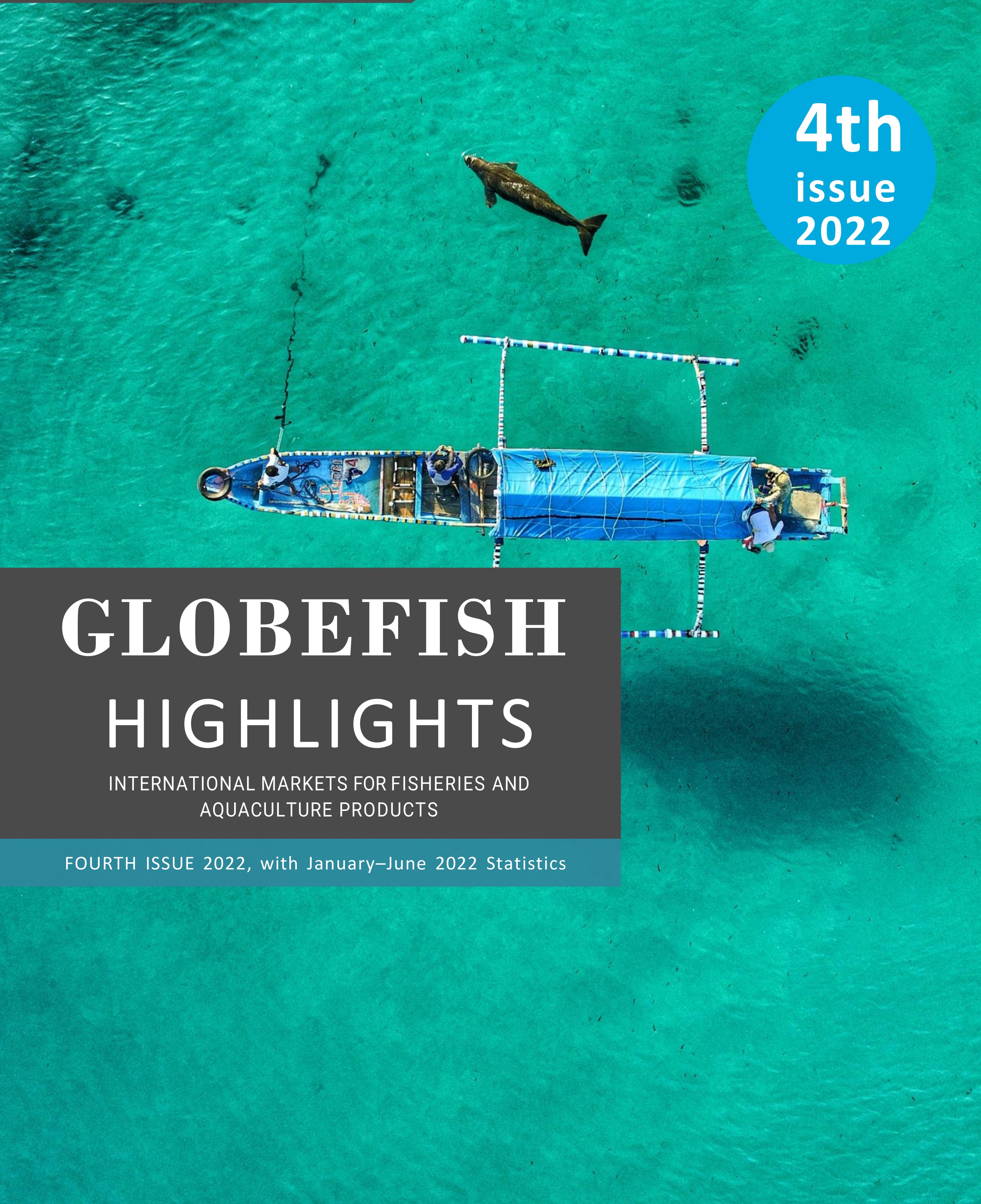
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



4th issue 2022

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL MARKETS FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS

FOURTH ISSUE 2022, with January–June 2022 Statistics

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FOURTH ISSUE 2022, with January–June 2022 Statistics

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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GLOBEFISH forms part of the Products, Trade and Marketing Branch of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division and is part of the FISH INFOnetwork. It collects information from the main market areas in developed countries for the benefit of the world's producers and exporters. Part of its services is an electronic databank and the distribution of information through the European Fish Price Report, the GLOBEFISH Highlights, the GLOBEFISH Research Programme and the Commodity Updates.

The GLOBEFISH Highlights is based on information available in the databank, supplemented by market information from industry correspondents and from six regional services which form the FISH INFOnetwork: INFOFISH (Asia and the Pacific), INFOPESCA (Latin America and the Caribbean), INFOPECHE (Africa), INFOSAMAK (Arab countries), EUROFISH (Central and Eastern Europe) and INFOYU (China).
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GLOBEFISH Highlights

Editorial Board
Audun Lem
Marcio Castro de Souza
Maria Catalano

Editor in Chief
Marcio Castro de Souza

Coordinator
William Griffin

Contributing Editors
Maria Catalano
Helga Josupeit

Authors
Helga Josupeit
Fatima Ferdouse
William Griffin
Erik Hempel
Rodrigo Misa

Layout
William Griffin

Meet the Expert
Mariana Toussaint
Silvio Alejandro Ricardo Catalano García

EDITORIAL OFFICE
GLOBEFISH
Trade and Markets Team (NFIMT)
Fisheries and Aquaculture Division - Natural Resources and Sustainable Production
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153, Rome, Italy
globefish@fao.org/www.globefish.org

REGIONAL OFFICES

Latin America, Caribbean
INFOPESCA, Casilla de Correo 7086, Julio Herrera y Obes 1296, 11200 Montevideo, Uruguay
infopesca@infopesca.org / www.infopesca.org

Africa
INFOPÊCHE, BP 1747 Abidjan 01, Côte d'Ivoire
Email: infopeche@aviso.ci / infopech@gmail.com / www.infopeche.ci

Arab Countries
INFOSAMAK, 71, Boulevard Rahal,
El Meskini Casablanca 20 000, Morocco. E-mail: info@infosamak.org / infosamak@infosamak.org
www.infosamak.org

Europe
Eurofish, H.C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46,1553 Copenhagen V , Denmark
info@eurofish.dk / www.eurofish.dk

Asia
INFOFISH
1st Floor, Wisma LKIM Jalan Desaria
Pulau Meranti, 47120 Puchong, Selangor DE Malaysia
info@infofish.org / www.infofish.org

China
INFOYU, Room 901, No 18, Maizidian street, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100125, China.
infoyu@agri.gov.cn / www.infoyu.net

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GLOBAL FISH ECONOMY

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Production and trade to grow in 2022, prices remain strong overall

Production and trade grew slightly, with fish consumption recovering to 2018 levels due to strengthening demand. Global fish production increased by 1.2 percent in 2022 to 184.1 million tonnes. Output from aquaculture will grow by 2.6 percent, remaining marginally behind its long-term growth rate of 3.3 percent between 2015 and 2020. High fuel prices, lower quotas on important stocks and poor weather in key fishing grounds all contributed to a slowdown in capture fisheries, which will fall by 0.2 percent to 92.1 million tonnes.

Despite a modest increase in trade volume, inflation and high prices led to rapid rises in trade revenue, which grew to USD 193.5 billion, up 10.7 percent year-on-year. Much of this increase was from Ecuador, China and Norway, with exports from these countries expected to increase by 20 percent to USD 8.1 billion. Ecuador benefitted greatly from expanded production of shrimp, further cementing its position as the top global exporter of the crustacean. Shrimp production reached over 1 million tonnes in 2021, and projections indicate a 30 to 35 percent increase for 2022. International salmon prices hit a ten-year high in May, which together with high prices for groundfish pushed Norwegian export revenues up by 18 percent. For imports, the United States of America and China, which together account for 36 percent of the value of imports, saw imports grow by 13 percent and 11 percent, respectively. The European Union, the largest market by value, saw reduced import volumes, while the value of imports grew by just 1 percent.

Globally, slowing real consumer spending played a significant role in reigning in crude oil and freight prices. The Brent Index for crude oil is now lower than before the war in Ukraine. Freight costs have stabilized somewhat after recording steep declines in mid-2022, although inflation and sluggish economic growth made demand outlook uncertain. Both of these developments have decreased upward pressure on fish prices.

In September 2022, the Norwegian Government announced plans to introduce a 40 percent tax on most salmon farming companies. This was met by fierce opposition from the industry and sent shockwaves through the market. Regardless of the final agreement, significant disruption for the industry was anticipated for 2023, which given Norway’s role as the major exporter of salmon would have considerable implications for international markets.

The FAO fish price index recorded a 6.8 percent increase between January and September 2022. Most of the rise was associated with wild capture fisheries, with cod prices increasing by 34 percent while small pelagics increased by 98 percent. Aquaculture prices did spike between May and June, but a subsequent reduction in prices for species such as salmon and shrimp brought the September aquaculture index down to 6 percent below January levels. Pangasius, a predominantly farmed species, bucked this trend as a result of increased demand as an alternative to scarce and expensive cod and haddock.

BIVALVES

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Bivalve supply low

Demand for bivalves was limited in 2022. Supply of bivalves was generally lower than in 2021 due to climate and other negative impacts, such as fuel costs for extractive bivalve production. Despite low demand, prices moved up slightly.

Mussels

During the summer months, Dutch mussel production is reported to have suffered from a lack of nutrients due to decreased levels of fresh water. Summer production of mussels in France has suffered from a lack of rain which is essential to bring nutrients and help phytoplankton growth in the production zones. This has delayed production cycles in many regions, including the AOP Moules de la Baie du Mont St Michel. Normandy mussel production, particularly around the Chausey Islands, has also been severely affected by spider crab predation, which is reported to have caused the loss of up to 30 percent of production. The local prefecture in Normandy has agreed to carry out experimental dredging around the production area to address the problem. Lower freshwater arrivals in the Adriatic Sea, similar to the Kingdom of the Netherlands and France, also impacted Italian mussel production.

Mussel prices in Italy reached EUR 2.80 per kg at the retail level in October 2022, while the normal price level is around EUR 1.50 per kg. Overall, the Rungis wholesale price quotation for mussels increased significantly in early October 2022, reflecting production conditions and ready demand. Bouchot prices have increased by EUR 1.40 per kg since late August, Dutch mussels by EUR 0.25 per kg since August and Spanish mussels (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*) by EUR 0.20 per kg since September.

The lower production impacted mussel trade in Europe. In the first six months of 2022, a 2 percent decline in trade was reported, down to 133 000 tonnes. Demand grew in France, where higher imports compensated for lower domestic production.

Oysters

Oyster trade expanded strongly in the first half of 2022, mainly due to strong demand in the US market. Some 35 000 tonnes were imported worldwide during this period, which is 5 000 tonnes more than in the same period of 2021. US imports increased by 23 percent, while Italy also reported a 24 percent expansion in imports.

France is the main exporter of oysters to the world market; these exports are mainly going to neighbouring countries such as Italy and Spain, but also to the United States of America. Oyster exports increased in the first half of 2022 to reach 7 000 tonnes, compared to 5 800 tonnes in the main period of 2021.

Oysters are generally consumed more in winter months, with a peak at Christmas. As such, prices during the summer months are not very indicative, although it is worth noting that there were price increases in Europe.

BIVALVES

Scallops

Scallop catches in the United States of America were lower in 2022 than in 2021. The catch season runs from April to March. From April 2021 to March 2022 some 17 300 tonnes of scallops were landed by the Atlantic fishing fleet, which is concentrated in Massachusetts. The estimates for the 2022–2023 fishing season are 13 500 tonnes, which is 22 percent less than in the previous fishing season. Landings during each month of the new season were lower than in the 2021–2022 season. In July 2022, normally the main production month, some 1 000 tonnes less of scallops were landed. This is mainly due to a drop in fishing vessels and the time spent fishing.

On the other hand, and quite surprisingly, prices are going down. Auction prices for the 10–20 count were USD 14.90 per lb in October 2022, which compares to USD 23.53 per lb in the same period of last year. The very large scallops, too, recorded a 9 percent value year-on-year in October 2022.

However, there are some bright signs for the United States Atlantic scallop fisheries, as the Northern Edge of Georges Bank, could be reopened for scallop fisheries. This area was closed off some 30 years ago, to help the recovery of the cod fisheries. The biomass of scallops in this area is in such great shape that it could make up for 5 000 tonnes annually, which would be almost 40 percent of the present scallop landings.

Scallop trade increased in 2022, on the wave of the general normalization of the market after the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports went up by 17 percent in the first half of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021. The main importing country was China, followed by the United States of America and France. The Republic of Korea is now the fourth major scallop importer, reporting a 24 percent increase in 2022. Spain almost doubled its imports in the first six months of 2022. China and France are also the main exporting countries of scallops. Remarkably, Peru, which had recovered nicely as a scallop producer and exporter, experienced a setback in the first half of 2022, reporting a 35 percent decline in exports.

BIVALVES

Clams

The issue of the size of clams is back as a topic of discussion between Italy and Spain. Back in 2015, the European Union imposed a ban on fishing for molluscs less than 25 millimetres long on all Member States, including Italy, to safeguard the species. For this reason, Italy had requested and obtained a derogation to lower the minimum reference size to 22 millimetres in some geographical sub-areas, especially the Tyrrhenian and Adriatic coasts. They argued that the original ruling did not consider that clams can reproduce at just over 11 millimetres. The measure has been repeatedly extended over the years; the last deadline is 31 December 2022. Last March, Italy presented a new joint recommendation to the Commission to ask to establish a further derogation. It did so based on scientific evidence validated by STECF, the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries, and the Advisory Council for the Mediterranean Sea. However, the act concerning the Italian exception extension until the end of 2025 has sparked controversy. Spain is appealing to the European Parliament against these new derogations claiming it is unfair competition. Spain asked to deepen the scientific evidence underlying the act delegated by the STECF, on which heavy doubts were expressed.

However, China remains the leading player at an international level, as the main clam exporter. Spain increased its clam imports impressively, replacing Japan as the main destination. The Republic of Korea remains the second global importer, while Japan has dropped to third.

Outlook

Some bivalves are mainly consumed in winter months, especially in Europe. Oysters are a classic Christmas dinner item in high demand. However, it is difficult to anticipate the festivity demand for fish and fish products. Given the overall difficult economic situation, consumers might refrain from expensive dining, going out to white-cloth restaurants, and the like, which would result in less demand for oysters and other speciality bivalves.

BIVALVES

World imports and exports of scallops January–June, 2020–2022 (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022
Imports			
China	29.12	41.38	47.38
United States of America	7.54	13.02	16.04
France	5.36	7.72	7.88
Other countries	28.55	35.14	42.92
Total imports	**70.57**	**97.27**	**114.23**
Exports			
China	12.39	17.62	20.68
France	2.67	4.89	5.37
Peru	2.93	6.52	4.28
Other countries	13.09	14.14	14.46
Total exports	**31.08**	**43.17**	**44.80**

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

World imports and exports of mussels January–June, 2020–2022 (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022
Imports			
France	22.05	26.00	28.32
United States of America	15.54	18.81	19.42
Italy	15.26	18.20	18.75
Other countries	69.19	72.89	64.59
Total imports	**122.05**	**135.90**	**131.08**
Exports			
Chile	47.24	53.02	45.79
Spain	20.81	21.01	24.57
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	13.07	13.31	19.62
Other countries	55.10	65.86	68.89
Total exports	**136.21**	**153.20**	**158.87**

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

World imports and exports of oysters January–June, 2020–2022 (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022
Imports			
United States of America	4.66	6.66	8.26
Italy	1.93	3.41	4.22
France	1.90	4.00	3.74
Other countries	14.83	16.82	18.89
Total imports	**23.33**	**30.89**	**35.12**
Exports			
France	3.83	5.92	7.21
Republic of Korea	6.19	6.32	6.06
Spain	2.26	3.49	4.31
Other countries	13.88	18.25	21.26
Total exports	**26.17**	**33.98**	**38.84**

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

World imports and exports of clams January–June, 2020–2022 (1 000 tonnes)

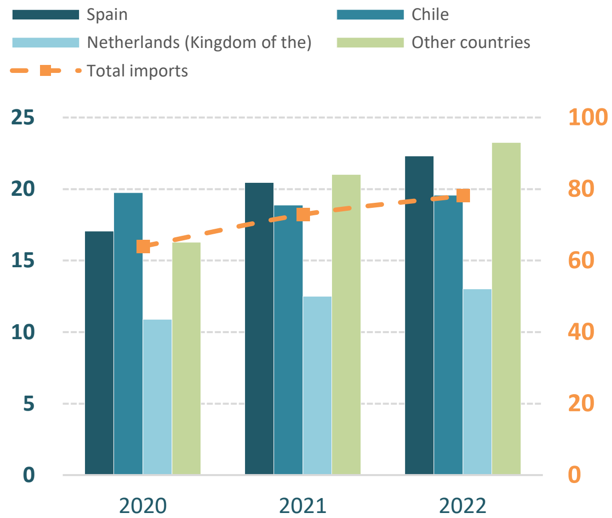
	2020	2021	2022
Imports			
Republic of Korea	23.39	22.25	24.31
Spain	17.20	18.84	23.89
Japan	36.26	35.42	21.19
Other countries	49.87	58.83	67.00
Total imports	**126.72**	**135.34**	**136.39**
Exports			
China	65.79	70.83	60.08
Canada	4.68	5.68	6.48
Republic of Korea	8.53	8.05	5.94
Other countries	34.99	38.17	43.95
Total exports	**114.00**	**122.72**	**116.45**

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

BIVALVES

European Union | Imports | Mussels
Top three origins

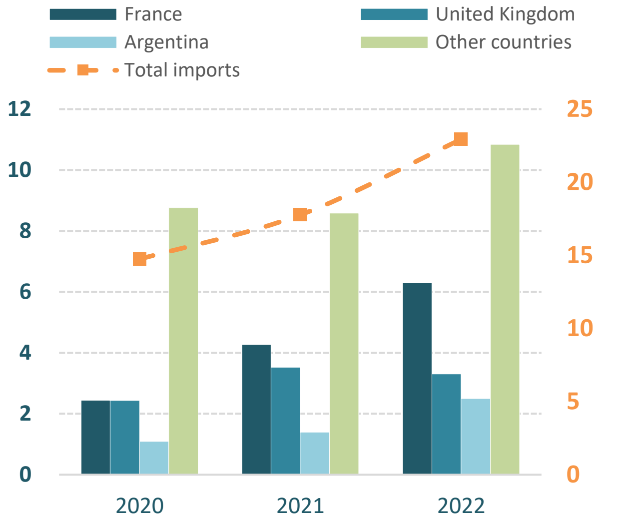
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

European Union | Imports | Scallops
Top three origins

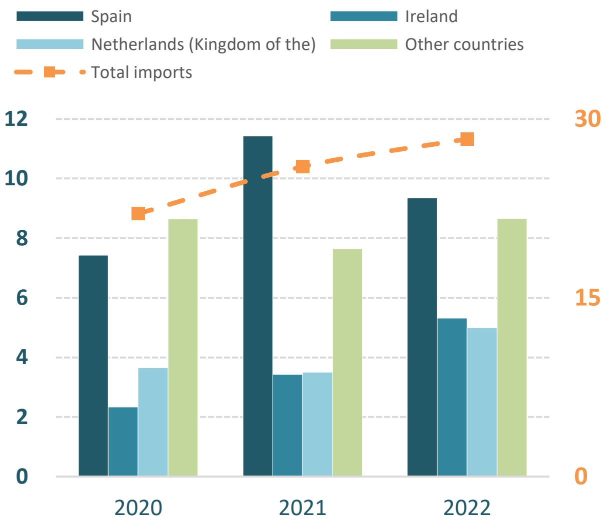
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

