

Highlights from the FAO database on Aquaculture Statistics

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The FAO Fisheries database of statistics on aquaculture production and values has been updated to include data for 2004. Total aquaculture production of aquatic animals (i.e., excluding aquatic plants) for 2004 was reported to be 45.5 million tonnes¹ with a farm-gate value of US\$ 63.4 billion. With the inclusion of aquatic plants, the production increases to 59.4 million tonnes with a value of US\$ 70.3 billion. Growth in global aquaculture continues to be strong as these figures represent an increase in production of 7.7 percent from the total aquaculture production reported for 2003, and a 6.6 percent increase when only aquatic animals are considered. Considering the ten-year period from 1994-2004, total aquaculture production shows an average annual increase of 7.9 percent.

For culture of aquatic animals, China continues to far exceed the production of other nations accounting for over two-thirds of the global total. The top ten producing countries for 2004 are listed in Table 1. These countries account for 88.2 percent of the total global production. The top seven producing nations are all from the Asia-Pacific region and in 2004

Table 1. Top ten countries in aquaculture production of aquatic animals in 2004

Country	Production (tonnes)	Percent of world total
China	30 614 968	67.3
India	2 472 335	5.4
Viet Nam	1 198 617	2.6
Thailand	1 172 866	2.6
Indonesia	1 045 051	2.3
Bangladesh	914 752	2.0
Japan	776 421	1.7
Chile	674 979	1.5
Norway	637 993	1.4
USA	606 549	1.3
Rest of world	5 353 825	11.8
Total	45 468 356	100.0

Note: Includes fish, crustaceans, molluscs and amphibians

the countries of this region were responsible for 88.9 percent of production, followed by Western Europe (4.6%), Latin America and the Caribbean (2.9%) and North America (1.7%) Production volume and value are presented by region in Figure 1. Note that, because of the huge production of China, the rest of the Asia-Pacific region is considered separately.

The species with the greatest production volume was the Pacific cupped oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) with 4.4 million tonnes, followed by three species of carps – silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idellus*) and common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). In terms of ISSCAAP (International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants; <http://www.fao.org/fi/statist/fisoft/asfis/asfis.asp>) groups of species, by far the most production is in the group consisting of carps and other cyprinids. In addition to the three carps already mentioned, the bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*) and the Crucian carp (*Carassius carassius*) also had production over 1.9 million tonnes in 2004. The top ten ISSCAAP species groups in terms of production are listed in Table 2. If aquatic plants are included, the species with the highest production is Japanese kelp (*Laminaria japonica*) with a production of 4.5 million tonnes.

For 2004, carps were the species group with the highest reported value – US\$ 16.4 billion. They were followed by shrimp and prawns (US\$ 9.7 billion), salmons and trouts (US\$ 6.6 billion), miscellaneous freshwater fishes (US\$ 6.0 billion), freshwater crustaceans (US\$4.0 billion), clams and cockles (US\$ 3.3 billion) and oysters (US\$ 2.8 billion). The highest reported value for a single species was US\$ 4.9 billion for the whiteleg shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*), followed by Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and giant tiger prawn (*Penaeus monodon*).

Over 240 different cultured aquatic animal and plant species were reported in 2004. This is an increase of 20 species from the figure reported in 2002 and demonstrates the

increasing diversification currently taking place in aquaculture. These 240 species represent 94 families. Moreover, the diversity of species is probably under-estimated, as 8.9 million tonnes (15.1%) of global aquaculture production, including an additional 20 families, was not reported to species level in 2004, and this 'unspecified' group is likely to include species not yet recorded as being cultured. Of aquaculture reported to FAO to the species level, the top ten species account for 61.7 percent of the production, and the top 25 species account for 86.6 percent of total aquaculture production. These are less than the corresponding figures of 68.1 percent and 91.0 percent in 2000, providing another indication that species diversification in aquaculture is increasing.

