

Facts and Figures on the Common Fisheries Policy

Basic statistical data – 2025

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Contents

	Foreword	4
1	1 Responsible and sustainable fishing	6
	1.1. State of stocks	6
	1.2. Regional fisheries management organisations	8
	1.3. Sustainable fisheries partnership agreements	10
	1.4. Northern agreements	10
	1.5. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	14
2	2. Fishing fleet	16
3	3. Employment	21
4	4. Fisheries and aquaculture production	24
	4.1. Catches	26
	4.2. Aquaculture	34
	4.3. Processing sector	42
	4.4 Organisation of the sector	42
5	5. External trade	46
6	6. Consumption	56
	6.1. Household expenditure	59
	6.2. Supply balance (2021)	60
	6.3. Self-sufficiency	61
7	EU support	62

Foreword



Dear Reader,

It is my honour as the European Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans to present the 2025 edition of the “Facts and Figures on the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)”.

This publication offers a glimpse into the complex world of EU fisheries, revealing essential data across the entire value chain, from fleet management and employment to production, trade, and consumption.

Fishing is deeply embedded in our European heritage, providing nourishment, employment, and a sense of community. Our CFP reflects a commitment to sustainability in every aspect—environmental, economic, and social. As you will discover, the CFP guides our efforts in restoring and managing fish stocks, supported by scientific insights and regional cooperation. While we are witnessing signs of recovery in EU fish populations, continued efforts are required as key species remain under pressure.

The EU plays a crucial role on the global stage as a leader in ocean governance. Through multilateral and bilateral international agreements and through our work in regional fisheries management organisations and partnerships, we advocate for a level playing field for our fishers and for sustainable practices worldwide. We have also adopted the European Ocean Pact, a comprehensive strategy to bolster ocean health and foster a vibrant blue economy, enhancing the prosperity of coastal communities.

The fisheries and aquaculture sectors are pillars of local economies. The economic potential and resilience of these sectors are supported by the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), enabling them to tackle challenges and seize opportunities.

This publication tells a compelling story of our collective endeavours, resilience, and shared responsibility. I hope it inspires you to appreciate and support the sustainable future we are forging for our seas and communities.

Sincerely,

Costas Kadis

Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans

1 Responsible and sustainable fishing

1.1. State of stocks

Sustainable fishing means catching no more fish than stocks can reproduce each year. This is the ultimate objective of the European Union (EU) common fisheries policy (CFP), pursued through the so-called maximum sustainable yield (MSY). MSY is the ratio between actual fishing mortality (F) and fishing mortality at MSY (FMSY). For a fish stock to be healthy, it has to be below or equal to one.

Based on scientific advice, every year EU fisheries ministers establish overall catch limits for the EU fleet. These total allowable catches (TACs) are then divided into national quotas, which specify the maximum amount of fish that each EU Member State can catch.

The chart on the right shows the number of stocks that were fished in line with the MSY objective (in green) and those that were overfished in comparison (in red).

In 2003, most stocks of interest to the EU were heavily overfished and the median fishing mortality in the North-East Atlantic was 1.68 FMSY. The rate has since fallen, reaching its lowest value in 2022, at 0.58 FMSY. In the Mediterranean and Black Seas, the median mortality rate fell from 2.06 FMSY in 2003 to 1.20 FMSY in 2021, but remains too high.

In the Baltic Sea, however, there has been no significant recovery yet and the stocks' resilience to fishing has weakened over the last several years.

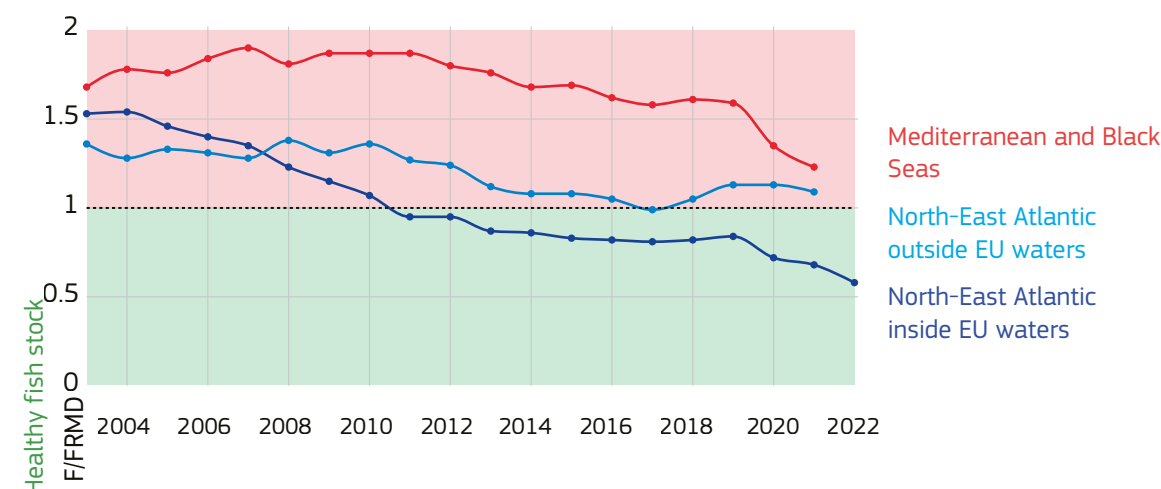
In recent years, scientists have carried out more stock assessments. As a result, more stocks are now managed on the basis of the best available scientific advice. In 2022, 58

stocks were evaluated, compared to 39 in 2021 and almost 50 % more than stocks evaluated in 2019.

The biomass of fish stock is increasing where the fishing mortality rate has fallen and the environmental conditions remain stable. This translates into better catches and more profitable fisheries with improved carbon efficiency (in terms of kilogram of fish caught per kilogram of carbon emitted).

Source: Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee (STECF) – Monitoring of the performance of the common fisheries policy (STECF-Adhoc-24-01).

Trends in fishing pressure between 2003 and 2022 for the North-East Atlantic (inside and outside EU waters) and the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

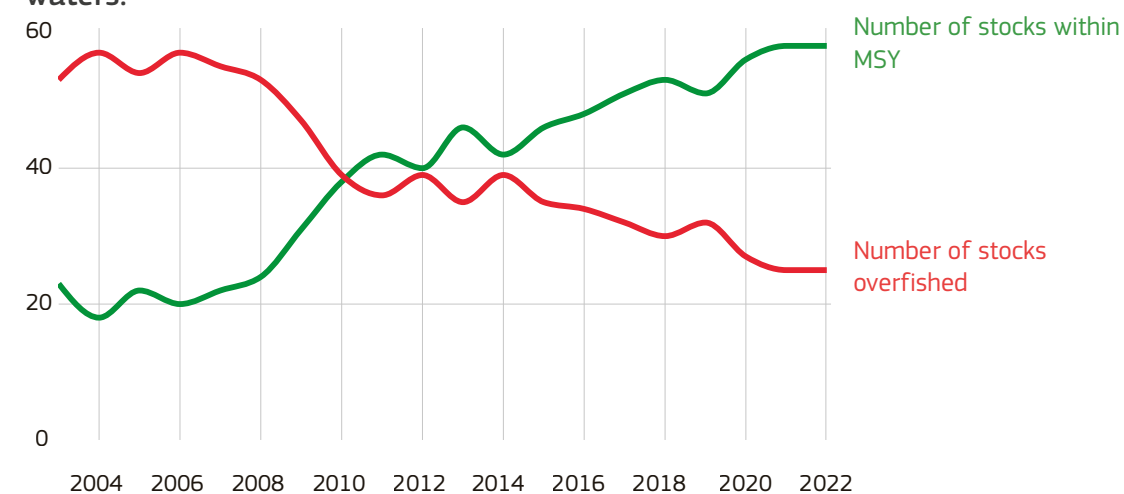


Three model-based indicators (F/FMSY) are presented (all referring to the median value of the model):

- for 59 stocks with appropriate information in the North-East Atlantic EU waters;
- for an additional set of 18 stocks also located in the North-East Atlantic but outside EU waters; and
- for the 63 stocks in the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

NB: For STECF-Adhoc-24-01, there were 63 Mediterranean and Black Sea stocks, available of which one (sardine in geographical sub-area 7) had no F estimates. Therefore, that stock was used for the B/B2003 indicator (n = 63 stocks) but not for the F/FMSY indicator (n = 62 stocks). "North-East Atlantic" refers to stocks in FAO Area 27 inside and outside EU waters, and "Mediterranean & Black Seas" refers to stocks in FAO Area 37 inside EU waters. FAO area 37 includes the Baltic Sea (and Skagerrak and Kattegat).

Number of stocks that were fished in line with the MSY objective and those that were overfished in comparison, in North-East Atlantic and adjacent waters.



1.2. Regional fisheries management organisations

Regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) are international bodies that establish binding measures for the conservation and sustainable management of highly migratory or straddling fish species.

The ultimate objective is to ensure the sustainable management of fish stocks and the conservation of marine ecosystems. Each RFMO is adapted to its specific geographic context and its resulting priorities.

RFMOs are formed by countries with fishing interests in a specific area. Some of them manage all the fish stocks found in that area, while others focus on particular highly migratory species, notably tuna, throughout vast geographical areas. RFMOs are open both to countries in the region (coastal states) and to countries with interests in the fisheries concerned.

RFMOs have the power to adopt a variety of rules to manage the fishery. To ensure compliance with the rules, they can use management tools such as catch limits (quotas), technical measures, spatial and/or temporal restrictions, and control and surveillance activities. RFMOs base their decisions on scientific advice provided by their respective scientific bodies and regularly review their members' compliance.

Today, RFMOs cover the majority of the world's seas and can be divided into two broad categories:

- RFMOs focusing only on the management of highly migratory fish stocks: tuna and tuna-like species ('tuna RFMOs'); and
- RFMOs that manage other fisheries resources (i.e. pelagic or demersal) in a specific geographical area.

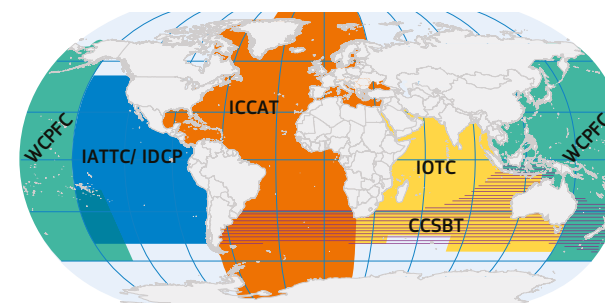
The EU, represented by the European Commission, plays an active role in five tuna RFMOs and 13 non-tuna RFMOs. This makes the EU the most prominent actor in RFMOs worldwide.

Along with RFMOs, there are other arrangements in the form of cooperative agreements between countries or parties to manage fish stocks in a specific area. Mainly used for straddling fish stocks or highly migratory stocks, these arrangements are similar to RFMOs, but without the formal structure with a governing body or a secretariat. The EU is a party to the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean.

Lastly, regional fishery bodies are international organisations focused on fisheries management but with a purely advisory role. The EU is a member of two regional fishery bodies in the Atlantic Ocean.

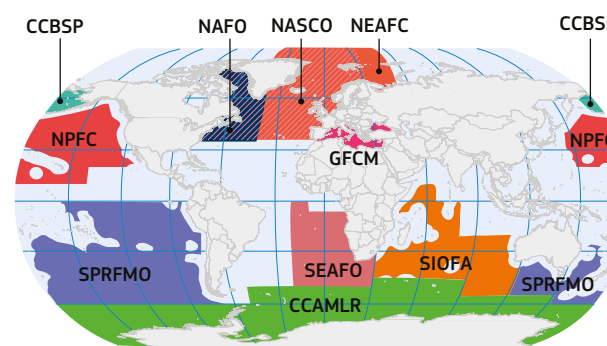
Source: European Commission – Eurostat/GISCO.
Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics, © Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO – United Nations), © TurkStat.

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
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
NPFC	North Pacific Fisheries Commission
SEAFO	South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

1.3. Sustainable fisheries partnership agreements

Sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs) are bilateral international agreements with non-EU countries that allow the EU fleet to access the waters (exclusive economic zones) of partner countries. Through an EU financial contribution SFPAs also promote ocean governance and the sustainable development of local fisheries in partner countries.

There are two main types of SFPAs:

- tuna agreements that allow EU vessels to target highly migratory fish stocks; and
- mixed agreements that allow EU vessels to target a wide range of stocks, including shrimps, cephalopods and demersal and pelagic species.

The EU makes a financial contribution to partner countries for access to their waters. Interested EU operators purchase a licence and pay capture fees that benefit the partner country.

In addition, the EU provides support tailored to the needs of the partner country's fisheries sector. The aim is to promote its sustainable development by reinforcing fisheries governance, strengthening administrative and scientific capacities and fostering fisheries' monitoring and control.

To ensure sustainable fishing by EU vessels, SFPAs only allow the targeting of surplus resources, assessed according to the best

available scientific advice, that the partner country is not willing to fish or capable of doing so.

All SFPA protocols also contain a clause concerning respect for human rights in the partner country, and a clause related to social conditions for employment of local fishers is systematically included in the recently renewed agreements.

The agreements are negotiated by the Commission on behalf of the EU, based on a negotiating mandate from the Council of the European Union. Transparency and accountability are the driving principles of the negotiation process. To enter into force, each agreement is validated by Member States in the Council. The agreements are public and open to public scrutiny.

1.4. Northern agreements

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

The TCA governs the cooperation between the EU and the United Kingdom on the joint management of fishing activities for shared stocks, to ensure the long-term sustainability of these valuable resources and promote economic and social benefits. The EU and the United Kingdom manage jointly more than 100 shared fish stocks pursuant to principles and obligations laid down in the EU-UK TCA, including through

annual consultations on the level of TACs and in-year discussions under the auspices of the Specialised Committee on Fisheries and its working group. Based on the shared principles and objectives of sustainable fishing, the agreement outlines clear procedures for setting TACs and quotas, developing long-term strategies and establishing access to waters. In addition, the EU and the United Kingdom meet under the Specialised Committee on Fisheries to carry out the tasks allocated under the TCA and implement the commitments in annual written records on fishing opportunities.

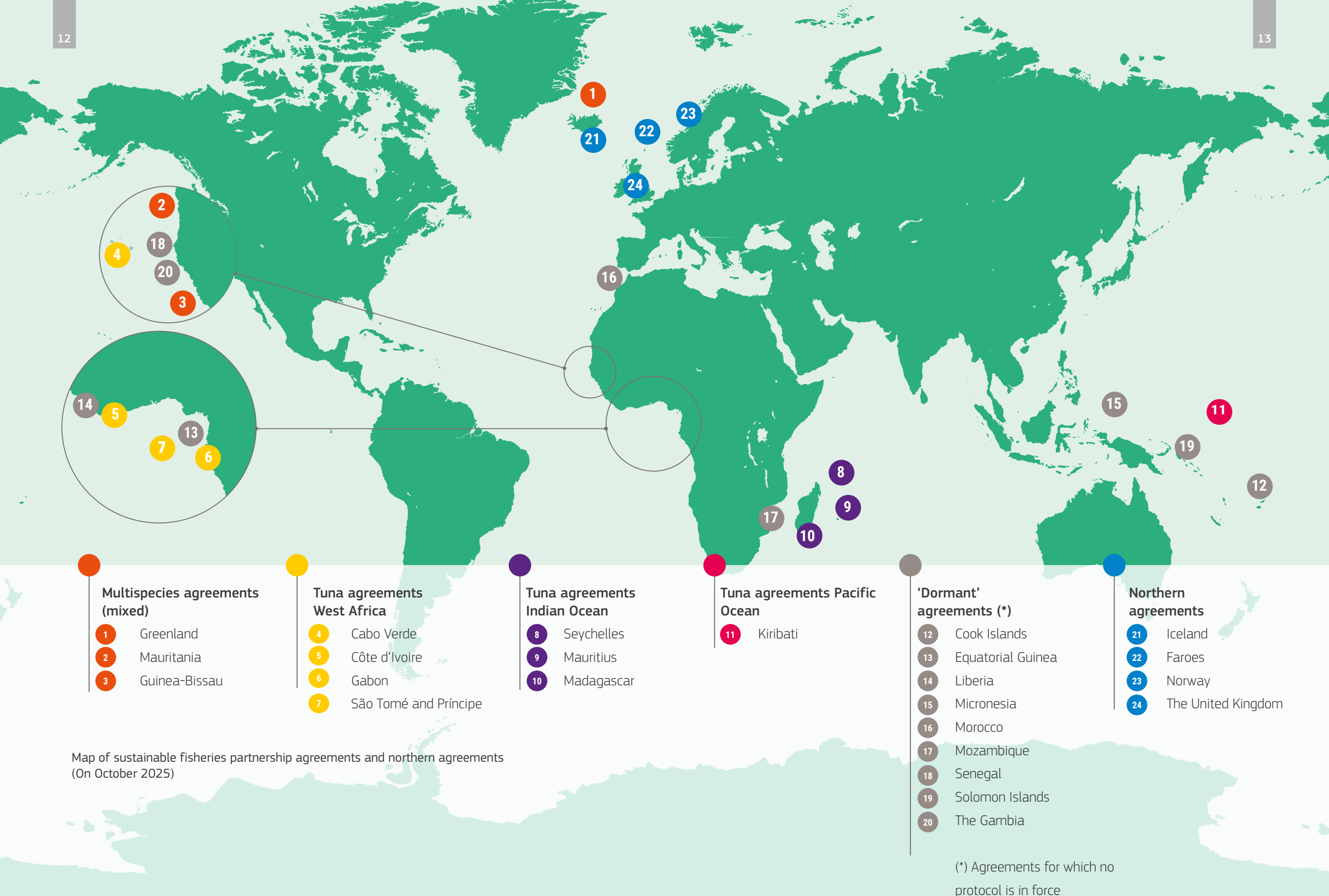
After the United Kingdom's departure from the EU, most of the formerly bilaterally shared fish stocks in the North Sea and Western Waters were incorporated into the annual trilateral consultations between the EU, Norway and the United Kingdom, in order to guarantee the continuation of fishing activities. Since Brexit, the proportion of EU TACs in the North-East Atlantic jointly managed with non-EU countries has increased from 23 % to 77 %.

The EU has two bilateral fisheries agreements with Norway, which form the legal basis for annual fisheries consultations: the 1980 fisheries agreement and the 2014 agreement on reciprocal access to fishing in the Skagerrak strait. Under these two agreements, the EU and Norway agree annually on exchanges of fishing opportunities, access to the waters of the other party and the management of shared fish stocks in the Skagerrak (through the establishment of TACs and quotas). In addition, on behalf of Sweden, the EU consults with Norway on the allocation

to Sweden of fishing opportunities (total annual catches) in the Norwegian waters of the North Sea.

Finally, the coastal states forums cover the joint management of the shared pelagic stocks in the North-East Atlantic, mainly mackerel, blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian herring, which are stocks of key importance to the EU fleet. In these forums, the EU, the United Kingdom, Norway, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland consult on management and conservation measures of these stocks, including the setting of annual TACs, long-term management strategies and control measures. Since 2022, these consultations have also covered quota sharing arrangements for these three stocks. The coastal states consultations are a key priority as they aim to bring the sum of the catches of these stocks in line with scientific advice.

Northern agreements represent almost 60% of all quota-regulated catches by the EU fleet globally, in terms of volume.



Map of sustainable fisheries partnership agreements and northern agreements
(On October 2025)

1.5. 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 and puts honest fishers at an unfair disadvantage. It also destroys the livelihoods of coastal communities, particularly in developing countries.

According to estimates, 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 fishery products, the EU has adopted an innovative policy to fight IUU fishing worldwide:

- by preventing fishery products from accessing the EU unless they are certified as legal (through the catch certification scheme); and
- by holding flag, coastal, port and market states responsible for their international obligations in the fight against IUU fishing (through dialogues and cooperation).

The EU regulation on IUU fishing (IUU regulation) ⁽¹⁾ entered into force on 1 January 2010. It relates to 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 certification scheme, introduced by 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 verify the origin of fishery products and, if appropriate, refuse imports into the EU.

The scheme 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. A recent amendment of the IUU regulation will make the use of CATCH mandatory for EU importers and authorities. The amendment also introduces changes to the template of the catch certification scheme documents, in order to improve traceability along the international supply chains. The new provisions will apply from January 2026.

The IUU regulation allows the EU to enter into dialogue and cooperation with those non-EU countries that have problems meeting international IUU rules, in order to help them take on the necessary reforms (see Figure 6).

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

The regulations on fisheries control, sustainable management of external fishing fleets and IUU fishing provide the legal framework and control system that governs and applies to all EU fishing vessels, wherever they fish.

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.



IDENTIFICATION

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

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



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.



LISTING BY THE EU

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



DELISTING

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

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (OJ L 286, 29.10.2008, pp. 1–32, ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/1005/oj>).

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

2. Fishing fleet

Fleet capacity management is an essential part of ensuring sustainable fishing, one of the main objectives of the CFP.