France | Imports | Mussels
Top three origins

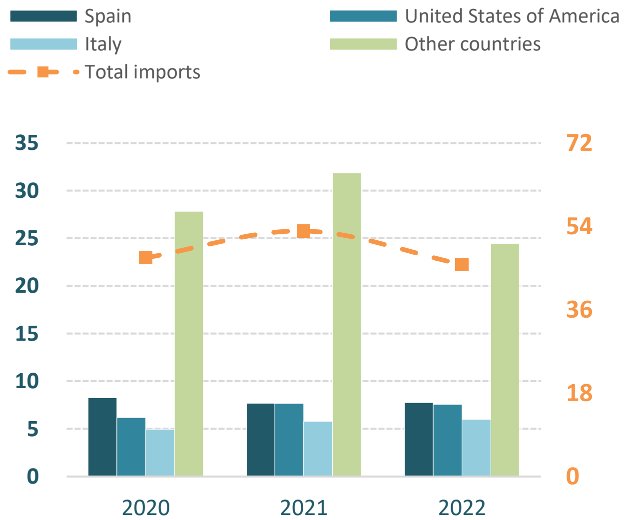
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Chile | Exports | Mussels
Top three destinations

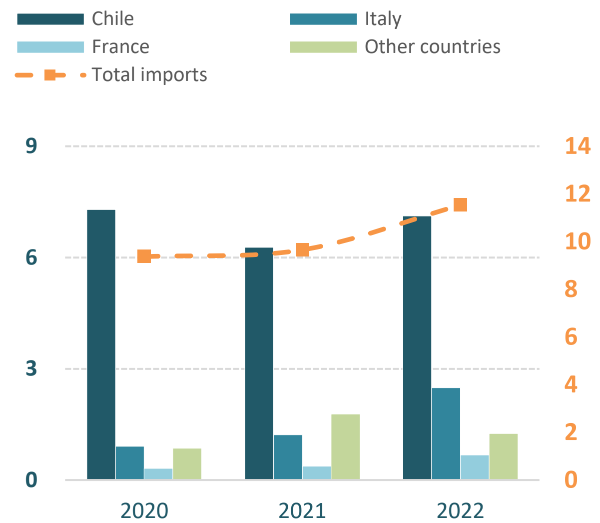
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

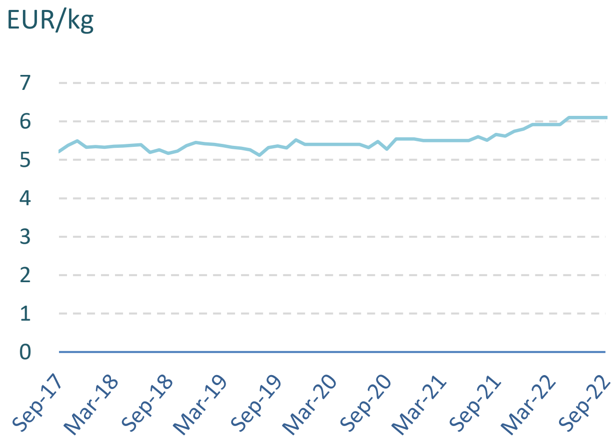
BIVALVES

Spain | Imports | Mussels
Top three origins
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Prices
Mussels: France



Monthly average consumer prices in metropolitan France

Source: Author's own elaboration based on the European Price Report. 2022. GLOBEFISH. Cited 30 September 2022. www.globefish.org

CEPHALOPODS

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Tight supplies

During the COVID-19 pandemic, demand was weaker, mainly due to the fact that the tourism industry in Europe was almost closed down. As things return to normal, demand in a number of markets has picked up considerably, leading to sky-high prices.

Octopus

In 2020, global octopus landings o amounted to 377 818 tonnes. China accounted for 27.8 percent of this, while countries in West Africa (Morocco and Mauritania) accounted for 24 percent. Other large producers include Mexico (9.2 percent of the total), Japan (8.6 percent of the total) and the Republic of Korea (5.1 percent of the total). Over the past three years (2018–2020) total landings have been just under 380 000 tonnes.

One solution to the tight supply situation seems to be that one could start farming octopus, and several groups have been working on this. Over the years, supplies of both octopus and squid have declined. In an effort to increase supplies, several groups are now preparing to start aquaculture production of cephalopods, but they are meeting with strong resistance from animal rights and environmental groups. A Spanish company plans to produce some 3 000 tonnes of octopus at their farming facilities in the Canary Islands. The operation is expected to start in 2023 but faces massive opposition from various quarters.

Pacma, Spain's party for the animals (Partido Animalista), is protesting the development for a number of reasons. Pacma claims that the Canary Islands regional Government was against the development, although the authorities had defended the plans. Pacma also claims that the project would lead to serious environmental problems and that it would be based on a carnivorous diet that would contribute to overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices.

Trade

Japanese octopus imports declined substantially between 2015 and 2020, from 50 927 tonnes in 2015 to 37 752 tonnes in 2020. However, in 2022, imports during the first six months increased again to 18 031 tonnes (+12.8 percent compared to the first half of 2021). Most of Japan's octopus imports come from Morocco, Mauritania, China and Viet Nam. The main reason for the increasing declining imports appears to be the weakening of the Japanese Yen.

While Japanese octopus imports are declining, Republic of Korea imports are holding their own. Imports during the first half of 2022 declined only slightly compared to the same period in 2021, from 35 090 tonnes in 2021 to 32 713 tonnes in 2022. The main suppliers were China, Viet Nam and Thailand.

CEPHALOPODS

Import prices in the Republic of Korea increased in 2022. For small frozen octopus import, prices increased by 28 percent during the first half of the year compared to prices during the first half of 2021.

Squid

Global squid catches have declined considerably, from 3.1 million tonnes in 2000 to 2.9 million tonnes in 2020.

One solution to this is aquaculture, but farming squid has proved difficult. For the past 60 years, scientists have tried to establish squid aquaculture, but with minimal success. However, now a group of scientists at the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology have developed a squid aquaculture system that may work and would be cheap enough to operate to compete with imported squid. The group claims to have succeeded in controlling the full life cycle of the squid.

The scientists at Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology have grown 10 generations of the oval squid (*Sepioteuthis lessoniana*) and have been working closely with one commercial partner while also being in contact with five or six others. However, with squid prices being low, farming is not profitable at the moment.

Peru's national chamber for jumbo squid, Camara Peruana Calamar Gigante (CAPECAL), and the country's Marine Institute (IMARPE), have signed an agreement to promote sustainable fishing of the jumbo squid (*Dosidicus gigas*).

The jumbo squid fishery has become one of Peru's most important fisheries for direct human consumption, and it is one of the largest artisanal fisheries in the world. According to CAPECAL, catches of jumbo squid in the Pacific amount to some 900 000 tonnes annually. Approximately 500 000 tonnes are landed in Peru.

Trade

Argentina's exports of Illex squid increased by 14 percent to 115 135 tonnes during the first half of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021. In value terms, exports rose from USD 205.6 million during the first half of 2021 to USD 245.3 million in the same period in 2022 (+17 percent). The average export price thus rose by 4.1 percent to USD 2.13 per kg.

US imports of squid and cuttlefish increased dramatically during the first half of 2022 compared to the first half of 2021. Total imports rose from 32 086 tonnes to 44 620 tonnes (+39.1 percent). The major suppliers were China (13 092 tonnes or 29.3 percent of the total), India (6 502 tonnes, 14.6 percent of the total) and Argentina (5 500 tonnes, 12.3 percent of the total).

US squid imports have long been on an upward trend since a low point in 2015. From 2016 until 2018 imports increased steadily but then stagnated for a few years (albeit with some ups and downs) until the middle of 2021 when imports started to rise significantly again.

CEPHALOPODS

Japan's imports of squid and cuttlefish continued to climb in the first half of 2022, from 67 781 tonnes during this period in 2020 to 72 169 tonnes in 2021 and to 77 760 tonnes in 2022 The largest supplier by far was China, which accounted for 61 percent of the total, followed by Peru with 12.5 percent.

China's squid and cuttlefish imports, on the other hand, declined by 14.1 percent during this period compared to 2021. Imports fell from 196 022 tonnes in the first half of 2021 to 168 400 tonnes in the same period of 2022. The largest suppliers were Indonesia, the United States of America and Pakistan.

China's exports of squid and cuttlefish increased sharply again, from 247 767 tonnes in the first half of 2021 to 310 797 tonnes in the same period in 2022 (+25.4 percent). The largest markets were Japan, Thailand and the Republic of Korea. However, Republic of Korea imports of squid and cuttlefish declined by 13 percent during the first half of 2022, to 73 079 tonnes.

Spanish consumption of cephalopods is picking up again this year due to the return of tourists to the country. Imports of squid and cuttlefish increased from 123 138 tonnes during the first half of 2021 to 143 919 tonnes in the first half of 2022. Thus, the country is on track to a "normal" situation. As usual, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) were the main supplier, followed by Peru and Morocco.

In general, squid prices in Europe have been rising steadily since mid-2021. Prices seem set to have risen more rapidly in recent months.

Outlook

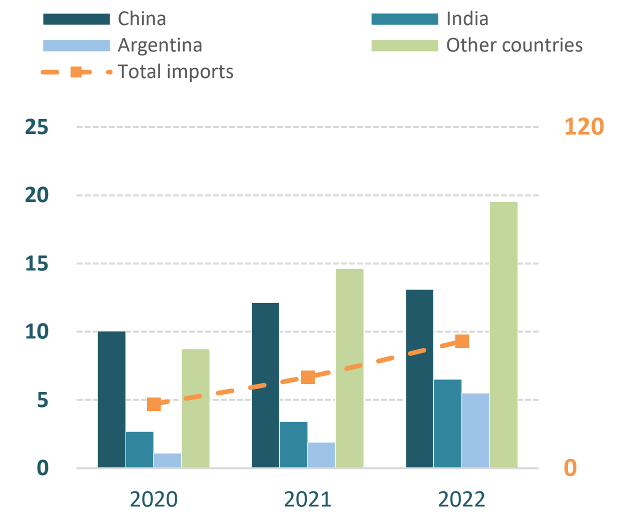
Octopus supplies will likely remain tight in the months ahead, but demand will slacken off as the European tourist season is over. Squid supplies are also expected to be tight, and prices, which have been increasingly steadily since mid-2021, will probably rise somewhat.

International trade has shown signs of recovering after the COVID-19 pandemic, but there are still ups and downs. It is now expected that trade will stabilize and that there will be some growth in major markets.

CEPHALOPODS

United States of America | Imports Squid and cuttlefish |Top three origins

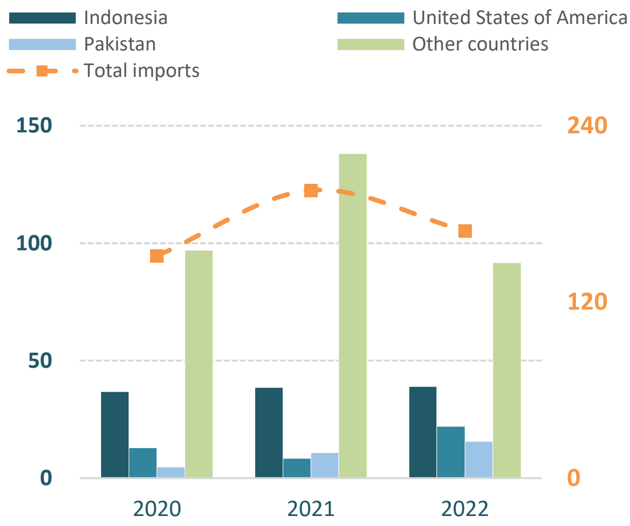
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

China | Imports | Squid and cuttlefish Top three origins

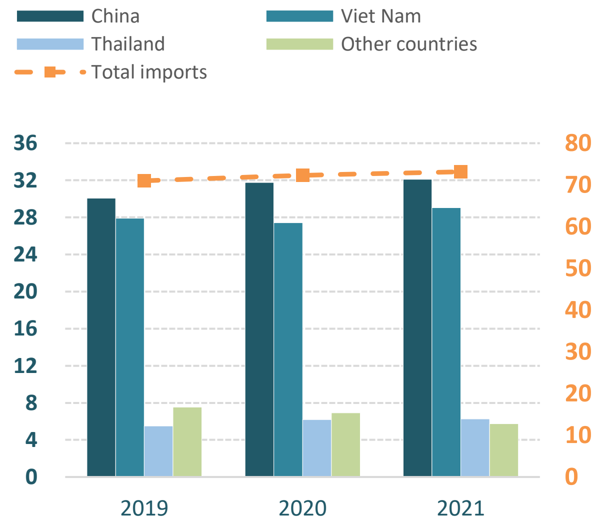
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Republic of Korea | Imports | Octopus Top three origins

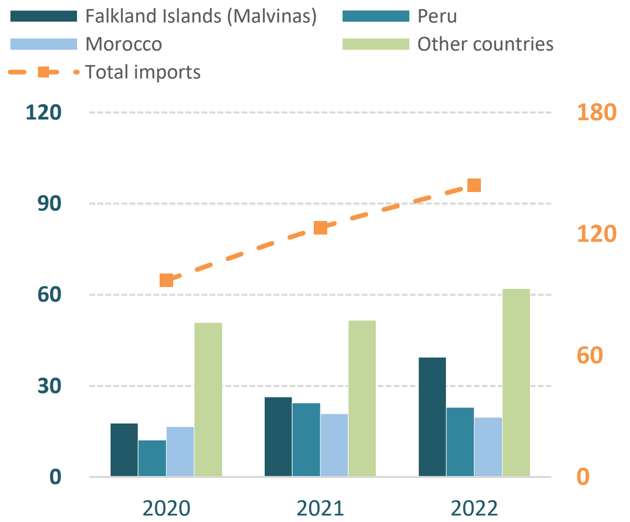
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Spain | Imports | Squid and cuttlefish Top three origins

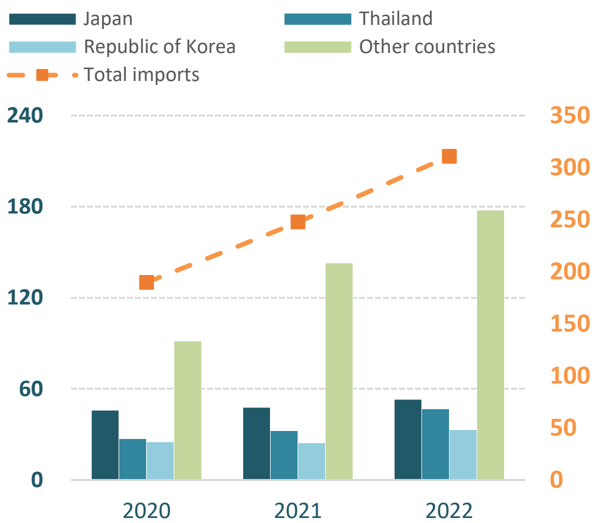
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January-June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

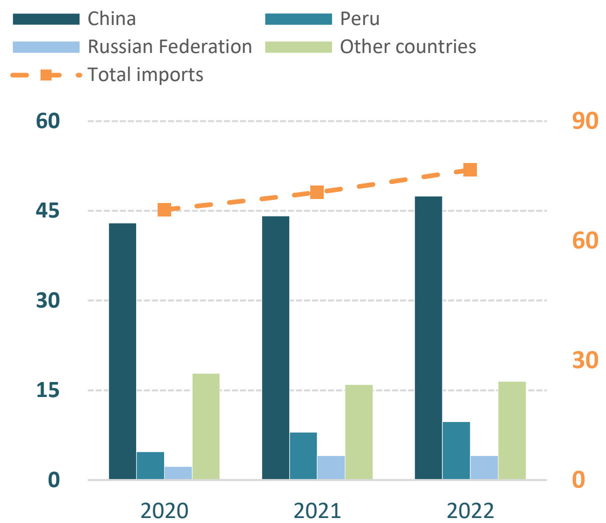
CEPHALOPODS

China | Exports | Squid and cuttlefish
Top three destinations
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

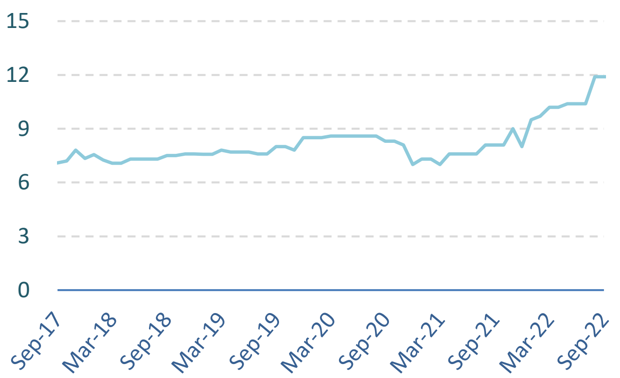
Japan | Imports | Squid and cuttlefish
Top three origins
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Prices
Squid: Italy

EUR/kg



Whole, FAS, middle size, origin: South Africa
Source: Author's own elaboration based on the European Price Report. 2022. GLOBEFISH. Cited 30 September 2022. www.globefish.org

CRAB

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Alaska cancels snow crab season

Alaskan authorities announced the cancellation of the Bering Sea snow crab fishery and the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery. The Alaskan crab industry will face an extreme challenge as a result.

Supplies

In October, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) announced that it was suspending both the Bering Sea snow crab and the Bristol Bay red king crab fisheries this year. The industry has been left reeling by the announcement. The reason given was “dwindling stocks”. Scientists have been left perplexed by the disappearance of billions of crabs from the region.

Already in September, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) warned that the population of mature male snow crabs had decreased by 22 percent from 2021. This was the lowest level at 5.6 million pounds (2 540 tonnes) in over 40 years. NMFS also warned that the Bristol Bay king crab autumn fishery might be suspended for the second consecutive year.

US wholesalers are rushing to Canadian suppliers to order crab from Canada. Before the war in Ukraine, wholesalers were buying Russian Federation crab in the second half of the year and then switching to purchasing Alaskan snow crab in January. All of a sudden, both these options were gone. In 2022, the United States of America blocked imports of Russian Federation fish and fishery products.

In 2021, the Russian Federation accounted for 29 percent (18 823 tonnes) of US snow crab imports. In 2022, US imports of Russian Federation snow crab amounted to just 2 498 tonnes before the ban went into effect in June.

On the other side of the globe, the mood is more optimistic. The Norwegian fishing vessels operators’ organization Fiskebåt encouraged the Norwegian Seafood Council to initiate an MSC certification process for the Barents Sea snow crab fishery. An MSC certification would strengthen the position of Norwegian snow crab on the European market. Canada is the most important supplier to the European market, and a large part of the Canadian snow crab fishery is already MSC certified.

The Canadian Atlantic coast snow crab fishery performed well in 2022. A total of 50 068 tonnes was landed in the provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador by mid-September, with a first-sale value of CAD 759 million (USD 577 million). This represented an increase of 44 percent by volume and 22 percent by value compared to the same period in 2021. However, snow crab exports from the province declined from 48 million pounds (21 772 tonnes) in 2021 to 29 million pounds (13 200 tonnes) in 2022.