The entire aquaculture database, containing data from 1950-2004, can be downloaded from the FAO Fisheries website at www.fao.org/fi/statist/fisoft/fishplus.asp. FISHSTAT Plus is a powerful and easy-to-use software package that allows the user to query the databases for aquaculture production and values, as well as the other FAO Fisheries Statistics databases, including global capture fishery data, fishery commodities data, and regional databases. In addition, the databases can be queried online using FIGIS (Fisheries Global Information System) at the FAO Fisheries website: www.fao.org/fi/.

¹All FAO aquaculture and capture fishery production statistics are expressed in live weight-equivalent units. (i.e. irrespective of the form of product at first point of sale, it is expressed as whole weight).

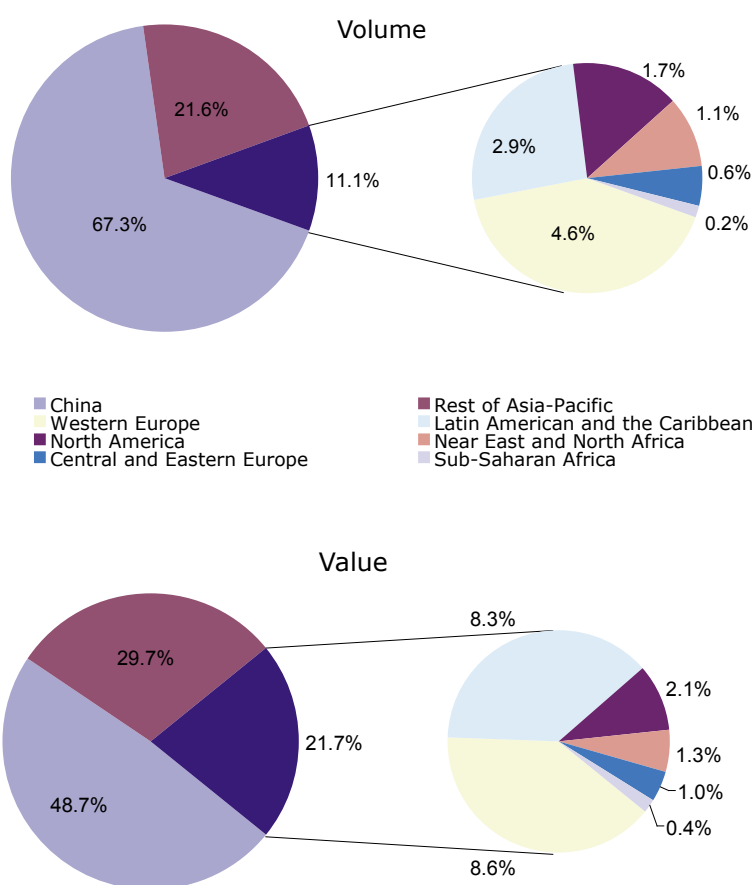


Figure 1. World aquaculture production, volume and value, by region with China disaggregated from rest of the Asia-Pacific region, 2004

Table 2. Top ten ISSCAAP species groups for aquaculture production of aquatic animals (not including aquatic plants) for 2004

Species group	Production (tonnes)	Production % of world total	Value (billion US\$)
Carp and other cyprinids	18 303 847	40.3	16.4
Oysters	4 603 717	10.1	2.8
Clams, cockles, arkshells	4 116 839	9.1	3.3
Miscellaneous freshwater fishes	3 739 949	8.3	6.0
Shrimps, prawns	2 476 023	5.5	9.7
Salmons, trouts, smelts	1 978 109	4.4	6.6
Mussels	1 860 249	4.1	1.0
Tilapias and other cichlids	1 822 745	4.0	2.2
Scallops, pectens	1 166 756	2.6	1.7
Miscellaneous marine molluscs	1 065 191	2.3	0.6
Other species	4 334 931	9.5	12.9
Total	45 468 356	100.0%	63.4