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

In September 2024, the number of EU vessels in the 22 coastal Member States was 69 045, or 2 061 fewer than in November 2023. However, despite a small decline in tonnage and engine power in recent years, the capacity of the several segments of the EU fishing fleet remains unbalanced with fishing opportunities. To address this issue, the Member States concerned must implement targeted action plans.

Healthy fish stocks contribute to a more sustainable and profitable industry. In 2021, the EU fleet generated EUR 3.34 billion in gross value added, with gross profits (excluding subsidies) amounting to EUR 1.19 billion. After accounting for capital costs, the fleet retained 8.2 % of the revenue as net profit (EUR 510 million).

EU fishing fleet capacity by length category (2024)

NB: Length refers to length overall.



Number of vessels = 1 000



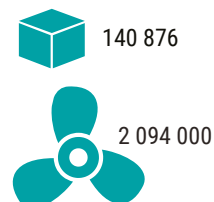
Gross tonnage



Engine power in kW

< 12 m

Average age: 36.33 years



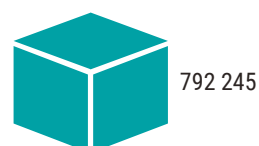
12–24 m

Average age: 35.33 years



> 24 m

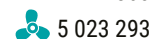
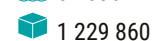
Average age: 29.75 years



EU-27

Average age: 36.08 years

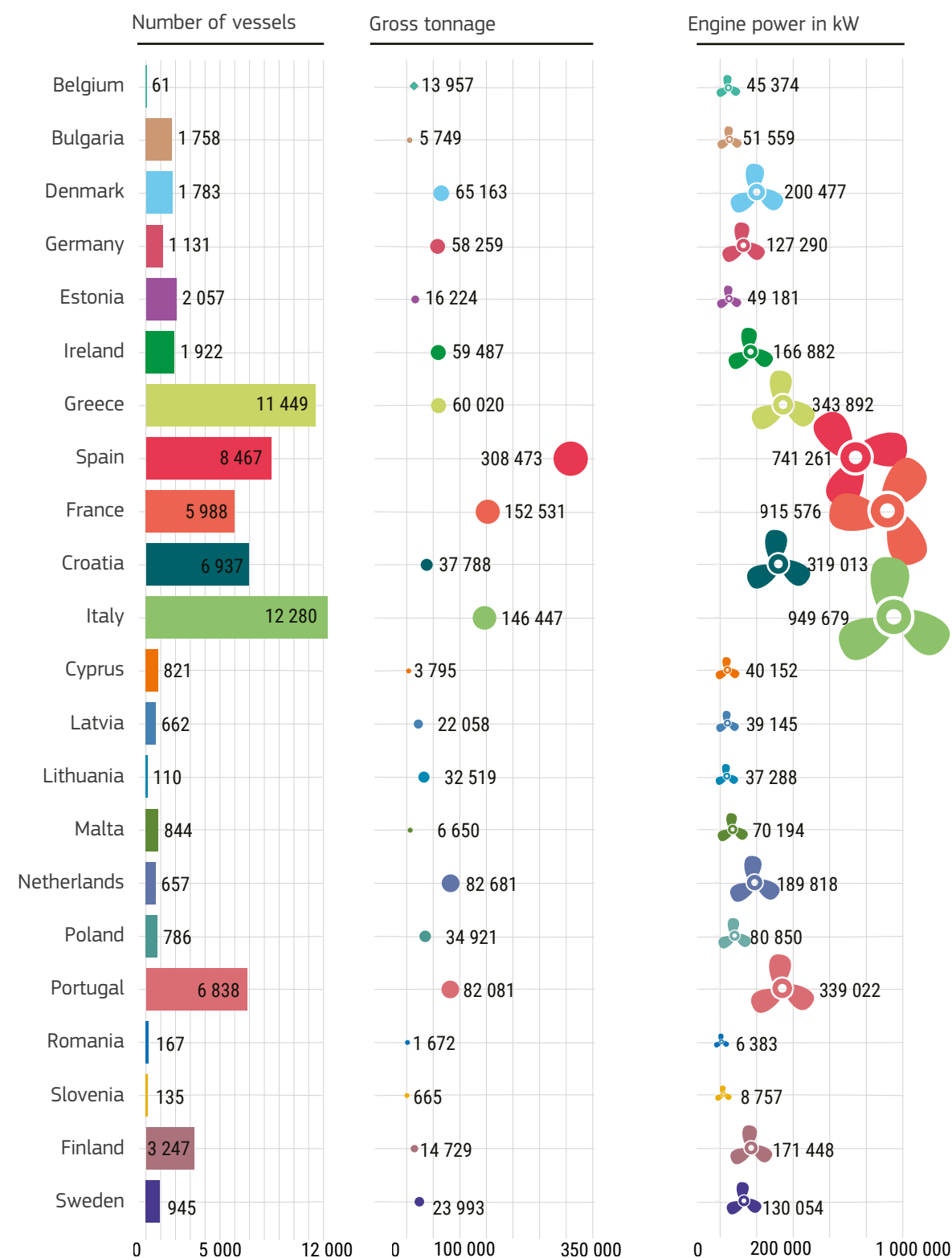
Weighted-average age: 36.01 years



Source: EU fishing fleet register.

Situation as on 9 September 2024

EU fishing fleet (2024)

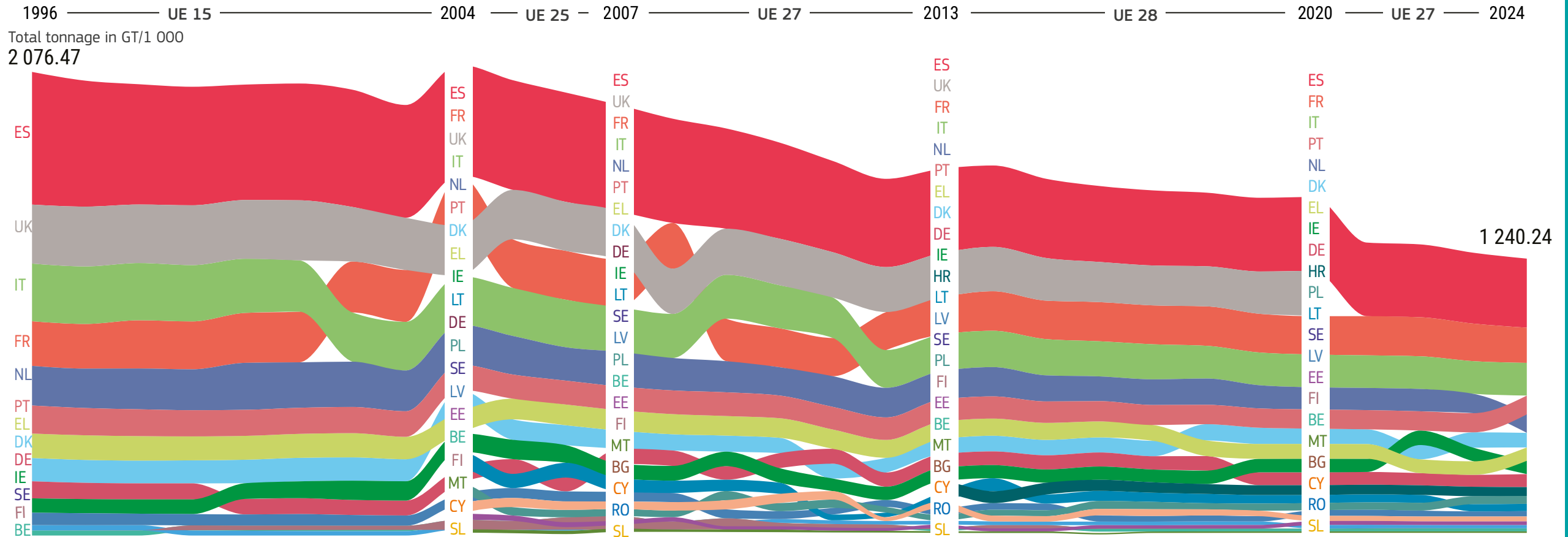


Source: EU fishing fleet register. Situation as on 9 September 2024.

Evolution of EU fishing fleet capacity between 1996 and 2023

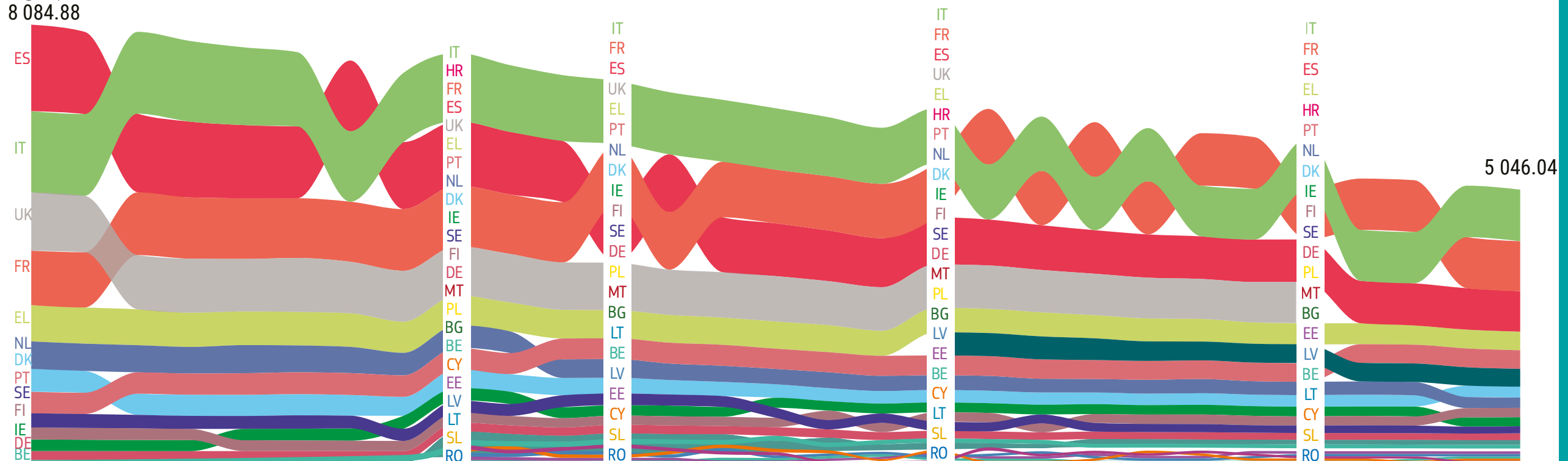
Total tonnage in GT/1 000 and proportion/Member States

Source: EU fleet register.



Engine power in Kw/1 000

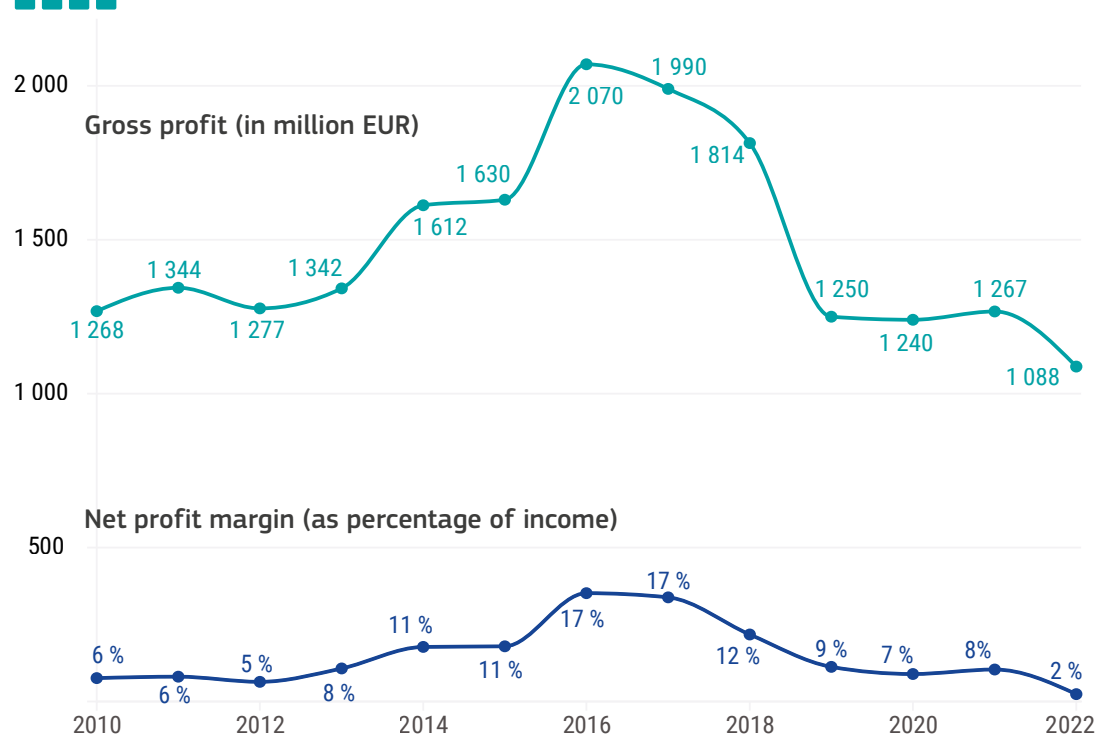
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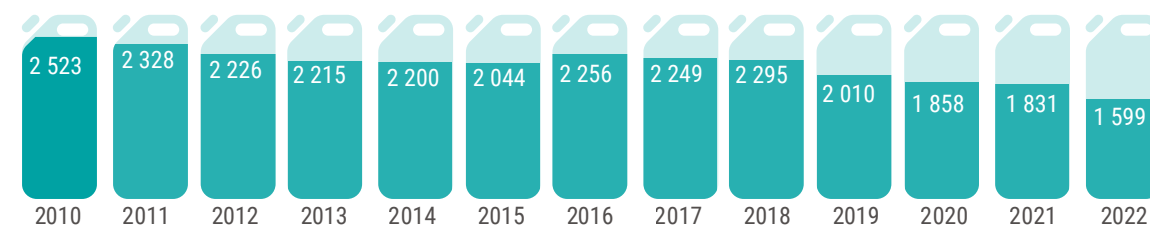
EU fishing fleet economic performance indicators between 2010 and 2021



Gross profit and net profit margin



Energy consumption (in millions of litres of fuel)



NB: Estimate based on a sample of national fleets.

Source: Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) – The 2024 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (STECF-24-03).

3. Employment

Fisheries are concentrated in just a few Member States and play a crucial role in generating employment in several EU regions.

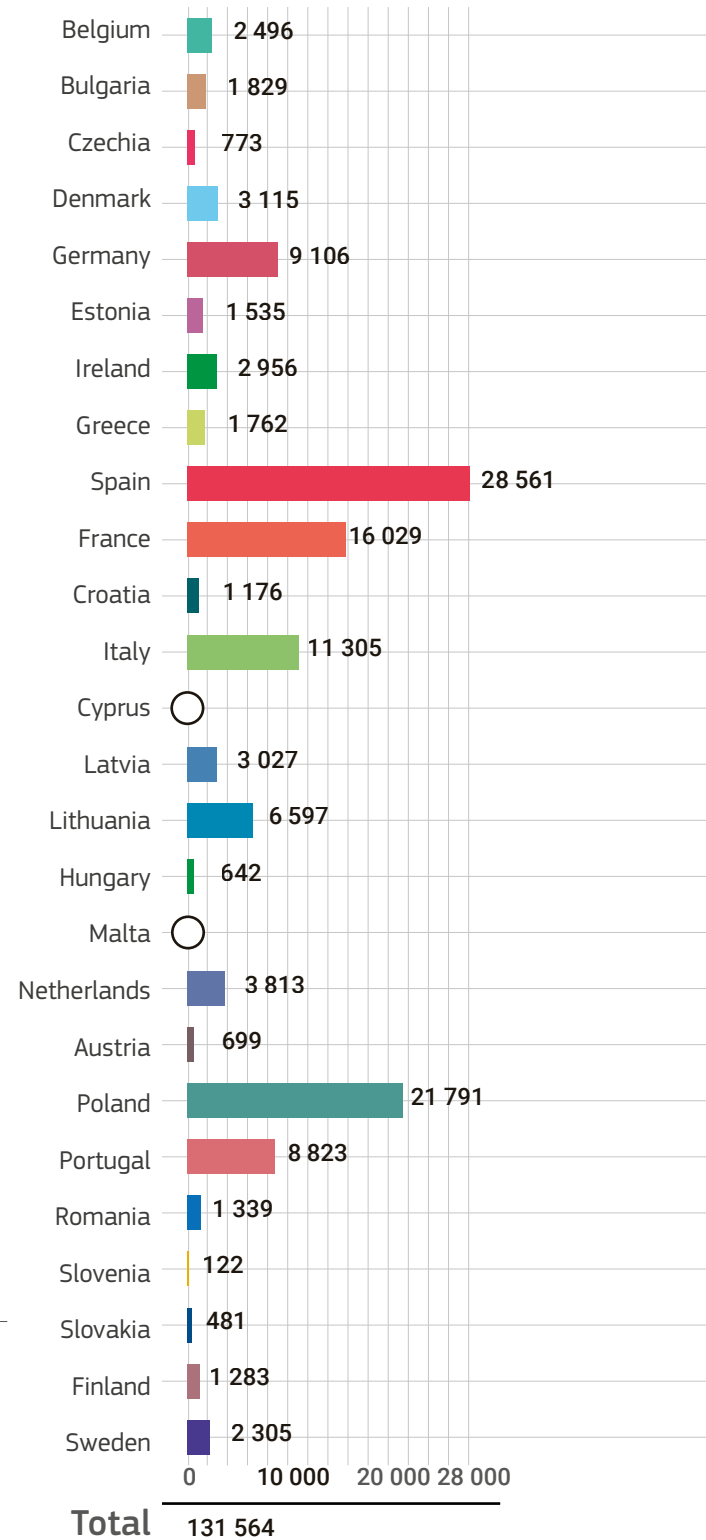
The three Member States employing the most people in this sector in 2021 were, in order, Spain, Italy and Greece. Together, they accounted for 58 % of EU employment in fisheries in 2021. Employment in fisheries was highest in Spain, accounting for a quarter of EU employment in the sector.

The aquaculture sector encompasses marine, shellfish and freshwater aquaculture and employed close to 76 000 people in 2020. The three Member States employing the most people in this sector were, in order, Spain, France and Poland, accounting for 58 % of EU employment in the sector. In the case of aquaculture, employment was also highest in Spain and constituted 25 % of EU employment in the sector.

Further down the value chain, the processing and distribution of fishery products created more employment. The processing sector employed over 130 000 people in 2021, whereas the distribution sector (including both wholesale and retail) employed over 210 000 people in the same year. The Member States in which the most people were employed in the processing sector were, in order, Spain, Poland and France (50 % of EU employment in the sector). In turn, Germany, Spain and Italy provided the most employment in the distribution sector (57 % of EU employment in the sector).