CRAB

International trade

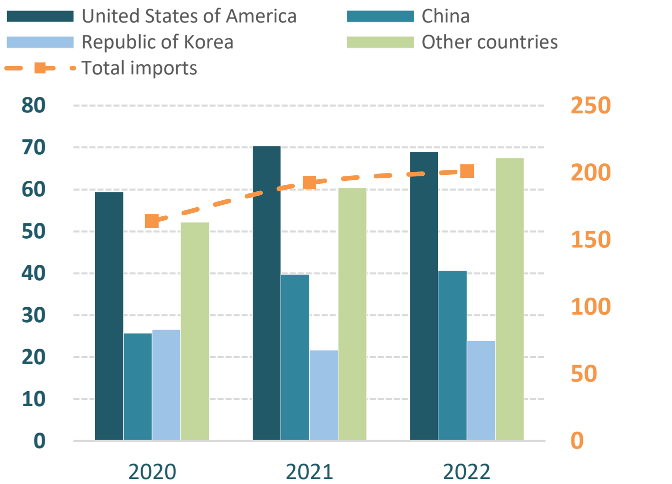
The global crab trade has been relatively stable over the past year. Total global imports increased by only 4.4 percent during the first half of 2022 compared to the first half of 2021, from 192 530 tonnes in 2021 to 200 961 tonnes in 2022. The leading importers were the United States of America (69 033 tonnes; 34.4 percent of the total), followed by China (40 658 tonnes; 20.2 percent of the total) and the Republic of Korea (23 867 tonnes; 11.9 percent of the total).

Snow crab prices in the United States of America increased dramatically during the middle of 2021. They stayed high until the second quarter of 2022 before falling to record-low levels. Gulf snow crab clusters rose from about USD 12 per pound in April 2021 to around USD 17 per pound in December 2021. Then, in March and April 2022, prices dropped again, decreasing further to hit the record low point in mid-July of about 6.8 per pound.

With the announcement of a closed snow crab fishery in Alaska for the 2022 season, prices should rise again, but so far, there have been few signs of a recovery in prices.

Norwegian exports of king crabs declined sharply during the first six months of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021. Exports of frozen king crab dropped from 366 tonnes worth NOK 162.3 million (USD 16.2 million, fob Norway) in 2021 to 198 tonnes worth NOK 159.3 million (USD 15.9 million) in 2022. Thus, a massive price increase went from NOK 442.96 (USD 44.30) per kg in 2021 to NOK 803.66 (USD 80.30) per kg in 2022. The main markets for Norwegian king crab were the neighbouring countries of Denmark, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Sweden, in that order.

World | Imports | Crab
Top three importers of crabs
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Since January 2022, prices for blue swimming crab (*Portunus pelagicus*) meat from Southeast Asia have declined by 20–30 percent. However, prices were previously considered very high, and a decline was expected at some point. Since mid-2020, US import prices for blue swimming crab have risen spectacularly, from about USD 17 per kg in June 2020 to about USD 33 per kg in February 2022.

CRAB

During the first six months of 2022, the United States of America imported 14 782 tonnes of blue swimming crab worth USD 470.8 million. This represented a 44 percent increase in volume and a 97 percent increase in value compared to the same period in 2021. During this period, Indonesia supplied 44 percent of total US imports of blue swimming crab.

US total crab imports stabilized at the 70 000 tonne mark for the first half of the year. Major suppliers were Canada (44 percent of the total), the Russian Federation (17 percent of total) and Indonesia (12 percent of total).

Chinese imports were also fairly stable, with just a 2.2 percent increase in volume from 2021 to 2022. The major suppliers were the Russian Federation (22 percent of the total), Myanmar (15 percent of total) and Indonesia (11 percent of total).

Chinese exports were just flat. There was a 0.1 percent decline in export volume during the first half of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021, from 21 347 tonnes in 2021 to 21 325 tonnes in 2022. Major markets were the Republic of Korea (44 percent of the total), United States of America (16 percent of the total) and Malaysia (15 percent of the total).

Russian Federation exports increased slightly more than other major suppliers during this period: up 7.7 percent from 33 980 tonnes during the first half of 2021 to 36 588 tonnes during the same period in 2022. Most of these exports ended up in three markets: the United States of America (11 643 tonnes; 31.8 percent of the total), the Republic of Korea (9 971 tonnes; 24.8 percent of the total) and China (8 861 tonnes; 24.2 percent of the total).

After being banned from western markets, Russian Federation exporters are shifting their exports to the Republic of Korea. Russian Federation crab exports to China have also suffered because of lockdowns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Chinese restrictions are still in force in many places.

The redirection of Russian Federation crab exports to the Republic of Korea has resulted in plunging prices on the Republic of Korea market. Prices for live snow crab on the Noryangjin Fisheries Wholesale Market dropped from KRW 50 000 (USD 40.80) per kg in February to KRW 23 000 (USD 18.70) per kg at the end of March.

Outlook

While there will probably be a tighter supply situation for snow crab and king crab due to the cancellation of the Alaska fishery, no significant price increases are expected. This is mainly due to the very bleak economic outlook for most economies. Snow crab prices, which have been declining sharply this year, may level off and then rise again. King crab prices are still high and will most likely ease a bit.

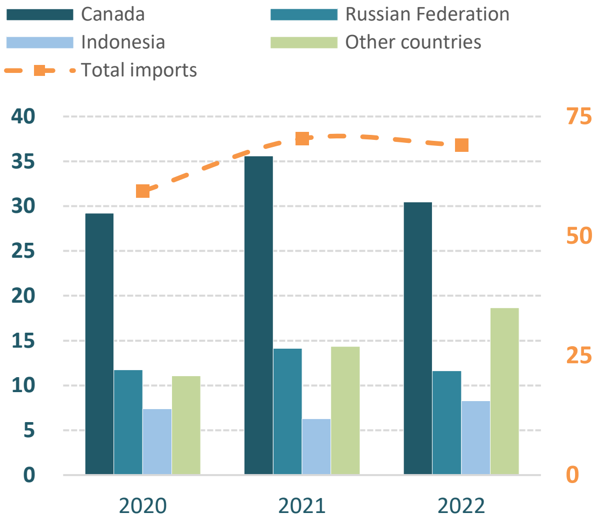
Supplies from Canada (East Coast) and the Russian Federation may be more or less on par with 2021, and it is therefore expected that these countries will take over part of the market from the United States of America. But the Russian Federation cannot export to European countries for now.

CRAB

The outlook is bleak for Alaskan producers and more “normal” for others.

United States of America | Imports | Crab | Top three origins

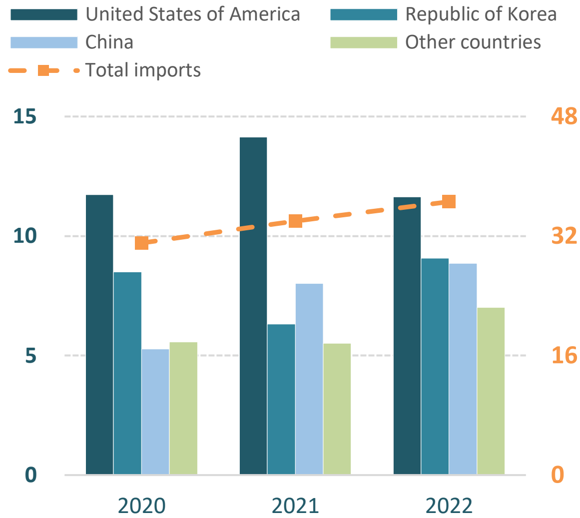
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Russian Federation | Exports | Crab | Top three destinations

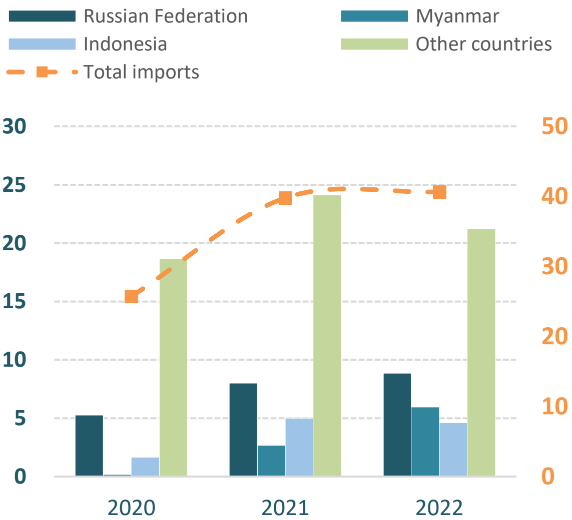
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

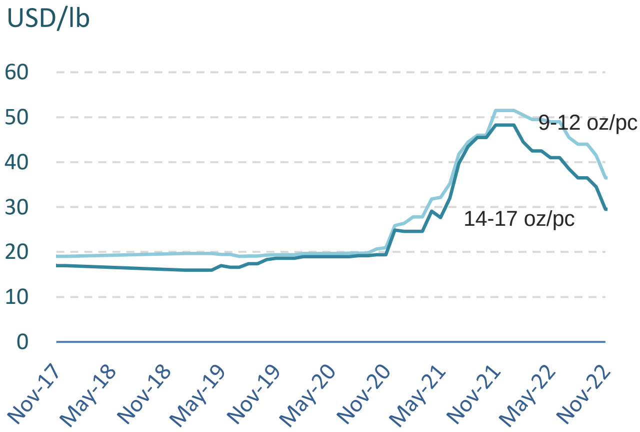
China | Imports | Crab | Top three origins

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Prices Crab: United States of America, Japan



Claw and sections, red, EXW New York

Source: Author's own elaboration based on the INFOFISH Trade News. 2022. INFOFISH. Cited 30 September 2022. www.infofish.org

FISHMEAL and FISH OIL

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Peru halts most fishing, Chinese demand wanes

Higher quotas in the North Atlantic and greater production in Chile are propping up global supplies of fishmeal and fish oil, which have been depleted by low catches in Peru. China accounted for half of global imports of fishmeal in 2021, but flooding and other disruption to aquaculture production has muted demand this year.

Production

The 2022 anchoveta fishery in Peru, which is the source of the majority of global fishmeal and fish oil supply, has suffered continuous setbacks from bad weather and high juvenile catches. Fishing in the country's main north-central region closed in late July, having filled 84 percent of the 2.8 million tonne quota. High juvenile catches meant that oil yields were 2 percent of catches, far below the normal 3 percent low. Catches in the South remain subdued, with just 13 percent of the 486 000 tonne quota filled. The reduced catches and oil yields in Peru equate to a 6.7 percent reduction in the global supply of fishmeal, 12.7 percent of the global supply of fish oil.

Increased catches in secondary producers have largely offset the shortfalls in Peruvian supply. Icelandic reduction fisheries increased catches by 380 000 tonnes in the first half of the year, an 84 percent increase on last year. This was mainly due to a sevenfold increase in the capelin quota to 870 000 tonnes. The United States of America, Denmark and Norway have all seen an uptick in landings as a result.

Trade

A significant increase in demand saw China account for half of all fishmeal imports in 2021. This surge in demand has waned slightly due to poor weather conditions for fish farmers and large stocks of fishmeal in storage. In the first half of 2022 China imported 873 000 tonnes of fishmeal, 77 000 tonnes less than in the same period of 2021 but still 308 000 tonnes more than in the first six months of 2020.

Following a 21 percent year-on-year decline in the first quarter of 2022, Norway, the main market for fish oil, saw imports pick up in the second quarter importing 52 000 tonnes between April and June. High prices for Peruvian fish oil have driven demand for alternative sources, with Norwegian imports from Peru falling from 33 400 tonnes in the first half of 2021 to 16 200 tonnes in the same period of 2022. Iceland is now the main supplier to the Norwegian market and exporting 19 200 tonnes of fish oil.

Prices

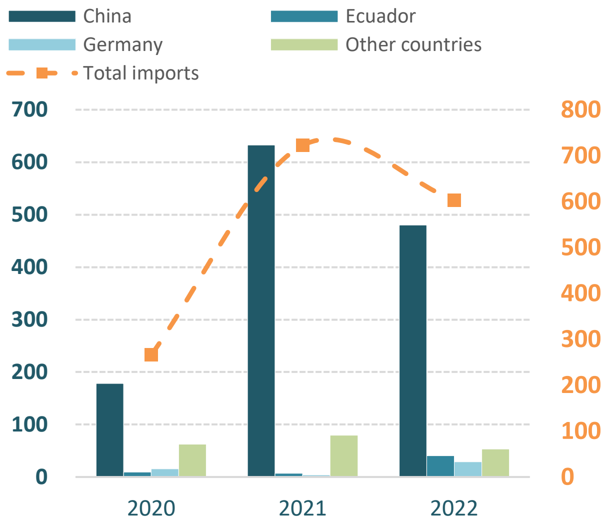
Fishmeal prices peaked in April, at USD 1600 per tonne (CIF Peru, 65 percent protein). They have since remained more or less stable.

Fish oil prices continue to rise, and in September stood at USD 3 700 per tonne for Peruvian feed-grade oil. This is close to double Peruvian prices this time last year. North Atlantic sources of fish oil have enjoyed an appreciation in their competitiveness, with increased quotas on key species aiding in supply. The average import price for feed-grade oil was USD 3 000 per tonne in Northern European ports, a 50 percent year-on-year increase.

Outlook

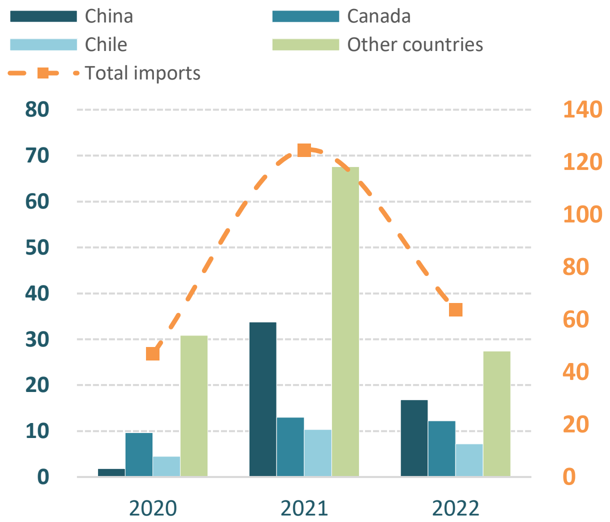
In a typical year Peru will produce close to half of the global supply of fishmeal and a third of fish oil supply. As such, the setbacks faced by the anchoveta fishery this year have had a marked impact on the global market. These would have been much more pronounced had they not coincided with greatly increased quotas in the North Atlantic. The proposed tax on salmon farms in Norway is likely to aggravate previously predicted reductions in production, thus curbing demand in the primary market for fish oil.

Peru | Exports | Fishmeal
Top three destinations
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Peru | Exports | Fish oil
Top three destinations
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June

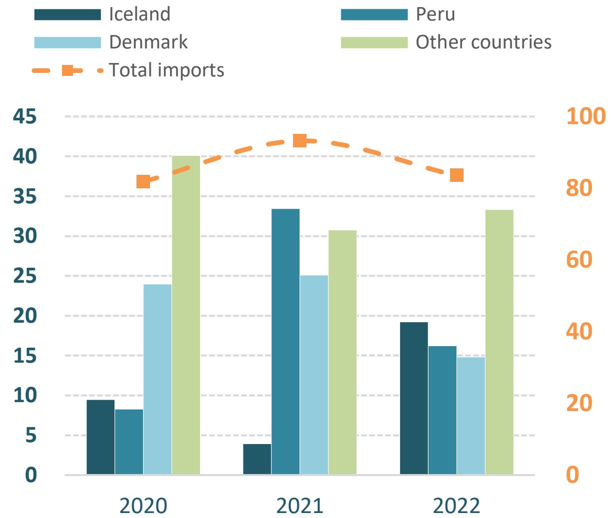


Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

FISHMEAL and FISH OIL

Norway | Imports | Fish oil
Top three origins

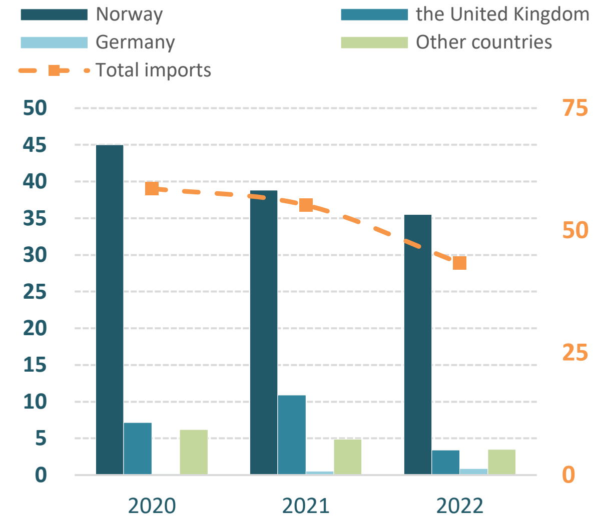
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Denmark | Exports | Fish oil
Top three destinations

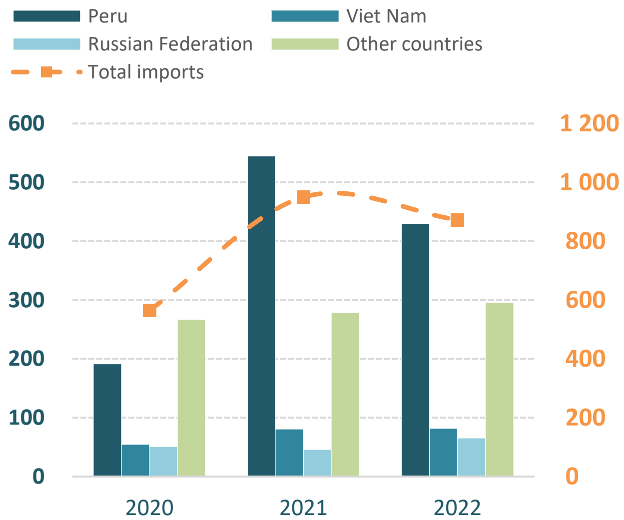
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

China | Imports | Fishmeal
Top three origins

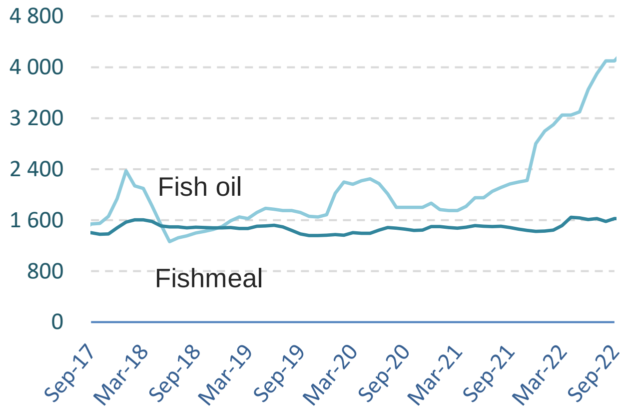
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Prices
Fishmeal and Fish oil: Europe

USD/tonne



Source: Author's own elaboration based on the data from the IFFO. 2022. International Fishmeal and Fish Oil Organisation. Cited 30 September 2022. www.iffo.com

GROUNDFISH

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Groundfish supplies slightly down in 2023

Landings in 2022 appear to be slightly below landings in 2021. The outlook for 2023 is a further slight reduction in supplies. Atlantic cod and haddock are expected to reach about 930 000 tonnes and 308 000 tonnes, respectively, while landings of saith are expected to grow to 370 000 tonnes.

Supplies

So far in 2022, groundfish landings are set to be slightly below those of 2021. Atlantic cod is expected to reach almost 1.1 million tonnes, haddock some 304 000 tonnes, and saithe about 345 000 tonnes. In sum, this amounts to 1.7 million tonnes for 2022, a reduction of about 75 000 tonnes compared to 2021.

Markets

The European Union market is heavily dependent on imports to satisfy its demand for whitefish. A recent study published by the European Union Fish Processors and Traders Association concluded that this dependence is growing for most species. The apparent demand for whitefish in the European Union was estimated to be 2 563 000 tonnes in 2021, and as much as 2 397 000 tonnes (94 percent) were imported.

