



INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON FISH TRADE

October 2020

The impact of covid-19 on fisheries sector in Europe

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EUROFISH International Organisation

What is EUROFISH?



- The International Organisation for the Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Europe,
- Deals with fish after they have been caught (post-harvest fisheries), aquaculture, trade and markets,
- Gathers, analyses and disseminates information and analysis through reports, technical publications, EUROFISH Magazine and websites (eurofish.dk and eurofishmagazine.com),
- Carries out capacity building activities, sharing/transferring knowledge through organizing seminars, workshops, business-to-business meetings,
- Carries out promotion and advertising activities,
- Project management,
- Member of FISHINFO Network.



Source: Globefish, FAO

EUROFISH Magazine

- Eurofish is the publisher and owner of the EUROFISH Magazine,
- Leading fishery and seafood magazine,
- Only magazine to regularly cover sector in member countries in English,
- Free distribution to member countries – 50 to 200 copies per country.



Overall impact of COVID-19

- Impacts on employment and revenues of the fisheries sector,
- Impacts on industry composition, corporate structures, and ownership,
- Impact on the culture of consumers and their behavior in relation to seafood,
- Impacts on vulnerable groups (women, indigenous communities and migrants),



Overall impact

- Food security and access to seafood and fishing resources,
- The culture of consumers and their behaviour in relation to seafood,
- Holidays are being cancelled, tourists are no longer flooding the well-known resorts,
- Policy implications and institutional responses to deal with the pandemic impacts.





Impact on the seafood sector



Impact on the fisheries sector

- Impact on processing and fish farming companies,
- Impact on recreational fisheries,
- Policy implications and institutional response to deal with pandemic impacts,
- The seafood value chain, markets and the viability of small-scale fisheries,
- Employment and revenues of the fisheries sector,



Source: Paul Einerhand

Impact on the fisheries sector

- Fish trade in Europe followed the overall impact of pandemia,
- Impacts on the seafood value chain, markets and small-scale fisheries,
- Impact on food security and access to seafood market,
- The difficulties to sell fresh fish prompted in many European countries,
- Many seafood companies now face debts that are growing at the same rate as sales and revenues are falling.

- **Frozen and canned fish** sales boomed, especially during the relatively short period which preceded the lock-down,
- **On-line sales and direct sales** increased,
- **Home consumption** increased.

Impact on the fisheries sector



Source: Paul Einerhand



Source: Ting Tian



Source: Egg Bank



Source: Niksi Herns

Socio-economic impact



Source: Paul Einerhand



Source: Peter Hansen

- Tourist branch/Ho-Re-Ca are severely affected reflecting overall decreases in fish and seafood sales;
- Cruise ships and airlines, which are among the most loyal customers for lobster, caviar and scallops, have reduced or completely stopped operations;
- Changes in selling techniques, such as online sales and direct buying of fishery products, emerged;
- Sales and canned of canned fish increased (in April, but slowed down in May).

Impact - the UK



Source: Alice Pasqual

- The **UK** – In general, there is an impact on the fast food sector, which is targeting office personnel during lunch breaks.
- The main outlet for small-sized coldwater *Pandalus borealis* shrimp, is recovering after the lockdown; 15.2%
- The sector had suffered from the closing of offices, as employees are the main customers for shrimp sandwiches;
- Prices of coldwater shrimp were at their lowest in April and have been recovering since.