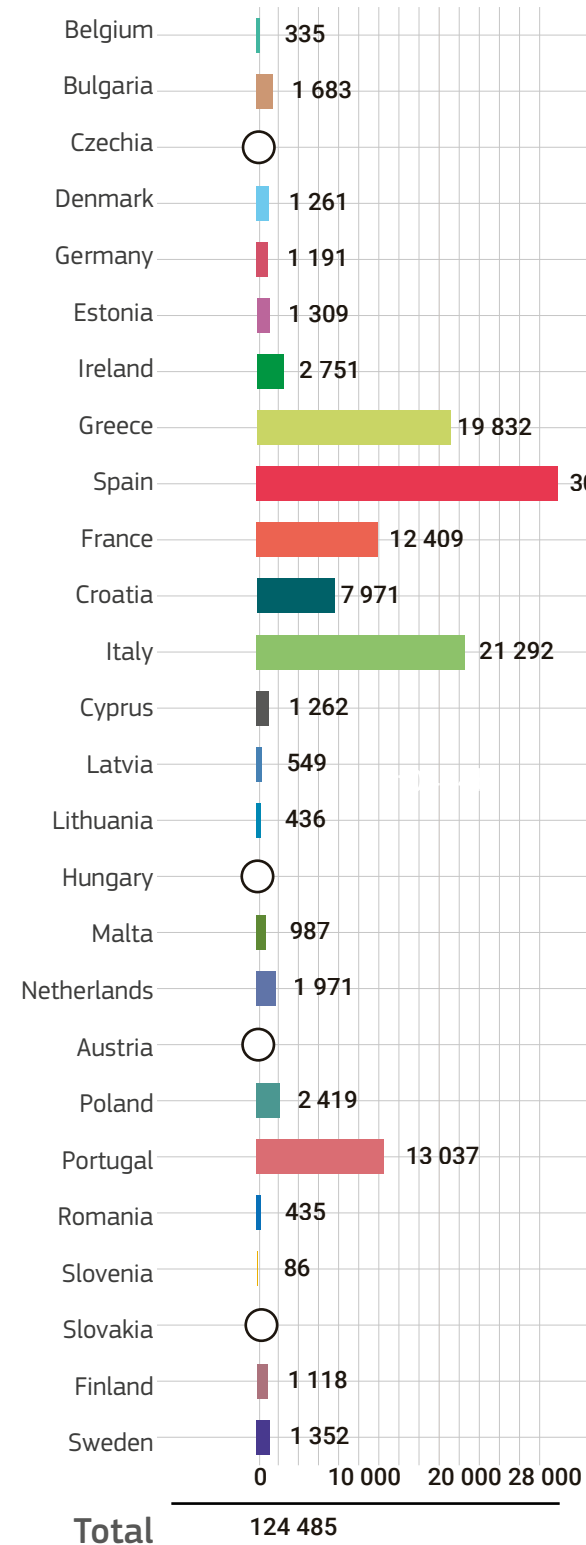
Employment in the processing, fisheries and aquaculture sectors

Processing in 2021 - persons employed

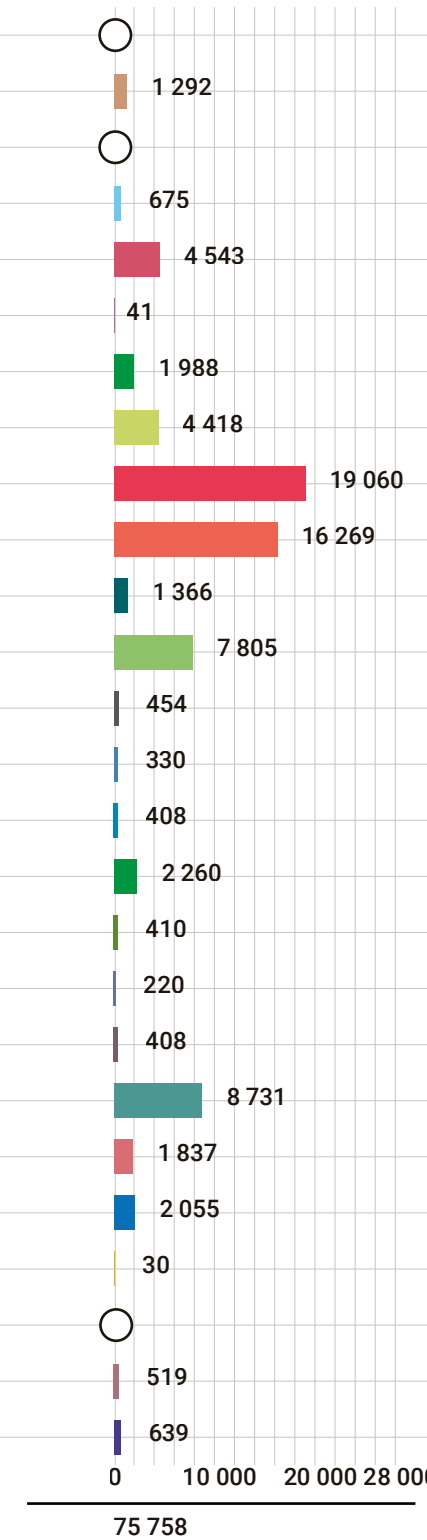


NB: Aquaculture figures concern marine, shellfish and freshwater segments.
Source: Blue economy indicators 13
September 2024.

Fisheries in 2021 - persons employed



Aquaculture in 2020 - persons employed

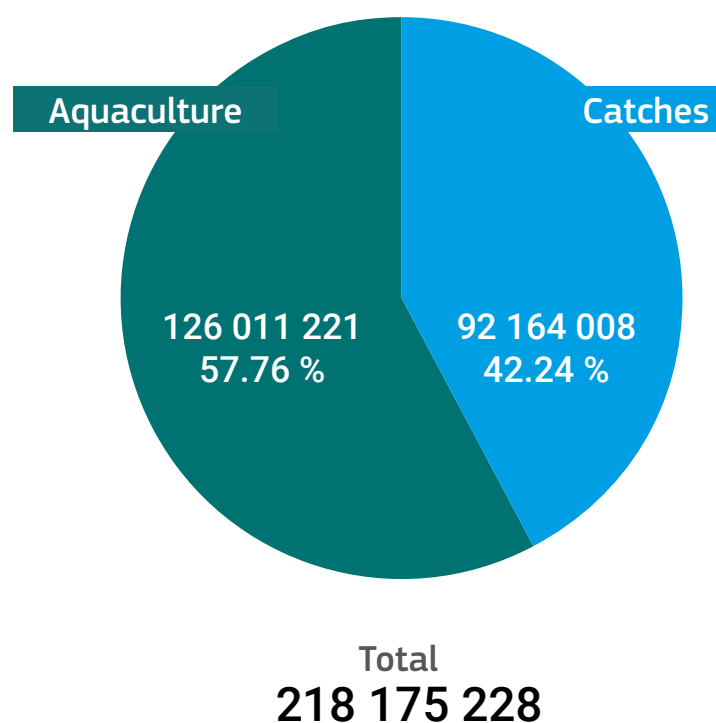


4. Fisheries and aquaculture production

The EU is the world's seventh largest fisheries and aquaculture producer, accounting for about 2 % of global production, with 76 % coming from fisheries and 24 % from aquaculture. Denmark, Spain and France are the EU's top producers of fishery products in terms of volume.

Main world producers - total production (2021)

Volume in tonnes live weight and percentage of production by catches and aquaculture



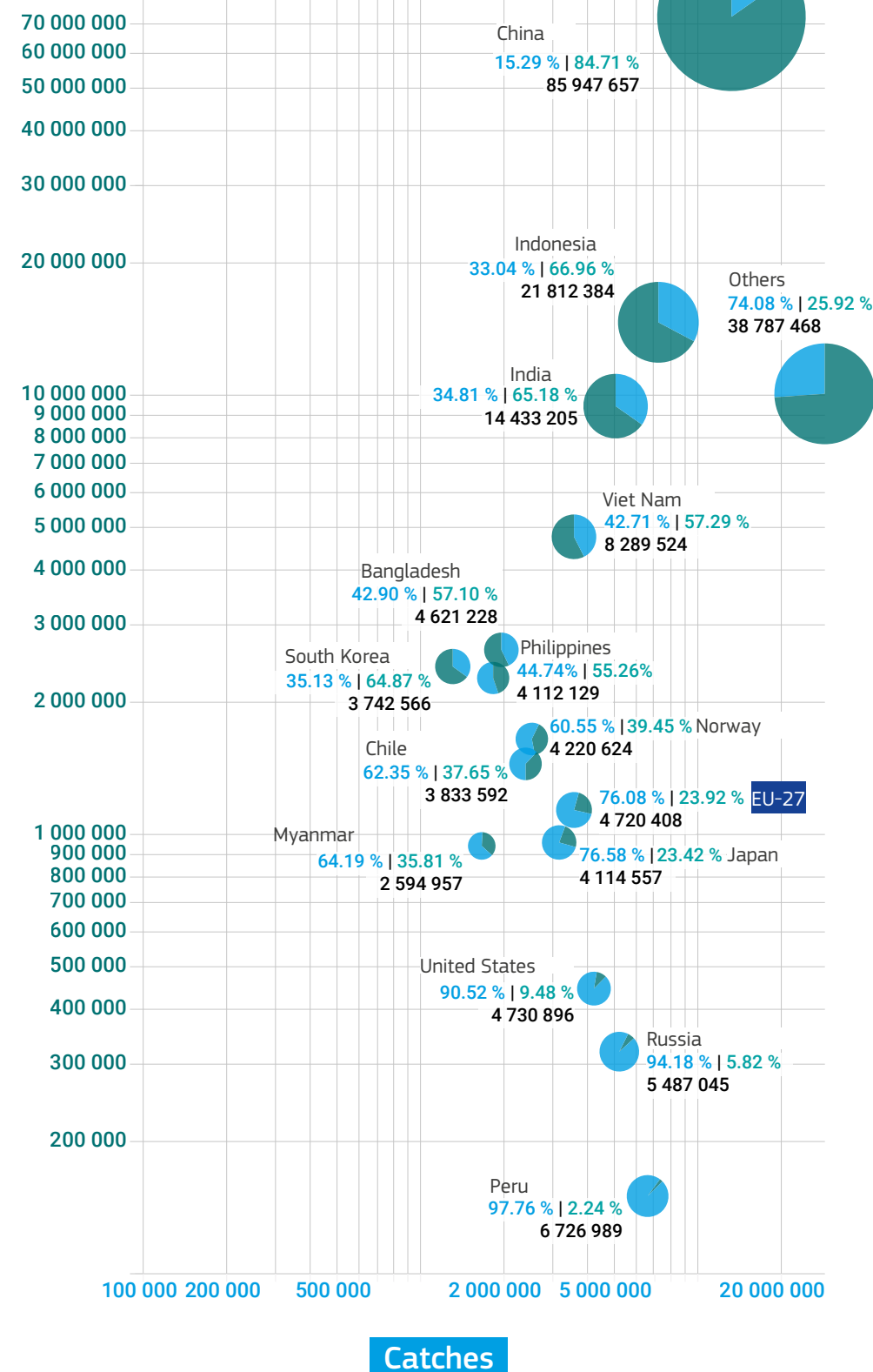
NB: FAO estimates for non-EU countries.

For catches, data for non-EU countries were downloaded from FAO on 5 June 2023. EU-27 data on catches from marine fishing were downloaded from Eurostat on 5 June 2023. EU-27 data on catches from inland water were downloaded from FAO on 5 June 2023. Eurostat data were integrated by using FAO data in the case of confidentialities within Eurostat for Ireland and Latvia.

For aquaculture, EU-27 data were downloaded from Eurostat on 18 July 2023. Data were integrated by using FAO data in the case of confidentialities within Eurostat. Data of non-EU countries were downloaded from FAO on 18 July 2023.

Source: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data

Aquaculture



Catches

4.1. Catches

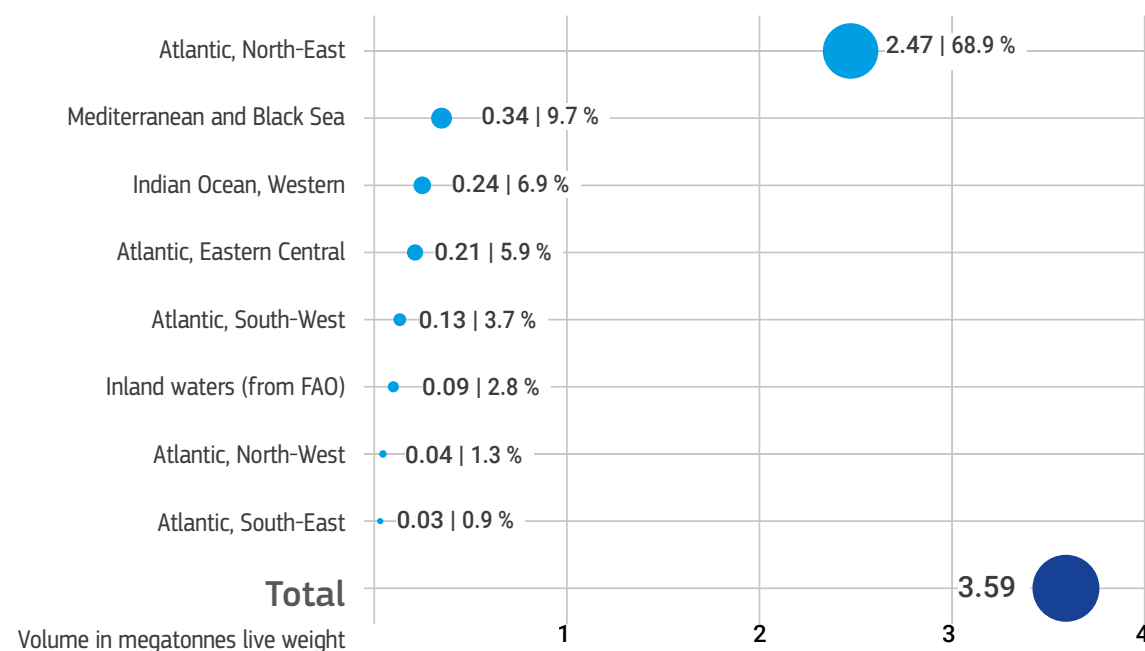
The EU accounts for 3.9 % of the total fisheries production worldwide.

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

The leading Member States in terms of fishing volume are Denmark, Spain, France and the Netherlands. Together, they account for 56 % of all EU catches.

Total EU catches in fishing areas (2021)

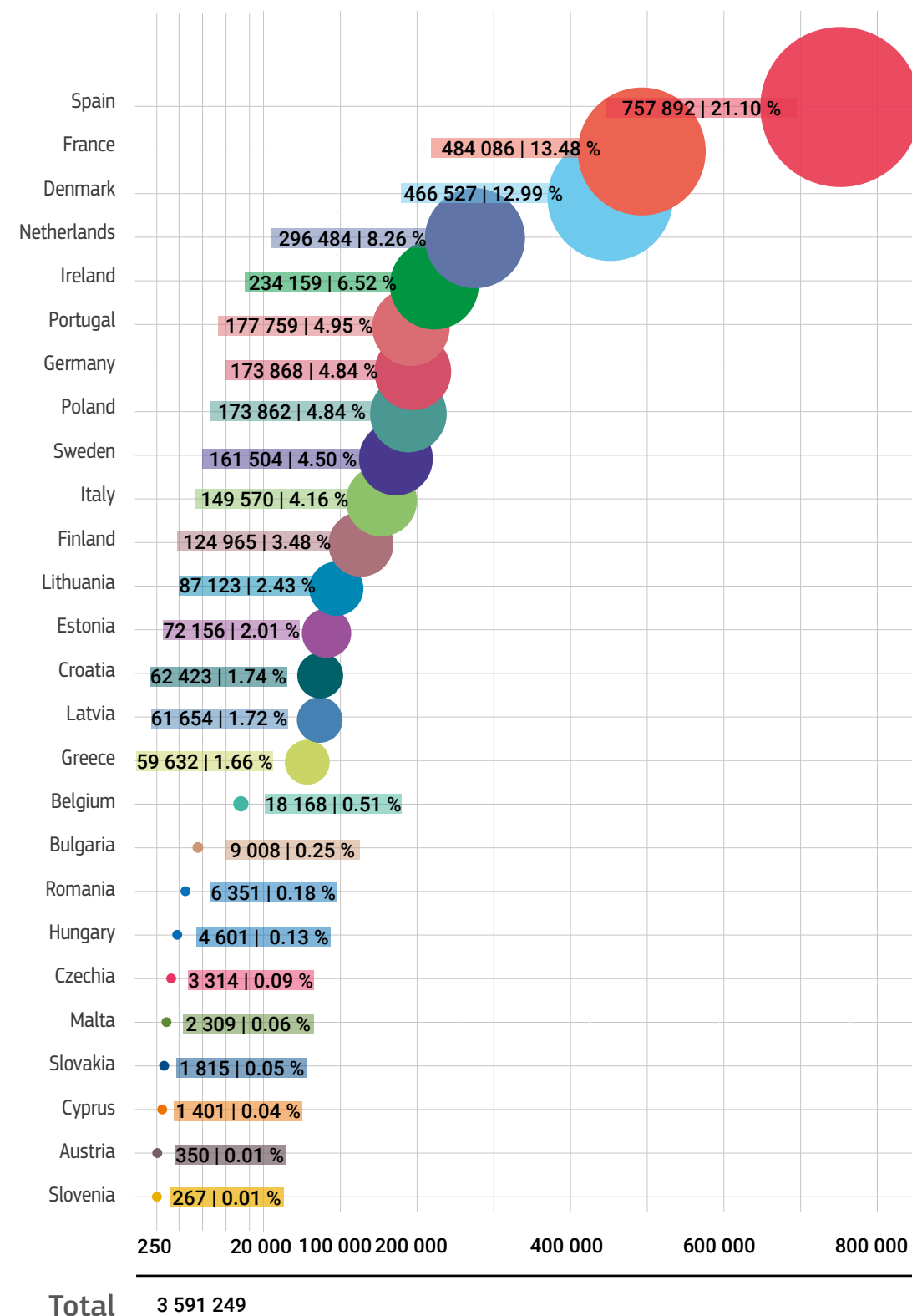
Volume in megatonnes live weight, 1 megatonne = 1 000 000 tonnes and percentage of total volume



Source: elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data.

Total catches per Member State (2021)

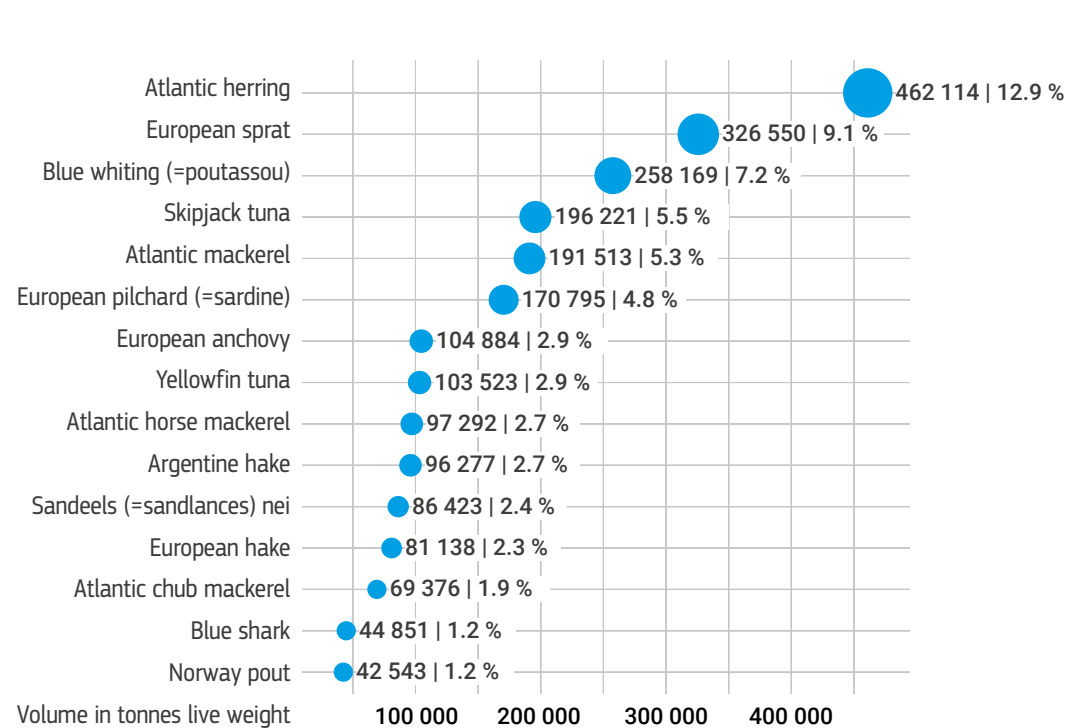
Volume in tonnes live weight and percentage of total volume



Source: elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data.