Of course, import dependency varies from species to species. For cod, it is estimated that the European Union market in 2021 amounted to some 891 000 tonnes, and the import dependency was about 95 percent and growing. The largest cod suppliers to the European Union were Norway (36 percent of imports), Iceland (24 percent) and the Russian Federation (17 percent).

The European Union market for saithe was estimated at 169 000 tonnes. Import dependency was a little less, 88 percent, and the main suppliers were Iceland (39 percent), Norway (33 percent) and the Faroe Islands (14 percent).

The hake market was estimated at 516 000 tonnes. European Union import dependency was estimated to be 87 percent and the main suppliers were Namibia (38 percent), South Africa (18 percent) and Argentina (17 percent).

The European Union fish Alaska pollock, so import dependency was 100 percent. European Union imports accounted for some 808 000 tonnes of Alaska pollock in 2021, and the main suppliers were the United States of America (38 percent), China (35 percent) and the Russian Federation (25 percent).

Haddock is a relatively small species for the European consumer. The European Union market is estimated at 45 000tonnes per year, and import dependency is 67 percent. Major suppliers were Norway (52 percent), the Russian Federation (18 percent) and Iceland (13 percent).

GROUNDFISH

Trade

Chinese imports of whole frozen cod are stable at around 62 000 tonnes during the first half of the year. Over 55 percent of imports during this period came from the Russian Federation, while 28 percent came from Norway. Chinese imports of frozen cod declined from 2020 to 2021 and are now pretty stable at the 2021 level.

Chinese exports of frozen cod fillets increased slightly during the first half of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021. Exports were up by 6.1 percent in total, but exports to the United States of America increased by a solid 18.8 percent. By contrast, exports to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Germany were slightly down.

After a strong decline in imports of whole frozen Alaska pollock into China in 2021, imports increased by over 100 percent during the first half of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021. However, volumes are still a bit short of imported volumes in 2020. Over 92 percent of the imported volume came from the Russian Federation, and imports from this country were up by 108.5 percent to 314 315 tonnes. Imports from the United States of America were also up significantly by 51 percent to 15 279 tonnes.

However, the corresponding exports of frozen Alaska pollock fillets have not yet increased. Exports of frozen Alaska pollock fillets during the first half of 2022 were actually down by 2 percent to 78 994 tonnes. However, exports to the main markets (Germany, the United States of America and France) were up by 5.6, 7.5 and 14 percent, respectively. The export decline may be due to a greater domestic consumption or a time lag as processing has taken some time, and increased exports will be registered later in the year.

The Russian Federation registered a massive increase in exports of whole frozen Alaska pollock during the first half of 2022 compared to the first half of 2021: the export volume increased by almost 104 percent to 566 743 tonnes. Of this, 55.5 percent went to China, while 34.1 percent went to the Republic of Korea.

Norwegian exports of whole frozen cod were up by 23.5 percent by volume during the first half of 2022 compared to 2021 and amounted to 41 002 tonnes. Exports to China shot up by 51.6 percent to 16 189 tonnes, accounting for almost 40 percent of the total. In addition, prices went up sharply, so the value of exports went up by 74 percent to NOK 1.84 billion (USD 184 million).

Imports of frozen cod into the Republic of Korea have risen steadily since 2018 but seem to be levelling off in 2022. Imports during the first six months of 2022 amounted to 19 118 tonnes, which was 2 500 tonnes above the amount imported during the first six months of 2021. Imports have shown steady growth from 7 000 tonnes during the first six months of 2018, to 9 500 tonnes in 2019, and 10 400 tonnes in 2020.

GROUNDFISH

Surimi

US exports of frozen surimi to Japan declined in 2022. In the first half of 2022, some 21 700 tonnes were exported, down from 25 400 tonnes in the same period of 2021. In the third quarter of the year, exports increased again, and total exports in the first nine months of 2022 were 44 000 tonnes, just 2 000 tonnes short of the same period in 2021.

Export prices for pollock surimi from Alaska are still on a rising trend. Since 2017, export prices have risen by nearly 30 percent. Production has declined, though, and this is probably the main cause of the price increases.

While Alaska pollock is improving its image among US consumers, who regard it as a safe, sustainably harvested seafood product, surimi made from Alaska pollock is a different matter. Most US consumers regard it as “imitation crab” and “not a real seafood product”.

Prices

Prices for Norwegian frozen cod on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland market have shown a steadily increasing trend since the beginning of the year, and in June 2022 the export price for whole frozen cod was almost 60 percent higher than in June 2021. 2021. Prices for frozen cod peaked at the end of July when they hit NOK 53 per kg. But the following week prices declined a little. Average exports prices for frozen cod (fob Norwegian border) during the first half of 2022 were NOK 44.88, compared to the average of NOK 31.77 per kg for the first half of 2021.

Demand for frozen cod is strong in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and much of the imports come from Norway. During the first half of 2022, Norway exported 4 978 tonnes of whole frozen cod to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland market, compared to 3 933 tonnes during the same period in 2021 (+26.6 percent). The increase was even greater by value: from NOK 148.4 million in 2021 to NOK 247.7 million in 2022 (+66.9 percent).

Outlook

The Groundfish Forum recently published its annual forecasts for the 2023 groundfish production. A slight reduction in total supplies is expected, and there may be a 20 percent reduction for Atlantic cod. Whether this will lead to further price increases is uncertain, as much will depend on world economic developments.

At the recent meeting of the Groundfish Forum in Seattle, projections of whitefish catch in 2023 were presented. Overall, total groundfish landings are expected to decline slightly in 2023, by 0.9 percent to 6.9 million tonnes.

GROUNDFISH

Atlantic cod is expected to decline by some 13.4 percent to 929 000 tonnes, while Pacific cod is also expected to decline slightly from 384 000 tonnes in 2022 to 379 000 tonnes in 2023. On the other hand, Alaska pollock landings are expected to remain roughly the same as 2022 levels, from 3 341 tonnes to 3 354 tonnes in 2023 (+0.3 percent). A 1.3 percent increase is expected for haddock, from 304 000 tonnes in 2022 to 308 000 tonnes in 2023. For saithe, a slightly higher increase is foreseen from 345 000 tonnes in 2022 to 371 000 tonnes in 2023. Hake is expected to increase from 1 179 000 tonnes in 2022 to 1 230 000 tonnes in 2023. Cape hake supplies are expected to remain stable, but vendors in southern Africa are expecting high prices in the next year.

In mid-September, the joint Norwegian and Russian Federation research group for fish stocks in the Barents Sea recommended that the 2023 quota for cod in the Barents Sea should be reduced to 566 784 tonnes. This is a 20 percent reduction compared to the 2022 quota. The cod population has been declining for several years, but an administrative rule says that the quota cannot be reduced by more than 20 percent in a year. In 2022, the quota was also reduced by 20 percent compared to the previous year.

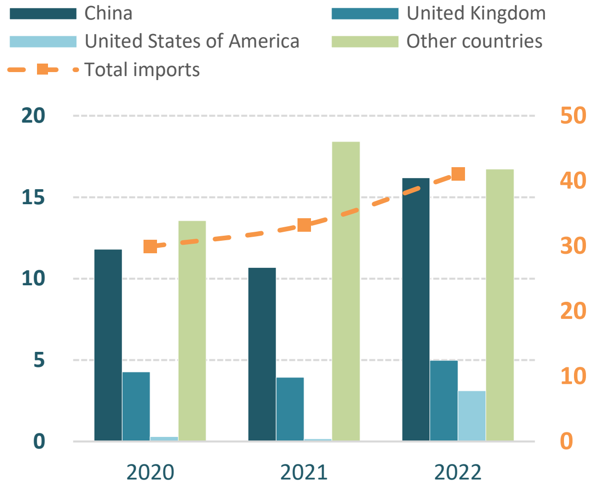
While the supply outlook for the coming year looks fairly stable, it must be noted that supplies of Atlantic cod will be tighter, and prices could rise further from an already high base. However, much depends on the world economic development. The outlook is uncertain to bleak at the moment, and a slow-down in world economies could weaken demand and push prices down.

The price developments for groundfish will depend more on the development of world economies than on any supply changes. As total whitefish supplies are expected to remain fairly stable, one would expect that prices would also remain stable. However, with the expected negative development of many economies in the months ahead, consumer purchasing power may be reduced, affecting demand and prices over the coming 12 months.

With the war in Ukraine continuing, the Russian Federation faces the prospect of even greater isolation. Consequently, the country has shifted its exports to China at a higher rate than in the past. However, Germany is still trading with the Russian Federation, but for how long is uncertain. At any rate, most Russian Federation cod and Alaska pollock is already finding its way to China, and this will continue.

Norway | Exports | Cod Frozen whole Top three destinations

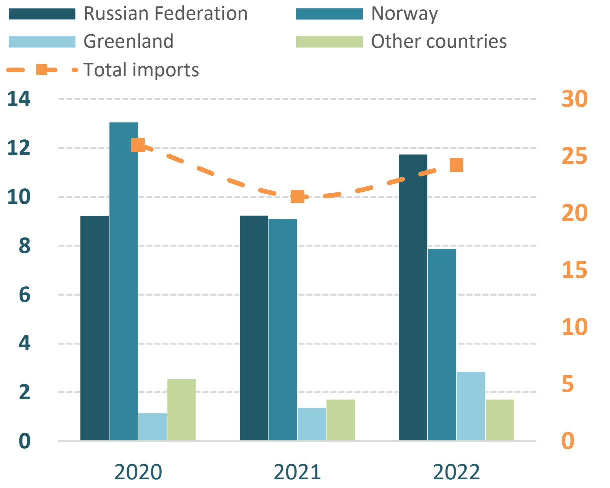
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Netherlands (Kingdom of the) Imports | Cod | Frozen whole Top three origins

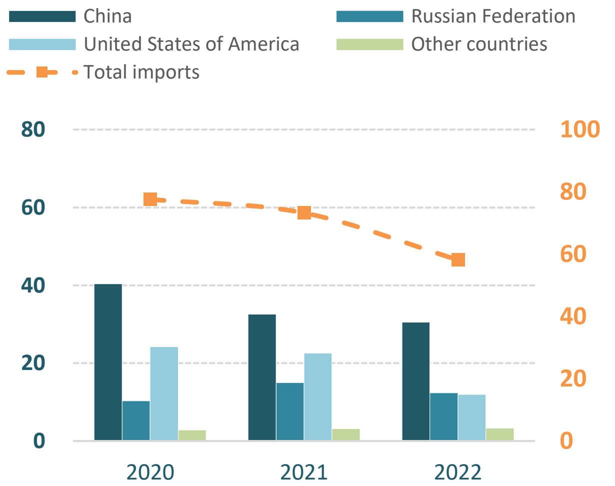
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Germany | Imports | Alaska pollock| Frozen fillets Top three origins

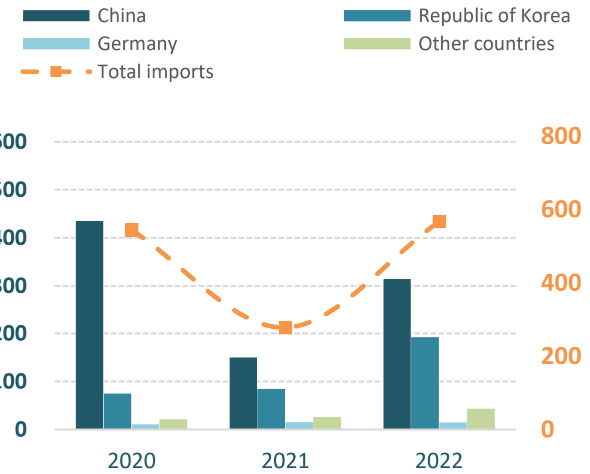
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Russian Federation | Exports | Alaska pollock| Frozen whole Top three destinations

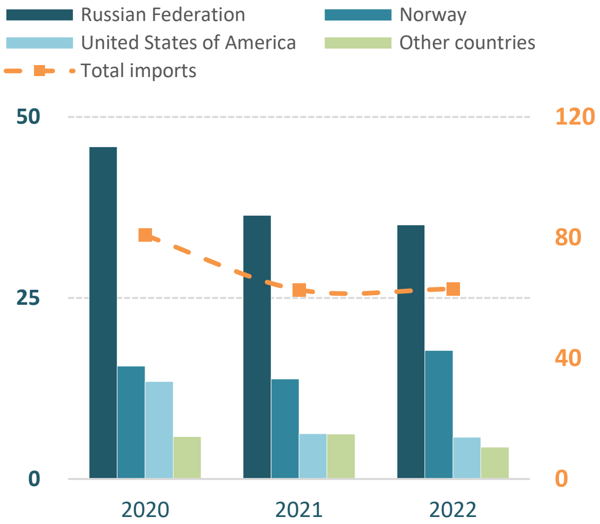
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

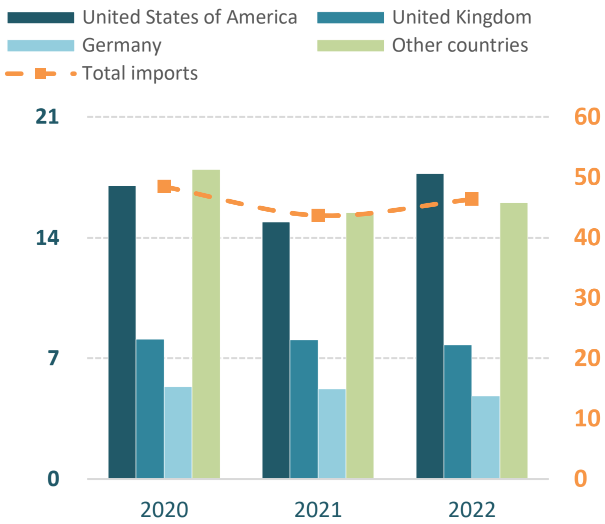
GROUNDFISH

China | Imports | Cod | Frozen whole
Top three origins
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



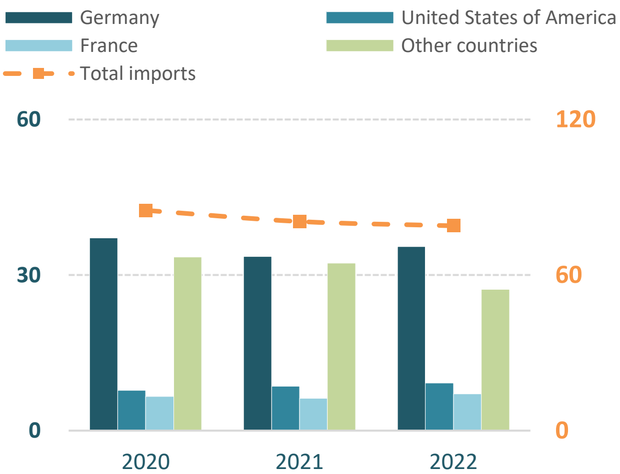
Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

China | Exports | Cod | Frozen fillets
Top three destinations
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



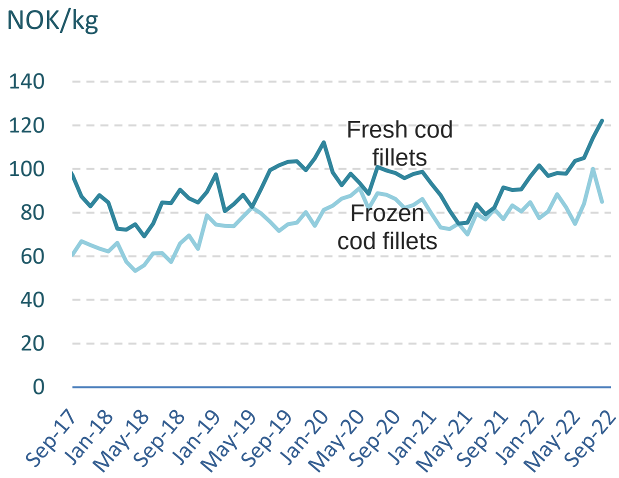
Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

China | Exports | Alaska pollock
Frozen fillets
Top three destinations
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Export price
Cod: Norway



Source: Author's own elaboration based on NSC data. 2022. Norwegian Seafood Council. Cited 30 September 2022. www.seafood.no

Lobster

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

European Union imports increased in the second quarter of 2022

While there were minor declines in global trade with lobsters during the first half of 2022 compared to 2021, imports into the European Union were up by a solid 23.5 percent. The supply situation is fairly good, although the dispute relating to protection of right whales on the US east coast continues to worry lobster fishers in the region.

Supplies

The dispute between lobster harvesters and interests seeking to protect the North Atlantic right whale continues. A US federal judge ruled against the Maine lobster fishers in the court case in which the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) and the State of Maine claimed that the trap-related regulations issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to protect the right whales from getting entangled in lines were unlawful because the agency did not rely on the best available science.

The dispute over the protection of the right whales has also resulted in red-listing Maine lobsters by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Watch. Apparently, some food chains stopped carrying Maine lobster, while others denied that they followed the red-listing. Instead, one major food chain stated that they continue to sell lobster from US fisheries that are certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). This includes the Gulf of Maine lobster fishery, which is MSC-certified.

New Brunswick lobster harvesters went on a one-day strike in August. They refused to go fishing in what they called "inadequate prices" for their catch. Lobster prices in Lobster Fishing Area 25 (LFA 25), which is in the southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence between the provinces of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, have fallen by 40 percent compared to the same period in 2021. LFA 25 produces about 10 percent, or 9 259 tonnes, of Canada's total lobster production, which in 2020 amounted to 95 928 tonnes.

Maine lobster harvesters have been asked by processors to reduce their catch efforts due to declining prices. In August lobsters are fairly abundant in New England, and this is also the case this year. In July, lobster harvesters obtained about USD 4.00 per pound, but in August the price had dropped to USD 3.30 per pound, less than half of what they received in July 2021.

Due to low prices and reduced processing capacity, many harvesters are now hauling their traps once a week, while normally, they would haul twice of three times a week. By going out less frequently they also save on operating costs. Fuel prices have doubled since last year, and bait prices are up by 20–40 percent.

It is estimated that hurricane Ian has caused massive damage to the Florida lobster industry. As many as 15 000 lobster traps are believed to have been lost or heavily damaged. The result will undoubtedly be a significant reduction in the Florida production of spiny lobsters this year. Consequently, prices are expected to increase sharply.

Lobster

In 2021, lobster harvesters in Florida landed 2 132 tonnes worth USD 42.4 million. The catch in 2022 could be considerably less. The hurricane hit during the worst time for lobster harvesters. The first three months of the lobster season, which starts in late July or early August and ends in March or April, usually result in the highest volumes.

Markets and trade

Global lobster trade declined slightly during the first half of 2022 compared to the first half of 2021. Total imports were down by 2.8 percent to 72 715 tonnes. The two largest importers, the United States of America and China, were down by 8.8 and 4.6 percent, respectively, while imports into Spain were up by 66.2 percent.

US imports during this period fell, from 30 504 tonnes in 2021 to 27 809 tonnes in 2022. All of 88.7 percent of US imports came from Canada. On the other hand, US exports increased from 6 850 tonnes in the first half of 2021 to 7 477 tonnes in the same period in 2022. China was the dominating market and took some 45 percent of US lobster exports during this period.

Chinese imports dropped by 4.6 percent during the first half of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021. However, there were some major shifts among the largest suppliers. Imports from Canada fell by 17.3 percent to 9 314 tonnes, while imports from Viet Nam skyrocketed, from 365 tonnes in the first half of 2021 to 4 099 tonnes in the same period in 2022. Imports from the United States of America fell by almost 40 percent, to just 1 764 tonnes.

