungary	4 816	0.10 %
Czechia	3 721	0.08 %
Malta	2 230	0.05 %
Slovakia	1 865	0.04 %
Cyprus	1 500	0.03 %
Austria	350	0.01 %
Slovenia	266	0.006 %
Total EU-28	4 824 384	100.00 %

NB: Not relevant for LU.

Sources: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data.

Top 15 species caught by the European Union (2019)

(volume in tonnes live weight and percentage of total)

Atlantic herring	678 848	14.1 %
European sprat	429 227	8.9 %
Blue whiting (= Poutassou)	351 079	7.3 %
Atlantic mackerel	327 610	6.8 %
Skipjack tuna	226 513	4.7 %
European pilchard (= Sardine)	184 135	3.8 %
Atlantic horse mackerel	158 375	3.3 %
European anchovy	114 904	2.4 %
Yellowfin tuna	113 048	2.3 %
Sandeels (= Sandlances) nei	110 724	2.3 %
European hake	103 677	2.1 %
Atlantic cod	103 597	2.1 %
Argentine hake	98 542	2.0 %
Atlantic chub mackerel	75 886	1.6 %
European plaice	61 522	1.3 %

Sources: Eurostat for marine fishing and FAO for inland water catches. Eurostat data were integrated by using FAO data in case of confidentialities.

Main species caught per Member State (2019)

(volume in tonnes live weight and percentage of total)

BE		
European plaice	5 700	26.7 %
Common sole	2 437	11.4 %
Anglerfishes nei	1 192	5.6 %
Common cuttlefish	817	3.8 %
Atlantic cod	783	3.7 %
BG		
European sprat	4 585	44.4 %
Sea snails	4 222	40.9 %
Red mullet	554	5.4 %
Sand gaper	508	4.9 %
CZ		
Common carp	2 916	78.4 %
DK		
European sprat	154 036	24.2 %
Atlantic herring	125 893	19.8 %
Sandeels (= Sandlances) nei	93 795	14.7 %
Blue whiting (= Poutassou)	68 635	10.8 %

NB: Not relevant for LU. Data by main species is not available for AT.

Sources: Eurostat for marine fishing and FAO for inland water catches. Eurostat data were integrated by using FAO data in case of confidentialities.

DE

Atlantic herring	48 836	21.8 %
Blue whiting (= Poutassou)	37 710	16.8 %
European sprat	18 278	8.1 %
Atlantic mackerel	16 670	7.4 %
Freshwater fishes nei	14 960	6.7 %
Atlantic cod	13 362	6.0 %

EE

Atlantic herring	32 833	37.9 %
European sprat	30 649	35.4 %
Northern prawn	9 795	11.3 %

IE

Atlantic mackerel	53 490	22.4 %
Blue whiting (= Poutassou)	38 569	16.2 %
Atlantic horse mackerel	28 899	12.1 %
North Atlantic rockweed	28 000	11.7 %
European sprat	13 012	5.5 %

EL

European anchovy	15 278	18.4 %
European pilchard (= Sardine)	13 581	16.3 %
Marine fishes nei	4 947	5.9 %
European hake	4 429	5.3 %

ES

Skipjack tuna	160 404	19.0 %
Argentine hake	98 251	11.7 %
Yellowfin tuna	63 463	7.5 %
European anchovy	47 591	5.6 %
Blue shark	38 447	4.6 %
Atlantic horse mackerel	36 197	4.3 %

FR

Skipjack tuna	61 017	11.6 %
Yellowfin tuna	47 160	9.0 %
Tangle	38 202	7.3 %
European hake	34 692	6.6 %
Great Atlantic scallop	32 360	6.1 %
European pilchard (= Sardine)	25 045	4.8 %

HR

European pilchard (=Sardine)	45 105	69.8 %
European anchovy	7 996	12.4 %

IT

European anchovy	31 198	16.9 %
European pilchard (=Sardine)	23 469	12.7 %
Striped venus	15 929	8.6 %
Deep-water rose shrimp	9 012	4.9 %
European hake	7 050	3.8 %

CY

Albacore	655	43.6 %
Atlantic bluefin tuna	151	10.1 %
Bogue	85	5.7 %
Picarel	64	4.3 %

LV

European sprat	38 710	36.2 %
Atlantic herring	25 602	23.9 %
Jack and horse mackerels nei	15 999	15.0 %
Atlantic chub mackerel	15 142	14.2 %

LT

Chub mackerel	29 155	28.6 %
Atlantic horse mackerel	24 795	24.3 %
European sprat	16 229	15.9 %
European pilchard (= Sardine)	11 690	11.5 %

HU

Common carp	3 386	63.8 %
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MT

Atlantic chub mackerel	504	22.6 %
Common dolphinfish	411	18.4 %
Swordfish	407	18.3 %
Silver scabbardfish	136	6.1 %

NL

Atlantic herring	83 799	26.2 %
Blue whiting (= Poutassou)	74 599	23.3 %
Atlantic horse mackerel	32 017	10.0 %
European plaice	24 216	7.6 %
Atlantic mackerel	22 370	7.0 %

PL

European sprat	74 492	37.4 %
Atlantic herring	40 822	20.5 %
Blue whiting (= Poutassou)	26 958	13.5 %
European flounder	16 711	8.4 %
Freshwater fishes nei	16 008	8.0 %

PT

Atlantic chub mackerel	44 669	24.3 %
Atlantic horse mackerel	16 769	9.1 %
Atlantic redfishes nei	13 019	7.1 %
Blue shark	11 973	6.5 %
European pilchard (= Sardine)	10 230	5.6 %
Atlantic cod	10 012	5.4 %

RO

Thomas' rapa whelk	6 815	62.4 %
Goldfish	1 659	15.2 %

SI

Common carp	66	24.8 %
Whiting	24	9.2 %
Rainbow trout	24	9.0 %
Musky octopus	16	6.1 %
Common sole	11	4.3 %
Gilthead seabream	11	4.0 %

SK

Common carp	1 400	75.1 %
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FI

Atlantic herring	113 113	69.0 %
European sprat	16 092	9.8 %

SE

Atlantic herring	94 182	51.1 %
European sprat	58 532	31.8 %
Sandeels (= Sandlances) nei	11 544	6.3 %

UK

Atlantic mackerel	152 143	24.6 %
Atlantic herring	75 456	12.2 %
Blue whiting (= Poutassou)	60 791	9.8 %
Norway lobster	34 459	5.6 %

4.2. Aquaculture

Aquaculture is a significant activity in many Member States, producing around 1.37 million tonnes ⁽³⁾ in volume and more than EUR 5 billion in value. Mediterranean mussels make up around 36 % of the total volume farmed in the EU, while Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout together represent another 30 % of the main commercial species. The main aquaculture-producing Member States in terms of volume are Spain, France, Italy and Greece.

Of the total world aquaculture production, the EU occupies a share of 1.13 % in terms of volume and 2.29 % in terms of value.

⁽³⁾ In line with the approach adopted by the European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products (Eumofa) following Brexit, the United Kingdom is considered part of the EU till 2019 and its data until that year are available in all tables, charts and analyses at EU level. In addition, EU data include Croatia since 2013, date of the EU's enlargement to this country.