Italy

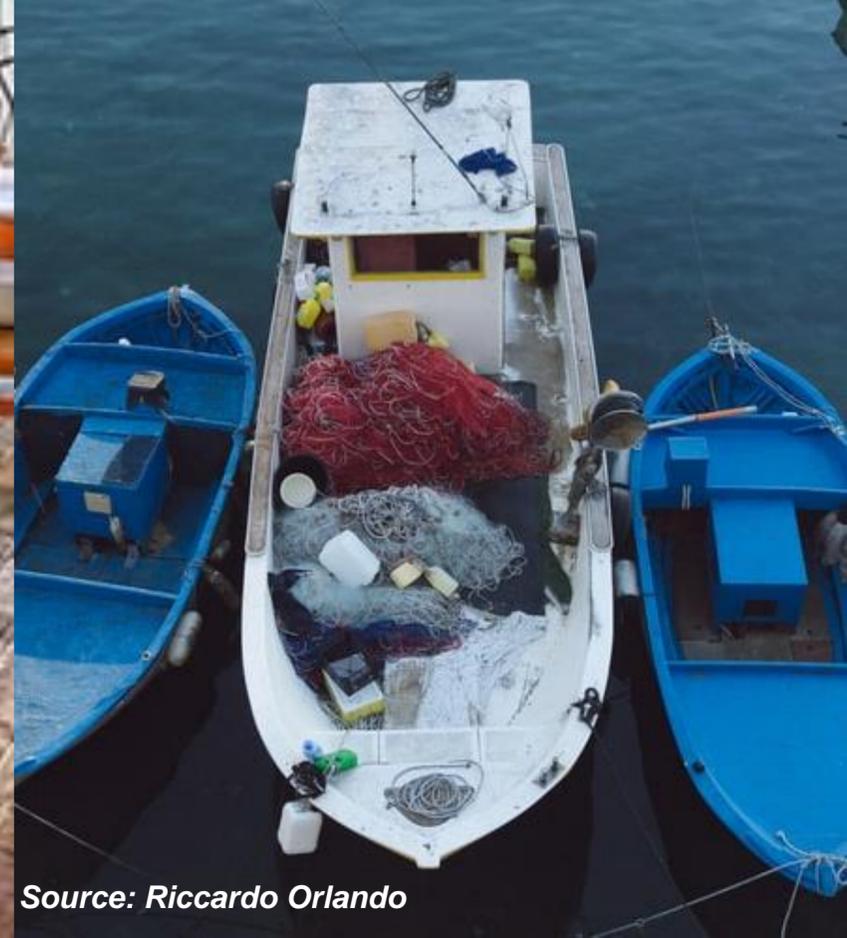
- Italy was the most hit country in Europe;
- The domestic fishing industry is mainly targeting restaurants, while imported fish goes to fish mongers and supermarkets.



Source: Igor Oliyarnik



Source: Migle Vasiliauskaite



Source: Riccardo Orlando

Impact – Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia

Baltic states reported increased fish import in 2020 compared with the previous year.

- In **Estonia**, imports of all fisheries products increased by 13% in January-July 2020;
- **Lithuanian** imports had 12% increase;
- **Latvian** imports had 10% increase.
- Main suppliers were Sweden (20 percent) and Norway (15 percent). The main product imported was fresh salmon from Norwegian fish farms. This product is processed in Lithuanian factories, for re-export to the EU market, especially Germany and Italy.
- Sales of fresh salmon continued growing during COVID-19 months, and no major setbacks were observed



Impact - Ukraine

- In **Ukraine** the primary impacts were sales-related, including lower volumes sold due to retail outlet closures, but prices were somewhat higher.
- Cost-related effects were small, owing to the low-tech nature of such operations;
- Fish feed costs rose slightly, while availability of broodstock was unaffected.



Source: Dmitri Anikin

Impact - Croatia

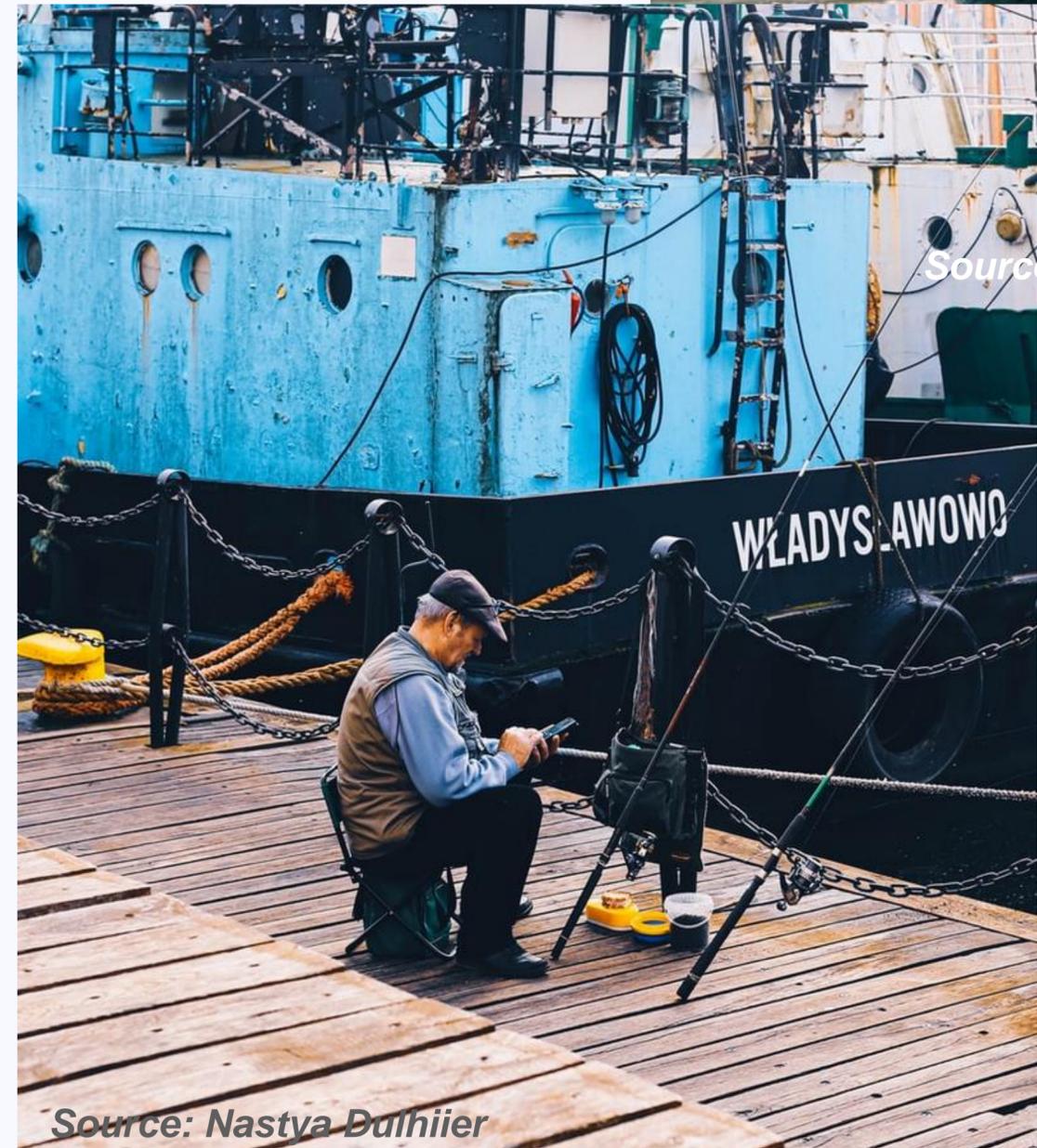
- **Croatian** fishermen and farmers are hit by the outbreak of the coronavirus COVID-19, as in most countries,
- Serious market disturbances have occurred due to a significant decrease in demand.
- The main challenge for the sector was where to place fish products since restaurants and fish markets were closed and it was difficult to export due to the quarantine measures.