The largest exporter of lobster, Canada, saw a decline of 2.8 percent in their exports during the first half of the year. Canada's exports of live lobster to China are picking up again after the COVID-19 pandemic. Demand in China has improved, especially with the lifting of pandemic restrictions in Beijing and Shanghai but exporting into China has become a bit more cumbersome. There are new labelling requirements that need to be strictly adhered to, as well as tracing requirements. In addition, competition from European and Asian suppliers is also stronger.

During the first half of 2022, Canada shipped 9 800 tonnes of live lobsters to China, compared to the 15 100 tonnes shipped into the United States of America. It appears that prices paid by Chinese importers were lower than those paid by US importers, even though the total value of exports to China was higher (USD 61 million) than the value of exports to the United States of America (USD 35.7 million). The differences could stem from how freight is reported, and currency fluctuations might also distort the picture.

While imports into the major markets of the United States of America and China were just slightly lower during this period, imports into the European Union jumped by 23.5 percent, from 9 203 tonnes in 2021 to 11 365 tonnes in 2022. One reason for this may be that Europe lifted COVID-19 restrictions earlier, while restrictions in the United States of America and especially in China are still in force. This is influencing dining in restaurants, and consequently consumption of lobster.

Lobster

Outlook

Lobster supplies are somewhat uncertain but supplies from New England have been reasonably good. Consequently, prices to harvesters have been falling a bit and processors have seen their capacity reduced. However, the supply of rock lobsters from Florida has been seriously reduced as a result of hurricane Ian.

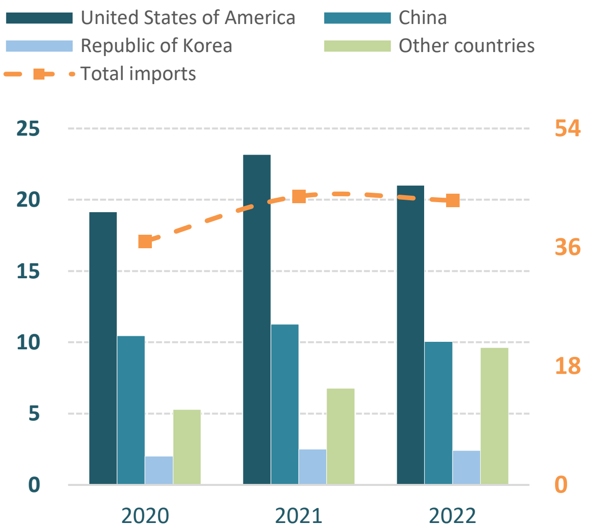
While demand in China was expected to be quite good, COVID-19 pandemic restrictions have had a negative effect. Because of the restrictions still in force, eating out is still limited in China, impacting demand for lobster.

The outlook seems to be mixed, with relatively stable demand in China and the United States of America but growing demand in Europe. Overall prices show increases in Europe, albeit with its ups and downs. With life returning to near-normal in most markets, one might expect demand to increase again. However, the world economic outlook might have a negative effect on the demand for luxury items such as lobster.

Prices for American lobsters on the European market continued their upward trend into the end of 2020, although there was a drop from early to mid-2021. Since then, import prices for US lobsters in Europe have been high and stable. Inflation in many European countries is rampant and may dampen sales somewhat.

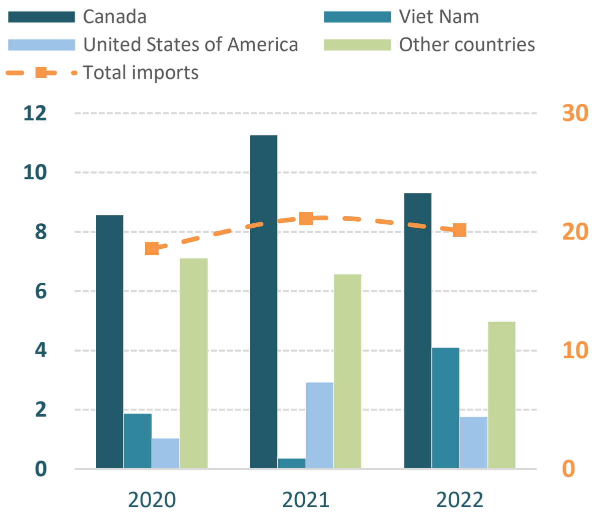
Prices can be expected to remain high, and lower supplies during the early months of 2022 mean that they could well rise further.

Canada| Exports | Lobster
Top three destinations
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

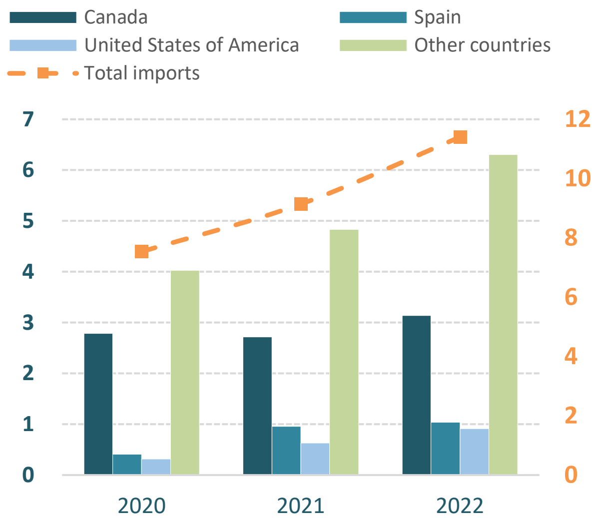
China| Imports | Lobster
Top three origins
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

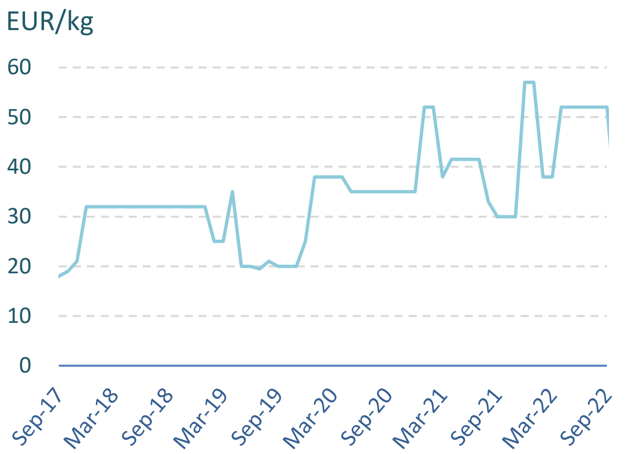
Lobster

European Union | Imports | Lobster
Top three origins
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January-June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Prices
European lobster: Europe



Live, origin: Ireland; 400–600, 600–800 g/pc
Source: Author's own elaboration based on the European Price Report. 2022. GLOBEFISH. Cited 30 September 2022. www.globefish.org

World imports and exports of lobsters January–June, 2020-2022 (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022
Imports			
United States of America	24.33	30.50	27.81
China	18.60	21.14	20.15
Spain	1.34	1.70	2.82
Other countries	15.64	21.52	21.98
Total imports	**59.90**	**74.86**	**72.77**
Exports			
Canada	39.46	48.50	47.13
United States of America	4.58	7.07	7.41
Australia	3.69	3.67	3.76
Other countries	15.48	18.74	16.73
Total exports	**63.22**	**77.98**	**75.03**

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

PANGASIUS

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Pangasius well positioned to satisfy increased demand

As inflation and high prices dampen demand in most segments of the fisheries sector, the humble pangasius finds itself in an ever more favourable position to expand its market reach. Demand for pangasius reached a fever pitch in the first half of 2022, with double-digit year-on-year import growth in the major markets of China and the United States of America pushing imports to significantly higher levels. Supply has since caught up somewhat with demand, bringing prices to a middle ground and putting the market into a more balanced state in the latter months of 2022.

Production

As the 2022 harvest season comes to an end in Viet Nam's Mekong delta, where the vast majority of internationally traded pangasius is reared, supply has been able to accommodate much of the increased demand. Initial estimates from the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development indicate that 1.5 million tonnes were harvested, a 14 percent increase on 2021. High prices and government support are expected to encourage stocking for the 2023 harvest, which could see output grow by more than 10 percent in 2023. It is hoped that the sources of new demand that have been found will support this increased output and avoid harvests flooding the market.

Trade

Chinese demand for pangasius is back in full flow, with imports of close to 100 000 tonnes in the second quarter of 2022, the highest level on record. China is once again the main destination by volume for pangasius exports, having been briefly dethroned by the United States of America in 2021. Trade has been facilitated by a relaxation of COVID-19 import testing, while domestic demand for consumption and processing has also increased significantly.

Pangasius is proving to be increasingly popular in the United States of America and has improved its market share both in the higher end of the whitefish market as well as against other, more economical species, such as tilapia. Imports from Viet Nam stood at 76 000 tonnes in the first six months of 2022, a 35 percent increase on the same period of 2021. Amidst reports of reduced consumer spending on fish and fish products, demand for pangasius is expected to remain strong in what remains its most important market by value.

Prices

Despite high demand, prices have adjusted downwards in recent months; however, they remain significantly above January 2022 levels. Farmgate prices in Viet Nam peaked at VND 32 000 per kg (then USD 1.37 per kg) in August 2022 but have since levelled out at 28 000 VND per kg (USD 1.20 per kg). It is felt that this price level should be easier for the industry to sustain, as high prices were chiefly a result of the market overheating earlier in the year. Export prices have largely followed farmgate prices, with exports to the United States of America and China averaging USD 3.33 per kg and USD 2.30 per kg, respectively, in November 2022. Prices for exports to the European Union remained firm, rising slightly to USD 3.00 per kg.

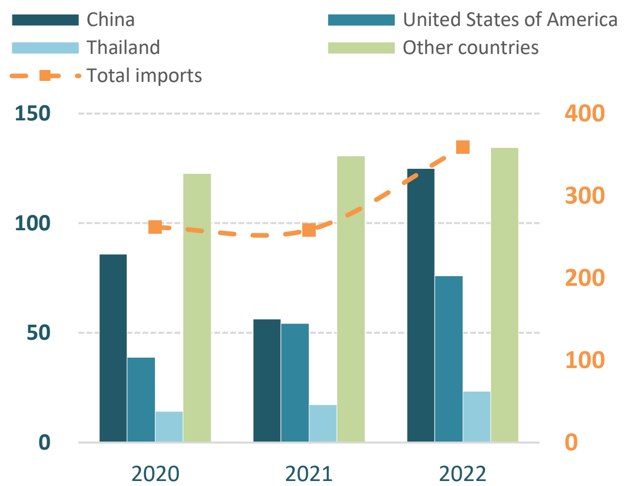
PANGASIUS

Outlook

The adverse economic conditions of 2022 have accelerated demand for pangasius as consumers look to contain costs while distributors and major brands search for more economical alternatives to other white fish. The pangasius industry will be hoping that sustained high demand will be able to raise production to new thresholds without triggering the boom and bust cycle that has characterised previous periods of high growth. With harvest operations winding down towards the end of the year and prices stabilising at a relatively high level, the outlook for 2023 looks optimistic.

Viet Nam | Exports | Catfish| Frozen fillets | Top three destinations

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

SALMON

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Tight supplies impact on prices; some important changes could modify producers' plans

The limited salmon production, especially for the first semester, and strong demand are expected to impact prices. Global developments such as high inflation and war in Ukraine continue to produce effects. The main producing countries are undergoing important moments of uncertainty with future consequences in the sector, from modification of tax rates for farmers in Norway and also the Faroe Islands, to discussions on a new national fishing law, in Chile.

Production

Atlantic salmon

Global farmed Atlantic salmon supply is expected to be tight during 2022, especially in the first semester of the year. According to Rabobank, some production improvement during the second half is forecasted to offset the supply contraction of the first six months, but the growth will be the lowest since 2016. This tight supply scenario with strong demand should support high prices not registered for at least 6 years.

The good biological performance and strong 2021 for Norwegian production, with an 11 percent growth in harvest volumes, will not be repeated during the year and a marginal production increase (up to 2 percent) is expected from Norway.

In Chile, the Atlantic salmon harvest during the first half of the year reached 352 300 tonnes, down 3.9 percent compared to the same period of 2021. The species represented 47.7 percent of the country's total aquaculture harvests. The second producer of salmon worldwide also registered a fall in general aquaculture production, while several analysts observe that the main competitors are planning to expand production in the medium term. Chile should not remain flat in order not to lose world market share or competitiveness. The idea is to opt for economic and productive activity growth towards more sustainability.

Other farmed salmonids

In Chile, rainbow trout harvest during January–June of 2022 was 34 500 tonnes, only 0.8 percent less than last year's first six months. The only salmonid harvest that grew in Chile in terms of production was coho, which reached 52 400 tonnes, a notable increase of 32 percent compared to the same period last year.

SALMON

Wild salmon

Analysis indicates that tight farmed salmon supply, increased salmon prices and high household expenditure appears to be an opportunity for wild-caught Pacific salmon species, to fill a gap, with a cheaper alternative. There is a good opportunity for the wild salmon to return to some European markets. According to Alaska's Department of Fish and Game, around 160.6 million salmons are expected to be captured in all 2022, sockeye representing 46 percent and pink salmon 41 percent.

Markets

Global big changes occurred during the first half of the year are impacting on the seafood industry, including salmon producers. The war in Ukraine, the reactivation post-COVID-19 pandemic and the new economic situation have brought challenging logistics, high inflation, increased costs, less purchasing power and lower supplies. With the opening of the markets after the COVID-19 pandemic and the global trend to consume healthy and quality food, salmon exports have been restored for the main producers.

Special developments are being observed in the different producing countries that will undoubtedly have repercussions on future production levels and could change the scenario.

In Norway, the Government has proposed for 2023 a new tax of 40 percent on salmon aquaculture companies, added to a 22 percent corporate tax, which will mean that total tax rate for salmon and trout farming will rise to 62 percent if approved by the parliament. This is for volumes larger than 4 000–5 000 tonnes meaning that the smallest companies would be exempted from the tax rise due to volume limit but would largely impact earnings per share for producers with bigger shares of volumes in the country. The Government argues increased inequality so a more fairly distribution of the values from the national natural resources is needed. The share prices of listed Norwegian salmon players dropped the day after the announcement. The most important companies of the country are considering cancelling or altering their growth plans after this proposal. According to the leading producers, this was unexpected.

Meanwhile, the Government of the Faroe Islands sent a proposal to parliament to increase taxes up to 10 percent on the income of farmed salmon producers, which would modify the one originally introduced in 2014. Local media says this proposal includes three changes to the current revenue tax system: change the number of applicable tax rates from 3 to 5; increase the salmon price thresholds that determine when each tax rate is applicable; link the salmon price threshold to the average production cost for the Faroe Islands salmon industry, which will be assessed annually.

SALMON

Scottish farmers and producers have faced a number of challenges during the semester, including labour shortages due to Brexit and COVID-19 pandemic consequences, bad weather impacting on harvests, and logistic delays. The sector requested both the Scottish Government and that of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to take action and support the industry in terms of growth for the economy, job creation and increased revenues. Now the Scottish Government has published its first strategy measures to boost Scotland seafood sector, in order to remain internationally competitive and attract skills and talent.

Chilean citizens rejected a new constitution that, according to the main producers, was going to impact the country's economy, including the production and export of salmon, with ambiguities in the writing. Some understand that salmon farms could have been removed from marine protected areas, which could have affected up to 30 percent of Chile's farmed salmon production, according to estimates. However, the Government is working on a new fishing law and there is uncertainty in the sector.

Despite inflation and the consequent increase in prices in recent months, salmon remains one of the best-selling seafood in US supermarkets and grocery stores. In the second quarter, there was a 9.1 percent increase in sales, according to Information Resources Inc. Analytics. Significant marketing and communication strategies from major retailers are seen to promote both wild and farmed salmon, from presentations to diffusion of health benefits.

Trade

Despite logistical and cost difficulties emerged from the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and high inflation, the main exporting countries registered increases during the first half of the year.

Lower production volumes and increasing demand have resulted in record high prices, which is a significant contribution to the export record registered in Norway during the first half of the year. The 534 500 tonnes of salmon exported worth NOK 48.4 billion, which meant a decrease of 5 percent in terms of volume but an increase of 37 percent in value compared with the first half of last year. Poland, France and the United States of America were the most important destinations for the Norwegian salmon in the period. Meanwhile, the largest increases of exports in terms of value corresponded to France (+50 percent) and Italy (+62 percent).

Particularly, salmon exports in June were the best single month ever measured in value (the previous record was from December 2021). The 87 800 tonnes of salmon shipped worth NOK 8.8 billion meant an increase of 41 percent compared with June last year’s value but a decline of 11 percent in volume.

SALMON

The war in Ukraine had notably impacted some exports in Norway, for example fresh salmon to Asia, as the closed Russian Federation airspace affected shipments to countries, including the Republic of Korea (-18 percent) and Japan (-20 percent) in terms of volume. The Norwegian Seafood Council (NSC) explained that the price increase had also led to a distortion in the flow of goods from countries where salmon is largely destined for smoking before re-export. For example, volume exported to Poland dropped by 18 percent.

In addition, Norway exported 23 800 tonnes of trout worth NOK 2.1 billion in the first semester of the year; down 5 percent and up 35 percent, respectively, compared with the same period of last year. United States of America, Thailand and Japan were the main markets of the third largest Norwegian exported species in terms of value. Belarus and Ukraine were the markets with bigger value declines.

Scottish salmon exports during the first semester of the year were valued at GBP 280 million, down 8 percent compared to 2021, across both European Union sales and non-European Union sales. Salmon Scotland explained this has been offset by increased demand at home, with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in a shift with some salmon destined for international markets now sent to retailers in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. France accounted for more than half of the total exports.

The Russian Federation is considering temporarily suspending exports of some of the highest yielding salmon species and salmon roe, as catches fall compared to 2021, which is driving up prices, some as much as 28 percent month-on-month. The initiative of the Federal Agency for Fishery (Rosrybolovstvo) seeks to meet the demand of the domestic market, framed in the priorities of the Government, and the issue will be discussed with companies and trade associations.

Meanwhile, Chilean salmon exports also continued to grow despite the difficult global picture. Atlantic salmon was the main exported product of the sector representing 71.2 percent of the total value, which meant an increase of 29.5 percent compared to June 2021, due to better prices. Overall, 242 997 tonnes were shipped worth USD 2 491 million, which meant a decrease of 9.4 percent in terms of volume. Meanwhile, exports of coho salmon and rainbow trout grew both in terms of value and volume. There is a high and sustained demand for Chilean salmon from the main markets such as Brazil, Japan and the United States of America.

Total US salmonids imports accounted for 238 960 tonnes worth USD 3 123 million during the first half of 2022, a figure slightly below (-1.5 percent) in terms of volume but with a notable increase (25 percent) in value compared to 242 815 tonnes worth USD 2 494 million in the first half of last year. Imports from Chile and Norway grew both in terms of volume and value, while volumes shipped from Canada decreased but value also increased.

Prices

The increased supply forecasted for the second half of the year is putting a downward pressure decline on Atlantic salmon prices in the third quarter of 2022, but with future recoveries after buyers started to build up inventories at low prices. According to the Nasdaq salmon index, Norwegian fresh head-on-gutted Atlantic salmon dropped from NOK 90.74 (USD 9.16) per kg at week 25 to NOK 50.89 (USD 5.12) per kg at week 35, rebounding to NOK 56.02 (USD 5.18) per kg at week 39. Prices for fresh Chilean Atlantic salmon fillets (FOB Miami) declined from USD 16.29 per kg in week 20 to USD 12.82 in week 32, also rebounding, to USD 13.43 at week 39. Some market volatility is still expected.

Outlook

The global political and economic developments keep the main producer's expectant. Already with less negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are other factors, drivers and scenarios that take centre stage and generate great uncertainty for the sector. The increased global supply of farmed salmonids by around 2 percent to 3 percent to 3.5 million metric tonnes in 2023 forecasted by Kontali and based on GOAL inputs could also be modified.