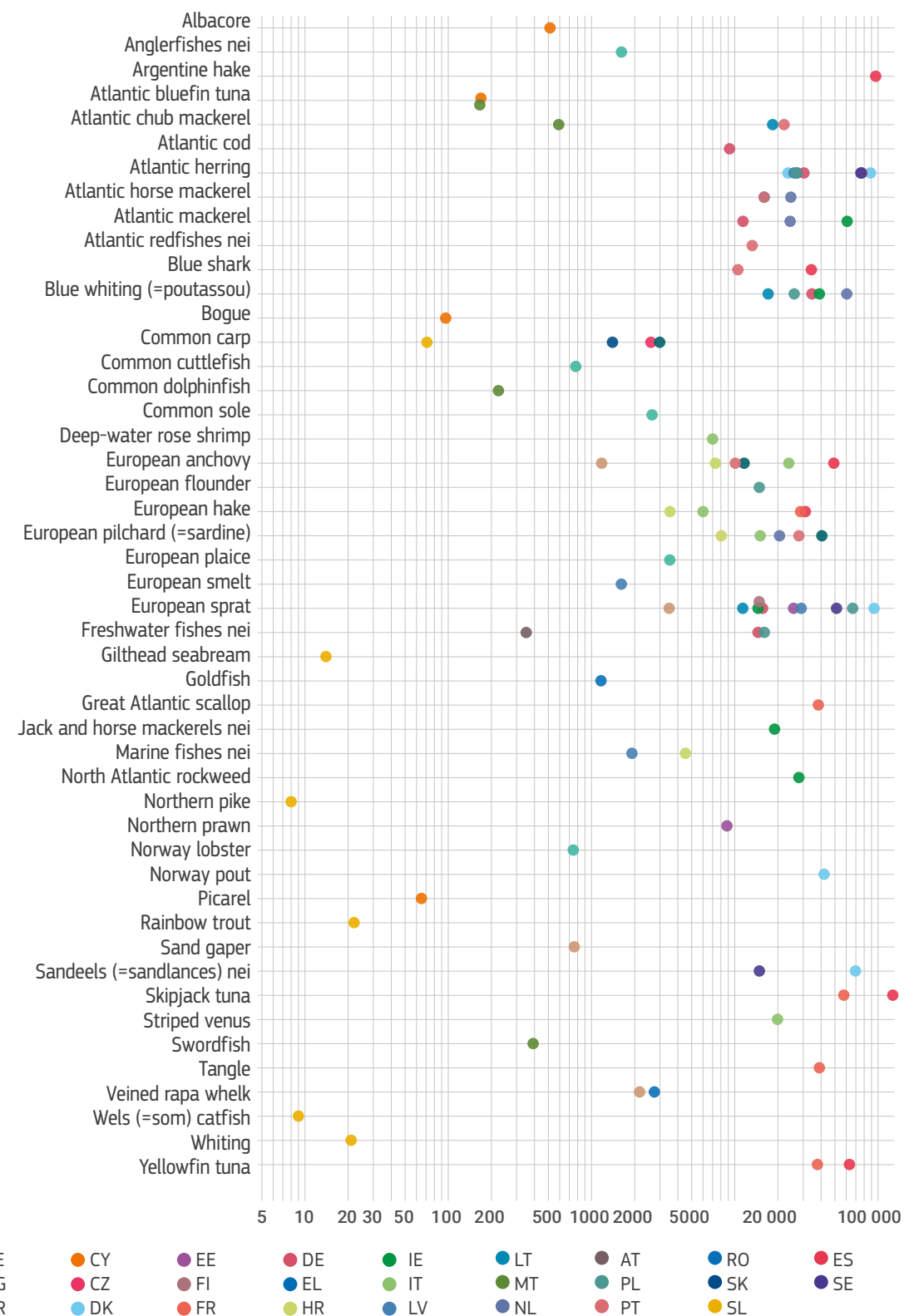
Top 15 species caught by the EU (2021)

Volume in tonnes live weight and percentage of total volume



Main species caught per Member State (2021)

Global visualisation per species, volume in tonnes live weight



Visualisation per Member State and by main species, volume in tonnes live weight and percentage of volume

Ireland	Greece	Spain	France	Croatia	Italy	Cyprus
						513 36.6 %
		96 277 12.7 %				
						169 12.0 %
			23 488 4.9 %			
60 821 26.0 %						
		34 239 4.5 %				
38 959 16.6 %						
						96 6.8 %
					7 001 4.7 %	
	7 322 12.3 %	49 111 6.5 %		11 627 18.6 %	23 823 15.9 %	
	3 526 5.9 %	31 068 4.1 %	28 763 5.9 %		5 998 4.0 %	
	8 046 13.5 %			40 509 64.9 %	15 040 10.1 %	
14 527 6.2 %						
			38 303 7.9 %			
18 944 8.1 %						
	4 525 7.6 %					
28 000 12.0 %						
						65 4.7 %
		126 732 16.7 %	57 633 11.9 %			
					19 875 13.3 %	
			38 932 8.0 %			
		63 119 8.3 %	37 742 7.8 %			

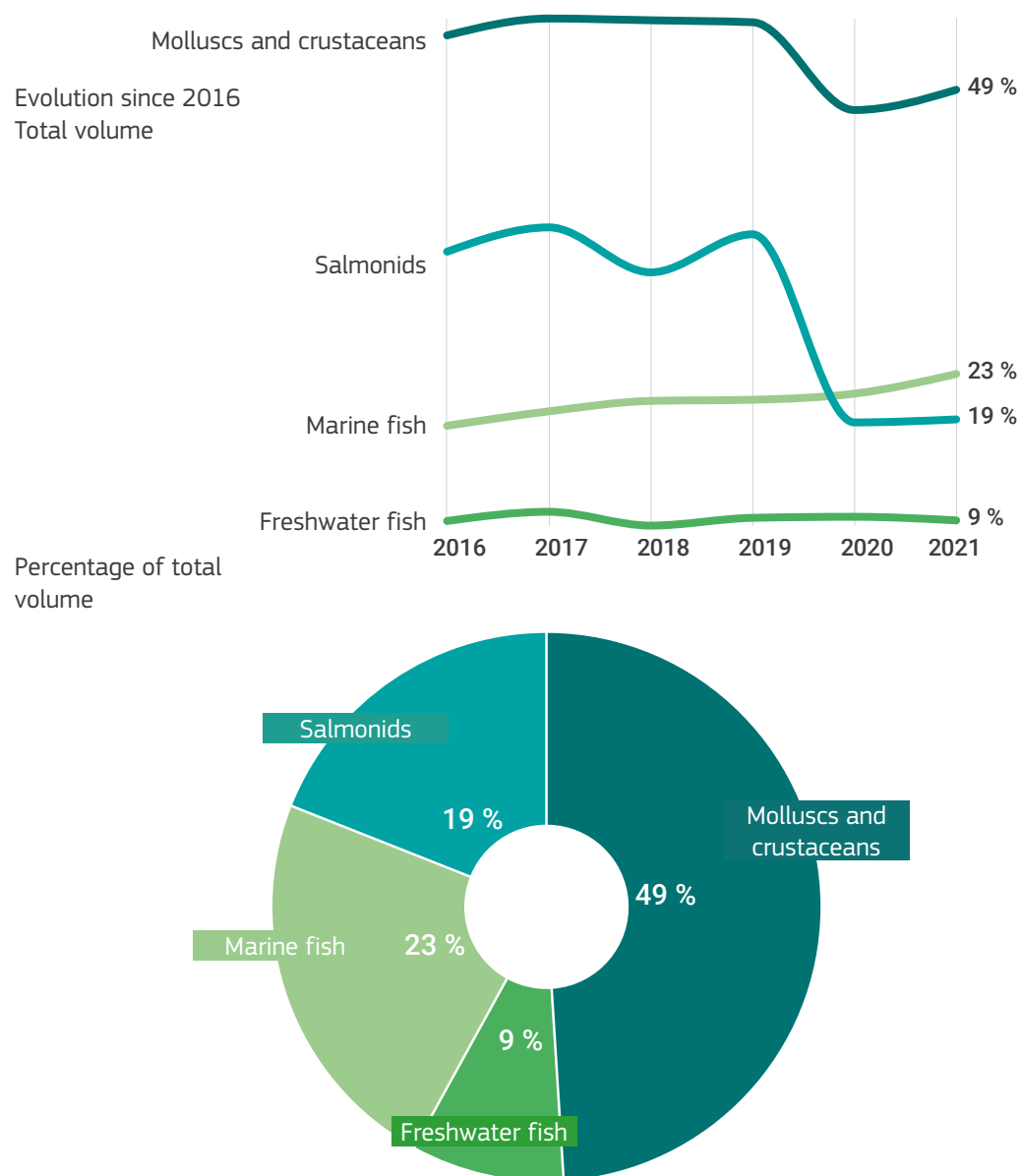
Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovenia	Slovakia	Finland	Sweden
	22 078 12.4 %					
27 149 15.6 %					77 117 61.7 %	76 276 47.2 %
	16 033 9.0 %					
	13 233 7.4 %					
	10 514 5.9 %					
25 982 14.9 %						
			71 26.6 %	1 400 77.1 %		
	10 079 5.7 %					
14 820 8.5 %						
	28 019 15.8 %					
66 501 38.2 %					14 786 11.8 %	51 301 31.8 %
16 081 9.2 %						
			14 5.1 %			
		1 164 15.2 %				
			8 2.9 %			
			22 8.2 %			
						14 838 9.2 %
		2 746 43.2 %				
			9 3.2 %			
			21 7.9 %			

4.2. Aquaculture

Aquaculture is a significant activity in many Member States, generating around 1.13 million tonnes in volume and more than EUR 4.17 billion in value. Mussels account for approximately 38 % of the total volume farmed in the EU. Trout, European seabass and gilthead seabream represent another 35 % of the total value of the EU farmed production. Greece, Spain, France, Italy and Poland are the main aquaculture producing Member States in terms of volume.

The EU accounts for 0.9 % of the world's total aquaculture production in terms of volume.

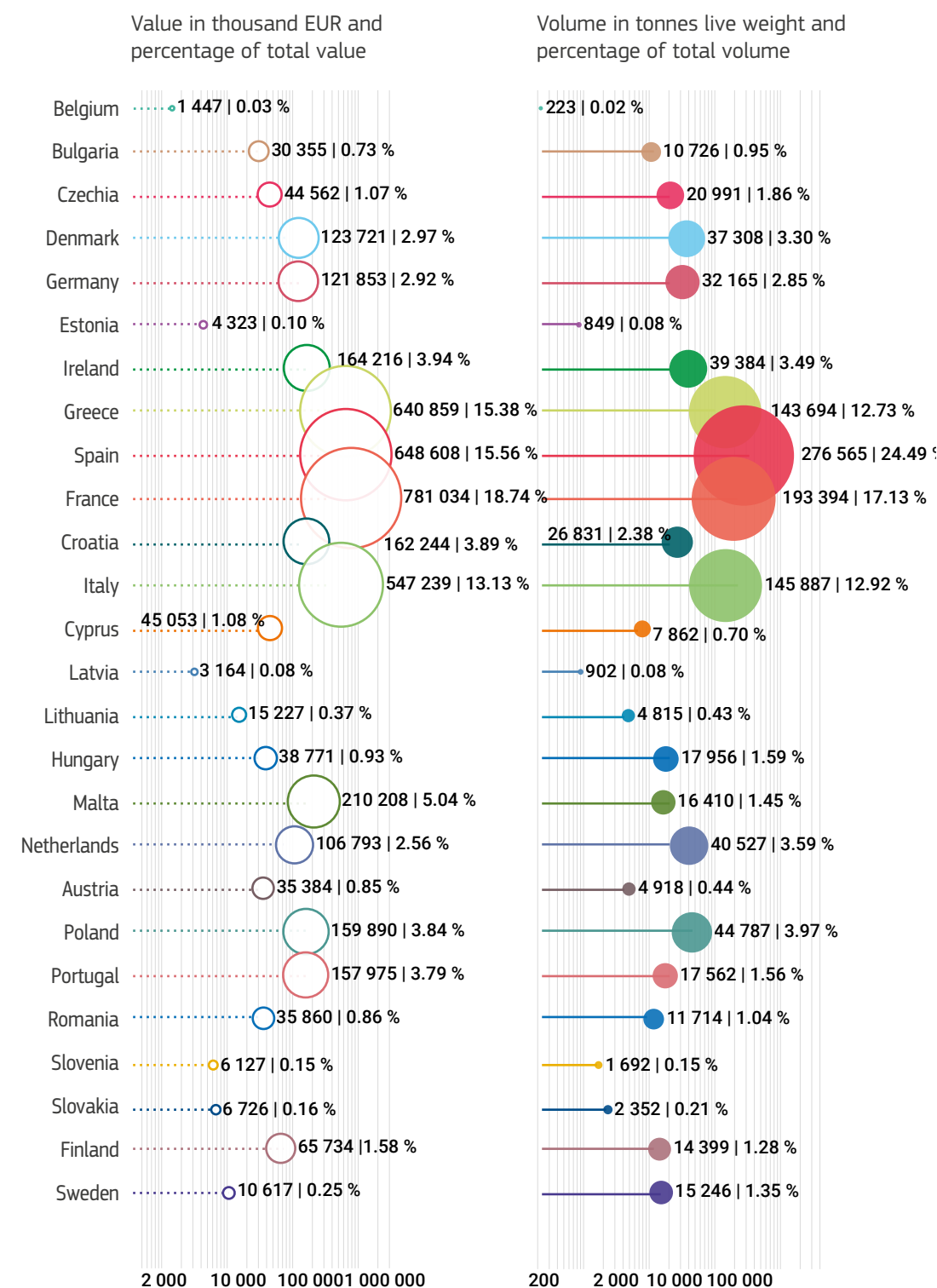
EU aquaculture production per product type



Sources: elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data.

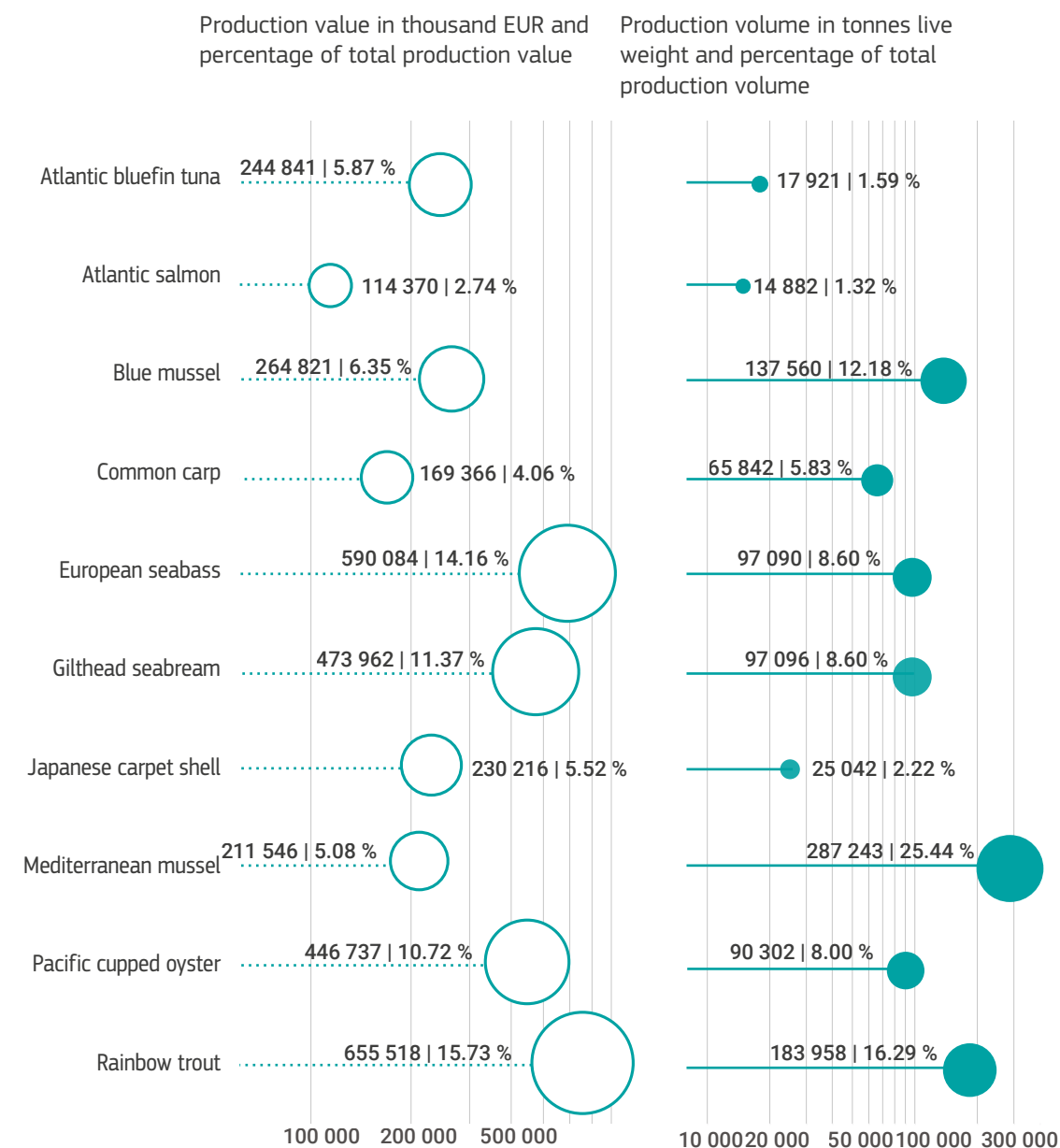
Total aquaculture production per Member State (2021)

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



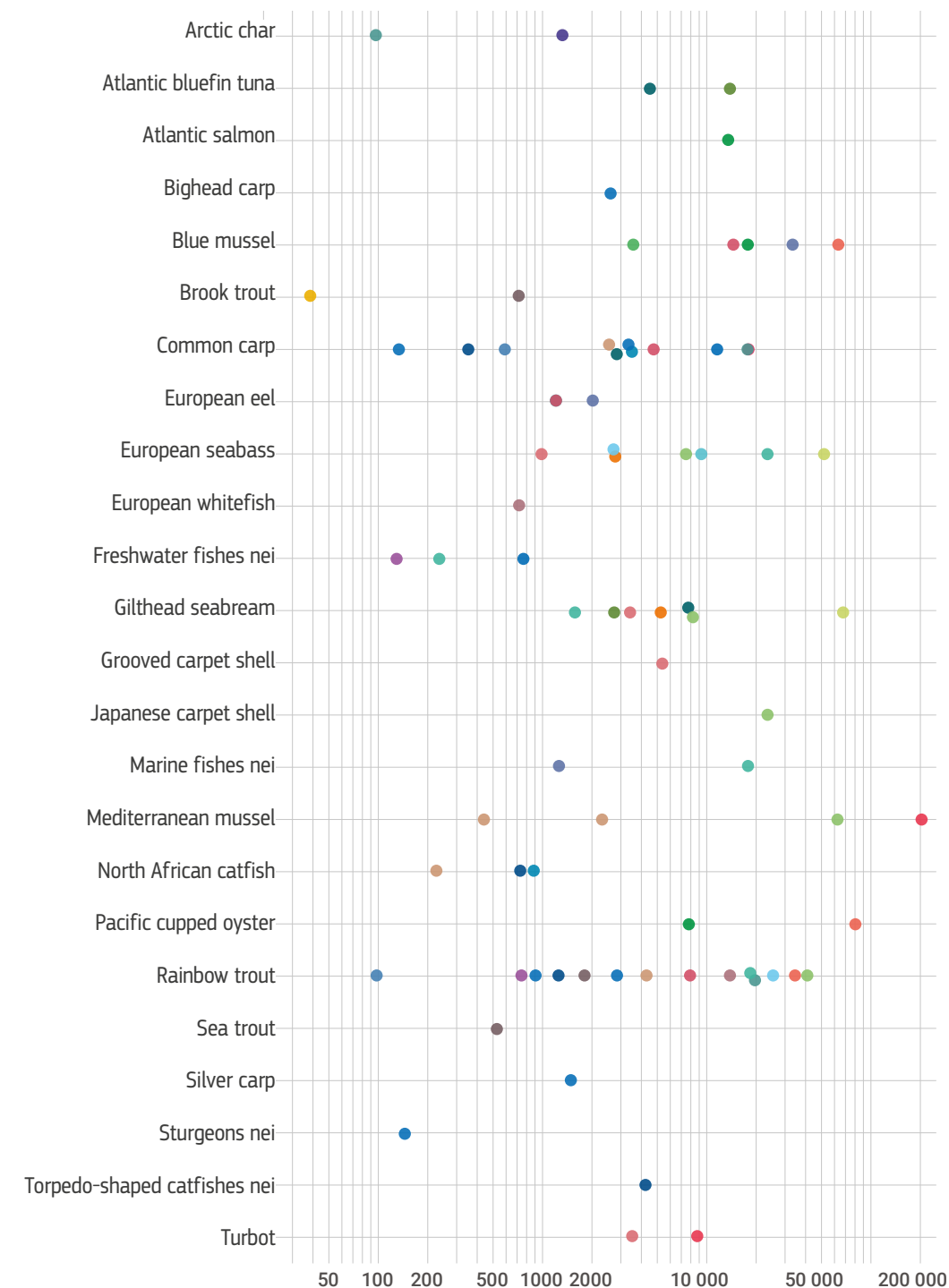
Sources: elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data.