Total aquaculture production per Member State (2019)

(value in thousand EUR and percentage of total, volume in tonnes live weight and percentage of total)

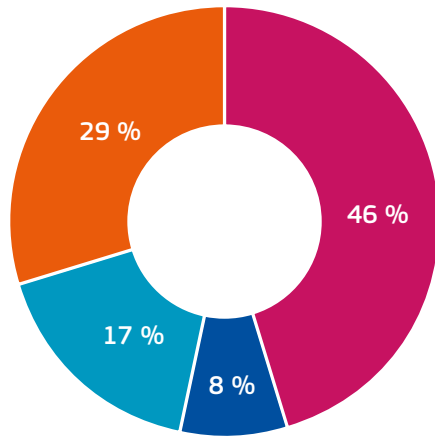
	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
United Kingdom	1 308 220	26.24 %	219 500	16.06 %
France	758 655	15.22 %	194 335	14.22 %
Spain	633 106	12.70 %	306 572	22.43 %
Greece	508 058	10.19 %	128 748	9.42 %
Italy	453 156	9.09 %	153 937	11.26 %
Malta	161 912	3.25 %	13 823	1.01 %
Ireland	157 663	3.16 %	34 977	2.56 %
Germany	126 109	2.53 %	41 077	3.01 %
Denmark	124 464	2.50 %	40 221	2.94 %
Croatia	120 687	2.42 %	20 444	1.50 %
Poland	114 756	2.30 %	42 627	3.12 %
Portugal	90 328	1.81 %	11 475	0.84 %
Netherlands	84 052	1.69 %	46 340	3.39 %
Finland	62 370	1.25 %	15 296	1.12 %
Cyprus	43 753	0.88 %	8 079	0.59 %
Czechia	41 237	0.83 %	20 989	1.54 %
Hungary	35 985	0.72 %	17 315	1.27 %
Sweden	34 827	0.70 %	11 497	0.84 %
Romania	31 871	0.64 %	12 848	0.94 %
Bulgaria	29 719	0.60 %	11 963	0.88 %
Austria	29 596	0.59 %	4 242	0.31 %
Lithuania	11 982	0.24 %	3 776	0.28 %
Slovakia	7 283	0.15 %	2 739	0.20 %
Estonia	7 278	0.15 %	1 062	0.08 %
Slovenia	6 093	0.12 %	2 087	0.15 %
Latvia	1 852	0.04 %	628	0.05 %
Belgium	538	0.01 %	86	0.01 %
Total EU-28	4 985 551	100.00 %	1 366 682	100.00 %

NB: Not relevant for LU.

Sources: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data.

European Union aquaculture production per product type (2018/2019)

(percentage of total volume)



- Molluscs and crustaceans
- Freshwater fish
- Marine fish
- Salmonids

Source: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data.

Total aquaculture production by other major producers (2019)

(value in thousand EUR and percentage of total, volume in tonnes live weight and percentage of total)

	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
China	143 968 509	58.68 %	68 423 859	56.97 %
Indonesia	13 018 009	5.31 %	15 893 400	13.23 %
India	12 965 661	5.28 %	7 800 300	6.49 %
Vietnam	10 758 166	4.38 %	4 455 557	3.71 %
Chile	9 788 299	3.99 %	1 407 286	1.17 %
Norway	7 281 989	2.97 %	1 453 042	1.21 %
Bangladesh	5 403 903	2.20 %	2 488 600	2.07 %
EU-28	4 985 551	2.03 %	1 366 682	1.14 %
Japan	4 599 929	1.87 %	943 748	0.79 %
Thailand	2 857 667	1.16 %	964 266	0.80 %
Egypt	2 556 831	1.04 %	1 641 949	1.37 %
South Korea	2 493 821	1.02 %	2 406 351	2.00 %
Ecuador	2 323 907	0.95 %	695 835	0.58 %
Philippines	2 032 010	0.83 %	2 358 238	1.96 %
Iran	1 645 936	0.67 %	505 000	0.42 %
Myanmar	1 645 752	0.67 %	1 082 153	0.90 %
Others	17 019 608	6.94 %	6 218 046	5.18 %
Total	245 345 548	100.00 %	120 104 313	100.00 %

Sources: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data.

Top 10 species in aquaculture in the European Union (2019)

(value in thousand EUR and percentage of total)

	Value	% Value
Atlantic salmon	1 340 985	26.90 %
Rainbow trout	647 463	12.99 %
Gilthead seabream	494 100	9.91 %
European seabass	491 439	9.86 %
Pacific cupped oyster	443 578	8.90 %
Atlantic bluefin tuna	308 195	6.18 %
Blue mussel	234 546	4.70 %
Mediterranean mussel	197 995	3.97 %
Common carp	149 766	3.00 %
Japanese carpet shell	145 622	2.92 %

Top 10 species in aquaculture in the European Union (2019)

(volume in tonnes live weight and percentage of total)

	Volume	% Volume
Mediterranean mussel	335 236	24.53 %
Atlantic salmon	203 810	14.91 %
Rainbow trout	187 249	13.70 %
Blue mussel	138 020	10.10 %
Pacific cupped oyster	97 019	7.10 %
Gilthead seabream	95 207	6.97 %
European seabass	86 149	6.30 %
Common carp	67 964	4.97 %
Japanese carpet shell	28 336	2.07 %
Atlantic bluefin tuna	22 434	1.64 %

Main species in aquaculture per Member State (2019)

(value in thousand EUR and percentage of total value, volume in tonnes live weight and percentage of total volume)

BE	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Freshwater fishes nei	538.35	100.0 %	86.00	100.0 %

BG	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Rainbow trout	16 001	53.8 %	3 830	32.0 %
Common carp	6 634	22.3 %	2 989	25.0 %
Mediterranean mussel	2 406	8.1 %	2 735	22.9 %
Bighead carp	1 349	4.5 %	1 382	11.5 %

CZ	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Common carp	32 857	100.0 %	17 945	85.1 %

DK	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Rainbow trout	100 269	80.6 %	30 852	76.7 %
Atlantic salmon	7 835	6.3 %	1 463	3.6 %

DE	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Blue mussel	44 293	35.1 %	22 037	53.6 %
Rainbow trout	30 579	24.2 %	7 841	19.1 %
European eel	15 493	12.3 %	1 202	2.9 %
Common carp	11 927	9.5 %	4 641	11.3 %

EE	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Freshwater fishes nei	3 832	52.6 %	63	5.9 %
Rainbow trout	3 069	42.2 %	927	87.3 %

IE	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Atlantic salmon	106 950	67.8 %	11 333	32 %
Pacific cupped oyster	32 935	20.9 %	7 554	22 %
Blue mussel	14 820	9.4 %	15 184	43 %

EL	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Gilthead seabream	253 108	49.8 %	55 500	43.1 %
European seabass	200 465	39.5 %	41 255	32.0 %

ES	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
European seabass	154 641	24.4 %	25 260	8.2 %
Atlantic bluefin tuna	124 314	19.6 %	7 717	2.5 %
Mediterranean mussel	119 659	18.9 %	228 195	74.4 %
Gilthead seabream	63 779	10.1 %	12 475	4.1 %
Turbot	61 781	9.8 %	8 011	2.6 %
Rainbow trout	52 178	8.2 %	15 914	5.2 %

FR	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Pacific cupped oyster	391 127	51.6 %	84 760	43.6 %
Rainbow trout	125 308	16.5 %	34 540	17.8 %
Blue mussel	123 383	16.3 %	54 208	27.9 %
European seabass	20 740	2.7 %	2 461	1.3 %

NB: Not relevant for LU.

Sources: Eurostat and Eumofa.

HR	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Gilthead seabream	39 087	32.4 %	6 774	33.1 %
European seabass	35 880	29.7 %	6 089	29.8 %
Atlantic bluefin tuna	31 811	26.4 %	2 747	13.4 %
Meagre	4 828	4.0 %	725	3.5 %

IT	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Japanese carpet shell	135 450	29.9 %	27 090	17.6 %
Rainbow trout	101 341	22.4 %	33 000	21.4 %
Gilthead seabream	75 430	16.6 %	9 500	6.2 %
European seabass	55 870	12.3 %	7 400	4.8 %
Mediterranean mussel	54 338	12.0 %	72 450	47.1 %

CY	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Gilthead seabream	25 220	57.6 %	5 168	64.0 %
European seabass	17 838	40.8 %	2 836	35.1 %

LV	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Common carp	1 222	66.0 %	513	81.6 %
Sturgeons nei	320	17.3 %	45	7.1 %
Rainbow trout	230	12.4 %	50	8.0 %

LT	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Common carp	7 565	63.1 %	2 742	72.6 %
North African catfish	1 192	10.0 %	312	8.3 %

HU	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Common carp	24 565	68.3 %	11 436	66.0 %
Torpedo-shaped catfishes nei	6 691	18.6 %	3 610	20.8 %
Wels (= Som) catfish	1 119	3.1 %	206	1.2 %