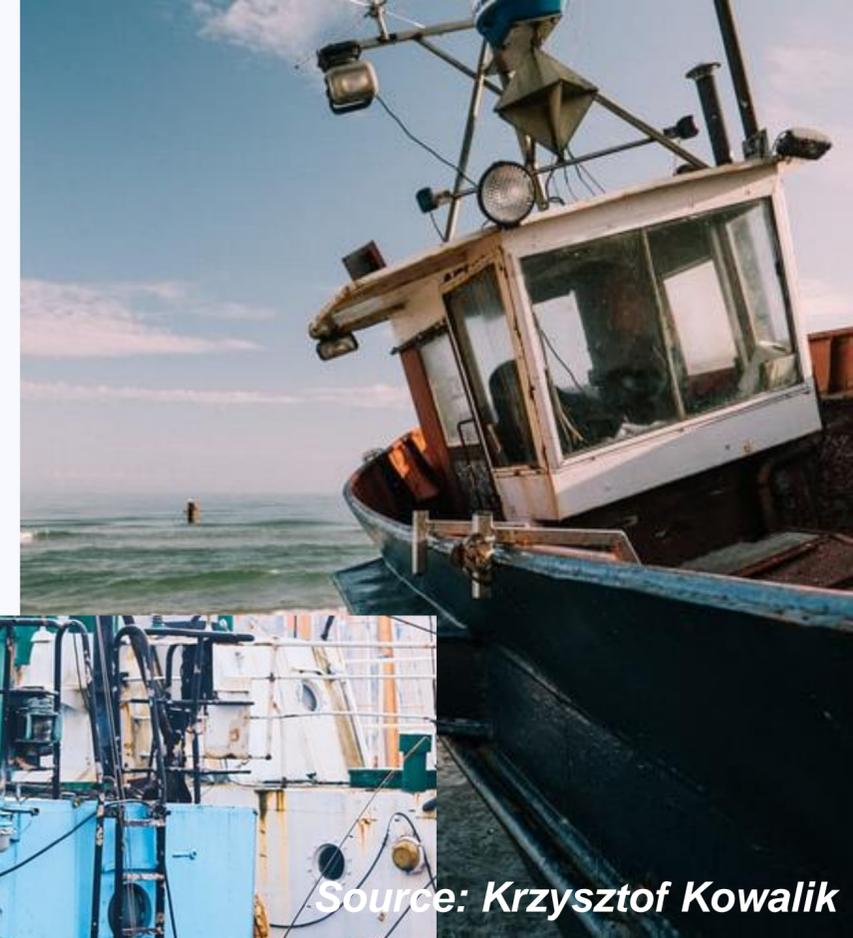
Source: Andi Watkins

Impact - Poland

- Pandemic initially increased fish products sales because consumers began to stock up especially frozen, processed and canned products, while fresh fish sales almost stopped.