Top 10 species in aquaculture in the EU (2021)



Main species in aquaculture per Member State (2021)

Global visualisation per species, volume in tonnes live weight



Main species in aquaculture per Member State (2021)

Visualisations per Member State and by main species, volume in tonnes live weight, percentage of total volume, and value in thousand EUR

	Belgium	Bulgaria	Czechia	Denmark	Germany	Estonia
Arctic char						
Atlantic bluefin tuna						
Atlantic salmon						
Bighead carp						
Blue mussel					14 216 44.2 %	
Brook trout					32 327 26.5 %	
Common carp		2 456 22.9 %	17 616 83.9 %		4 610 14.3 %	
		6 077 20.0 %	34 368 77.1 %		11 479 9.4 %	
European eel				1 159 3.1 %	1 160 3.6 %	
				10 173 8.2 %	15 092 12.4 %	
European seabass						
European whitefish						
Freshwater fishes nei	223 100%					122 14.4 %
	1 447.32 100%					763 17.6 %
Gilthead seabream						
Grooved carpet shell						
Japanese carpet shell						
Marine fishes nei						
Mediterranean mussel		2 225 20.7 %				
		1 798 5.9 %				
North African catfish		214 2.0 %				
		1 221 4.0 %				
Pacific cupped oyster						
Rainbow trout		4 168 38.9 %		24 928 66.8 %	7 712 24.0 %	712 83.8 %
		17 262 56.9 %		84 211 68.1 %	33 625 27.6 %	3 442 79.6 %
Sea trout						
Silver carp						
Sturgeons nei						
Torpedo-shaped catfishes nei						
Turbot						



Ireland	Greece	Spain	France	Croatia	Italy	Cyprus
				4 372 16.3 %		
13 214 33.6 %				46 277 28.5 %		
106 108 64.6 %						
17 440 44.3 %			62 641 32.4 %			
17 096 10.4 %			141 670 18.1 %			
				2 738 10.2 %		
				6 260 3.9 %		
	51 232 35.7 %	23 037 8.3 %	2 615 1.4 %	9 039 33.7 %	7 282 5.0 %	2 680 34.1 %
	275 287 43.0 %	152 869 23.6 %	22 016 2.8 %	53 834 33.2 %	59 292 10.8 %	18 012 40.0 %
	67 058 46.7 %	1 516 0.5 %		7 519 28.0 %	8 031 5.5 %	5 097 64.8 %
	294 632 46.0 %	11 447 1.8 %		45 433 28.0 %	52 024 9.5 %	26 290 58.4 %
					23 053 15.8 %	
					211 809 38.7 %	
		17 491 6.3 %				
		177 114 27.3 %				
		203 226 73.5 %			61 921 42.4 %	
		137 417 21.2 %			55 698 10.2 %	
7 580 19.2 %			79 733 41.2 %			
36 748 22.4 %			396 376 50.8 %			
		18 056 6.5 %	33 978 17.6 %		40 441 27.7 %	
		61 734 9.5 %	135 800 17.4 %		134 928 24.7 %	
		8 538 3.1 %				
		70 175 10.8 %				

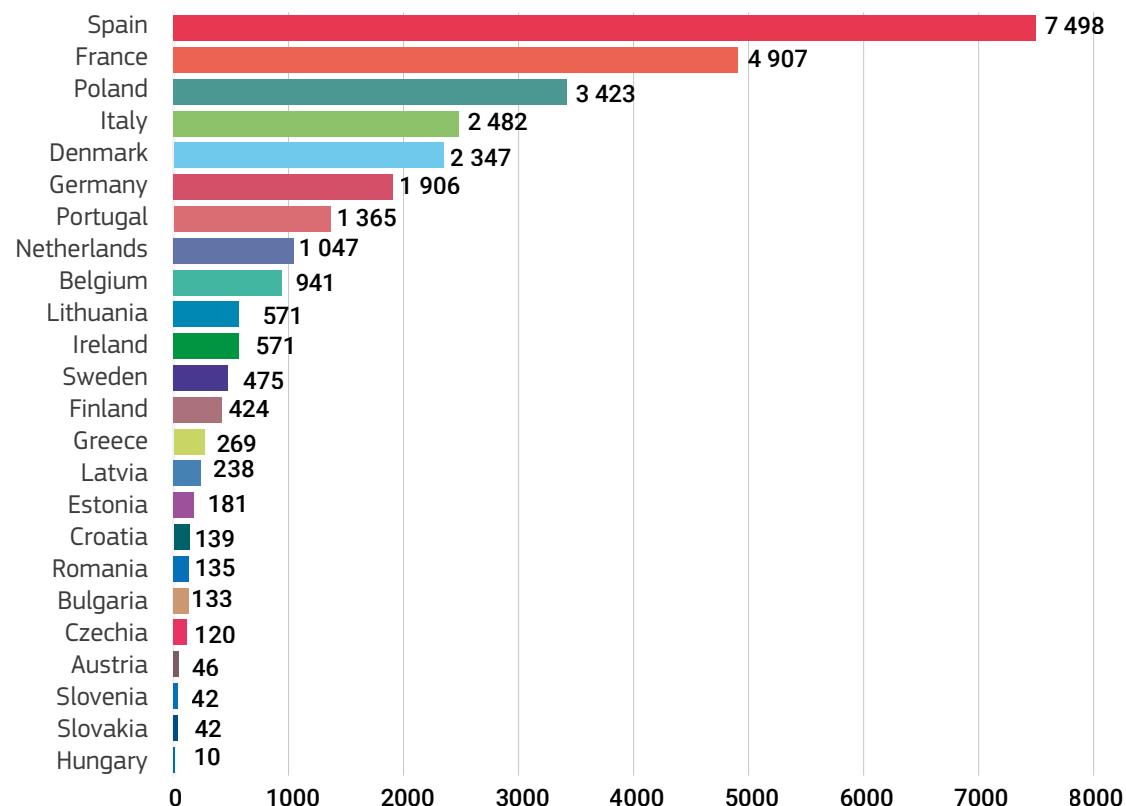
	Latvia	Lithuania	Hungary	Malta	Netherlands	Austria
Arctic char	91 10.1 % 642 20.3 %					
Atlantic bluefin tuna				13 549 82.6 %		
Atlantic salmon				198 564 94.5 %		
Bighead carp						
Blue mussel					32 848 81.1 % 65 367 61.2 %	685 13.9 % 5 025 14.2 %
Brook trout						
Common carp	563 62.4 % 1 345 42.5 %	3 392 70.4 % 9 585 62.9 %	11 309 63.0 % 25 234 65.1 %			
European eel					1 950 4.8 % 18 525 17.3 %	
European seabass						
European whitefish						
Freshwater fishes nei			732 4.1 % 1 452 3.7 %			
Gilthead seabream				2 640 16.1 % 10 342 4.9 %		
Grooved carpet shell						
Japanese carpet shell						
Marine fishes nei					1 210 3.0 % 11 900 11.1 %	
Mediterranean mussel						
North African catfish		847 17.6 % 2 751 18.1 %				
Pacific cupped oyster						
Rainbow trout	92 10.2 % 471 14.9 %					1 736 35.3 % 11 948 33.8 %
Sea trout						503 10.2 % 3 673 10.4 %
Silver carp						
Sturgeons nei						
Torpedo-shaped catfishes nei			4 108 22.9 % 7 253 18.7 %			
Turbot						

Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovenia	Slovakia	Finland	Sweden
						1 270 8.3 % 4 633 43.6 %
		2 509 21.4 % 4 588 12.8 %				
						3 457 22.7 % 2 965 27.9 %
			36 2.1 % 278 4.5 %			
17 380 38.8 % 52 142 32.6 %		3 231 27.6 % 13 130 36.6 %	126 7.5 % 296 4.8 %	336 14.3 % 881 13.1 %		
	946 5.4 % 7 284 4.6 %					
					689 4.8 % 6 329 9.6 %	
	3 304 18.8 % 17 812 11.3 %					
	5 212 29.7 % 84 868 53.7 %					
			419 24.7 % 259 4.2 %			
				700 29.8 % 1 484 22.1 %		
19 298 43.1 % 77 195 48.3 %		2 747 23.5 % 11 163 31.1 %	869 51.4 % 4 197 68.5 %	1 202 51.1 % 4 057 60.3 %	13 551 94.1 % 58 485 89.0 %	
		1 431 12.2 % 2 617 7.3 %				
		137 1.2 % 1 253 3.5 %				
	3 405 19.4 % 27 763 17.6 %					

4.3. Processing sector

The fish processing industry in the EU is generally profitable. Overall, turnover in 2021 was roughly EUR 30 billion, with Spain, France and Poland as the main contributors.

Turnover 2021



NB: Not relevant for Cyprus, Luxembourg and Malta.

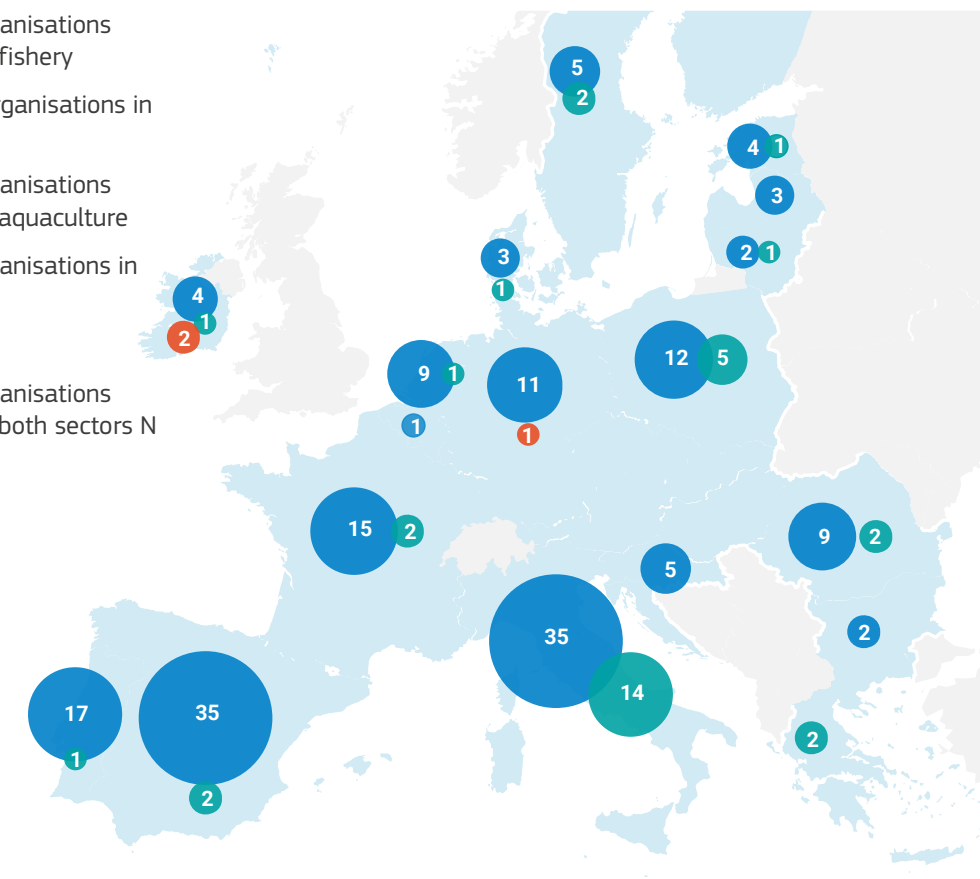
Sources: Eurostat and Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee (STECF) – Economic report on the EU fish processing industry (STECF 23-14), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2023.

4.4 Organisation of the sector

4.4.1 Producer organisations in 2023

Fishers and fish farmers can join producer organisations to ensure the sustainable production and efficient marketing of their products. Producer organisations develop production and marketing plans and play a crucial role in the fisheries and aquaculture industry. In 2023, there were 210 producer organisations across 18 Member States.

- Producer organisations operating in fishery
Total: 172 organisations in 2023
- Producer organisations operating in aquaculture
Total: 35 organisations in 2023
- Producer organisations operating in both sectors N



NB: In Czechia, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland there were no producer organisations.

Source: Member States, data retrieved on 11 July 2023. Map source: World Bank (boundaries), Simple maps (points).

4.4.2. Advisory councils

Advisory councils are independent stakeholder-led organisations made up of representatives from the industry and other interest groups. They are responsible for providing advice and recommendations to the Commission and Member States on issues related to fisheries and aquaculture. The composition of advisory councils is balanced, with 60 % of the seats in the general assembly and the executive committee held by industry representatives and 40 % held by representatives from other interest groups. Advisory councils also play a vital role in providing information and insights for the development of conservation measures and engaging with Member States in the context of regionalisation.

Because advisory councils work in the general interest of the EU, they receive financial assistance from the Commission to cover part of their operational costs.

In addition to the seven existing regional advisory councils (Baltic Sea, Long Distance Fleet, Mediterranean Sea, North Sea, North- Western Waters, Pelagic Stocks, South- Western Waters), there are also advisory councils for the Black Sea, Aquaculture, Markets and Outermost Regions.

Advisory councils

- 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)

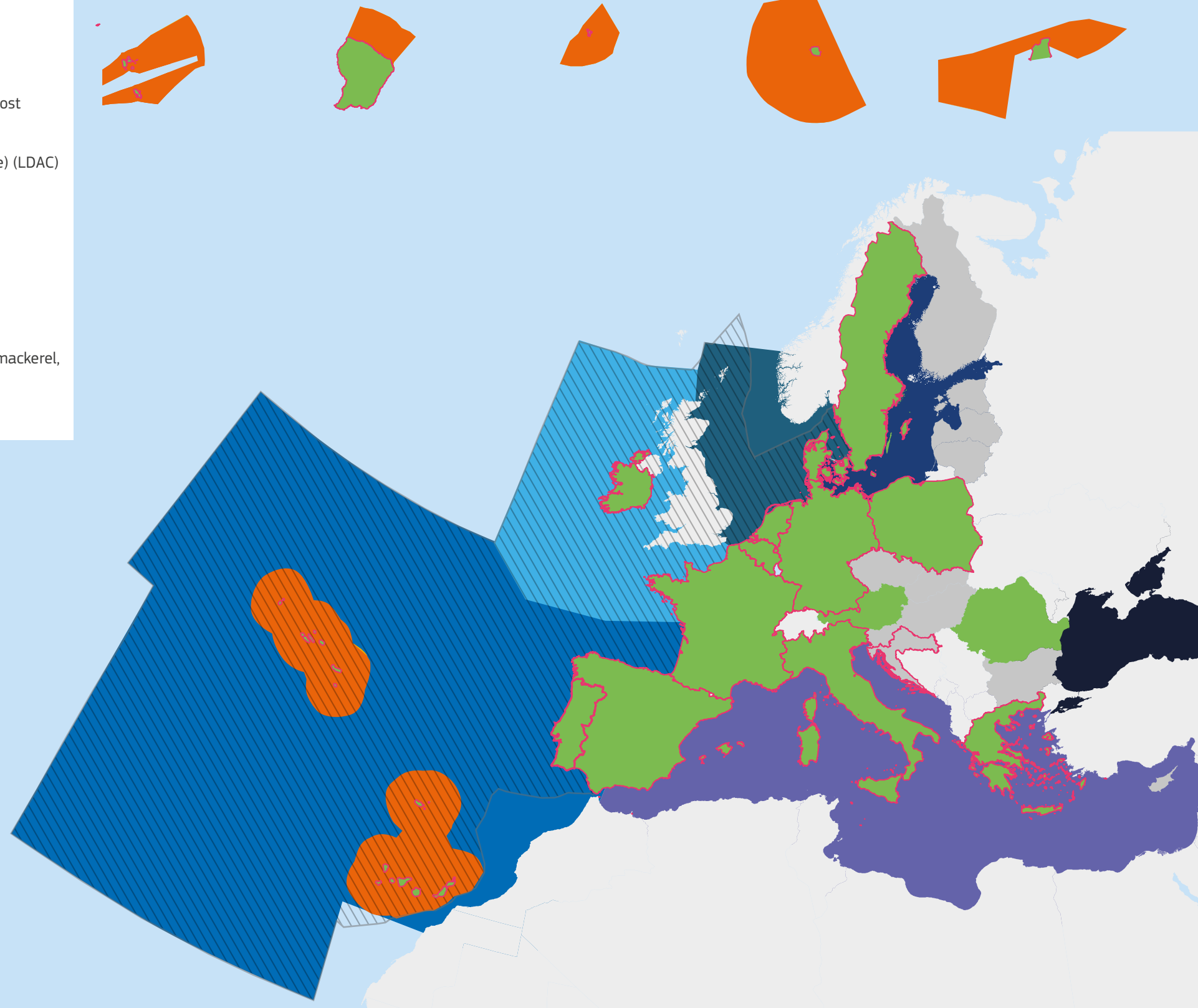
Guadeloupe - Martinique

Guyane française

Mayotte

Réunion

St Martin



5. External trade

The EU is the second most important trader of fishery and aquaculture products in the world in terms of value. EU trade (i.e. imports and exports) has slightly decreased in volume over the past few years, but value has continued to grow, reaching close to EUR 40 billion in 2022. Norway is the EU's main supplier, followed by China, Ecuador, Morocco and the United Kingdom. The United States, the United Kingdom, China, Norway and Switzerland are the EU's main customers.

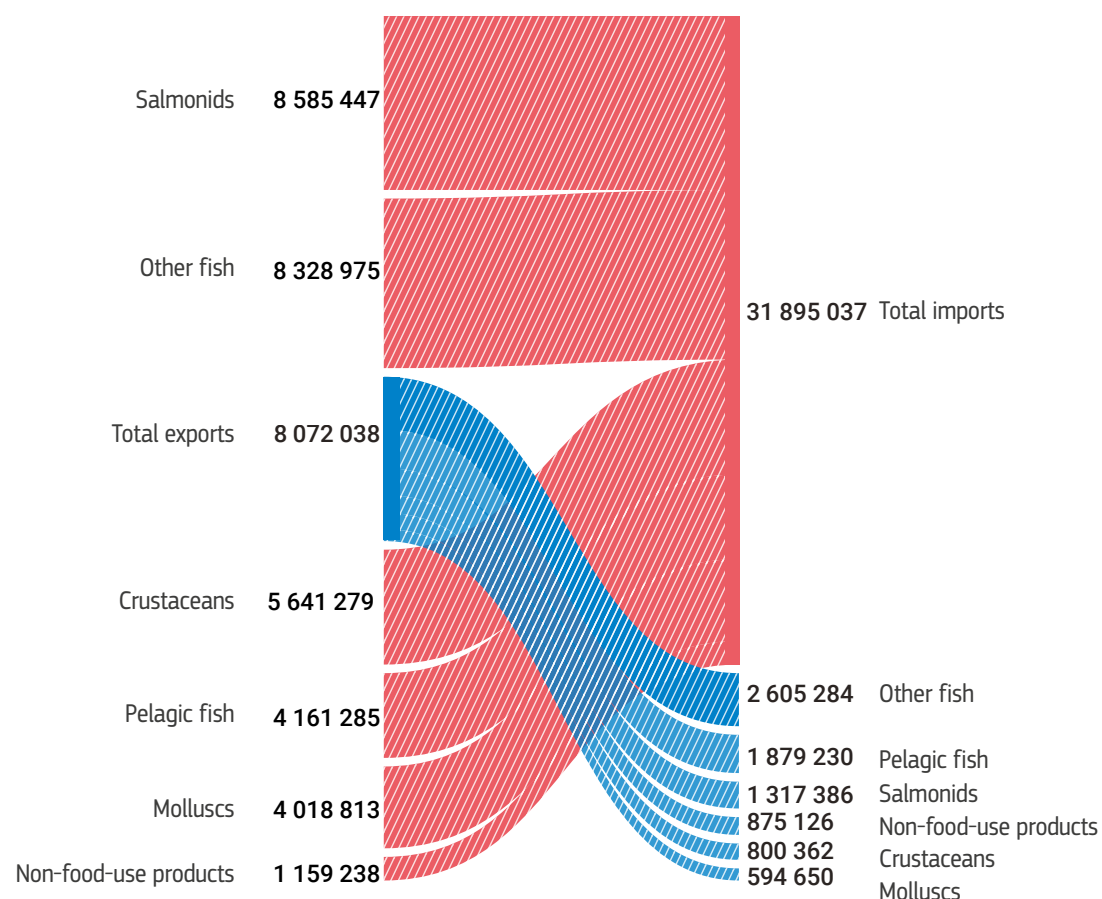
The EU is a net importer of fishery and aquaculture products, mostly frozen, fresh and chilled. Spain, Sweden, France, Denmark and the Netherlands are the leading importing Member States.

In 2022, exports to non-EU countries increased to EUR 8 billion. Denmark, Spain and the Netherlands are the leading exporting Member States.

Trade between Member States is significant, totalling EUR 31.51 billion in 2022. The main exporters to other Member States are the Netherlands, Sweden, Spain and Denmark. The main importers are Germany, France, Italy and Spain.