MT	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Atlantic bluefin tuna	152 070	93.9 %	11 970	86.6 %
Gilthead seabream	9 359	5.8 %	1 783	12.9 %

NL	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Blue mussel	45 598	54.2 %	38 094	82.2 %
European eel	18 700	22.2 %	2 200	4.7 %
Cupped oysters nei	5 142	6.1 %	2 323	5.0 %

AT	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Rainbow trout	9 602	32.4 %	1 417	33.4 %
Arctic char	4 452	15.0 %	266	6.3 %
Brook trout	3 830	12.9 %	562	13.3 %

PL	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Rainbow trout	45 961	40.1 %	15 395	36.1 %
Common carp	37 757	32.9 %	18 376	43.1 %

PT	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Grooved carpet shell	32 563	36.0 %	1 725	15.0 %
Turbot	27 949	30.9 %	3 580	31.2 %
Gilthead seabream	9 231	10.2 %	1 662	14.5 %
Pacific cupped oyster	7 775	8.6 %	1 462	12.7 %

RO	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Common carp	11 272	35.4 %	4 191	32.6 %
Rainbow trout	9 683	30.4 %	2 618	20.4 %
Bighead carp	5 008	15.7 %	2 870	22.3 %
Silver carp	2 298	7.2 %	1 465	11.4 %
Crucian carp	1 717	5.4 %	975	7.6 %

SI	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Rainbow trout	4 076	66.9 %	937	44.9 %
Mediterranean mussel	567	9.3 %	798	38.3 %
Warty venus	415	6.8 %	36	1.7 %
European seabass	400	6.6 %	80	3.8 %

SK	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Rainbow trout	3 230	44.3 %	993	36.3 %
North African catfish	1 961	26.9 %	922	33.7 %
Common carp	1 695	23.3 %	703	26 %

FI	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Rainbow trout	53 051	85.1 %	14 204	92.9 %
European whitefish	7 537	12.1 %	786	5.1 %

SE	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Rainbow trout	27 273	78.3 %	8 304	72.2 %
Arctic char	5 549	15.9 %	1 130	9.8 %

UK	Value	% Value	Volume	% Volume
Atlantic salmon	1 222 843	93.5 %	190 500	86.8 %
Rainbow trout	50 896	3.9 %	11 900	5.4 %

4.3. Processing sector

The fish processing industry in the EU is generally profitable. Overall, turnover in 2018 was roughly EUR 30 billion, with Spain, France and Poland as the main contributors.

Turnover (2018)

(million EUR)

Spain	6 930.5
France	4 823.4
Poland	3 434.4
Germany	2 771.7
Italy	2 721.7
Denmark	2 509.1
Portugal	1 353.5
Netherlands	1 039.2
Sweden	751.6
Lithuania	709
Belgium	674.3
Ireland	507.1
Finland	402.4
Latvia	209.4
Greece	181.4
Estonia	136.3
Romania	106.3
Czechia	96.4
Croatia	87.4
Slovakia	72.2
Bulgaria	65.2
Austria	44.9
Slovenia	11.9
Hungary	7.2
Total	29 646.5

NB: Not relevant for LU.

Sources: Eurostat and STECF, *The EU Fish Processing Sector – Economic report* (STECF-19-15), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2019, ISBN 978-92-76-14666-7.

4.4. Organisation of the sector

4.4.1. Producer organisations in 2021

Fishers and fish farmers may join forces through producer organisations to make their production sustainable and to market their products efficiently. They do so by developing production and marketing plans. These organisations are key actors in fisheries and aquaculture. In 2021, there were 204 producer organisations across 18 Member States.



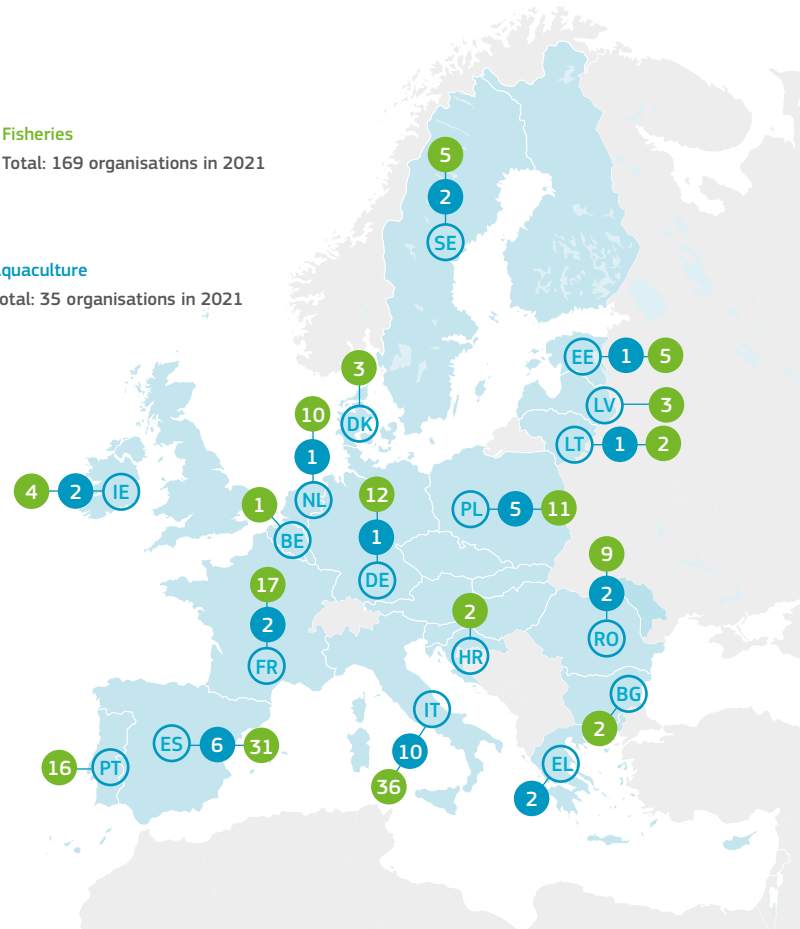
Fisheries

Total: 169 organisations in 2021



Aquaculture

Total: 35 organisations in 2021



NB: In CZ, CY, LU, HU, MT, AT, SI, SK and FI there were no producer organisations.












Source: Member States; data retrieved on 14 September 2021.