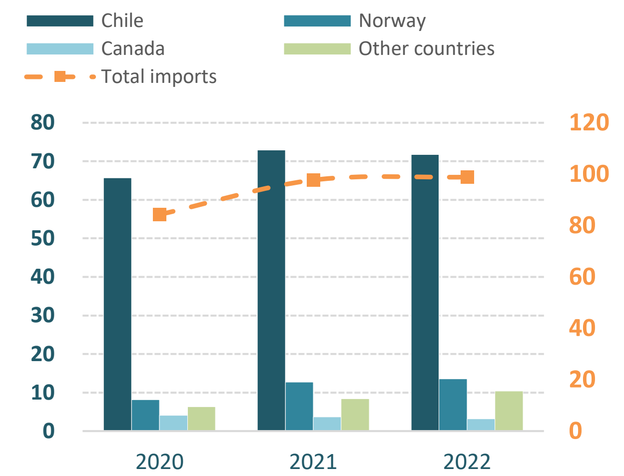
After overcoming the main blows of the COVID-19 pandemic, and remaining one of the main producers worldwide, the challenging political processes in Chile in addition to the production decisions to be made also brought uncertainty to the country. With the export numbers in the first semester, the industry is speculating that could reach USD 6 000 million for the whole 2022, which would be a new record for the industry and more opportunities for development.

The situation of the tax increase, especially for the Norwegian industry, is an issue that will have to be closely followed because it could have very important consequences for the main producers that have volumes in the country and their short-term harvesting plans. The second half of the year could have a year-on-year production growth from the major producing countries. Earlier than expected harvests could occur to anticipate these possible tax changes. Nevertheless, analysts insist that there will be worldwide repercussions even if it is not approved.

SALMON

United States of America| Imports | Salmon| Fresh fillet Top three origins

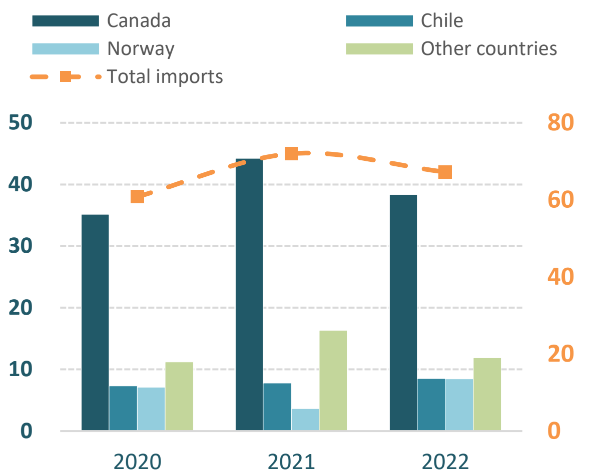
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

United States of America | Imports | Salmon| Fresh whole Top three origins

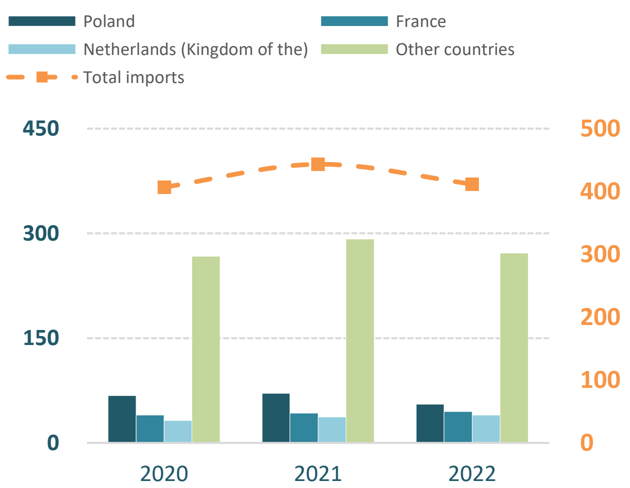
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Norway | Exports | Salmon | Fresh whole | Top three destinations

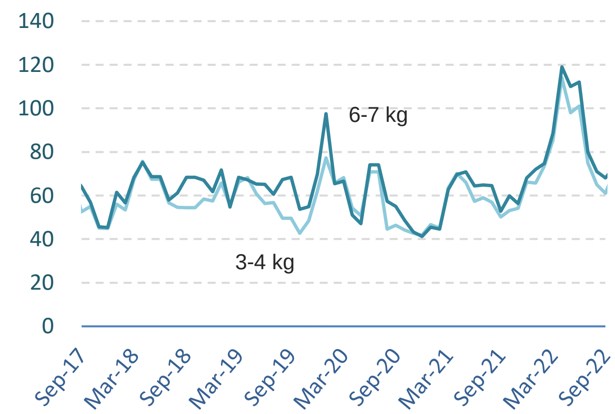
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Prices Salmon: Norway

NOK/Kg



FOB prices

Source: Author's own elaboration based on NSC data. 2022. Norwegian Seafood Council. Cited 30 September 2022. www.seafood.no

SEABASS and SEABREAM

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Prices rise as farmers grapple with costs

Strong sales in core markets over the summer have helped to firm up demand for seabass, while there remains a glut of seabream on the market. Prices for both are high, and harvests increased noticeably in 2022, although farmers continue to face high costs for inputs.

Production

Higher prices for seabass in 2021 would appear to have coaxed a concerted response from farmers in the Mediterranean area. A significant jump in production is expected for 2022, amounting to some 15 000 tonnes (6 percent) more fish coming out of pens this year compared to 2021. The market will likely remain firm throughout the year, with supplies still some 3 000 tonnes (6 percent) below their peak of 2019.

Greece is expecting a bumper harvest of both bass and bream in 2022. Strong demand in key markets such as Italy, where Greece holds a 40 and 50 percent market share for bass and bream, respectively, have helped push producers to raise stocking levels. Yields of the two species are expected to reach close to 150 000 tonnes in 2022, a 12 percent increase from 2021.

Croatia has been steadily increasing their stocking of seabass and now produces as much as Italy, an impressive feat for a country with a mere fifteenth of the population.

Annual inflation rates across the European Union climbed to nearly 10 percent, levels not seen since the 1980’s. This has impacted the entire value chain, with everyone from consumers to retailers struggling to rebalance prices. The cost of feed averages 70 percent of bass and bream farmer’s expenses, and with prices for grain and fish oil skyrocketing in recent months farmers have struggled to pass on costs.

While inflation is old news in Türkiye, the leading global producer of bass and bream, now things have gone from bad to worse. The annual inflation rate stood at close to 80 percent in July, compared to 20 percent this time last year, adding to the instability of the economy, although a consistently weakening Turkish lira has aided exports to the European Union somewhat.

Trade

The European market has seen imports of both bass and bream exceed pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels in key markets. Demand in Italy, the main importer of bass and bream, has remained strong in the first half of 2022, with increased imports from Greece and Croatia keeping the market steady. Trade peaked in May, with volumes of seabass up by 8 percent on the same period in 2021.

In smaller markets such as Spain and France, imports of both species also rose across the board. Total supply for these two markets increased to 19 900 tonnes in the first half of 2022, up by 21 percent on the same period last year; greater supply from Greece and Türkiye accounted for much of this growth.

SEABASS and SEABREAM

Prices

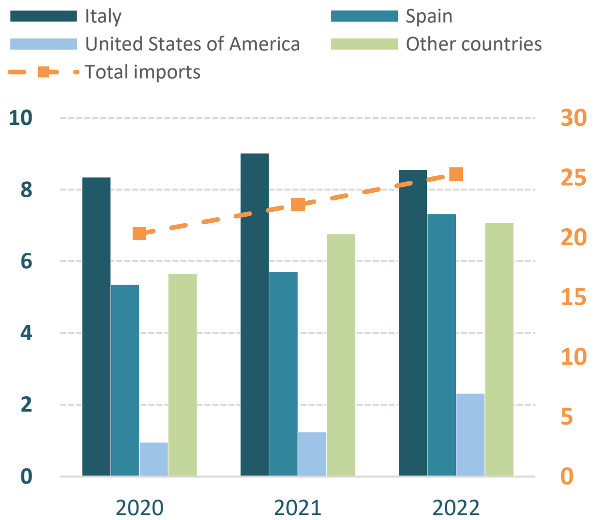
Strong demand pushed bass prices up throughout the first half of 2022. In Mercamadrid they reached record highs over the summer, with medium sized fish selling for EUR 6.80 per kg in mid July, up from 5.60 per kg in July 2021.

Following brisk demand over the winter period, bream prices have risen across most sizes throughout the first half of 2022, with medium sized fish selling for EUR 5.60, up from EUR 4.80 this time last year. Larger fish did exhibit irregular pricing, as they fell from 7.10 per kg in January 2022 to EUR 5.50 in early May before recovering to EUR 7.20 in mid-July.

Outlook

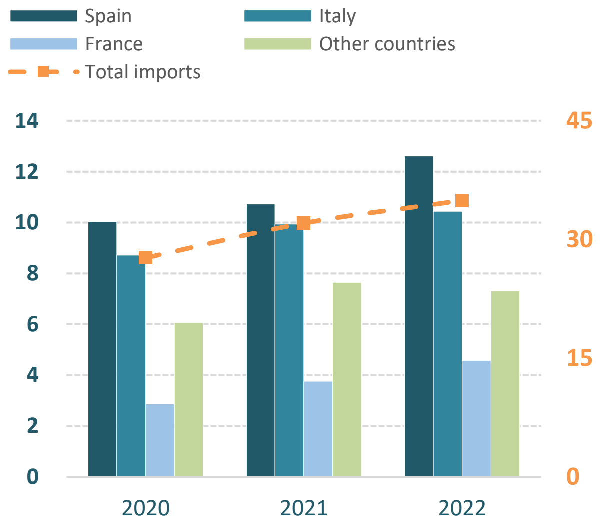
Supply of bass is expected to remain tight at least until next year, while production of bream will remain readily available. While production levels have been climbing since 2020, the shortfall in Turkish supply continues to be felt by the market, with supply expected to fall short of 2019 levels by 1.5 percent. While prices are high, much of the increased dividends will be going towards sating farmers' margins, which are now considerably tighter.

Greece | Exports | Seabass | Fresh
Top three destinations
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

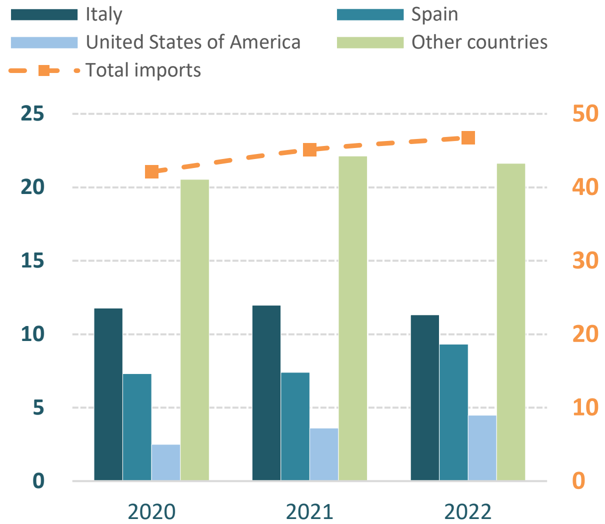
Greece | Exports | Seabream | Fresh
Top three destinations
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

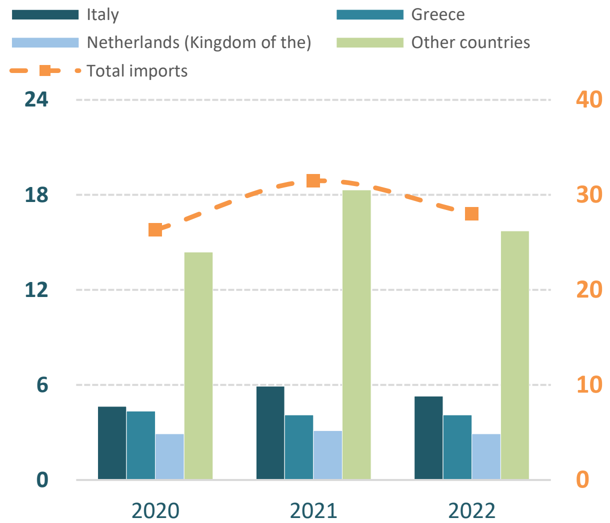
SEABASS and SEABREAM

Türkiye| Exports | Seabass | Fresh
Top three destinations
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



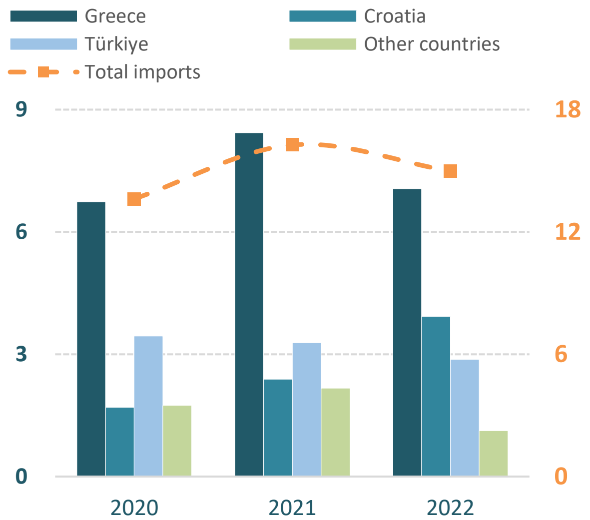
Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Türkiye | Exports | Seabream | Fresh
Top three destinations
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



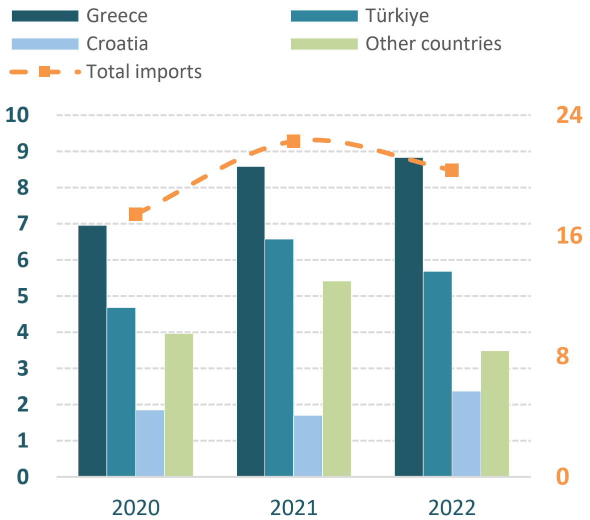
Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Italy | Imports | Seabass | Fresh
Top three origins
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Italy | Imports | Seabream | Fresh
Top three origins
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

SHRIMP

China becomes the world's top shrimp importer

Increased supply of farmed shrimp kept Ecuador at the helm of global shrimp trade from January to September 2022. During this period China overtook the United States of America as the top import market with large supplies from Ecuador and a wider supply gap with Asian producers

Supply

The cost of aquaculture inputs (feed, fuel and transportation) increased considerably in 2022 causing hardship for shrimp farmers worldwide. Nonetheless, production and exports of farmed shrimp in Asia were moderate during the second and third quarters of 2022 which is the main farming season in this region. Species wise, vannamei shrimp dominated supply. Increased production of farmed black tiger shrimp in Asia is also noteworthy, after years of low black tiger production.

Demand and prices of shrimp in the major markets were relatively stable during January to August. From September, shrimp prices in the international trade started to weaken reaching low levels in October that were not profitable for many farmers to continue production, particularly in Asia. In India shrimp farmers have reduced pond stocking and processors decreased export processing due to falling market prices. The trend is also similar in Southeast Asia (Viet Nam, Indonesia, Thailand).

Farmed shrimp production will be seasonally low in Asia during November to February/March.

In Latin America, Ecuador which is the top producer of farmed shrimp, there continues to be strong growth of farmed shrimp outputs and over one million tonnes production are forecast in 2022.

In the United States of America, Hurricane Ian, a Category 4, severely affected the Southwest coast of Florida, destroying shrimp vessels and port facilities. US fish wholesalers are dealing with complications due to the storm, including shipments involving Florida and other places where the storm attacked.

In Argentina, high inflation, the unfavourable exchange rate, and the increased cost of fishing have impacted the Argentine shrimp industry. Unsold stocks are high in Argentina and also in the main markets in Europe due to low demand where the species is in competition with farmed vannamei. This has led to lower prices, especially for the large sized shrimp while exports to the European markets declined somewhat.

International Trade

In general shrimp trade worldwide continued the positive trend during the first half of 2022. In most markets, imports were higher compared with the same period in 2021.

SHRIMP

Exports

Increased production of farmed shrimp in 2022 (particularly vannamei) in Asia and Latin America catered to the rising global demand for shrimp in 2022. Among the leading exporters, Ecuador and Viet Nam endured the highest growth rates during the January to June 2022 review period while India and Indonesia barely sustained the positive trends. Exports declined from Thailand, China and Argentina.

During this period, the supply gap between the top two exporters, Ecuador and India, widened as the former increased its market shares in China, the United States of America and the European Union and many more markets. Ecuador also increased exports of raw peeled shrimp and breaded shrimp to the western markets.

Imports

From January to June 2022, the cumulative imports of shrimp in the five leading markets were 13 percent higher at 1.36 million tonnes in comparison with the same period last year.

Imports of semi-processed (peeled shrimp) and processed shrimp (breaded and others) increased in the western markets and Japan during this period, mostly supplied by Viet Nam, Thailand, Indonesia and China. Exports of raw peeled shrimp also increased from Ecuador.

Since the beginning of autumn, imports have softened in the United States of America and Europe where stocks in the local supply chain were large.

World top exporters of shrimp
January–June (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022	% change 2020/19
Ecuador	356.00	390.00	521.70	33.80
India	256.90	329.60	334.70	1.50
Viet Nam	143.70	162.60	197.90	21.70
Indonesia	114.90	119.70	122.80	1.20
Thailand	70.30	68.50	72.80	-0.40
China	63.70	83.00	68.70	-17.10
Argentina	45.00	59.50	40.60	-31.70

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

World top importers of shrimp
January–June (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022	% change 2020/19
United States of America	309.30	405.00	441.60	9.10
European Union	312.40	366.60	406.20	11.00
China	381.70	290.40	370.10	25.80
Japan	89.60	93.60	96.60	2.20
Republic of Korea	34.80	41.70	46.90	50.40
United Kingdom	31.70	34.40	38.90	12.80
Canada	23.90	25.70	33.67	30.00

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

SHRIMP

United States of America

The US food service sector faced challenging times associated with high fuel prices, increased transportation costs, inflation, a second consecutive quarter of no GDP growth, which affected costs in the supply chain, increased logistics times and storage issues. However, sales have managed to survive while wholesale shrimp prices remained remarkably stable, keeping consumer demand firm when compared to other fish and fishery products. With almost no restriction measures, outdoor dining has become a fundamental ally in the US catering trade.

During the first half of 2022, there was a 9 percent rise in US shrimp imports at 441 299 tonnes, which had a custom-declared value of USD 4.2 billion. Of this amount 41 percent was raw peeled shrimp, 32 percent raw shell-on shrimp and 26 percent processed products. Among the top exporters, India and Indonesia lost market shares to Ecuador, Viet Nam and Thailand during the review period.

The European Union

Along with the reopening of the restaurant and catering trade since last year, consumer demand for shrimp increased significantly in the European Union market. Imports exceeded 400 000 tonnes (+11 percent), including the intra-European Union trade, during January to June 2022. Spain, France, Denmark, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Italy, Germany and Belgium were the top importers.

Imports from the non-European Union sources were 296 407 tonnes (+15.7 percent) during this period. The top suppliers were Ecuador, India, Greenland, Viet Nam, and Argentina.