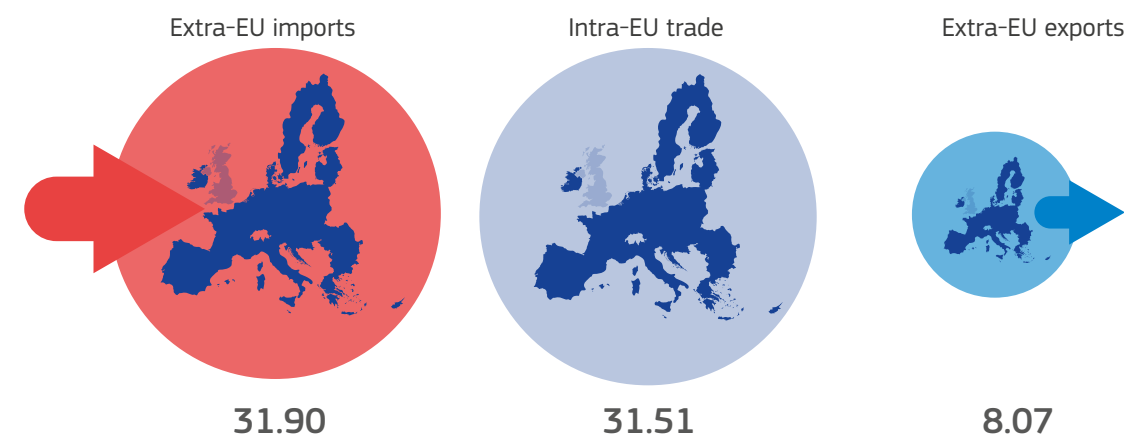
Trade of fishery and aquaculture products between Member States and non-EU countries (2022)

Value in thousand EUR



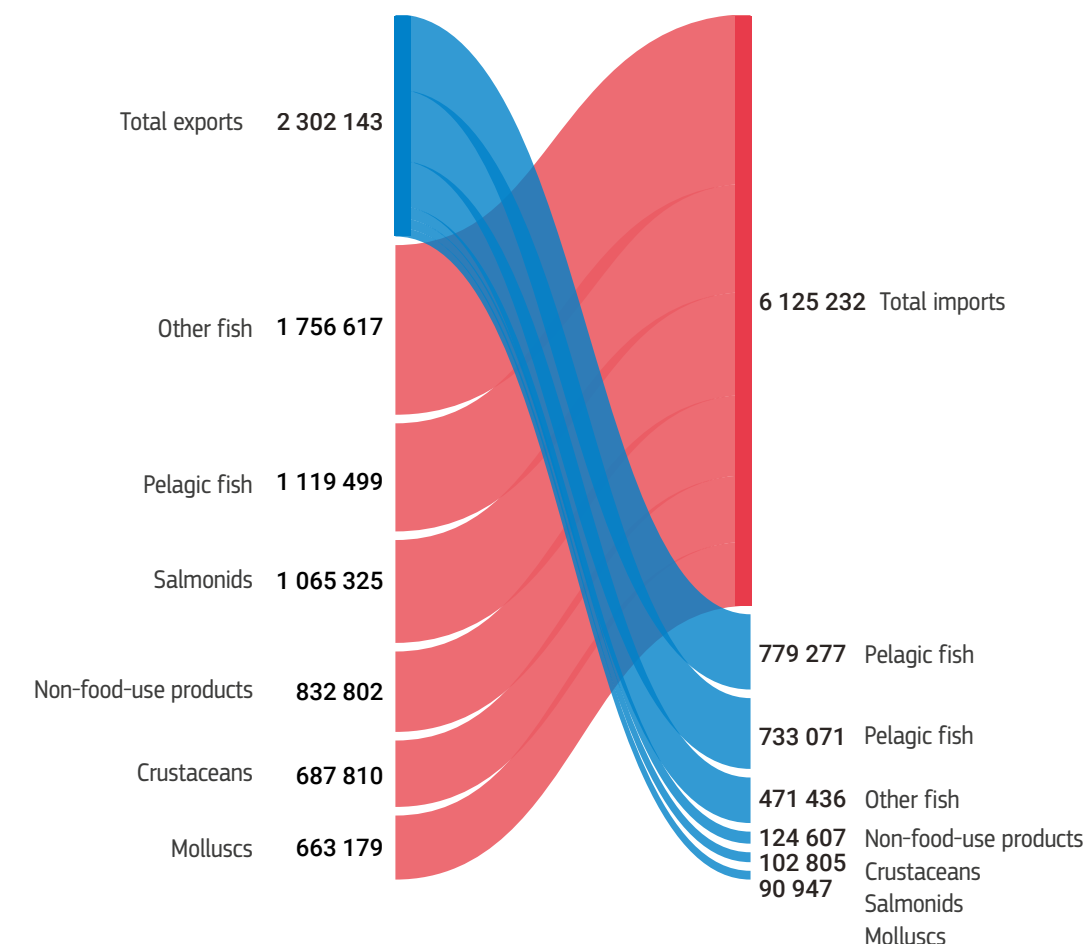
Extra- and intra-EU trade (2022)

Value in billion EUR



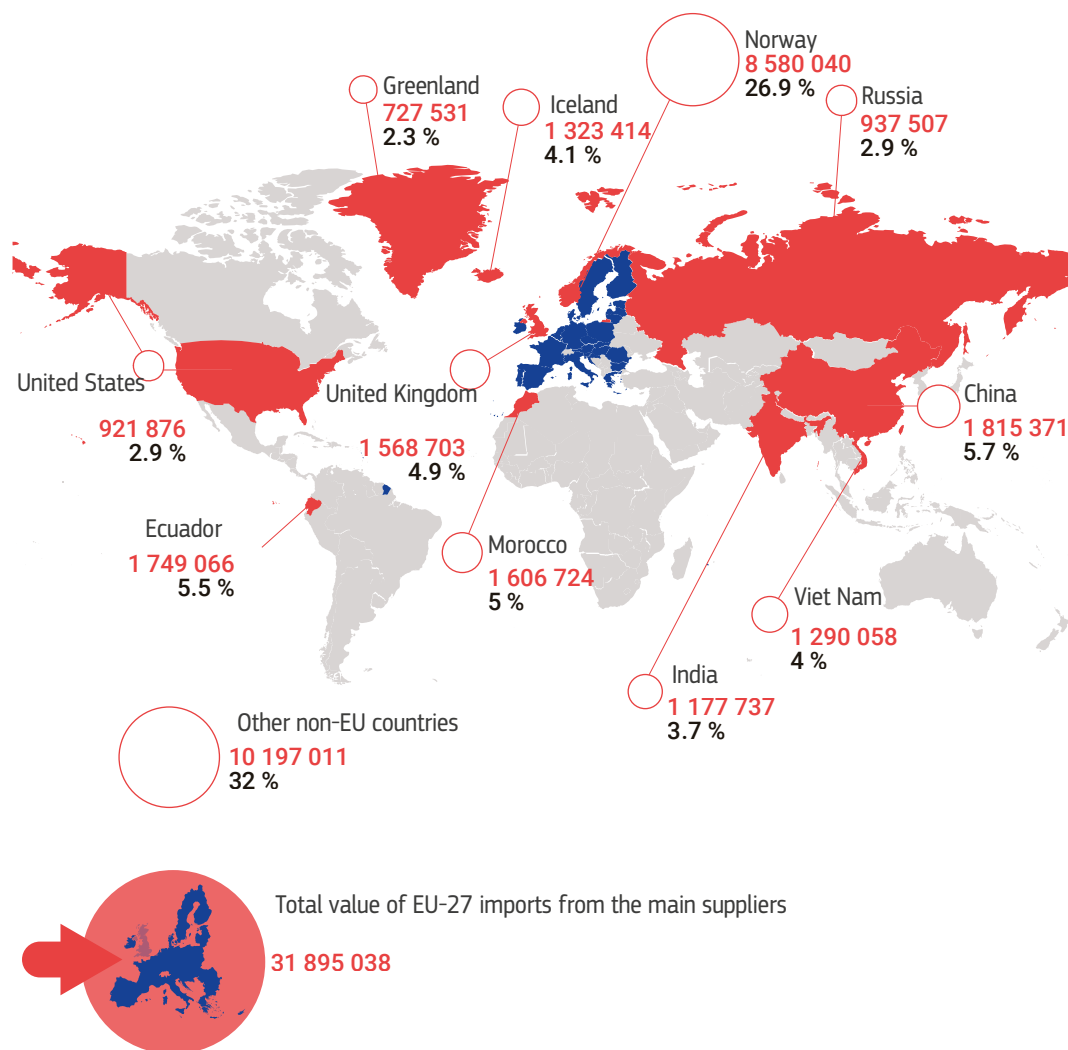
Source: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat data.

Volume in tonnes



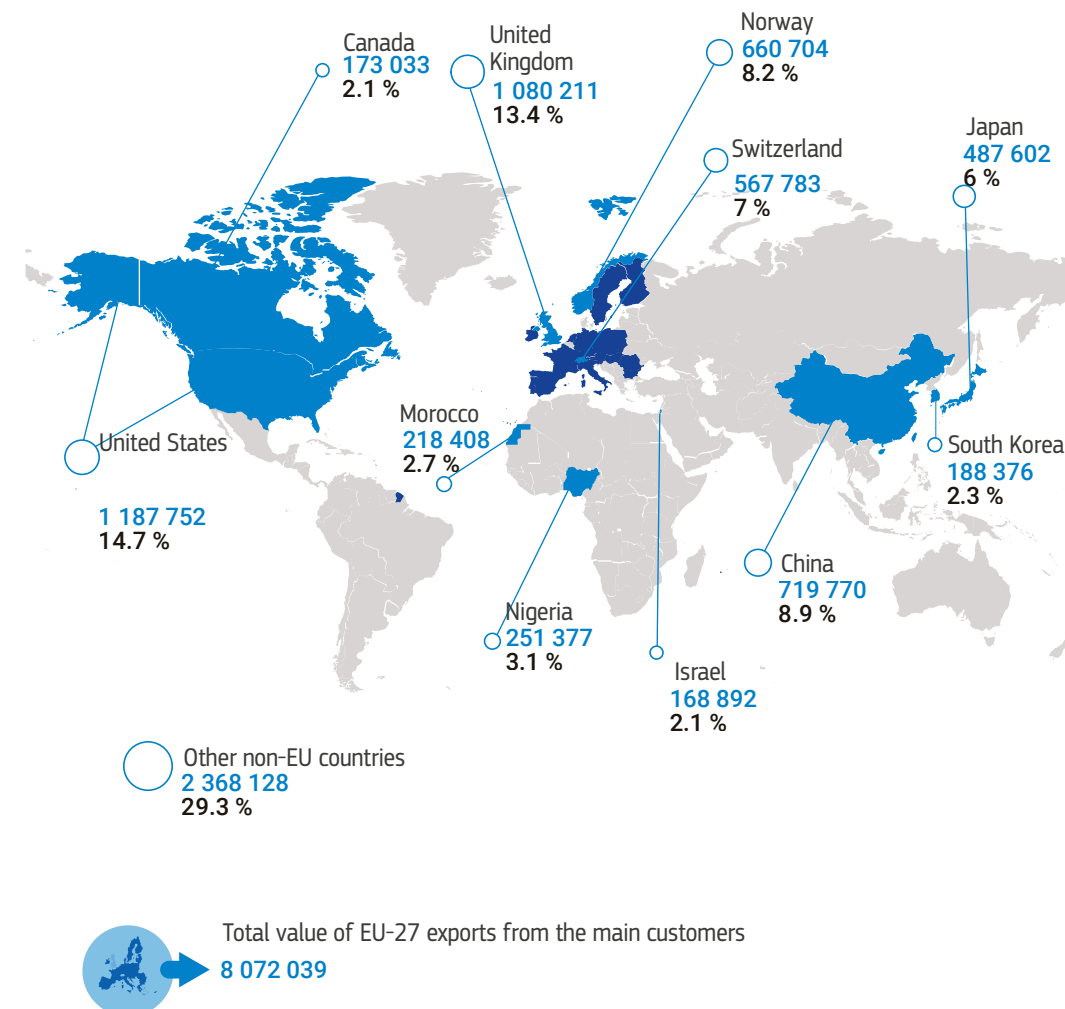
Trade of fishery and aquaculture products between Member States and non-EU countries – main suppliers (2022)

Value in thousand EUR and percentage of total



Trade of fishery and aquaculture products between the EU and non-EU countries – main customers (2022)

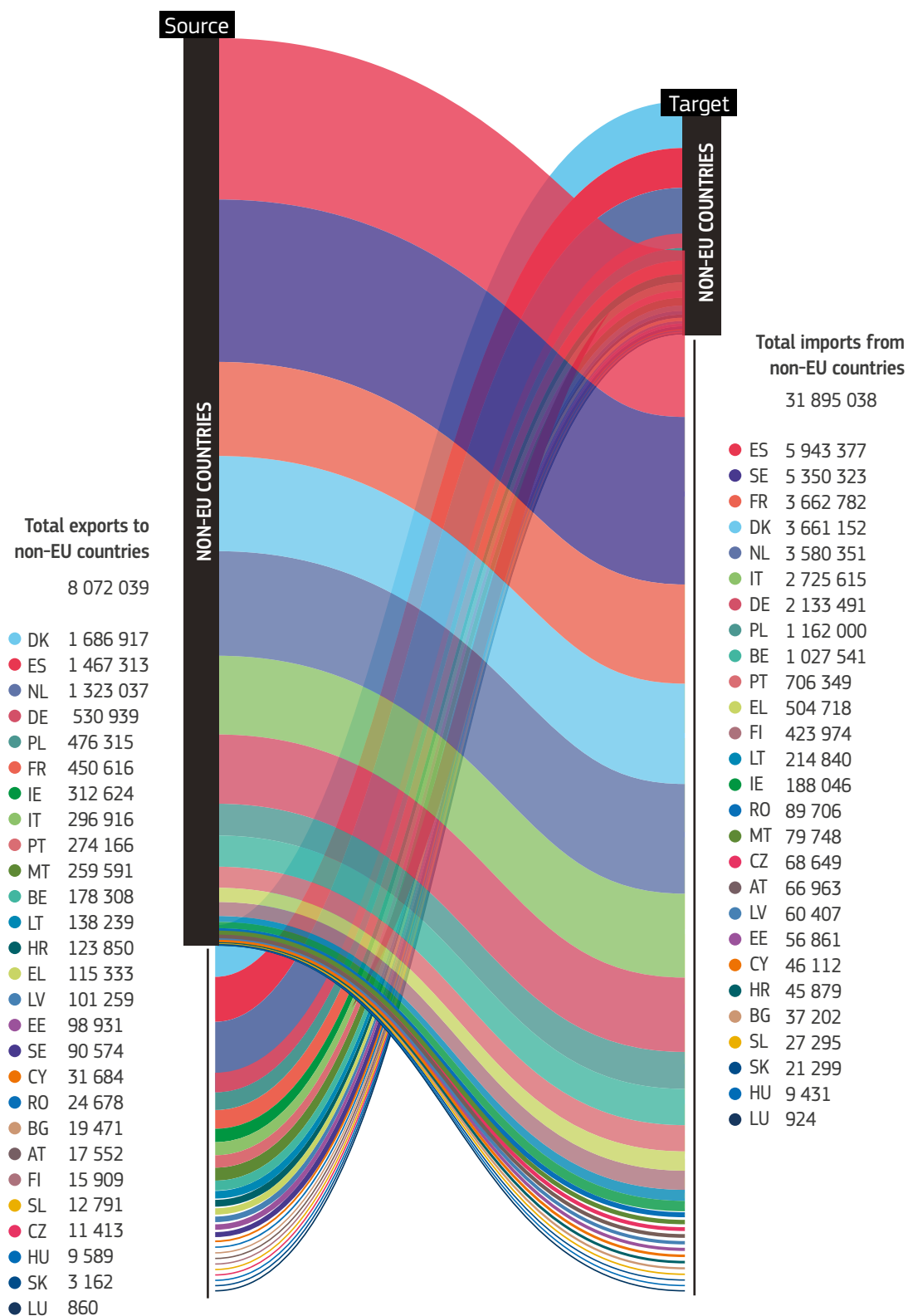
Value in thousand EUR and percentage of total



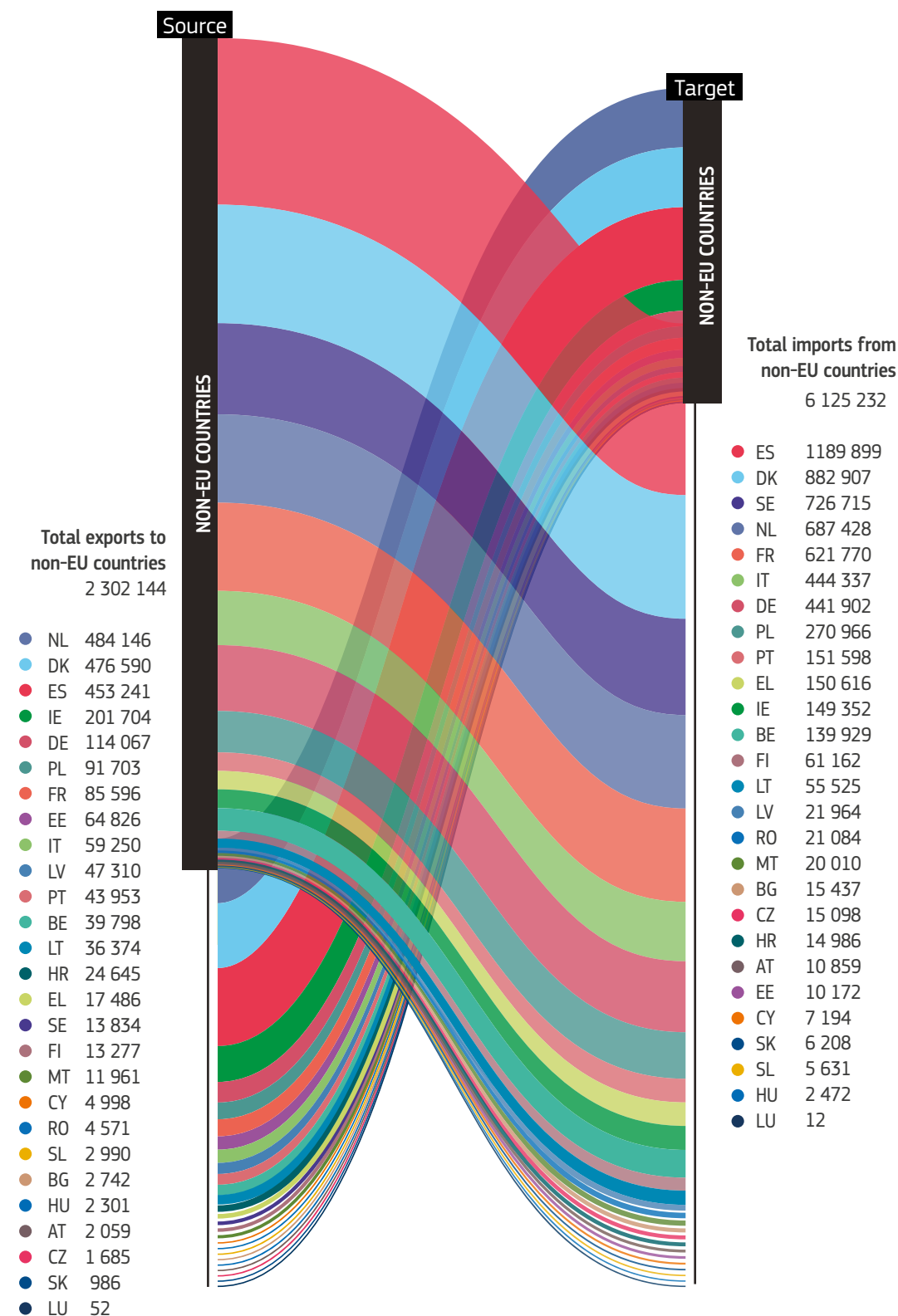
Source: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat data.

Trade of fishery and aquaculture products between Member States and non-EU countries (2022)

Value in thousand EUR



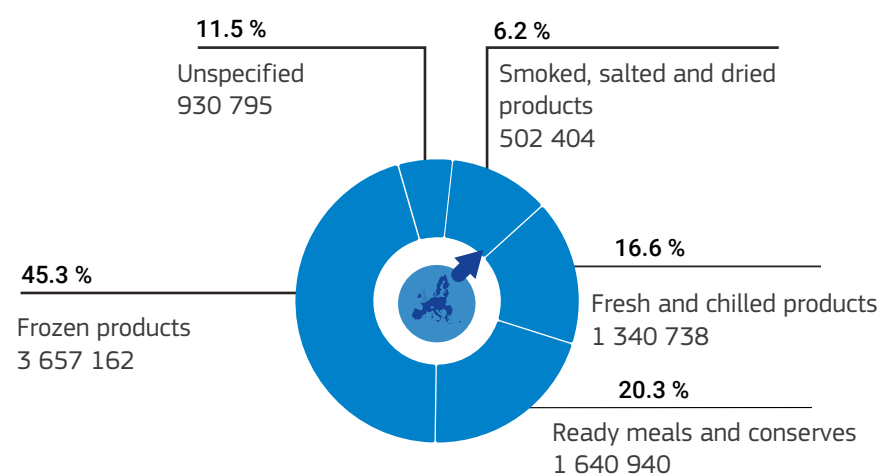
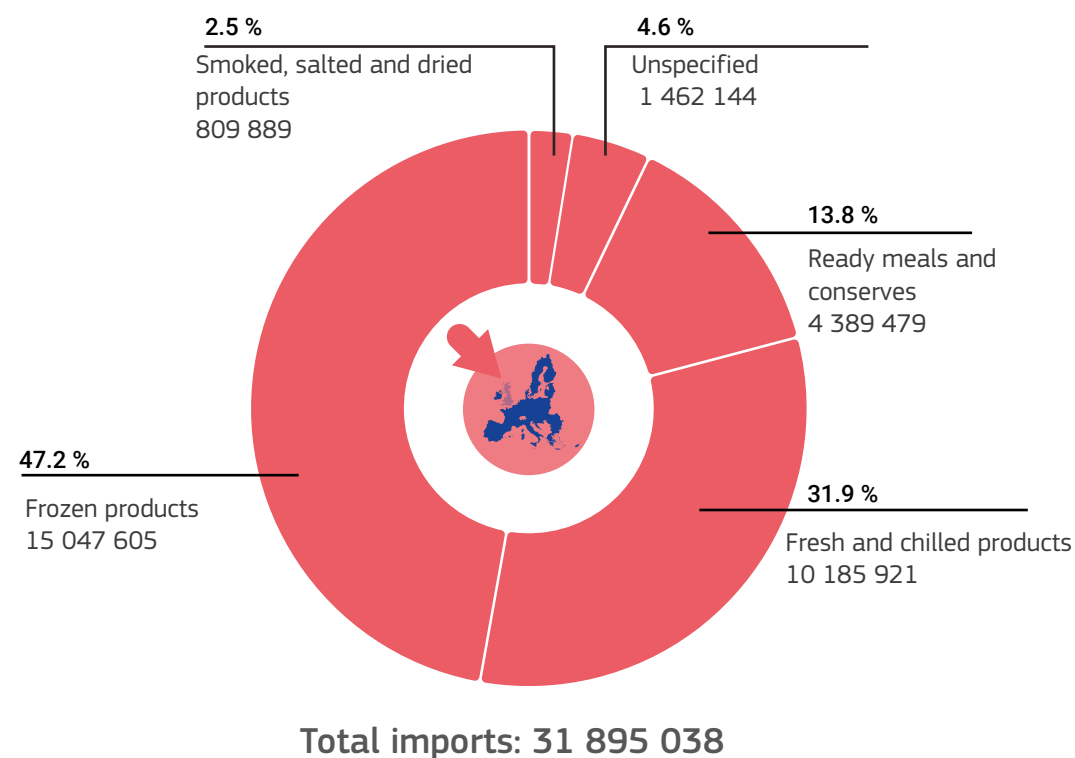
Volume in tonnes



Import and exports of fishery and aquaculture products by main preservation categories – extra-EU trade (2022)

Value in thousand EUR and percentage of total

Source: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat data.