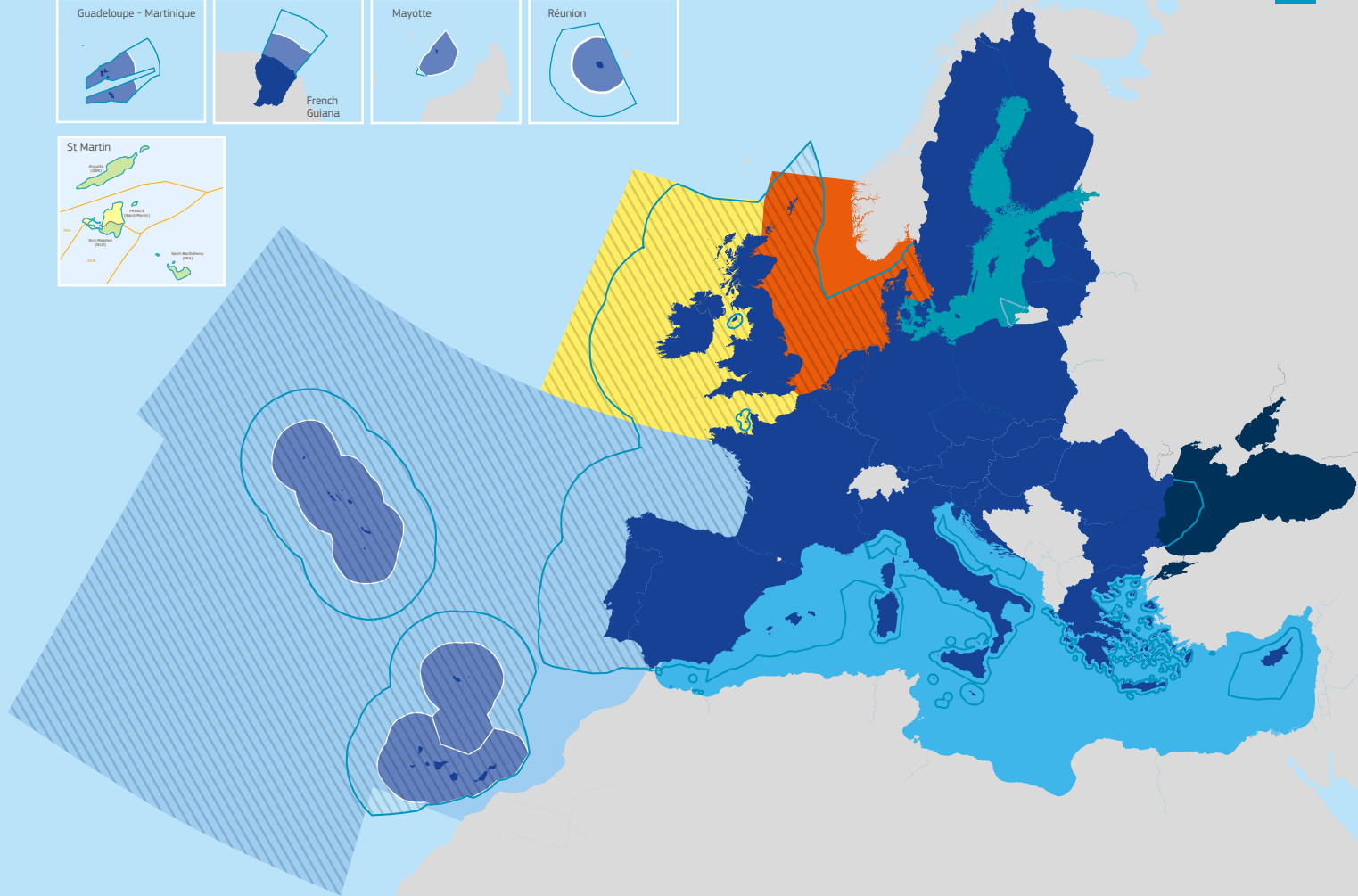
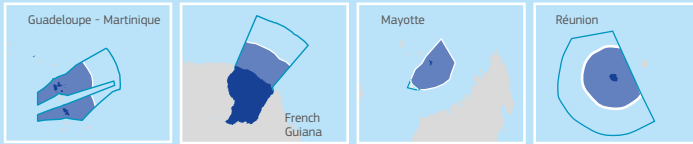
4.4.2. Advisory councils

Advisory councils are stakeholder organisations made up of representatives from the industry and other interest groups (which have 60 % and 40 % of the seats in the general assembly and the executive committee, respectively). Their purpose is to submit recommendations on issues related to fisheries and aquaculture to the Commission and Member States. Advisory councils may also provide information for the development of conservation measures, while Member States are to consult with them in the context of regionalisation.

Because they are pursuing a goal of general interest for the EU, advisory councils receive financial assistance from the Commission to cover part of their operational costs.

In addition to the seven existing advisory councils (Baltic Sea, Long Distance Fleet, Mediterranean Sea, North Sea, North-Western Waters, Pelagic Stocks, South-Western Waters), the 2013 CFP reform established four new advisory councils for the Black Sea, Aquaculture, Markets and Outermost Regions, which are now fully operational.

	Aquaculture (AAC)
	Baltic Sea (BSAC)
	Black Sea (BISAC)
	Régions Ultra-Périphériques (CC RUP) (Outermost Regions)
	Long Distance Fleet (non-EU waters worldwide) (LDAC)
	Markets (MAC)
	Mediterranean Sea (MEDAC)
	North Sea (NSAC)
	North-Western Waters (NWWAC)
	Pelagic Stocks (blue whiting, mackerel, horse mackerel, herring, boarfish) (PELAC)
	South-Western Waters (SWWAC)



5 | External trade



The EU is the leading trader of fisheries and aquaculture products in the world in terms of value. EU trade (i.e. imports and exports) has increased over the past few years, reaching EUR 31.2 billion in 2020. Norway, the United Kingdom, China, Morocco and Ecuador are the EU's main suppliers, while the United Kingdom, the United States, China, Norway and Switzerland are the EU's main customers.

The EU is a net importer of fisheries and aquaculture products, mostly frozen, fresh and chilled. Spain, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands are the leading importing Member States.

In 2020, exports to non-EU countries increased to EUR 6.96 billion. Denmark, the Netherlands and Spain are the leading exporting Member States.

Trade between the Member States is very significant, totalling EUR 23.25 billion in 2020. The main exporters to other Member States are the Netherlands, Sweden, Spain and Denmark. The main importers are Germany, France, Italy and Spain.

Trade of fisheries and aquaculture products between EU Member States and non-EU countries (2020)

(volume in tonnes and value in thousand EUR)

	Imports		Exports	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Pelagic fish	1 246 333	3 613 443	907 754	1 623 296
Salmonids	1 076 716	6 147 036	151 463	1 200 527
Other fish	1 828 396	6 981 613	822 815	2 386 440
Crustaceans	598 310	4 034 580	121 666	665 464
Molluscs	577 870	2 533 068	62 859	353 269
Non-food use products	824 720	897 162	500 848	734 413
Total EU-27	6 152 345	24 206 902	2 567 405	6 963 409

Extra- and intra-EU trade (2020)

(value in billion EUR)

Extra-EU imports
24.21



Intra-EU trade
23.25



Extra-EU exports
6.96

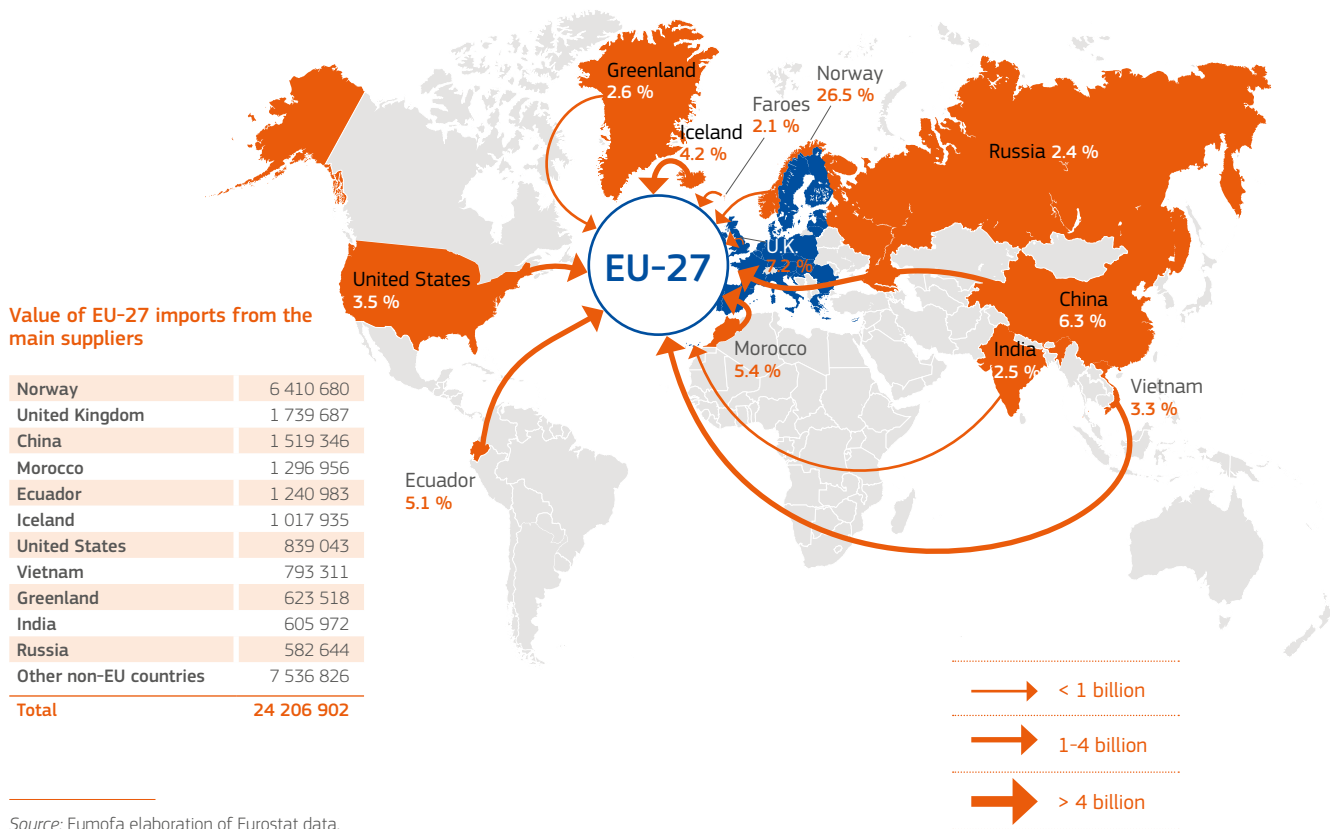


Source: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat data.