In the market, Argentine whole red shrimp is in heavy competition with vannamei; the latter offered a more accessible price. The main market for Argentine shrimp, Spain, is shifting towards vannamei. The high cold storage holdings of Argentine shrimp, in addition to the weakened buyer purchasing power, creates an unfavourable market environment.

Europe – non-European Union

Imports also increased in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (+12.8 percent; 38 878 tonnes) and Switzerland (30.3 percent at 4 560 tonnes) but declined in Norway (-11 percent; 8 090 tonnes). Import trends were volatile in Ukraine (-61 percent; 3 648 tonnes) and the Russian Federation due to the war in Ukraine. During the first half of 2022 shrimp exports from Argentina to the Russian Federation fell by 84 percent due to the financial embargo on the latter.

China

Consumer demand for shrimp has been strong in the retail and catering trade in the Chinese market and supply gaps are increasingly met through imports. Domestic production of farmed shrimp generally increases during April to October.

SHRIMP

In 2022, imports increased by 25.8 percent at 370 123 tonnes during the first half of the year. Ecuadorean shrimp, the top product group, had the lion share (60 percent) followed by India (12.5 percent), Viet Nam (6 percent), Canada (3.6 percent) and Greenland (3 percent).

By the third quarter of 2022, cumulative imports rose in the market by 51.6 percent to 661 822 tonnes, which made China the world's largest shrimp importer. This volume was 225 133 tonnes higher than January to September 2021. Ecuador maintained its market share at 60 percent (395 000 tonnes), widening the gap with other shrimp exporters. Supplies of farmed and sea-caught shrimp increased from the other suppliers (Argentina, Canada, Greenland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Saudi Arabia, Viet Nam and India). This unusual move and its impact on the global market needs to be monitored as US imports also reached 646 030 tonnes during this period.

Japan

Demand for shrimp remained soft in Japan throughout 2022, particularly for raw shrimp but was higher ranked for higher value products.

Imports during January to June 2022 were 96 555 tonnes (+2.3 percent) consisting of 61 percent of raw shrimp and 33.5 percent of processed shrimp. In comparison with the same period in 2021, raw shrimp imports declined (-2 percent; 63 065 tonnes) but increased for processed shrimp (+12 percent; 32 380 tonnes) sourced from Thailand, Viet Nam, Indonesia and China.

The Japanese borders for foreign tourists remained closed for almost two and a half years until September 2022, affecting demand for semi-processed shrimp (semi-processed tempura shrimp, raw peeled tail-on shrimp) generally required in the restaurant trade.

Others

Throughout 2022, Southeast Asia and the Pacific regional markets posted positive demand trends in the retail and catering trade.

Imports of fresh and frozen shrimp for domestic consumption increased in the Republic of Korea, Taiwan Province of China, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore during the review period. Throughout 2022, retail prices of shrimp remained high compared with export prices in western markets.

Imports of frozen shrimp for export processing also increased in Viet Nam and Thailand during the review period in 2022.

Prices

Normally, prices of farmed shrimp in Asia adjust during the main production period (May to September) and stabilise by October. This year, however, shrimp prices started to fall from mid-September in the international trade to unprofitable lows for farmers amidst the rising costs of aquaculture inputs.

SHRIMP

Outlook

During the next four to five months production of farmed shrimp in Asia will be seasonally low. In India, vannamei production is forecasted to drop to some 800 000 tonnes in 2022. In Southeast Asia, Thailand, Viet Nam and Indonesia, production is also expected to slightly decrease compared with 2021.

Considering Ecuador's steady monthly exports in 2022, farmed shrimp production in the country is likely to increase by 30 to 35 percent in 2022 which was one million tonnes in 2021.

For sea-caught shrimp, the industry in Argentina expects prices to stabilize in the coming months with some firming demand.

High imports into China confirm that the country has secured large supplies for the Gregorian and Lunar New Year celebrations in 2023, when consumer demand rises significantly.

Following high imports into the United States of America in the first nine months of the year, there may be a reduction in imports from Asia in October to December, with a greater tendency to source from Ecuador.

Imports in the European Union will likely be conservative as the Euro remains weak against the US dollar.

On the supply side, Ecuador will enjoy a comparative advantage over Asian suppliers in all three markets (China, United States of America and the European Union). Argentine shrimp fishers forecast smaller catches in 2022 compared to 2021. Stakeholders considered catch levels not entirely satisfactory as vessels landed 36 percent less than during the same period in 2020. In addition, shrimp processing activities could be disrupted for some time due to lack of raw material between seasons.

China imports and exports of shrimp
January–June, 2020–2022 (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022
Imports			
Ecuador	205.13	174.00	222.82
India	60.42	46.36	46.46
Viet Nam	15.72	13.40	22.03
Other countries	102.24	60.52	78.81
Total imports	**383.51**	**294.28**	**370.12**
Exports			
Japan	16.70	20.33	12.07
China, Hong Kong SAR	5.83	8.56	7.13
Malaysia	1.45	3.40	6.89
Other countries	41.58	50.68	42.66
Total imports	**65.56**	**82.97**	**68.75**

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

European Union imports and exports of shrimp
January–June, 2020–2022 (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022
Imports			
Ecuador	46.76	64.73	81.05
India	25.82	30.74	39.07
Greenland	35.66	33.99	38.74
Other countries	204.18	239.20	252.69
Total imports	**312.42**	**368.66**	**411.55**
Exports			
Germany	20.09	19.43	26.68
France	14.10	15.85	15.65
China	14.02	4.84	13.97
Other countries	103.26	127.29	124.39
Total exports	**151.47**	**167.41**	**180.69**

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

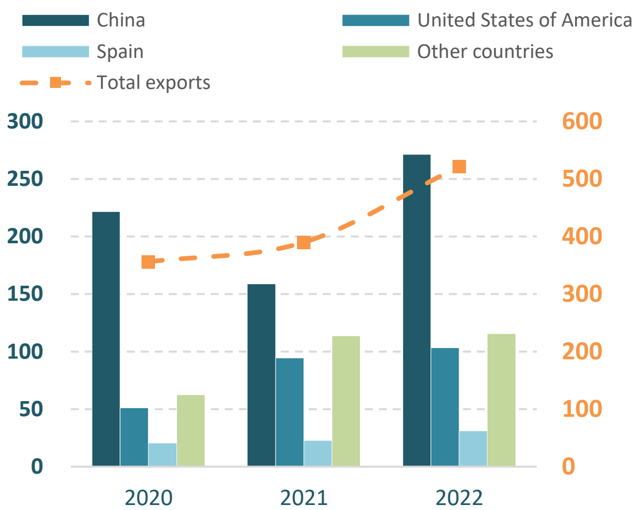
SHRIMP

India exports of shrimp, January–June, 2020–2022 (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022
Exports			
United States of America	102.84	150.76	139.65
China	58.26	66.19	69.10
Viet Nam	14.05	20.14	20.24
Other countries	81.90	92.77	105.75
Total imports	**257.05**	**329.86**	**334.74**

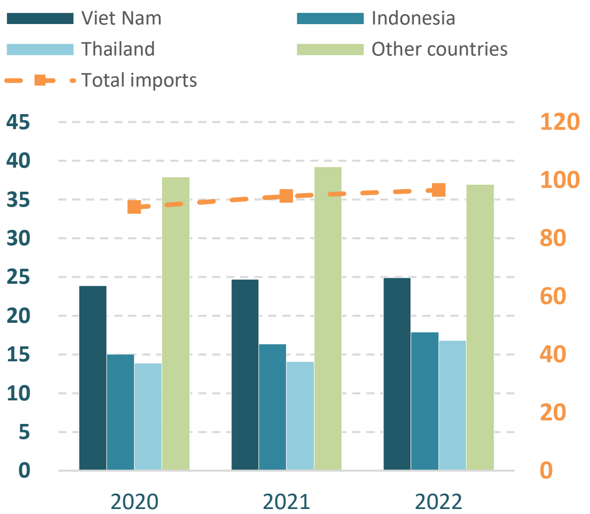
Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Ecuador | Exports | Shrimp
Top three destinations
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



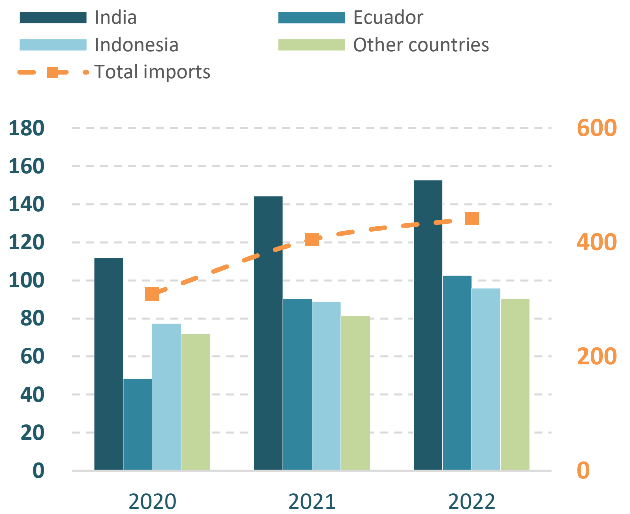
Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Japan | Imports | Shrimp
Top three origins
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

United States of America | Imports
Shrimp | Top three origins
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

SMALL PELAGICS

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Lower mackerel and herring quotas

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) has suggested that the 2023 quotas for both North Atlantic mackerel and Atlanto-Scandian herring be cut. Supplies may therefore be somewhat tighter next year.

Prices are high and expected to stay that way for some time. However, North Atlantic mackerel may face some competition by jack mackerel from Peru.

Quotas and supplies

ICES recently issued its advice for pelagic species in the Northeast Atlantic. For mackerel, ICES suggested a two percent reduction in the quota. However, if the catch level does not exceed 782 066 tonnes, this would mean that catches would be down by over 30 percent compared to actual landings in 2022.

ICES has also advised that catches of Norwegian spring-spawning herring (NSS) should be reduced for 2023. Catches should not exceed 511 171 tonnes. This would be a 15 percent reduction from 2022's advice, but a 38 percent reduction compared to expected landings in 2022. However, in November there were reports of very good fishing in Norway, so supplies this coming winter are looking up.

Mackerel

Norwegian mackerel fishing in September was exceptionally good. For one week alone (19 – 25 September) no less than 63 600 tonnes were landed, setting a new all-time record. However, the onshore processing facilities were not capable of handling everything, in spite of running double shifts.

The jack mackerel (*Trachurus murphyi*) fishery off the southern coast of South America was seriously overfished at the beginning of this millennium. But a recovery plan carried out by. the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) has brought the biomass back up and led to quotas being increased. The total quota for jack mackerel in the region was set at 460 000 tonnes in 2015 but has been increased to 900 000 tonnes in 2022. This has allowed Chile to increase its landings of the species from 217 000 tonnes in 2015 to 581 000 tonnes in 2022.

The rising supplies of jack mackerel has led some importers in the European Union to turn to this species as an alternative to the North Atlantic mackerel. Jack mackerel commands a lower price than the North Atlantic mackerel and may therefore be a strong competitor. The species is also enjoying a growing popularity on the domestic market in Chile.

Mackerel prices have been going up significantly. So far this year, first-hand prices to the fishers in Norway are up by about 30 percent, from NOK 10.20 (USD 1.00) per kg in 2021 to NOK 13.20 (USD 1.30) per kg in 2022.

SMALL PELAGICS

Norway's total mackerel quota for 2022 amounts to 284 539 tonnes.

Norwegian exporters have been sending fresh mackerel by air to Japan lately, in addition to the frozen mackerel that is shipped since many years. By the end of September 2022, an estimated 146 000 tonnes of mackerel had been exported from Norway to Japan.

The largest markets were China (18.5 percent of the total, by volume), the Republic of Korea (16.4 percent of the total) and the European Union (11.7 percent of the total).

China's imports of whole frozen mackerel dropped significantly during the first half of 2021 compared to 2020 but recovered slightly during the first half of 2022. Imports went from 36 660 tonnes in 2021 to 39 239 tonnes during the same period in 2022. The largest supplier, Norway, registered a 22.9 percent decline in volume, while both Ireland and the Faroe Islands registered important increases.

Republic of Korea imports of whole frozen mackerel declined slightly during the first eight months of 2022 compared to last year. A total of 37 323 tonnes had been imported. Of this amount, 86.2 percent (32 171 tonnes) came from Norway, which. also commanded the highest import prices, with an average of USD 2.48 per kg, while frozen mackerel from the Russian Federation was paid only USD 0.89 per kg.

Herring

Republic of Korea imports of frozen Pacific herring increased dramatically during the first half of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021. Imports stood at 6 647 tonnes during the first six months of 2021, while during the same period of 2022, they had risen to 20 558 tonnes. The Russian Federation accounted for as much as 97.5 percent of these imports.

Russian Federation exports of frozen herring increased by an impressive 65.8 percent, from 50 154 tonnes in the first half of 2021 to 83 265 tonnes in the first half of 2022. After a massive decline in Russian Federation shipments of frozen herring to China in 2021 (from 59 058 tonnes during the first half of 2020 to just 1 218 tonnes during the same period in 2021), Russian Federation exports to China recovered in 2022. China accounted for 60 percent of Russian Federation frozen herring exports during the first half of 2022. The second largest market, the Republic of Korea, also recovered from the slump in 2021.

During the first six months of the year, Norwegian herring exports amounted to 142 155 tonnes with an FOB value of NOK 1.8 billion (USD 171 million). This was a decrease of 15 percent in terms of volume, and a decrease of only 3.6 percent in terms of value. The average export price went up from NOK 11.11 (USD 1.06) per kg in 2021 to NOK 12.63 (USD 1.20) per kg in 2022.

German imports of prepared/preserved herring continue to slide modestly, and during the first half of the year amounted to 21 673 tonnes, compared to 22 691 tonnes during the first half of 2021.

SMALL PELAGICS

German consumption of herring increased sharply during the COVID-19 pandemic but fell back when restrictions were lifted. However, there are now signs that herring consumption may be increasing again, as a result of dramatically rising prices on energy and food, which makes the consumers look for lower priced fish species.

Capelin

Iceland's Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI) has recommended a sizeable cut in the capelin fishing in Icelandic waters for the 2022/2023 season. For the 2021/2022 season, MFRI originally suggested a total allowable catch (TAC) of 400 000 tonnes, but later revised this upwards to 904 000 tonnes, amount which at a later stage was reduced to 869 600 tonnes.

For the 2022/2023 season, MFRI suggested a TAC of 400 000 tonnes. But again, they revised this advice in the course of the year down to just 218 400 tonnes. This would represent a 75 percent reduction from the final TAC of 2021/2022.

Russian Federation and Norwegian scientists have agreed on a slight reduction in the Barents Sea capelin quota for 2023. The capelin stock has grown very little over the past 12 months, and they consequently suggested that the TAC be reduced from 70 000 tonnes in 2022 to 62 000 tonnes in 2023. This quota is divided between Norway and the Russian Federation, with 60 percent (37 200 tonnes) for Norway and 40 percent for the Russian Federation (24 800 tonnes). Norway and the Russian Federation continue their dialogue on fishing quotas despite the war in Ukraine.

Anchovy and Sardines

In the far east of the Russian Federation, catches of Iwashi sardines are about 10 percent above landings a year ago. During the first seven months of 2022, Russian Federation landings of Iwashi sardines amounted to 45 600 tonnes.

The first anchoveta season in Peru ended at the end of July, with a total of 2.34 million tonnes landed. This represented 84 percent of the quota (2.79 million tonnes).

Outlook

Supplies of mackerel may be tighter next year if the recommendations by ICES are followed. However, increasing supplies of jack mackerel from Chile may capture market shares in some markets, primarily Europe.

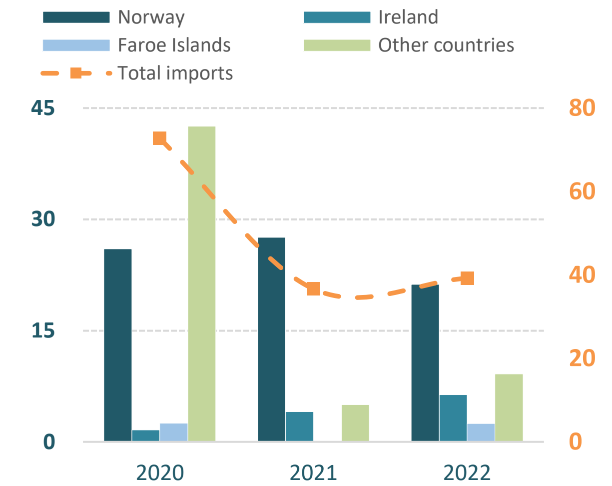
Herring quotas in the North Atlantic are also expected to be lower, so supplies may be tighter for this product.

However, demand for inexpensive fish like small pelagic fish is expected to grow as the economic situation is difficult in many European countries, resulting in dramatically higher energy and food prices. Thus, higher mackerel prices are expected, while herring prices are expected to hold their own.

SMALL PELAGICS

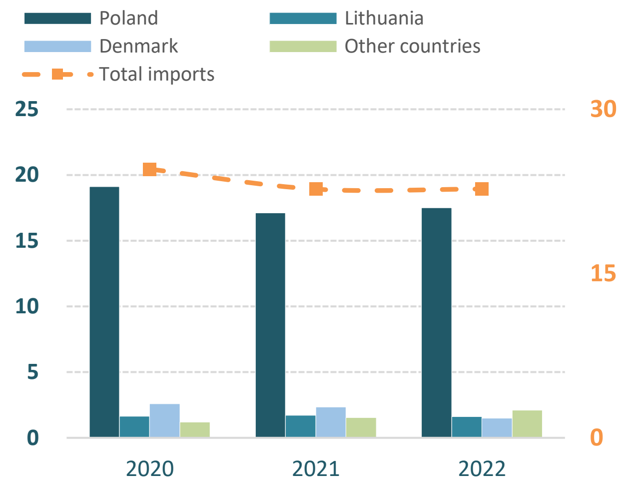
There will be considerably less capelin on the market in the coming year, as both Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation have lowered their quotas. As most of this species goes to fishmeal production, the impact on the food market will be limited.