Total exports: 8 072 039

Imports and exports of fishery and aquaculture products – extra-EU trade (2022)

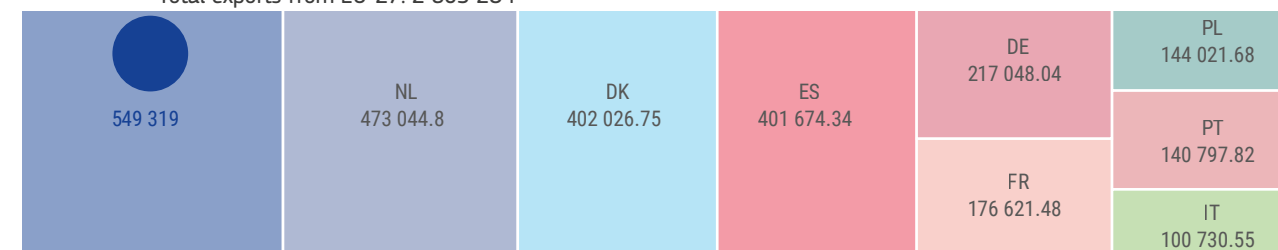
Value in thousand EUR

Other fish

Total imports to EU-27: 8 328 975



Total exports from EU-27: 2 605 284



Refers to other Member States

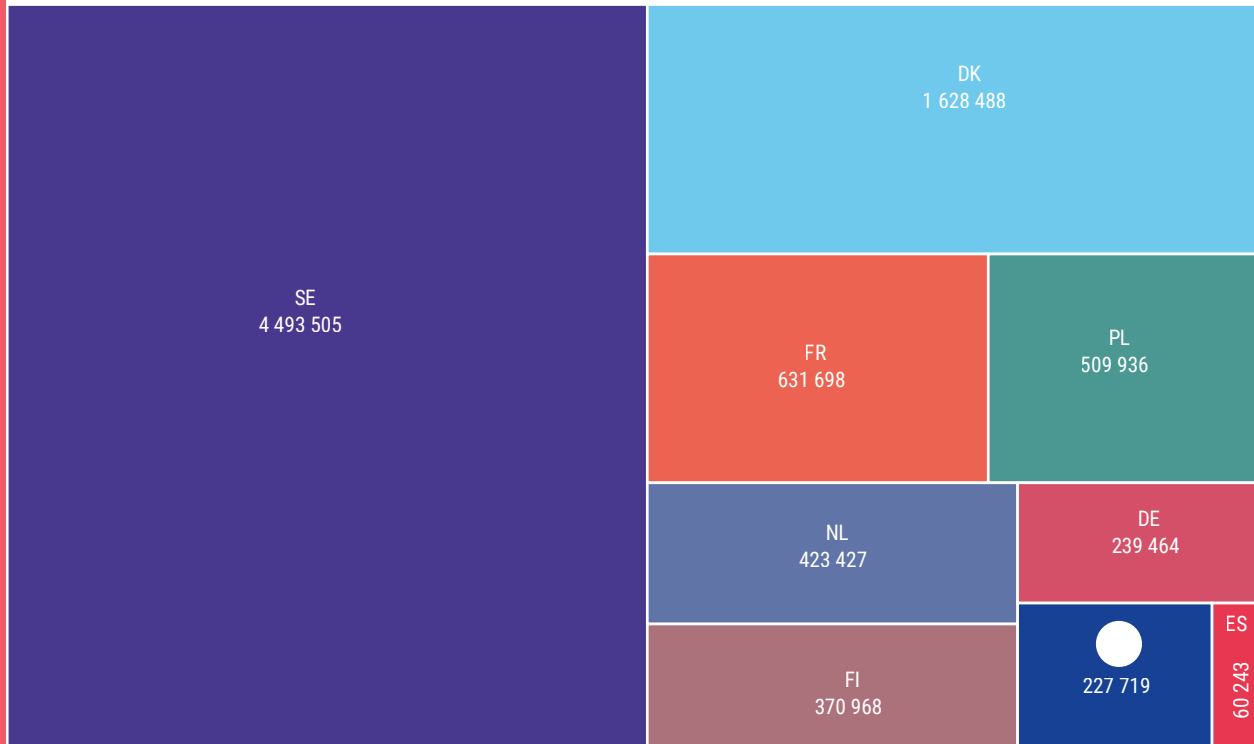
Imports and exports of fishery and aquaculture products – extra-EU trade (2022)

Value in thousand EUR

● ○ Refers to other Member States

Salmonids

Total imports to EU-27: 8 585 447

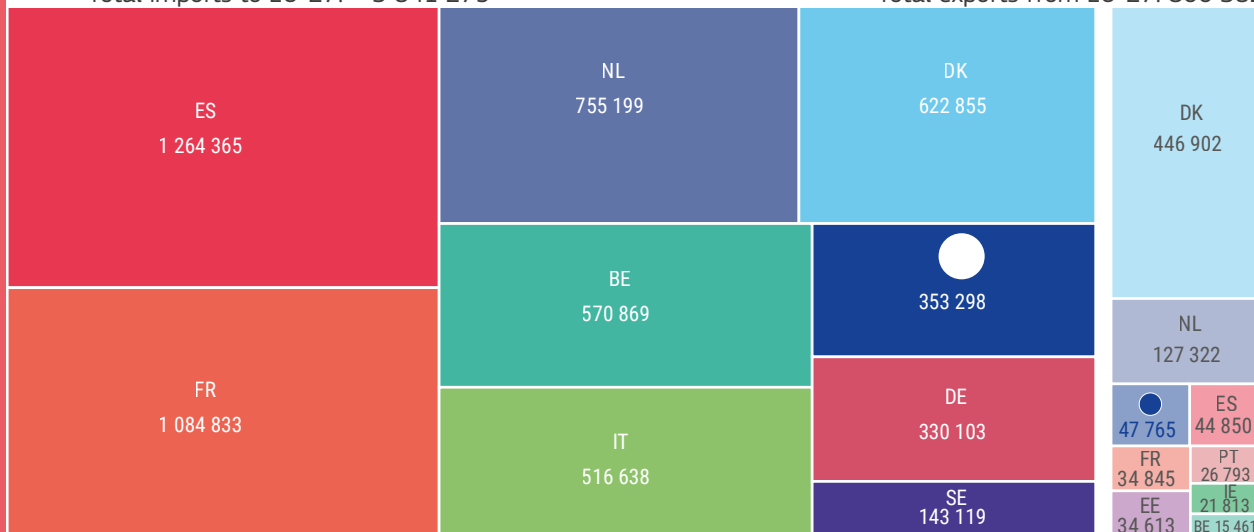


Total exports from EU-27: 1 317 386



Crustaceans

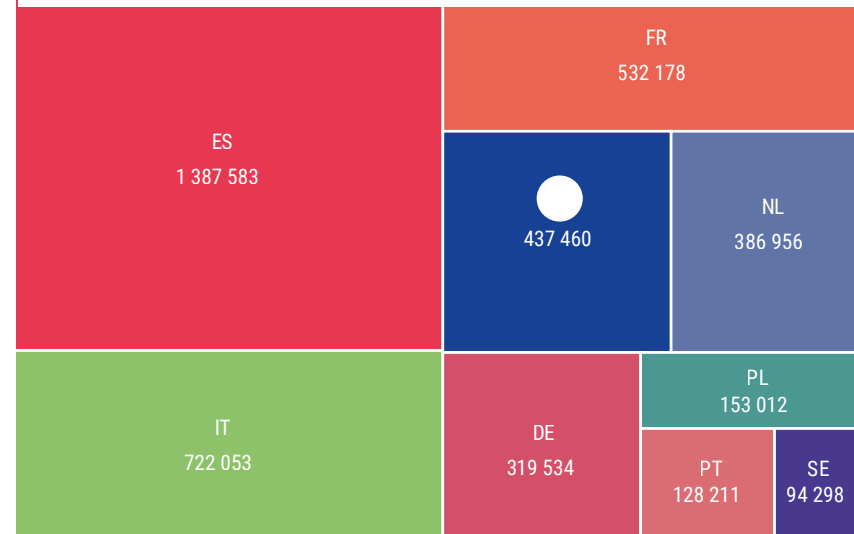
Total imports to EU-27: 5 641 279



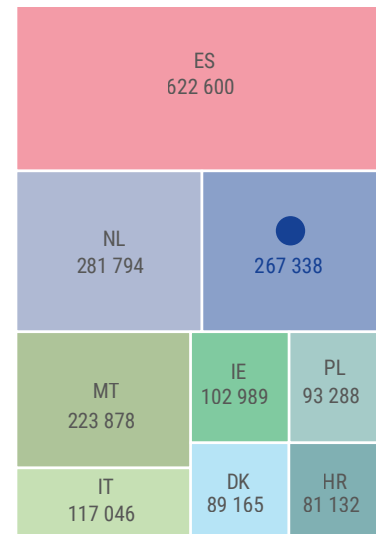
Total exports from EU-27: 800 362

Pelagic fish

Total imports to EU-27: 4 161 285

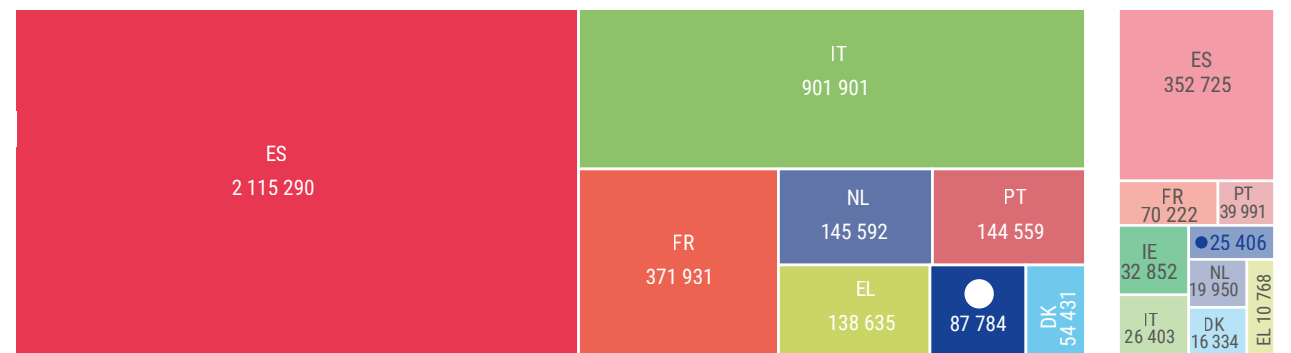


Total exports from EU-27: 1 879 230

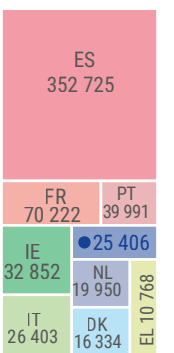


Molluscs

Total imports to EU-27: 4 018 813

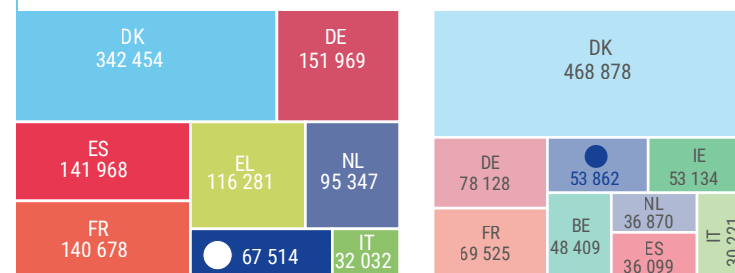


Total exports from EU-27: 594 650



Non-food-use products

Total imports to EU-27: 1 159 238



Total exports from EU-27: 875 126

6. Consumption

Fish 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 23.7 kg (live weight) of fish or seafood per year (3 kg more than the global average).

Consumption, however, varies greatly across the EU, from 6.6 kg per person per year in Hungary to 56.5 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.

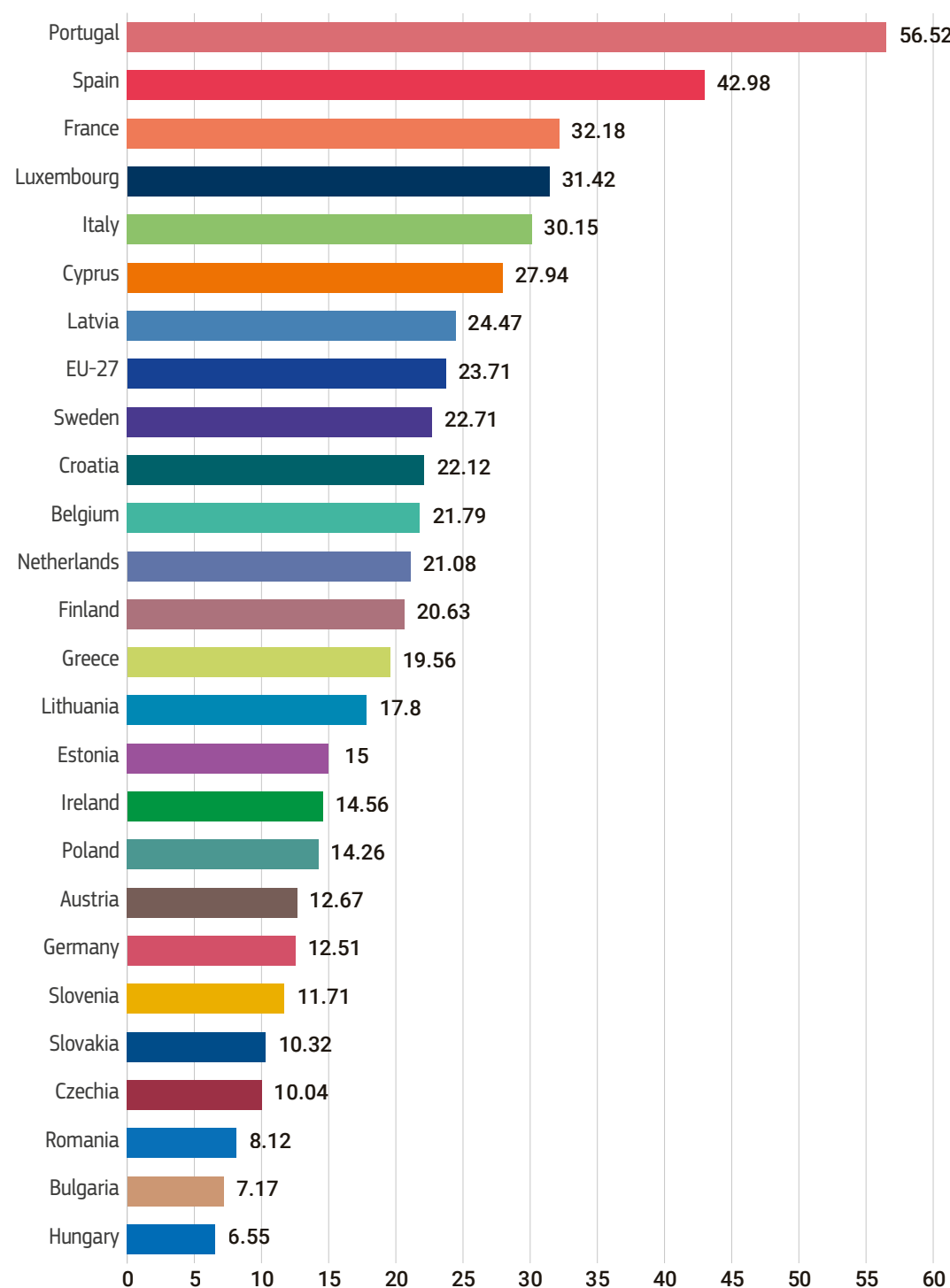
*Source: Eumofa elaboration. Data were provided by the following national sources: Czech Statistical Office (Czechia), Estonian Institute of Economic Research (Estonia), Latvia University of Life Science and Technology and Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia (Latvia), Agricultural Data Center (Lithuania), Dutch Fish Marketing Board (Netherlands) and Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics – National Research Institute (Poland).

The Department of Fisheries and Marine Research of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus and the Irish Sea Fisheries Protection Authority could not provide any estimates. As for Ireland, the decrease from 2020 to 2021 was confirmed.

Denmark and Malta are not included in this chart. The Danish Fisheries Agency could not provide any estimates but, according to estimates made by the University of Copenhagen, in recent years, per capita apparent consumption in Denmark has been between 20–25 kg live weight. For Malta, given the significant importance of frozen fish imports likely used directly as fish feed in the Maltese bluefin tuna fattening industry, available data and information for Malta do not allow for the production of precise estimates. Also, in small countries such as Malta, the presence of tourists has a relevant impact on total consumption. Considering this, annual per capita apparent consumption can be estimated to be between 30–40 kg live weight.