Source: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat data.

Trade of fisheries and aquaculture products between EU Member States and non-EU countries – main suppliers (2020)

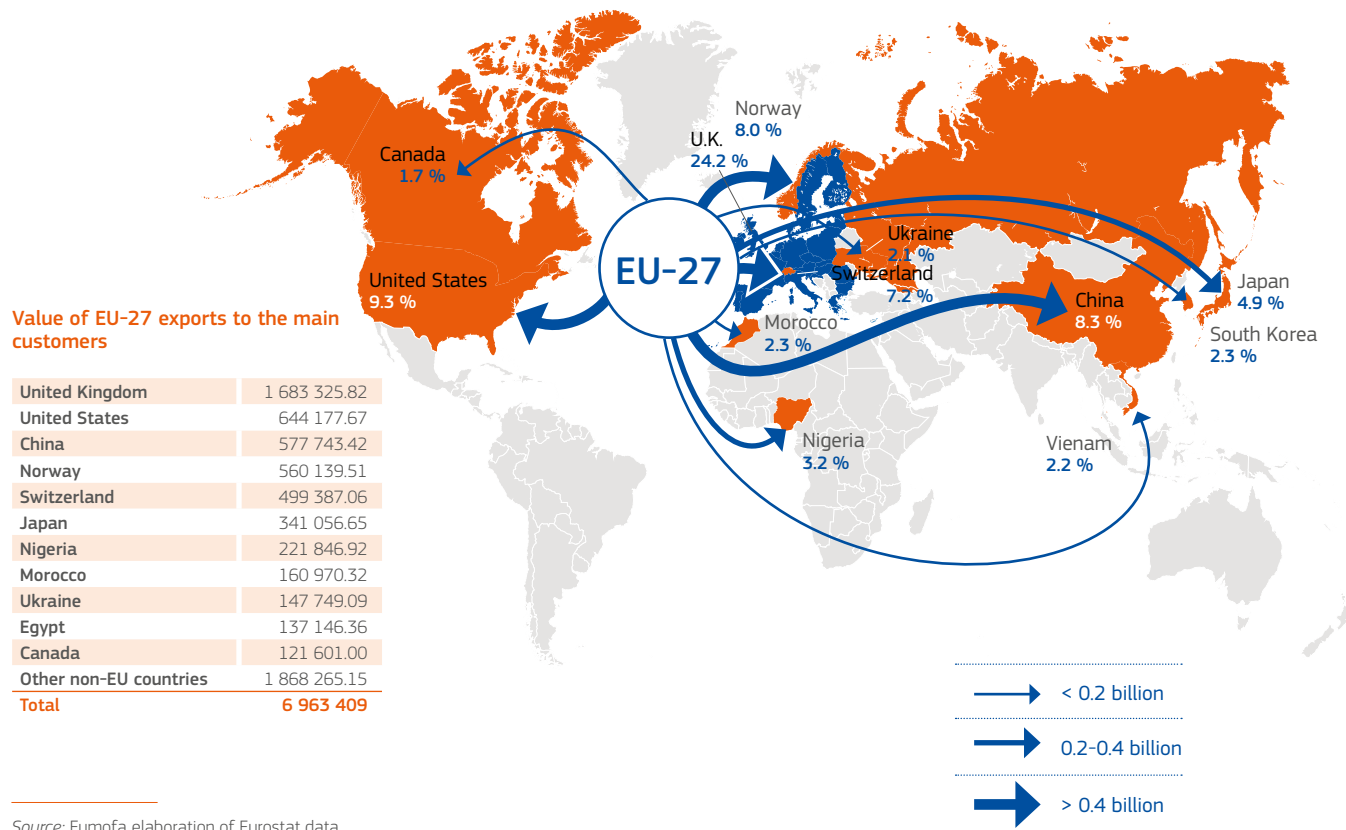
(value in thousand EUR and percentage of total)



Source: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat data.

Trade of fisheries and aquaculture products between the European Union and non-EU countries – main customers (2020)

(value in thousand EUR and percentage of total)



Source: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat data.

Trade of fisheries and aquaculture products between EU Member States and non-EU countries (2020)

(value in thousand EUR and percentage of total)

Main Member States importing from non-EU countries

ES	4 267 911	17.6 %
SE	4 047 063	16.7 %
DK	2 856 808	11.8 %
NL	2 843 950	11.7 %
FR	2 559 115	10.6 %
IT	2 140 118	8.8 %
DE	1 765 928	7.3 %
PL	915 461	3.8 %
Other Member States	2 810 550	11.6 %
Total EU-27	24 206 902	100.0 %

Main Member States exporting to non-EU countries

DK	1 451 647	20.8 %
NL	1 193 059	17.1 %
ES	1 041 232	15.0 %
DE	519 163	7.5 %
FR	507 720	7.3 %
SE	388 887	5.6 %
PL	383 327	5.5 %
IE	286 661	4.1 %
Other Member States	1 191 712	17.1 %
Total EU-27	6 936 409	100.0 %

Imports and exports of fisheries and aquaculture products – extra-EU trade (2020)

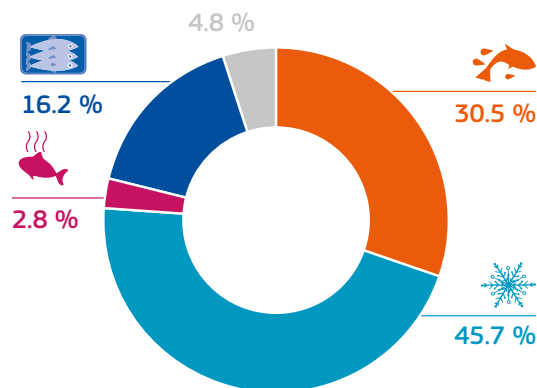
(volume in tonnes and value in thousand EUR)

	Imports		Exports	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
BE	136 958	820 953	19 599	64 228
BG	14 076	29 531	2 901	14 349
CZ	14 632	50 036	1 775	10 316
DK	932 574	2 856 808	515 222	1 451 647
DE	483 368	1 765 928	137 911	519 163
EE	8 199	36 935	71 061	64 701
IE	185 796	272 106	220 799	286 661
EL	121 247	317 230	17 233	77 220
ES	1 130 662	4 267 911	446 704	1 041 232
FR	563 796	2 559 115	138 192	507 720
HR	13 258	24 991	22 434	95 060
IT	442 809	2 140 118	52 405	227 226
CY	7 570	32 005	4 655	25 416
LV	24 844	53 728	46 310	77 414
LT	71 113	194 376	36 166	102 599
LU	313	4 678	130	1 137
HU	3 217	10 195	1 434	5 113
MT	30 875	43 556	10 540	132 725
NL	669 698	2 843 950	575 080	1 193 059
AT	7 848	48 209	2 071	22 959
PL	267 027	915 461	106 386	383 327
PT	150 703	531 874	46 390	203 354
RO	18 543	51 735	3 861	13 985
SI	4 218	11 704	1 963	8 170
SK	5 602	14 984	900	2 997
FI	57 603	261 726	16 948	42 745
SE	785 797	4 047 063	68 334	388 887
Total EU-27	6 152 345	24 206 902	2 567 405	6 963 409

Source: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat data.

