### THE GLOBAL FISH TRADE*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trade volumes</strong></td>
<td>A large share of all fish production enters international marketing channels, with 37% (live weight equivalent) being exported in 2006.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Value of exports</strong></td>
<td>In 2006, total world exports of fish and fish products reached a record value of US$85.9 billion, a 55% increase from 2000.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Value of imports</strong></td>
<td>Fish imports rose 49% from 2000 to 2006, reaching a new record of over US$89.6 billion. Developed countries accounted for about 80% of imports, in value terms.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Top exporters**  | China (exports valued at US$9 billion)  
Norway (US$5.5 billion)  
Thailand (US$5.2 billion)  
USA (US$4.1 billion)  
Denmark (US$4 billion)  
Canada (US$3.7 billion)  
Chile (US$3.6 billion)  
Viet Nam (US$3.4 billion)  
Spain (US$2.8 billion)  
Netherlands (US$2.8 billion). |
| **Top importers**  | Japan (US$14.0 billion worth of imports)  
USA (US$13.3 billion)  
Spain (US$6.4 billion)  
France (US$5.1 billion)  
Italy (US$4.7 billion)  
China (US$4.1 billion)  
Germany (US$3.7 billion).  
United Kingdom (US$3.7 billion)  
Denmark (US$2.8 billion)  
Korea Republic (US$2.7 billion). |
| **Top commodities** | Shrimp continues to be the most important commodity traded in value terms, accounting for 16.6% of the total value of internationally traded fish products in 2006. The other main groups of exported species were groundfish (10.5%: e.g. hake, cod, haddock and Alaska pollock), salmon (10.7%) and tuna (7.7%). In 2006, fishmeal represented around 3.5% of the value of exports and fish oil less than 1%. |
| **Developing countries & global fish trade** | The share of developing countries in total fishery exports was 49% by value and 59% by quantity in 2006. The net exports of fish by developing countries (i.e. the total value of their exports less the total value of their imports) has shown a continuing rising trend over recent decades, growing from US$7.2 billion in 1986 to US$16.7 in 1996 to US$24.6 billion in 2006. These figures were significantly higher than those for other agricultural commodities such as rice, coffee and tea. |
| **Employment**     | In 2006, 43.5 million people directly engaged in primary production of fish, either in capture fishery or in aquaculture. |

*All figures for 2006
### The Fish Trade & Europe

**Imports to Europe**

In 2006, European country imports of fish and fishery products reached US$41.3 billion. The 27 European community countries (EC-27) continued to expand their dependency on imports for their fish supply. The value of these imports reached US$37.5 billion in 2006 (+85% since 2000 and +14% since 2005). Yet 45% of these imports had an intra-EU-27 origin.

In 2006, in value terms, salmon was the main species imported by European countries (14% of total imports of fish and fishery products) followed by shrimps and prawns (13%). Other favoured species were cod (10%), tuna (7%), cephalopods (5%) and freshwater fish (4%).

**Top Exporters to Europe**

In 2006, in value terms, 59% of the European imports of fish and fishery products originated from other European countries. Major suppliers were Norway (11%), Denmark (7%), Spain (6%), the Netherlands (5%) and China (4%). Other leading non-European suppliers were the USA (3%), Morocco (3%), Argentina (2%), Viet Nam (2%) and Chile (1%).

**Exports from Europe**

In 2006, EU-27 exports of fish products were valued at US$21.6 billion, representing a growth of 83% since 2000. About 85% were destined to other EU-27 countries. (The increase of EU-27 imports and exports is also due to the appreciation of European currencies against the US dollar.)

In 2006, in value terms, salmon was also the main species exported (19% of the value of all EC-27 exports of fish and fishery products. Salmon was mainly exported in fresh or chilled form. Other top species exported were cod (12%), shrimps (8%), tunas (5%), herrings (4%) and mackerel (3%).

**Exports from Europe**

In 2006, 86% of the value of EC-27 exports was directed to other European countries. France was the main market (12% of exports), then Italy (11%), Germany (9%), Spain (8%) and the UK (8%). Major non-European markets were Japan (3%), China (2%) and Nigeria (1%).