Consumption of fishery and aquaculture products (2021)

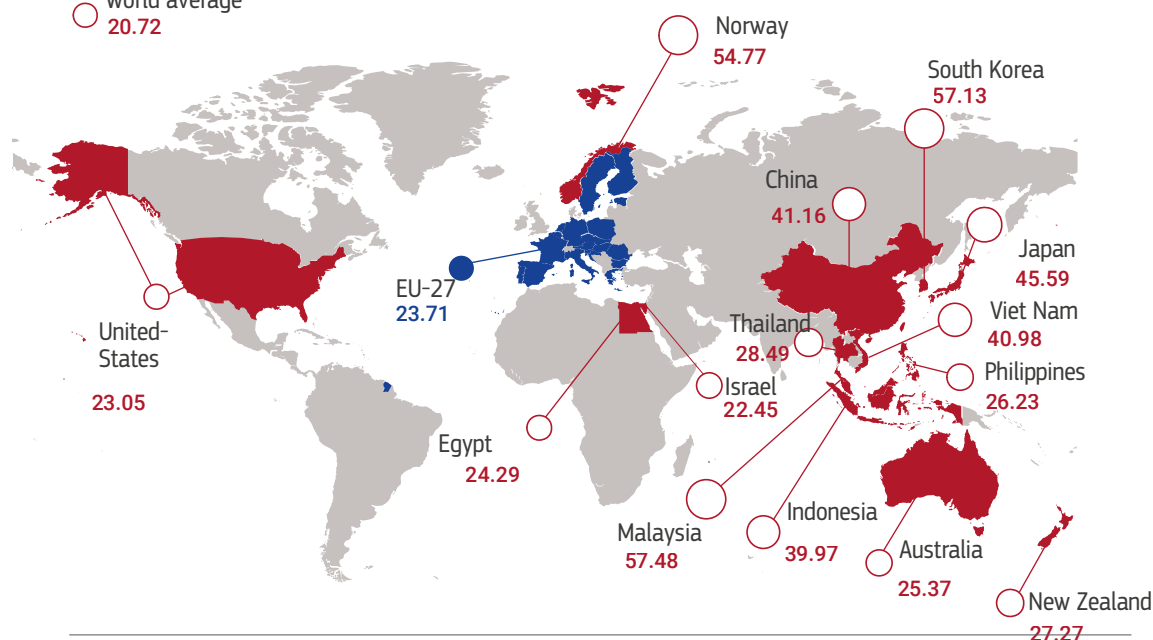
Quantity in live weight (kg/inhabitant/year)



Consumption of fishery and aquaculture products in the major world economies (2021)

Quantity in live weight (kg/inhabitant/year)

○ World average
20.72

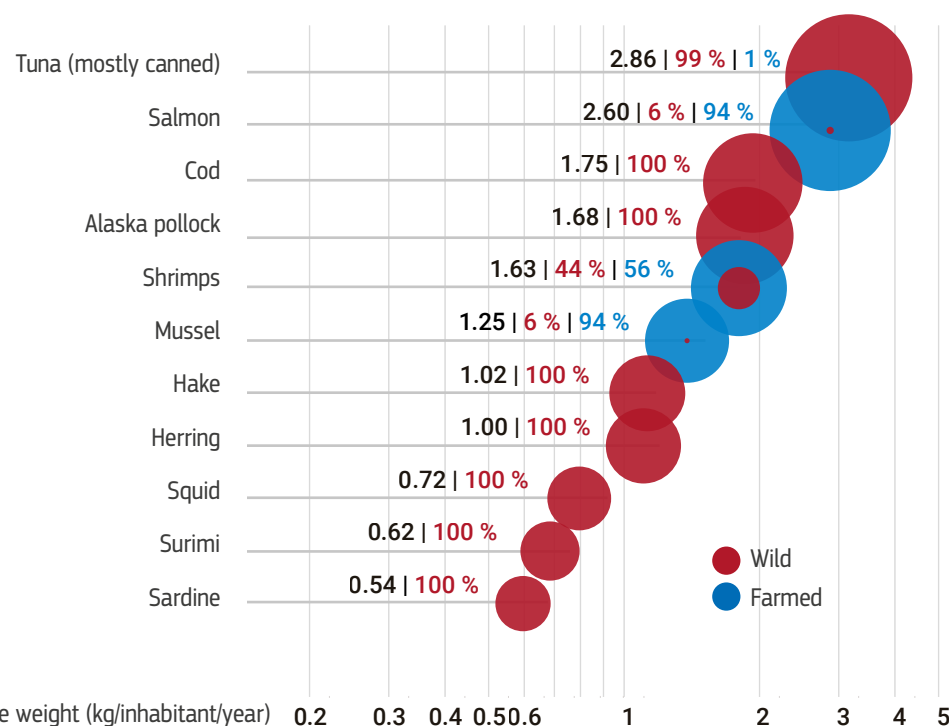


Sources: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development forecast https://stats.oecd.org/viewhtml.aspx?datasetcode=HIGH_AGLINK_2019&lang=en#

Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data.

Main species consumed in the EU in 2021

Quantity in live weight (kg/inhabitant/year), and percentage by wild and farmed category



Quantity in live weight (kg/inhabitant/year)

Source: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data.

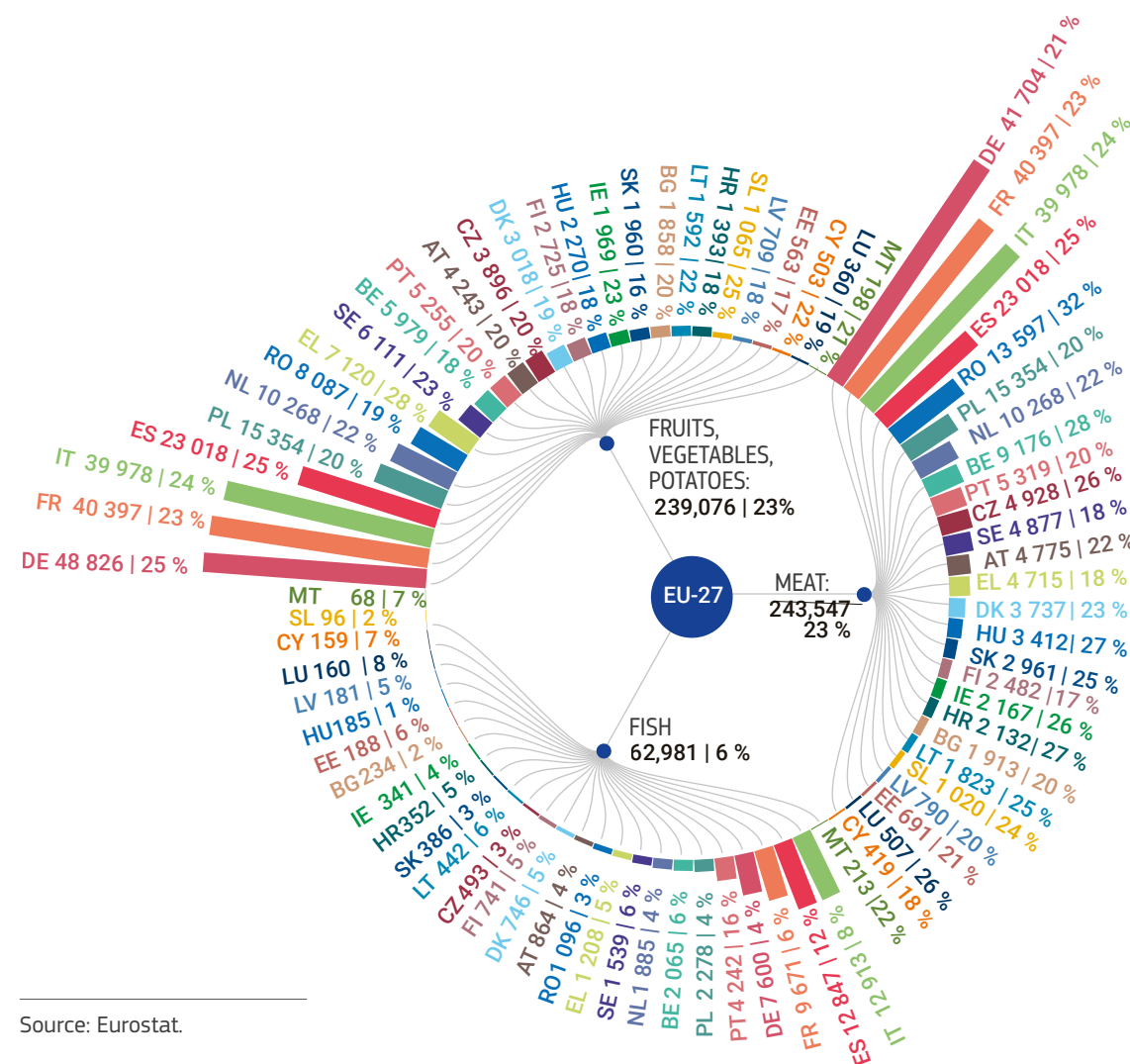
6.1. Household expenditure

In the EU, the total nominal household expenditure for fishery and aquaculture products in 2022 reached EUR 62.9 billion. Italy and Spain registered the highest level of expenditure with EUR 12.9 billion each, followed by France (EUR 9.7 billion).

On average, expenditure for fishery and aquaculture products represents around 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 (1.4 %). To put this into perspective, at the EU level, expenditure for meat products and for fruits and vegetables each account for 23 % of the total food expenditure.

Nominal household expenditure for purchasing fish and seafood in 2022

Value in million EUR and percentage of total expenditure by category

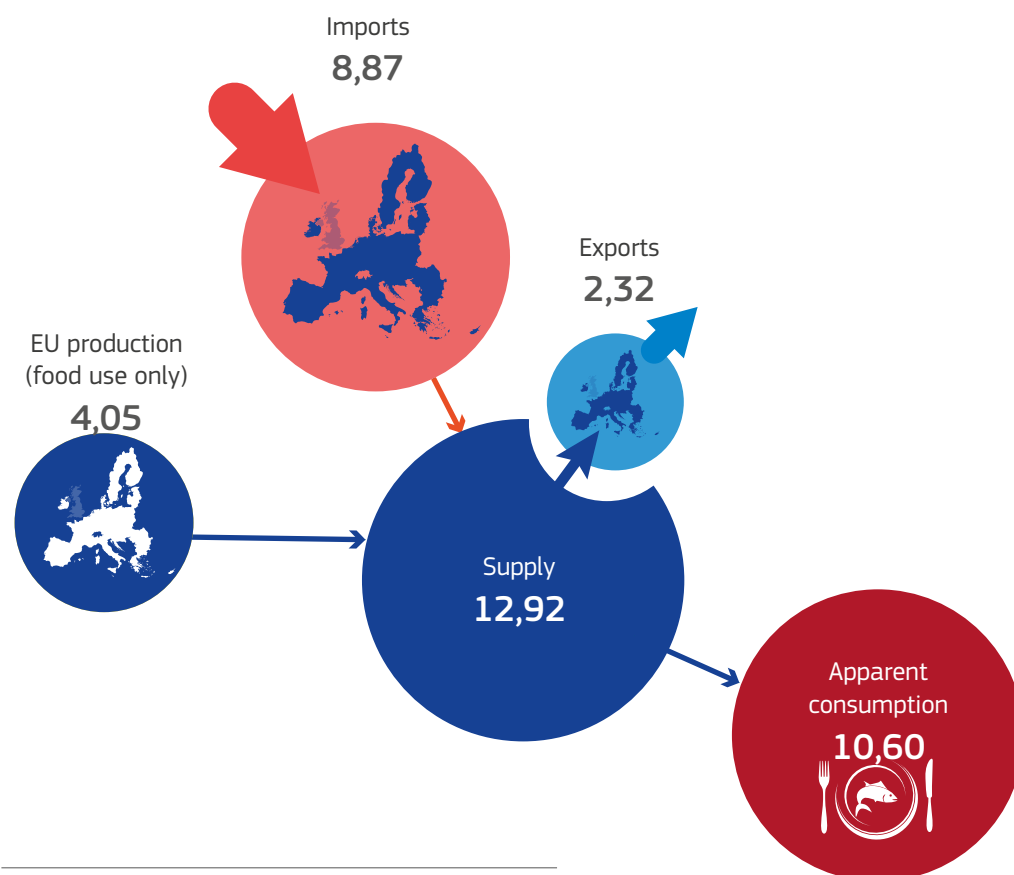


Source: Eurostat.

6.2. Supply balance (2021)

Volume in million tonnes live weight equivalent

The EU's own production and imports supply the EU market with fishery and seafood products, with a total 12.92 million tonnes (live weight) available for human consumption in 2021. In the same year, the apparent consumption, obtained by subtracting exports from this figure, was 10.60 million tonnes.



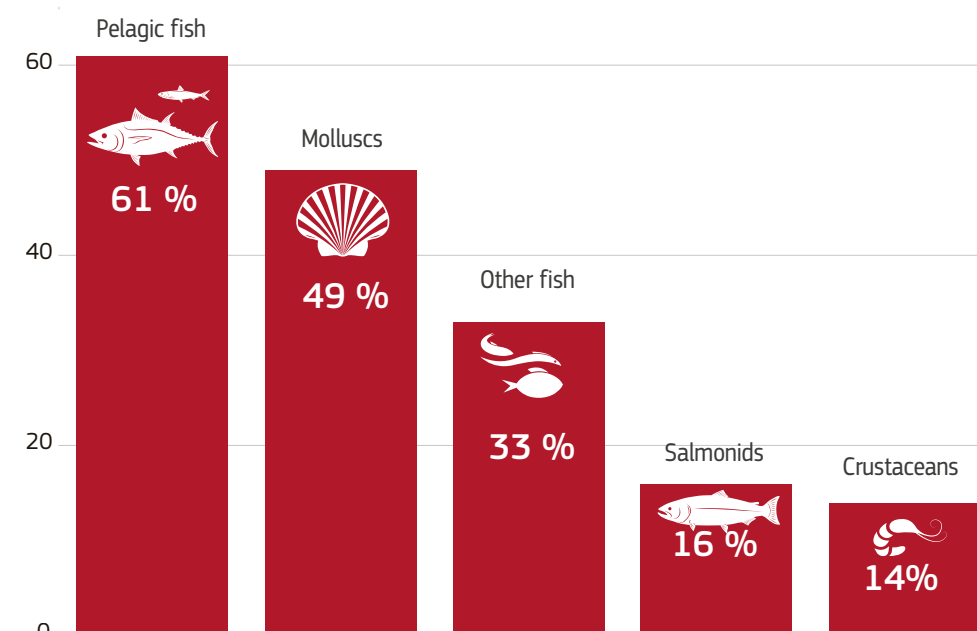
Source: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data.

6.3. Self-sufficiency

Self-sufficiency can be expressed as the ratio between own production (catches plus aquaculture) and total apparent consumption. In 2021, the EU's self-sufficiency rate stood at 38.2 %. This means that the people living in the EU consumed almost three times as much fishery and aquaculture products as they produced.

The EU's self-sufficiency rate (2021)

Percentage by commodity group



Sources: Eumofa elaboration of Eurostat and FAO data.

EU support

The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) is one of the five European structural and investment funds (1). The EMFAF supports the EU CFP, the EU maritime policy and the EU agenda for international ocean governance. It also provides support for developing innovative projects that ensure the sustainable use of aquatic and maritime resources.

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

The EMFAF helps to make fisheries sustainable and to conserve marine biological resources.

The fund is programmed for the period between 2021 and 2027 with a budget of EUR 6.108 billion. Of these funds, EUR 5.31 billion is provided through national programmes co-financed by the EU budget and Member States, while EUR 797 million is provided directly by the Commission.

The EMFAF does not prescribe how all the funding should be spent. Instead, the EU allocates a share of the total budget to each Member State and leaves it to the national authorities and local communities to choose the projects and solutions that work best for them.

In this way, the EMFAF supports local initiatives aimed at rebuilding fish stocks, supporting biodiversity, collecting fisheries data and reducing the human impact on the marine environment. The fund also helps Member States check that fishers, fish farmers and maritime communities correctly apply the relevant EU rules. It is available for projects that encourage cross-border cooperation in maritime domains, such as spatial planning and surveillance.

¹ 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.

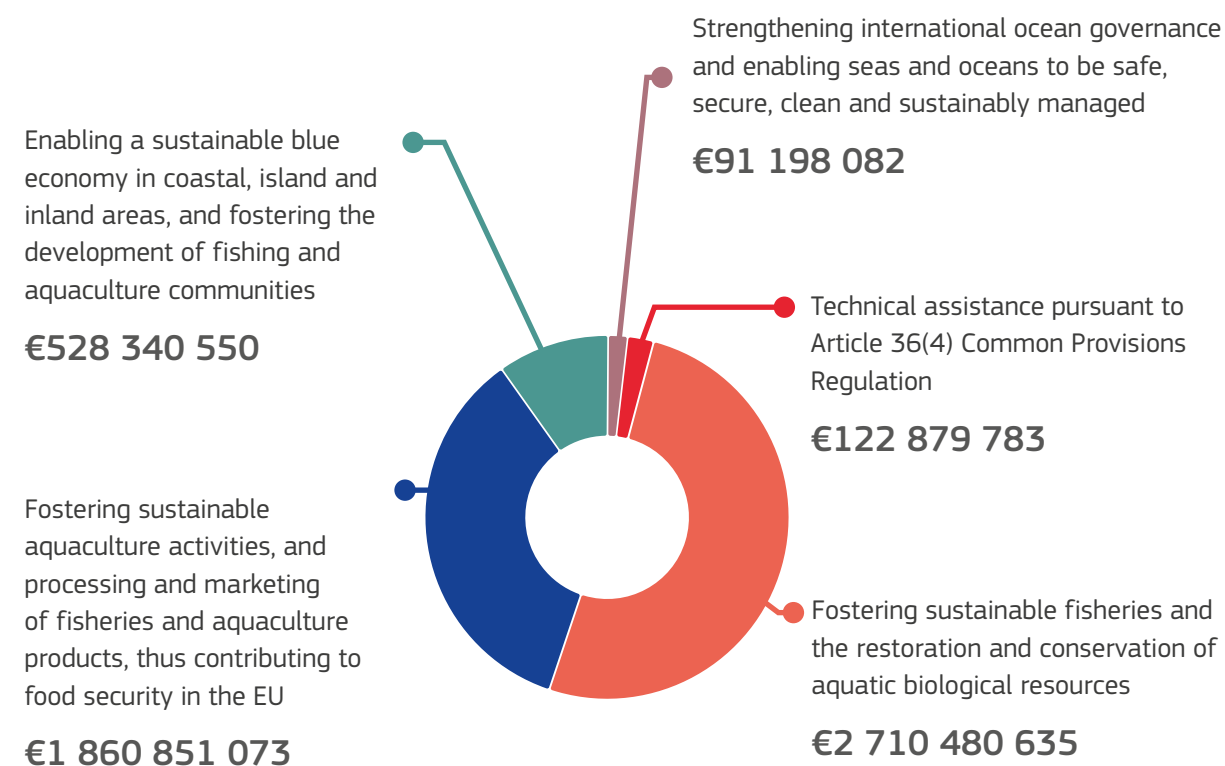
The EMFAF has four main priorities.

- Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources (51.01 %).
- Fostering sustainable aquaculture activities, and processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products, thus contributing to food security in the EU (35.02 %).
- Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the development of fishing and aquaculture communities (9.94 %).
- Strengthening international ocean governance and enabling seas and oceans to be safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed (1.72 %).

The remaining 2.32 % consist of technical assistance to help Member States implement the abovementioned priorities, pursuant to Article 36(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 (Common Provisions Regulation).

Percentage allocation of the total EMFAF budget to the established priorities based on the sum of Member State allocation to each priority

Value in thousand EUR and percentage of total



EMFAF contribution during the programming period between 2021 and 2027 – by Member State and per priority

In EUR and percentage of total

	Sustainable fisheries	Sustainable aquaculture	Sustainable blue economy
Belgium		13 859 732	2 100 000
Bulgaria	27 174 305	34 627 372	16 988 940
Czechia	2 053 177	26 151 758	—
Denmark	172 428 509	16 506 315	—
Germany	109 906 797	73 293 872	23 046 013
Estonia	35 093 262	39 426 761	22 871 037
Ireland	74 635 552	54 696 000	9 540 000
Greece	207 865 000	91 280 000	49 910 000
Spain	550 199 158	421 085 152	111 555 777
France	333 169 560	196 369 826	28 057 140
Croatia	113 076 661	96 466 471	33 242 915
Italy	258 000 000	170 216 474	51 907 347
Cyprus	22 873 897	4 389 000	4 900 000
Latvia	49 902 856	53 349 800	31 624 040
Lithuania	23 564 177	25 940 320	9 735 040
Hungary	9 800 000	25 647 726	—
Malta	17 325 000	3 190 773	—
Netherlands	85 699 761	8 514 527	—
Austria	587 240	6 130 854	—
Poland	219 913 190	213 431 491	46 900 000
Portugal	195 197 867	140 500 000	33 750 000
Romania	39 069 441	75 880 819	37 753 591
Slovenia	6 137 778	7 719 909	9 097 708
Slovakia	1 526 773	12 785 130	—
Finland	36 478 145	27 290 556	5 361 002
Sweden	93 796 095	22 100 430	—
	2 709 780 640	1 860 851 068	528 340 550

International ocean governance	Technical assistance	TOTAL per Member State	% per Member State
—	—	40 266 171	0.76 %
1 057 400	5 096 681	84 944 698	1.60 %
—	1 800 314	30 005 249	0.56 %
—	12 034 485	200 969 309	3.78 %
5 565 000	—	211 811 682	3.99 %
—	—	97 391 060	1.83 %
3 498 000	—	142 369 552	2.68 %
7 000 000	7 691 026	363 746 026	6.85 %
37 601 837	—	1 120 441 924	21.09 %
9 540 000	—	567 136 526	10.67 %
901 000	—	243 687 047	4.59 %
7 000 000	31 093 009	518 216 830	9.75 %
4 080 300	2 064 125	38 307 322	0.72 %
—	—	134 876 696	2.54 %
1 944 040	—	61 183 577	1.15 %
—	2 262 620	37 710 346	0.71 %
—	1 309 517	21 825 290	0.41 %
3 710 000	—	97 924 288	1.84 %
—	—	6 718 094	0.13 %
1 400 000	30 743 272	512 387 953	9.64 %
5 000 000	18 124 155	392 572 022	7.39 %
—	9 747 054	162 450 905	3.06 %
974 246	—	23 929 641	0.45 %
—	913 525	15 225 428	0.29 %
2 626 259	—	71 755 962	1.35 %
—	—	115 896 525	2.18 %
91 898 082	122 879 783	5 313 750 123	

Source: Launchpad cut-off 24 November 2023

Find out more

European Commission websites

Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries:

https://commission.europa.eu/about/departments-and-executive-agencies/maritime-affairs-and-fisheries_en

Common fisheries policy:

https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/policy/common-fisheries-policy-cfp_en

European Atlas of the Seas: https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/atlas/maritime_atlas/

Eumofa – European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products:

<https://eumofa.eu/>

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

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

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	● SL Slovenia
● HR Croatia	● SK Slovakia
● IT Italy	● FI Finland
● CY Cyprus	● SE Sweden
● LV Latvia	