Imports of fisheries and aquaculture products by main preservation categories – extra-EU trade (2020)

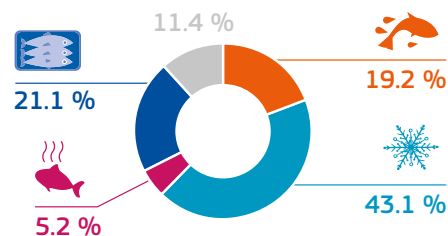
(value in thousand EUR and percentage of total)



■ Fresh and chilled products	7 386 575
■ Frozen products	11 073 877
■ Smoked, salted and dried products	682 936
■ Ready meals and conserves	3 912 554
■ Unspecified	1 150 961
Total	24 206 902

Exports of fisheries and aquaculture products by main preservation categories – extra-EU trade (2020)


(value in thousand EUR and percentage of total)



■ Fresh and chilled products	1 337 387
■ Frozen products	3 001 770
■ Smoked, salted and dried products	364 405
■ Ready meals and conserves	1 469 358
■ Unspecified	790 490
Total	6 963 409


Imports of fisheries and aquaculture products – extra-EU trade (2020)

(value in thousand EUR)




Pelagic fish

ES	1 012 139
IT	651 584
NL	457 907
FR	444 078
DE	328 203
PL	129 337
SE	102 343
PT	94 287
Other Member States	393 566
Total EU-27	3 613 443




Salmonids

SE	3 258 831
DK	1 112 482
PL	410 343
FR	394 023
NL	239 591
FI	216 479
DE	206 617
BE	59 168
Other Member States	249 501
Total EU-27	6 147 036




Other fish

NL	1 374 281
ES	892 321
DK	840 934
DE	839 769
FR	736 291
SE	549 501
IT	434 446
PL	339 509
Other Member States	974 561
Total EU-27	6 981 613



Crustaceans

ES	899 274
FR	693 095
NL	605 064
DK	516 554
IT	369 066
BE	358 435
DE	227 198
SE	120 219
Other Member States	245 675
Total EU-27	4 034 580



Molluscs

ES	1 333 643
IT	604 220
FR	213 429
PT	95 110
NL	88 970
EL	69 301
DE	32 202
BE	32 034
Other Member States	64 161
Total EU-27	2 533 068




Non-food-use products



DK	275 645
DE	131 940
ES	82 351
FR	78 198
NL	78 137
EL	67 711
BE	57 655
IE	57 524
Other Member States	68 001
Total EU-27	897 162

Source: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat data.

Exports of fisheries and aquaculture products – extra-EU trade (2020)

(value in thousand EUR)

 Pelagic fish		 Salmonids		 Other fish	
ES	488 718	SE	313 735	NL	509 942
NL	283 268	DK	234 371	ES	334 541
FR	121 849	NL	173 429	DK	334 431
IE	109 789	DE	157 014	DE	263 581
IT	97 924	PL	143 465	FR	185 426
MT	93 643	FR	61 114	PL	146 320
PL	79 599	FI	32 915	PT	114 677
HR	64 639	IE	19 322	IT	76 854
Other Member States	283 866	Other Member States	65 162	Other Member States	420 669
Total EU-27	1 623 296	Total EU-27	1 200 527	Total EU-27	2 386 440

 Crustaceans		 Molluscs		Non-food-use products	
DK	347 446	ES	158 686	DK	457 097
NL	164 922	FR	68 410	IE	60 912
FR	31 789	IE	29 533	NL	45 240
ES	30 658	IT	20 758	FR	39 133
DE	27 661	PT	19 939	DE	38 122
EE	16 402	NL	16 257	BE	22 372
IE	13 788	DK	15 211	ES	21 635
IT	8 994	BG	7 196	IT	16 796
Other Member States	23 804	Other Member States	17 280	Other Member States	33 107
Total EU-27	665 464	Total EU-27	353 269	Total EU-27	734 413

Source: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat data.

6 | Consumption

Fisheries and aquaculture products are an important source of protein and a crucial component of a healthy diet. This is particularly true for the average person living in the EU, who consumes 24 kg (live weight) of fish or seafood per year (3.3 kg more than in the rest of the world).

Consumption, however, varies greatly across the EU: from 6 kg per person per year in Czechia to 59.9 kg in Portugal.

Three quarters of the fish or seafood consumed in the EU comes from wild fisheries, while the remaining quarter comes from aquaculture. The most popular species are tuna, salmon and cod.

Consumption of fisheries and aquaculture products (2019) (quantity in live weight (kg/inhabitant/year))

(*) Data are provided by the following National sources: BMEL-Statistik (Germany), CZSO Czech Statistical Office (Czechia), Estonian Institute of Economic Research (Estonia), Centrālā statistikas pārvalde (Latvia), Dutch Fish Marketing Board (Netherlands) and Statistics Poland (Poland).

(**) Estimates for Denmark were not confirmed by the National contact point.

(**) OECD forecast was used for the UK.

NB: Given the significant relevance of imports of frozen fish likely used as fishmeal in the Maltese bluefin tuna fattening industry, and given the increasing imports of live tuna for fattening purposes, available data and information for Malta do not allow to produce precise estimates. However, annual per capita apparent consumption can be estimated between 30-40 kg LWE.

Source: Eumofa experts.

Portugal	59.91
Spain	46.02
Denmark (**)	42.56
France	33.26
Luxembourg	32.84
Italy	31.21
Ireland	25.50
Sweden	25.16
Cyprus	24.34
EU-28	23.97
Finland	23.77
Belgium	23.31
Croatia	20.82
Netherlands (*)	20.60
Greece	20.37
UK (***)	20.13
Estonia (*)	16.00
Lithuania	13.90
Poland (*)	13.11
Austria	13.09
Germany (*)	13.08
Slovenia	12.18
Latvia (*)	10.46
Slovakia	9.69
Romania	8.11
Bulgaria	7.45
Hungary	6.28
Czechia (*)	6.00



Consumption of fisheries and aquaculture products in the major world economies (2019)

(quantity in live weight (kg/inhabitant/year))

Norway	54.56
Japan	46.74
China	40.42
EU-28	23.97
United States	22.9
Canada	22.33
Russia	20.74
World average	20.66
Brazil	9.04
India	7.63
Turkey	5.09

Sources: OECD forecast https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?datasetcode=HIGH_AGLINK_2019, Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data.

Main species consumed in the European Union (2019)

(quantity in live weight (kg/inhabitant/year))

	Per capita (kg)	% Wild	% Farmed
Tuna (mostly canned)	3.10	99 %	1 %
Salmon	2.36	19 %	81 %
Cod	2.11	100 %	0 %
Alaska pollock	1.67	100 %	0 %
Shrimps	1.47	49 %	51 %
Mussel	1.23	20 %	80 %
Hake	1.02	100 %	0 %
Herring	0.98	100 %	0 %
Squid	0.62	100 %	0 %
Surimi	0.59	100 %	0 %
Sardine	0.58	100 %	0 %

Source: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data.

6.1. Household expenditure

In the EU the total nominal household expenditure for fishery and aquaculture products in 2020 reached EUR 64.1 billion. Spain registered the highest level of expenditure with EUR 13.6 billion, followed by Italy (EUR 12.3 billion) and France (EUR 9.2 billion).

On average, expenditure for fishery and aquaculture products represents 6 % of the total consumption budget for food products in the EU. The highest ratio is observed in Portugal (16 %) and the lowest in Hungary (1.6 %). For comparison, at the EU level, expenditure for meat products and for fruits and vegetables represent 23 % and 22 %, respectively, of total food expenditure.