### The Fish Trade & Germany

**Trade Flows**

Germany, with imports valued at US$3.7 billion, was the world’s seventh largest importer of fish and fish products and the fifteenth exporter (US$1.8 billion in 2006).

**Countries Exporting to Germany**

In 2006, in value terms, main suppliers to Germany were Denmark, the Netherlands, China, Poland, Norway, Peru, Chile, Russian Federation and Thailand. 46% of German fishery imports originated from the EU-27.

**German Exports**

In 2006, France, the Netherlands, Austria, Italy, UK, Denmark and Belgium represented the main outlets for German exports of fish, in value terms. 88% of its exports were directed to EU-27 countries.

**Top Commodities**

Marine fish including salmons, cods, herrings, tunas are the most important commodity traded in Germany. In 2006, salmon made up 22.9% of the total value of traded fish products, followed by cods (including hake, cods, haddock and Alaska Pollack) at 19.8%, and shrimp (7.4%).

**Consumption**

In 2005, German per caput fish consumption was 14.8/kg, with fish representing a share of 7.8% in animal proteins and 4.7% in total proteins. On average, per capita fish consumption in the EU-27 is of about 22/kg, with fish having a share of about 10% of total animal proteins and 6% of total proteins. Worldwide, per capita consumption is estimated at 16.5/kg, with fish accounting for 15.5% of animal proteins and 5.9% of all proteins.

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**Fisheries Production**
**Global production**

Total global fishery production from capture fisheries and aquaculture combined reached 144 million tonnes in 2006, with 36% of that coming from aquaculture. With aquaculture excluded, world global capture fisheries production in 2006 was 92 million tonnes.

**European production**

During the 1997-2006 period, total catches by the EU-27 countries decreased by 26%, from 7.6 to 5.7 million tonnes. **Poland**, **Denmark** and **Greece** are the countries which most reduced most their catches in the last decade. These figures include catches in inland waters and from distant water fleets.

**Top fishing countries, worldwide**

The ranking of top ten capture fishery producing countries has been quite stable since 1992, with **China**, **Peru** and the **United States** occupying the top three positions since 2001.

**Top fishing countries, Europe**

The main capture-fisheries countries among the EU-27 are **Spain**, **Denmark**, the **United Kingdom** and **France**, all producing over 0.5 million tonnes in 2006. **Germany**, with almost 0.3 million tonnes, ranked seventh among the EU countries.

**Top species, worldwide & in Europe**

The most caught species at the global level is by far the **Peruvian anchoveta** (7 million tonnes in 2006). It is followed by **Alaska pollock**, **skipjack tuna**, **Atlantic herring** and **blue whiting**. **Atlantic herring** is the most caught species by the EU-27 countries, followed by **European sprat**, **blue whiting** and **Atlantic mackerel**.

**Top species, Germany**

The top species in German catches in 2006 were **Atlantic herring**, **European sprat** and **blue whiting**.

**Top aquaculture countries, worldwide**

**China** is by far the leading aquaculture producer, accounting for about two thirds of world aquaculture production. The other major aquaculture producing countries are **India**, **Viet Nam**, **Thailand**, and **Indonesia**. The EU-27 account for 2.5% of world aquaculture production (1.3 million tonnes in 2006).

**Top aquaculture countries, Europe**

Main aquaculture producing countries in 2006 among the EU-27 were **Spain**, **France**, **Italy**, the **United Kingdom** and **Greece**. Germany, with 35 thousands tonnes, ranked tenth among the EU countries.

**Top cultured species, worldwide**

Various **carps** are the major species group cultured, accounting for 40% of production in weight, followed by other fresh water fishes and oysters. **Whiteleg shrimp** and **Atlantic salmon** are two major cultured species in value followed by silver carp, Grass carp, and Giant tiger prawn. **Sea mussel** is the species most widely cultured by the EU-27 countries, followed by **rainbow trout**, **blue mussel**, and **Atlantic salmon**.

**Top cultured species, Germany**

Top species in 2006 German aquaculture production were **rainbow trout**, **common carp** and **blue mussel**.

Source: Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO
http://www.fao.org/fishery/