



May 2006

FACT SHEET: The international fish trade and world fisheries

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

THE GLOBAL FISH TRADE*

Amount of fish traded internationally

A large share of all fish production enters international marketing channels, with about 38% (live weight equivalent) exported in 2004.

Value of fish exports

In 2004, total world *exports* of fish and fish products reached a record value of US\$71.5 billion, a 51% increase from 1994.

Value of fish imports

World fish *imports* rose 25.4% from 2000 to 2004, reaching the new record of more than US\$75 billion in 2004. Developed countries accounted for about 81% of the total value of imports.

Top exporting countries

China (exports valued at US\$6.6 billion)	Canada (US\$3.5 billion)
Norway (US\$4.1 billion)	Spain (US\$2.6 billion)
Thailand (US\$4.0 billion)	Chile (US\$2.5 billion)
The United States (US\$3.9 billion)	Netherlands (US\$2.5 billion)
Denmark (US\$3.6 billion)	Viet Nam (US\$2.4 billion).

Top importing countries

Japan (US\$14.6 billion worth of imports)	Italy (US\$3.9 billion)
United States (US\$12 billion)	United Kingdom (US\$2.8 billion)
Spain (US\$5.2 billion)	Germany (US\$2.8 billion).
France (US\$4.2 billion)	

Imports to Europe

In 2004, the original European community countries (EC-15) continued to expand their dependency on imports for their fish supply, reaching US\$28.3 billion (+44% since 2000 and +10% since 2003). Yet 46% of these imports had an intra-EU-15 origin.

Exports from Europe

In 2004, EU-15 exports of fish and fishery products were valued at US\$17.1 billion, representing a growth of 51% since 2000. About 80% of these exports were destined to other EU-15 countries. (The significant increase of the EU-15 imports and exports are also due to the marked appreciation of the European currencies against the US dollar.)

Top commodities

Shrimp continues to be the most important commodity traded in value terms, accounting for 16.5% of the total value of internationally traded fish products in 2004. The other main groups of exported species were groundfish (10.2%: e.g. **hake**, **cod**, **haddock** and **Alaska pollock**), **tuna** (8.7%) and **salmon** (8.5%). In 2004, **fishmeal** represented around 3.3% of the value of exports and fish oil less than 1%.

Developing countries and fish trade

The share of *developing countries* in total fishery exports was 48% by value and 57% by quantity in 2004. The fishery net exports of developing countries (i.e. the total value of their exports less the total value of their imports) showed a continuing rising trend in the last decades, growing from US\$4.6 billion in 1984 to US\$16.0 in 1994 to US\$20.4 billion in 2004. These figures were significantly higher than those for other agricultural commodities such as rice, coffee and tea.

*All figures for 2004

On reverse:
Spanish fish trade, world fisheries statistics



THE FISH TRADE AND SPAIN

Trade flows	Spain , with US\$5.2 billion, was the world's third largest importer of fish and fish products and the seventh exporter with US\$2.6 billion in 2004.
Countries exporting to Spain	In 2004, in value terms, main suppliers of fish and fishery products to the Spanish market were France , Morocco , Argentina , the Netherlands , the United Kingdom and Namibia . 40% of Spanish fishery imports originated from other EU-15 countries.
Spanish exports	In 2004, Italy , Portugal , France , Japan , Germany , Greece and China , Hong Kong SAR represented the main outlets for Spanish exports of fish and fishery products in value terms. 74% of its exports were directed to EU-15 countries.
Consumption of fish	In 2003, Spanish per caput apparent fish consumption was of about 45/kg, with fish representing a share of 21% in animal proteins and 14% in total proteins. That same year, per capita fish consumption in the EU-15 was of about 25.5/kg, with fish having a share of about 10% of total animal proteins and 6% of total proteins. World-wide, per capita consumption of fish and fishery products is estimated at 16.5/kg, with fish accounting for 15.5% of total animal proteins and 5.9% of total proteins.

FISHERIES PRODUCTION

Global production	Total global fishery production from capture fisheries and aquaculture reached 140 million tonnes in 2004, with 32.4% of that coming from aquaculture. With aquaculture <i>excluded</i> , world global "capture fisheries" production in 2004 was 95 million tonnes.
European production	During the 1995-2004 period, total catches by the EC-15 countries decreased by 27%, from 7.2 to 5.2 million tonnes. Spain , along with Denmark , Greece and Sweden , is one of the countries which reduced most its catches in the last decade, from 1.2 in 1995 to 0.8 million tonnes in 2004. All these figures include also catches in inland waters and from distant water fleets.
Top fishing countries, worldwide	Top ten capture fishery producing countries have not changed since 1992, with China , Peru and the United States in the first three places since 2001.
Top fishing countries, Europe	Main capture producing countries in 2004 among the EC 15 were Denmark , Spain , the United Kingdom , France and Netherlands , all above 0.5 million tonnes.
Top species, worldwide	The most caught species at the global level is by far the Peruvian anchoveta with about 10.7 million tonnes in 2004. It is followed in the ranking by Alaska pollock and blue whiting , two other low value species, and by skipjack tuna and Atlantic herring . Atlantic herring is the most caught species by the EC 15 countries, followed by European sprat , blue whiting and Atlantic mackerel .
Top species, Spain	For Spanish vessels, tunas (skipjack and yellowfin from the tropical Atlantic and Indian oceans) and the sardine from the Atlantic and the Mediterranean are the most caught species.