Nominal household expenditure for purchasing fish and seafood in 2020 (million EUR)

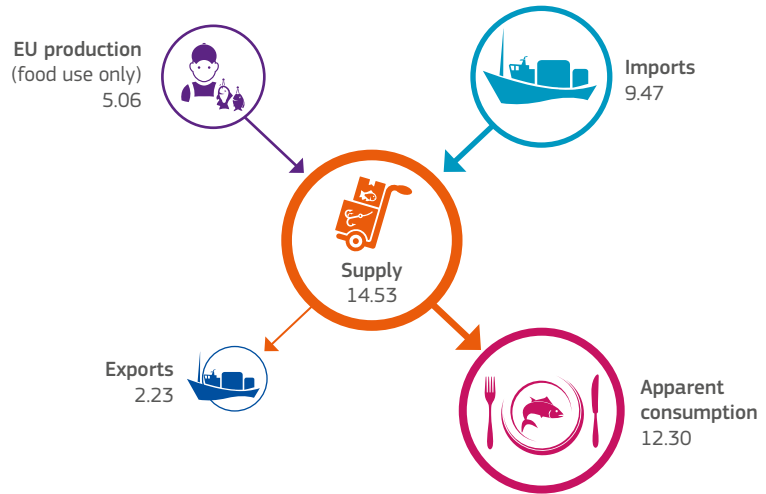
	Meat	Fish	Fruits, vegetables, potatoes	Food (total)	Meat %	Fish %	Fruits, vegetables, potatoes %
EU-28	245 018	64 104	235 071	1 054 988	23 %	6 %	22 %
Belgium	8 494	1 806	5 510	30 007	28 %	6 %	18 %
Bulgaria	1 482	214	1 271	7 344	20 %	3 %	17 %
Czechia	4 210	430	2 597	15 733	27 %	3 %	17 %
Denmark	4 101	835	3 343	17 892	23 %	5 %	19 %
Germany	36 401	6 167	38 448	165 478	22 %	4 %	23 %
Estonia	498	119	442	2 271	22 %	5 %	19 %
Ireland	2 473	374	2 395	9 412	26 %	4 %	25 %
Greece	4 246	1 042	6 066	21 497	20 %	5 %	28 %
Spain	27 482	13 608	22 927	106 555	26 %	13 %	22 %
France	38 543	9 183	33 675	159 861	24 %	6 %	21 %
Croatia	1 407	296	1 120	5 907	24 %	5 %	19 %
Italy	35 001	12 277	34 044	144 839	24 %	8 %	24 %
Cyprus	325	113	423	1 794	18 %	6 %	24 %
Latvia	710	147	562	3 385	21 %	4 %	17 %
Lithuania	1 174	395	1 020	5 415	22 %	7 %	19 %
Luxembourg	475	147	317	1 910	25 %	8 %	17 %
Hungary	2 695	170	1 863	10 633	25 %	2 %	18 %
Malta	154	58	163	791	19 %	7 %	21 %
Netherlands	9 190	2 048	10 001	44 214	21 %	5 %	23 %
Austria	3 986	769	3 909	18 225	22 %	4 %	21 %
Poland	10 704	1 140	11 697	49 882	21 %	2 %	23 %
Portugal	4 750	3 836	4 591	23 664	20 %	16 %	19 %
Romania	12 364	1 667	7 936	39 641	31 %	4 %	20 %
Slovenia	960	90	875	3 805	25 %	2 %	23 %
Slovakia	2 485	410	1 480	9 746	25 %	4 %	15 %
Finland	2 457	600	2 346	13 603	18 %	4 %	17 %
Sweden	4 983	1 800	5 510	26 597	19 %	7 %	21 %
United Kingdom	23 268	4 363	30 540	114 887	20 %	4 %	27 %

Source: Eurostat.

6.2. Supply balance

The supply of fisheries and seafood products to the EU market is ensured by the EU's own production and by imports, leading to a total of 14.53 million tonnes (live weight) available for human consumption in 2019. In the same year, the 'apparent consumption', obtained by subtracting exports from this figure, was 12.30 million tonnes.

Supply balance (2019) (volume in million tonnes live weight equivalent)



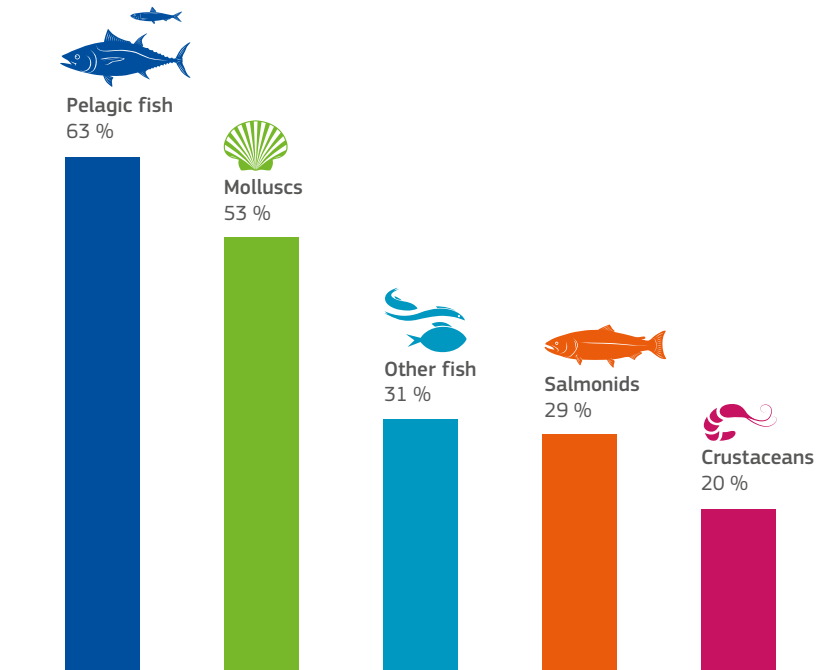
Source: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data.

6.3. Self-sufficiency

Self-sufficiency can be expressed as the ratio between own production (catches plus aquaculture) and total apparent consumption. In 2019, the EU's self-sufficiency rate stood at 41.2 %, i.e., people living in the European Union consumed roughly twice as much as they produced.

The EU's production covers almost two thirds of its consumption of pelagic fish and more than half of its consumption of molluscs. It is more dependent on external sourcing for salmonids, crustaceans and other fish.

The European Union's self-sufficiency rate (2019)
(percentage by commodity group)



Sources: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data.

7 | European Union support



The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) is one of the five European structural and investment funds ⁽⁴⁾. The EMFAF supports the EU common fisheries policy (CFP), the EU maritime policy and the EU agenda for international ocean governance and it provides support for developing innovative projects that ensure the sustainable use of aquatic and maritime resources.

As a global ocean actor and a major producer of seafood, the EU has a responsibility to protect and sustainably use the oceans and their resources. It is also in the EU's socio-economic interest to guarantee the availability of food supplies, the competitiveness of the maritime economy and the livelihood of coastal communities.

The fund helps achieve sustainable fisheries and conserve marine biological resources.

The EMFAF is programmed for the period 2021-2027 with a budget of EUR 6.108 billion, of which EUR 5.311 billion is provided through national programmes co-financed by the EU budget and EU countries and EUR 797 million is provided directly by the Commission.