Source: Nastya Dulhiier



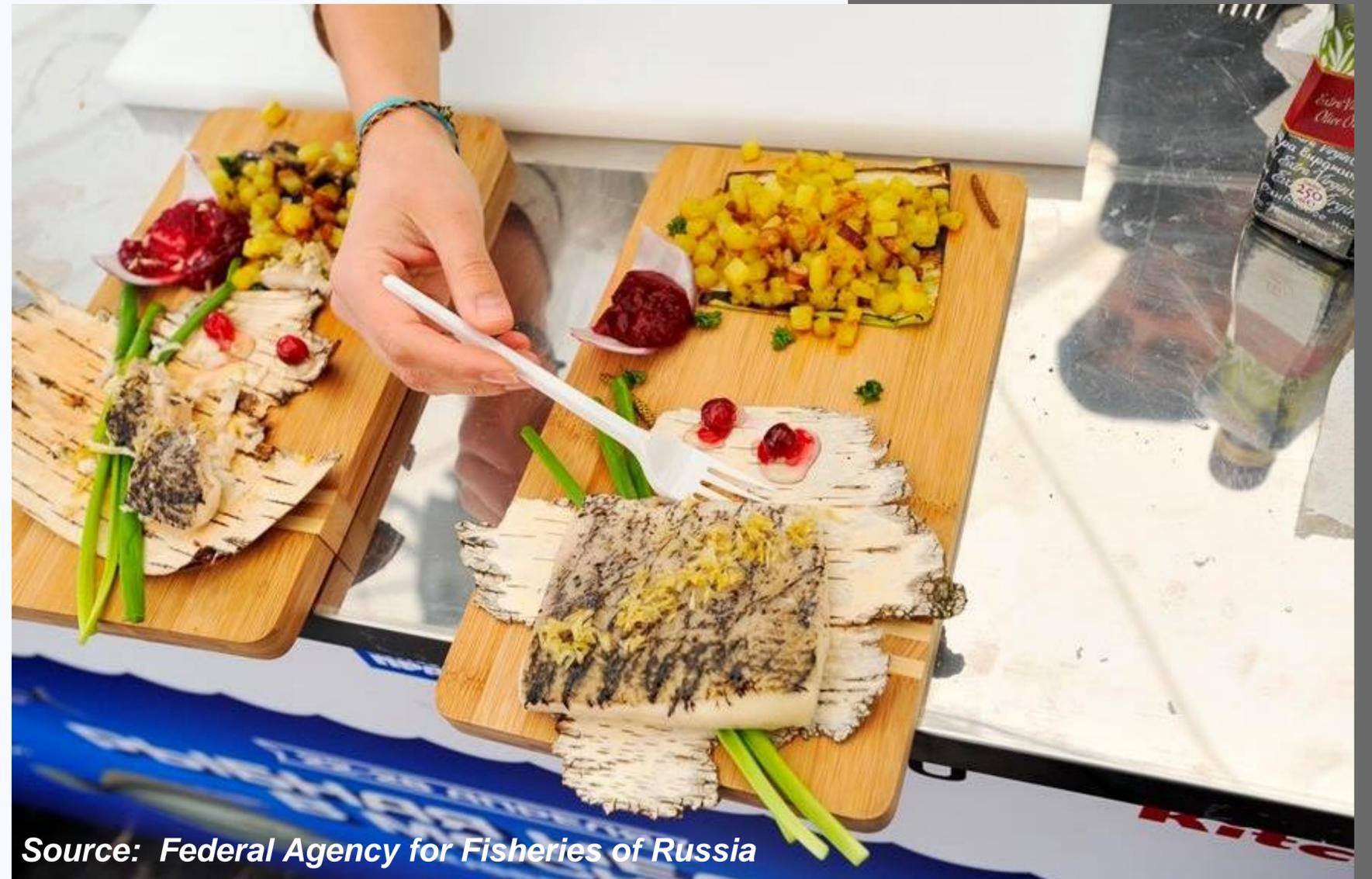
Source: Krzysztof Kowalik

Impact - Russia

. - In the fresh and frozen fish sectors, the pandemic has reduced fish demand in the HORECA sector because of restrictions on their businesses

- Many businesses stocked up inventory early on, and reduced their purchases later as their own clientele shrank, causing fluctuating prices for fish producers.

- The reduced demand for fish, and in particular locally farmed fresh fish, means producers have had to freeze more of their production, hoping to sell it later.



Source: Federal Agency for Fisheries of Russia

Thank you for your attention!