⁽⁴⁾ The European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

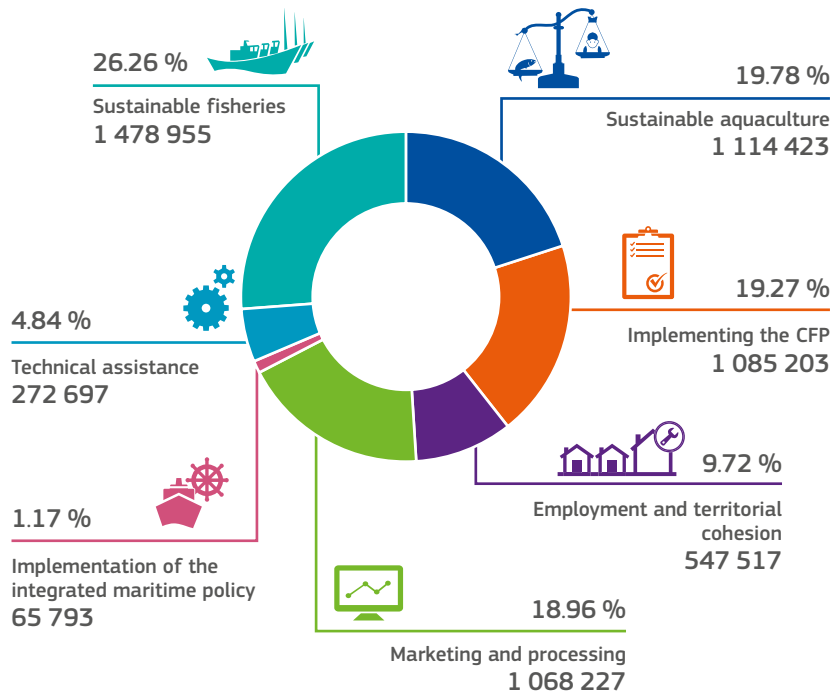
The EMFF had six main priorities

- **Sustainable fisheries (26.26 %).** To strike a balance between human fishing capacity and available natural resources, to fish more selectively and to reduce unintended catches.
- **Sustainable aquaculture (19.78 %).** To make the sector more successful and competitive by focusing on quality, health and safety, along with eco-friendly production; and to provide consumers with high-quality, highly nutritional and trustworthy products.
- **Implementing the CFP (19.27 %).** To improve data collection, scientific knowledge, control and enforcement of fisheries legislation.
- **Marketing and processing (18.96 %).** To improve market organisation, market intelligence and consumer information in the world's largest seafood market.
- **Employment and territorial cohesion (9.72 %).** To help coastal and inland fisheries and aquaculture communities gain more value for their products and diversify their economies into other maritime fields, such as tourism or direct sales.
- **Implementing the integrated maritime policy (1.17 %).** To improve marine knowledge, better plan activities at sea, promote cooperation in maritime surveillance and manage sea basins according to their individual needs.

The remaining 4.84 % consisted of technical assistance to help Member States implement the above priorities.

Allocation by Member State of their share of the EMFF budget to the EMFF priorities

(value in thousand EUR and percentage of total)



The EMFAF entered into force in July 2021, so at the time of going to press, most EMFAF programmes had not yet been adopted. Thus, sufficient data is not yet available to describe the definitive allocation of EMFAF funding. This section, therefore, focuses on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), which covered the 2014–2020 period.

The EMFF did not prescribe how every cent should be spent. Instead, the EU allocated a share of the total budget to each Member State and left it to the national authorities – and local communities – to choose the projects and solutions that worked best for them.

In this way, the EMFF was supporting local initiatives aimed at rebuilding fish stocks, phasing out discards, collecting fisheries data and reducing the human impact on the marine environment. The fund was used to help Member States check that fishers, fish farmers and maritime communities correctly applied the relevant EU rules. The funds were also available for projects encouraging cross-border cooperation in maritime domains such as spatial planning and surveillance.

Although the 2014–2020 programming period is over, beneficiaries may continue to incur expenditure for subsequent reimbursement by Member States until 31 December 2023. The Commission may accept payment claims from Member States until mid 2024.

EMFF contribution – 2014-2020 programming period – per priority

(in EUR and percentage of total)

	Sustainable fisheries	Sustainable aquaculture	Implementing the CFP	Employment and territorial cohesion	Marketing and processing	Implementing the integrated maritime policy	Technical assistance	Total per Member State	% per Member State
AT	33 277	4 103 898	1 400 000	—	1 287 395	—	140 430	6 965 000	0.12 %
BE	15 476 406	5 325 000	13 494 645	—	5 210 000	940 000	1 300 000	41 746 051	0.74 %
BG	13 397 501	23 138 803	9 826 839	15 792 775	12 217 809	2 325 000	4 125 000	80 823 727	1.43 %
CY	14 395 762	8 491 296	9 006 651	4 935 000	532 500	1 229 000	1 125 000	39 715 209	0.71 %
CZ	—	23 622 197	2 653 015	—	3 125 503	—	1 707 300	31 108 015	0.55 %
DE	51 511 757	67 922 143	60 249 225	20 499 300	8 724 631	2 350 000	8 339 220	219 596 276	3.90 %
DK	79 017 781	22 019 867	70 546 228	7 518 393	14 838 856	2 500 000	11 914 295	208 355 420	3.70 %
EE	15 203 741	7 547 611	13 962 711	26 282 074	29 886 491	2 263 703	5 824 087	100 970 418	1.79 %
EL	119 025 000	62 394 086	70 433 334	59 925 000	52 687 774	4 445 560	12 777 914	381 688 668	6.78 %
ES	286 923 851	170 786 274	154 233 371	106 832 761	313 223 605	5 217 860	52 083 661	1 089 301 383	19.34 %
FI	13 245 433	13 327 323	30 018 085	3 926 734	6 770 524	4 445 560	2 659 509	74 393 168	1.32 %
FR	121 752 640	127 865 628	123 003 956	20 430 353	167 035 993	4 991 532	22 900 071	587 980 173	10.44 %
HR	87 414 138	55 507 476	32 166 282	23 548 850	44 555 858	332 215	9 118 319	252 643 138	4.49 %
HU	1 703 530	24 709 534	2 451 293	—	9 196 000	—	351 866	38 412 223	0.68 %
IE	29 076 587	14 900 000	69 790 720	6 000 000	18 500 000	5 334 672	4 000 000	147 601 979	2.62 %
IT	187 761 765	77 773 486	102 428 971	42 713 074	90 292 903	4 045 560	32 246 800	537 262 559	9.54 %
LT	11 209 844	18 199 191	7 959 896	9 875 783	11 585 141	930 001	3 672 366	63 432 222	1.13 %
LV	40 767 385	20 724 482	10 367 530	21 477 120	36 497 225	2 500 000	7 500 000	139 833 742	2.48 %
NL	32 146 590	4 837 170	51 938 743	—	5 120 741	2 500 000	4 980 000	101 523 244	1.80 %
PL	160 831 377	162 948 576	23 627 339	79 699 995	69 739 002	2 500 000	31 873 167	531 219 456	9.43 %
PT	96 044 312	65 000 000	49 902 250	32 710 066	122 518 781	5 194 813	21 115 242	392 485 464	6.97 %
RO	3 767 376	91 052 135	12 942 786	37 428 646	7 940 168	1 803 352	13 486 908	168 421 371	2.99 %
SE	24 994 593	11 403 817	60 400 790	8 343 266	4 703 854	4 445 560	5 864 124	120 156 004	2.13 %
SI	2 649 999	2 387 013	3 798 043	5 809 593	4 980 678	617 084	1 984 729	22 227 139	0.39 %
SK	—	6 863 860	965 998	—	3 045 860	—	937 100	11 812 818	0.21 %
UK	70 604 177	21 572 622	97 633 876	13 767 872	24 010 178	4 881 125	10 669 587	243 139 437	4.32 %
TOTAL	1 478 954 822	1 114 423 488	1 085 202 577	547 516 655	1 068 227 470	65 792 597	272 696 695	5 632 814 304	100.00 %

Source: Launchpad (cutoff: 31.12.20).

Find out more

European Commission websites

Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/maritime-affairs-and-fisheries_en

Common fisheries policy: https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/fisheries_en

European Atlas of the Seas: <http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeatlas>

Eumofa – European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products:

<http://www.eumofa.eu/home>

Eumofa is an online multilingual database which provides access to real-time comprehensive data on the price, value and volume of fisheries and aquaculture production across the EU, as well as market information and analysis.

Eurostat fisheries data: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/fisheries/data>

Member State codes used in this publication

BE	Belgium	LT	Lithuania
BG	Bulgaria	LU	Luxembourg
CZ	Czechia	HU	Hungary
DK	Denmark	MT	Malta
DE	Germany	NL	Netherlands
EE	Estonia	AT	Austria
IE	Ireland	PL	Poland
EL	Greece	PT	Portugal
ES	Spain	RO	Romania
FR	France	SI	Slovenia
HR	Croatia	SK	Slovakia
IT	Italy	FI	Finland
CY	Cyprus	SE	Sweden
LV	Latvia	UK	United Kingdom (*)

(*) At the time the data referred to in this publication were collected the United Kingdom was still an EU Member State.