China | Imports | Mackerel | Frozen whole
Top three origins
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



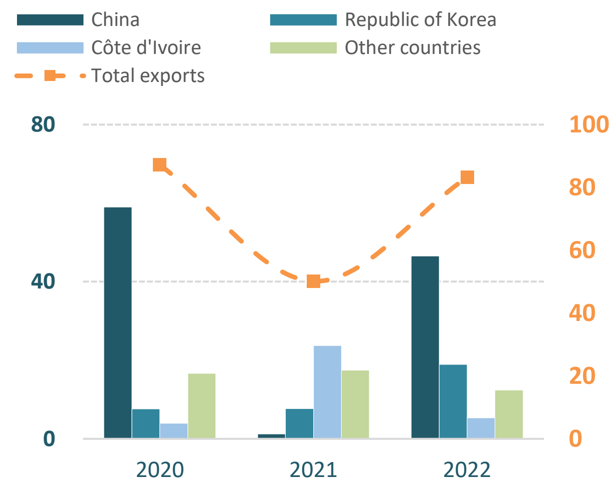
Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Germany| Imports | Herring| Prepared/preserved
Top three origins
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

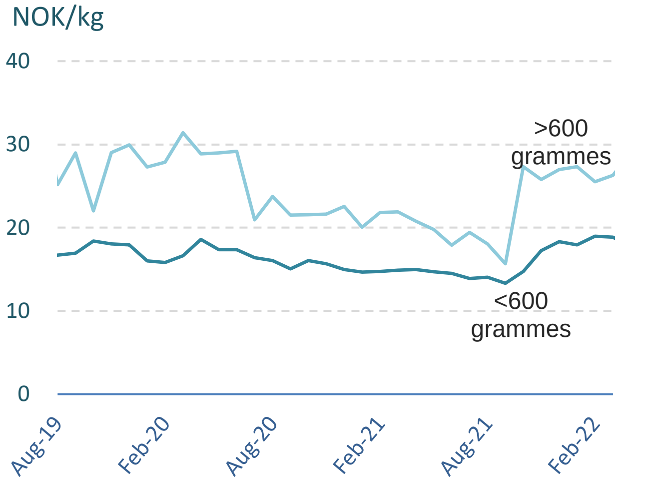
Russian Federation | Exports | Herring Frozen whole
Top three destinations
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

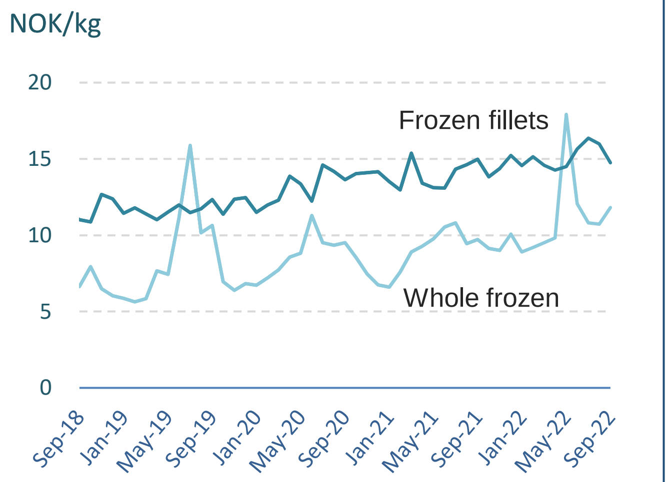
SMALL PELAGICS

Export prices
Frozen mackerel: Norway



Source: Author's own elaboration based on NSC data. 2022. Norwegian Seafood Council. Cited 30 September 2022. www.seafood.no

Export prices
Frozen herring: Norway



Source: Author's own elaboration based on NSC data. 2022. Norwegian Seafood Council. Cited 30 September 2022. www.seafood.no

TILAPIA

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Demand for tilapia resumes growth despite higher prices.

Global tilapia production is expected to increase by 2–4 percent in 2022. Tilapia has recently gained popularity in the international market with its stable supply and relatively low price. Growing demand in North America and the European Union and expanding tilapia farming in Asia and Latin America are expected to widen the trade network, with tilapia sales becoming progressively less centered on the US market.

Market and Trade

Asia

Chinese tilapia pricing was unsettled in the first half of 2022, which coincided with a slight drop in exports. Demand for processed fish during holiday gatherings around May Day drives much of the demand in factories in this period, leaving a smaller volume for the retail and export markets.

Exports of frozen whole tilapia decreased by 5 percent year-on-year. African markets, such as Burkina Faso (up 16 percent in volume and up 25 percent in value year-on-year) and Côte d'Ivoire (down 35 percent in volume and down 32 percent in value year-on-year), remain important secondary markets for China's frozen tilapia, despite increasing investment in domestic tilapia production in African countries.

China has regained its share in the frozen fish market in Europe, with exports to France, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Italy and Sweden hitting a three year high in the second quarter of the year. This is mostly likely due to higher prices and variable supplies for many popular species of white fish, for which tilapia is becoming an increasingly popular substitute.

Elsewhere, Thailand, Viet Nam and Indonesia are increasing production and will likely emerge as strong alternative producers in the coming years. Thailand and Viet Nam roughly doubled their exports of frozen whole tilapia to the US in the second quarter of 2022, with trade peaking at 1.2 tonnes and 0.7 tonnes, respectively. As production has expanded, so too has domestic consumption.

Latin America

Production in Latin America continues to expand, taking advantage proximity to the US market and favourable exchange rates. Colombia and Honduras remain the largest suppliers of chilled tilapia fillets to the US market, reflecting an efficient improvement in tilapia production in these areas. In Brazil, tilapia products represented about 98 percent of Brazilian aquaculture exports. The Brazilian Agricultural Research Company (EMBRAPA) reported that 4 862 tonnes of tilapia worth USD 14.1 million were exported in the first half of 2022. This represents a 32 percent increase in volume and a 133 percent increase in value over the same period last year. Brazil has emerged as a strong contender in frozen whole tilapia market, with exports in the first half of the year increasing in volume by 575 percent over 2021. Reports indicate that domestic demand is strong, implying that there is scope for furthering domestic consumption.

TILAPIA

The United States of America

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), total US tilapia imports during the first half of 2022 stood at 89 104 tonnes, up 9.7 percent year-on-year. China remains the largest supplier of the US tilapia market, exporting 58 571 tonnes in the first six months of the year.

Around 90 percent of US imports of frozen fillets are sourced from China, followed by Colombia as the second largest supplier (7 650 tonnes worth USD 45.9 million) and Honduras as the third largest supplier (3.9 tonnes worth USD 35 million). Tariffs on Chinese goods have encouraged an ever-increasing proportion of imports from secondary producers, such as Brazil, Thailand and Viet Nam, which saw sales of frozen whole tilapia to the US increase by 431, 110 and 136 percent, respectively, year-on-year.

Price

Chinese farmgate prices for whole tilapia reached a five-year high. In Guangdong, which accounts for close to 40 percent of China's tilapia production, live 500-800 g tilapia were selling for CNY 10.58 per kg (USD 1.47 per kg), an increase of 14 percent on last year. In the US domestic market, an above-average inflation rate in the seafood category has resulted in a price jump on fresh and frozen seafood sales, with tilapia's average costs increased over 20 percent in the first half of 2022. Import prices for frozen and fresh fillets to the United States of America in this quarter were up 23 and 8 percent year-on-year, respectively. The average price of frozen tilapia fillets in Brazil was quoted as USD 5.46 per kg, while fresh fillets sold for USD 5.26.

Outlook

Despite price increases, positive global demand for tilapia products and production growth are expected in 2022. Chinese production continues to supply the majority of the global market while other emerging producers in Asia and Latin America are increasingly competitive due to their growing production and tariffs on Chinese exports to the US market. In addition to the North America market, demand in the European Union returned, with greater buyer interest for tilapia products due to soaring prices of other seafood species in the global market. The historic price peak in Q2 2022 is not expected to continue, although a positive price trend is expected, giving great confidence in the tilapia market. Meanwhile, incoming trade negotiations between the United States of America and China will show impacts on the market, potentially reshuffling the tilapia market with emerging strong suppliers and increasing costs in China's tilapia production.

China exports of frozen whole tilapia January–June, 2020–2022 (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022
Frozen tilapia			
Burkina Faso	33.26	38.71	34.19
United States of America	18.52	19.54	14.30
Burkina Faso	8.45	7.22	8.44
Other countries	58.71	59.73	52.37
Total imports	**118.94**	**125.20**	**109.29**

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

United States of America imports of chilled tilapia fillets, January–June, 2020–2022 (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022
Chilled fillets			
Colombia	3.55	3.54	4.71
Honduras	3.99	4.20	4.56
Costa Rica	2.06	1.74	1.73
Other countries	1.73	2.30	1.28
Total imports	**11.34**	**11.78**	**12.29**

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

United States of America imports of frozen tilapia fillets, January–June, 2020–2022 (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022
Frozen fillets			
China	50.22	37.91	46.75
Indonesia	3.43	2.86	3.56
Taiwan Province of	0.48	0.70	0.73
Other countries	2.42	2.30	1.28
Total imports	**56.55**	**43.76**	**52.33**

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

United States of America imports of frozen whole tilapia, January–June, 2020–2022 (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022
Frozen whole			
China	11.57	11.35	11.18
Taiwan Province of	5.63	6.49	5.85
Brazil	0.08	0.34	1.45
Other countries	0.73	4.07	4.80
Total imports	**18.01**	**22.25**	**23.28**

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

TUNA

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen skipjack prices start to soften

Tuna catches were low worldwide during the third quarter of 2022 pushing frozen skipjack prices to USD 1 800 per tonne for delivery to Thailand. At this price level demand from tuna canners declined as consumer demand for end products remained soft in the major markets. With the exception of the Near East and North Africa (NENA) markets, demand for canned tuna suffered globally. However, imports of semi-processed raw material increased among the repressors in Asia and Europe.

Supply

At the 17th INFOFISH World Tuna Trade Conference and Exhibition (TUNA 2022) held in Bangkok, Thailand from 11–13 October 2022, representatives from major tuna industries met and discussed the present trends and future prospects of the global tuna industry and trade.

According to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) the estimated tuna catch in the area was 2.5 million tonnes in 2021, the landing value of this catch was USD 4.6 billion, -9 percent lower in comparison with 2020. In terms of catching methods, purse seine had the largest share (70 percent at 1.74 million tonnes), followed by longline (8 percent at 191 666 tonnes), pole-and-line (5 percent at 123 528 tonnes). The remaining 17 percent (438 000 tonnes) was supplied by the artisanal fishers, mostly from Indonesia and the Philippines. WCPFC also confirms the sustainable status of the four tuna species (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye and albacore) in the region.

During the third quarter of 2022, tuna landings worldwide were low keeping frozen tuna prices high at USD 1 850 per tonne in September 2022.

In the WCPFC region, the 3-month FAD fishing closure was implemented from 1 July to 30 September 2022. The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) veda was in force in the Eastern Pacific from 29 July to 8 October when 43 percent of the fishing fleet refrained from fishing. Skipjack prices increased during this period while yellowfin prices remained steady.

Catches in the Indian Ocean improved at a moderate level but slowed down in the Atlantic Ocean.

Raw material imports

For cooked loins, which is a semi-processed raw material, demand increased from the reprocessing industry in Thailand. Imports of cooked loins during January–June 2022 increased by 73 percent at 34 116 tonnes year-on-year; China, Indonesia and Viet Nam were the top suppliers. Imports of raw frozen tuna were 5.3 percent lower during the same period at 363 395 tonnes compared with the same period last year.

In the Philippines, raw frozen tuna imports were stable at 93 085 tonnes during the review period.

In Spain, the largest tuna canning base in Europe, imports of raw frozen tuna during the first half of 2022 declined by 19 percent at 53 295 tonnes but increased by 6 percent for cooked loins at 63 226 tonnes.

Total imports of cooked loins in the European Union were 110 000 tonnes (+4.8 percent) during the first half of 2022.

Fresh and frozen tuna market (non-canned)

Supported by increased business in the hotel, restaurant and catering (HORECA) sector particularly during the summer months, consumer demand for higher value fresh and frozen tuna remained positive in most markets worldwide, except in Japan.

Japan

Impacted by the shrinking consumer demand for sashimi tuna in Japan, imports of higher value fresh and frozen tuna were 3 percent lower during the first half of 2022 at 95 430 tonnes. Nearly 80 percent of this volume was sashimi grade tuna.

Japan imports of fresh and frozen tuna January–June 2022 (tonnes)

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fresh, Whole/dressed	5 889	2 550	3 979	2 238
Frozen, whole	66 482	58 462	57 721	60 519
Fillet, frozen	32 334	29 230	36 358	32 673
Total	**104 705**	**90 242**	**98 085**	**95 430**

Source: Author's own elaboration based on the INFOFISH Trade News. 2022. INFOFISH. Cited 30 September 2022. www.infofish.org

However, the notable development in this trade is the rising exports of high value tuna from Japan to the other Asian markets.

Japanese exports of fresh bluefin were 470 tonnes valued at USD 11.9 million during the first half of 2022, increased from 153 tonnes in 2020 and 326 tonnes in 2021; 92 percent of these exports went to China.

United States of America

Strong demand for high value non-canned tuna persisted in the US market in 2022. Year-on-year imports were 29 percent higher during January–June 2022 at 37 613 tonnes, consisting of 11 345 tonnes of fresh tuna, 26 078 tonnes of frozen loins/steaks and 190 tonnes of frozen tuna (bigeye and bluefin).

TUNA

Supplies of the popular frozen tuna fillet were dominated by Viet Nam (43 percent), followed by Indonesia (31 percent) and Thailand (6.6 percent). The average import unit price for this product group was USD 13.00–14.00 per kg.

Others

Positive demand trends for non-canned tuna, particularly frozen fillet, continued in Europe, Canada, and East Asian markets.

In the European Union, imports of frozen tuna fillet from extra-European Union sources were 26 percent higher at 16 667 tonnes during January–June 2022; the top suppliers were the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, Mexico, Ecuador and Japan.

Imports of frozen fillet also increased in the Republic of Korea (from Mediterranean sources), Israel, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Thailand, China and some other markets in Southeast Asia.

Canned Tuna Trade

International trade for canned tuna has been lacklustre in 2022 impacted by high raw material prices and weaker demand from end consumers.

However, rising demand for semi-processed cooked frozen loins from canners in Europe and Thailand resulted in increased sales from Ecuador and China to these markets.

Exports

The positive export trend in Thailand during January–June 2022 could be associated with increased sales of ready-to-eat products to the NENA markets, while demand remained weak in most of the traditional developed markets in North America and Europe.

Total exports from Ecuador in the 2022 review period were slightly lower compared to 2021. However, exports increased to the United States of America (+75 percent), and also to Chile (85 percent), Brazil (+46.2 percent), Uruguay (+23.2 percent) and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (+98.8 percent).

China increased export revenue through increased sales of semi-processed cooked loins to the tuna canners in Europe and Thailand.

TUNA

Imports

North and South America

Imports of canned and processed tuna in the United States of America increased by 7.7 percent during the review period with variations in the supply chain. Thailand retained the top supplier status but with shrunken market share. Imports increased from Ecuador (+76 percent), Viet Nam (+35 percent) and Mexico (+11.4 percent). Imports in Canada declined by 9 percent during this period.

In Central and South America, canned tuna imports in Colombia, Mexico, Peru, and Brazil were lower than 2021, but increased in Argentina and Uruguay.

The European Union

Over the past two years, the Euro lost 25 percent of its value against the US dollar reducing buying power of European Union importers particularly in the extra-European Union trade where 60 percent of trading takes place in US dollars. Intra-European Union trade for canned tuna increased in 2022 where the transactions were done in Euro.

During the first half of 2022, the European Union imported 351 060 tonnes (+3.2 percent) of processed and canned tuna, which was 3.2 percent more than the corresponding period in 2021.

Extra-European Union imports during this period were 276 127 tonnes (+2 percent). The top suppliers were Ecuador, China, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. Of this amount, 36.5 percent consisted of cooked frozen loins (101 100 tonnes) procured from China, Ecuador, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea.

Asia, the Pacific and Others:

Consumer demand for canned tuna was lacklustre in the large regional markets, namely Japan, Australia and New Zealand during the first half of 2022. These markets generally import premium grade canned tuna largely supplied by Southeast Asian canners.

During recent years, sales of black meat canned tuna (scraped meat of cooked loins) popular among the Pacific Island countries, increased significantly from Southeast Asian canners. Estimated exports of canned black meat tuna from Southeast Asia to the Pacific markets were 12 000–15 000 tonnes valued at USD 20 million in 2021. The per unit export value of canned black meat was USD 1.45–1.65 per kg compared with USD 3.50–4.50 per kg of light meat tuna.

The NENA region, one of the few growing markets for canned tuna, imported USD 400 million worth of canned tuna in the first six months of 2022. Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates are the top markets in the NENA region.

TUNA

In 2022, the devaluation of the Egyptian currency against the US dollar caused a 37 percent decline in imports of canned tuna in this market during the first half of 2022. However, exports from Thailand to Egypt increased by 15 percent. Thai exports of canned tuna also increased to Libya and the United Arab Emirates but declined to Saudi Arabia during the first half of 2022.

Price

Tuna prices firmed up significantly in 2022 compared with the last three years. The delivery price of frozen skipjack from Western Pacific to Thailand (CFR) shot up from USD 1 450 per tonne in June 2022 to USD 1 550–1 600 per tonne in July and USD 1 800 per tonne in August 2022.

As of early October 2022, tuna catches improved in the WCPO region forcing prices to decline to USD 1 600 per tonne.

In Manta, Ecuador, skipjack prices remained firm at around USD 1 850–1 900 per tonne.

Outlook

During the last quarter of 2022, the supply situation of frozen tuna for canning is likely to improve in the Pacific region along with some softening in prices.

However, consumer demand for canned tuna will remain soft during the festival season (Christmas and New Year) when consumer demand for the other higher value protein (fresh tuna, shrimp, salmon) will likely increase.

Imports of canned tuna in the European Union region is unlikely to improve as inflation in the euro zone is projected to peak at a new record high of 8.4 percent in the third quarter of 2022.

The regional supply of canned tuna in the NENA area will likely improve from 2023 as two processing plants are being implemented in Oman. E-commerce in the NENA region is forecast to expand over the years which is important for canned tuna trade.

In Asia Far East, consumer demand for the higher value non-canned tuna will increase during the year-end festival period.

European Union imports of prepared and preserved tuna, January–June, 2020–2022 (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022
Canned or preserved tuna			
Ecuador	71.72	58.30	63.61
Spain	60.05	50.58	54.28
China	37.81	28.14	29.09
Other countries	217.65	202.71	203.95
Total imports	**387.22**	**339.73**	**350.94**

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Thailand exports of prepared and preserved tuna, January–June, 2020–2022 (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022
Canned or preserved tuna			
United States of America	68.94	49.54	55.65
Egypt	27.97	33.70	38.95
Libya	15.74	7.33	20.21
Other countries	182.51	145.95	142.34
Total imports	**295.15**	**236.51**	**257.16**

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

TUNA

World top exporters of canned/processed tuna
January–June (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022	% change 2020/19
Thailand	295.20	236.50	257.20	+8.7
Ecuador	122.20	131.40	126.90	-3.40
China	56.80	56.10	66.70	+18.9
Spain	57.80	50.10	50.90	+1
Philippines	44.20	44.50	38.80	-12.70
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	37.30	36.30	37.10	+2
Indonesia	45.70	33.50	32.70	-2.30

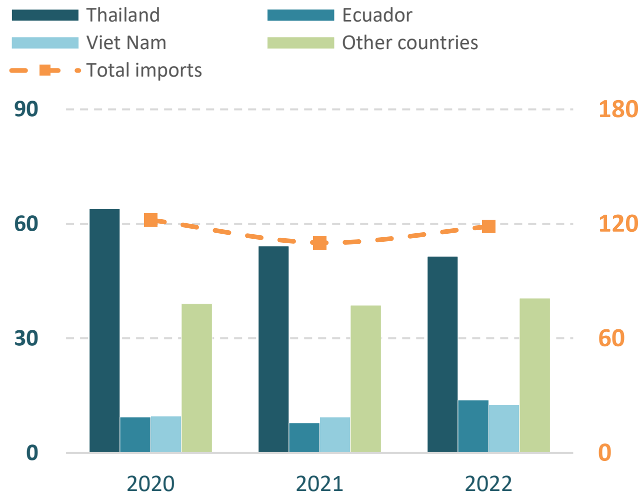
Source: Author's own elaboration based on the INFOFISH Trade News. 2022. INFOFISH. Cited 30 September 2022. www.infofish.org

World top importers of canned/processed tuna
January–June (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022	% change 2020/19
EU-27	387.20	340.30	351.10	+3.2
United States of America	122.00	110.10	118.60	+7.7
United Kingdom	48.10	45.50	48.00	+5.5
Thailand	18.90	19.70	34.10	+73.2
Japan	32.90	32.70	32.70	0.00
Australia	23.10	21.90	23.80	0.00
Canada	20.20	18.10	16.40	-9.30

Source: Author's own elaboration based on the INFOFISH Trade News. 2022. INFOFISH. Cited 30 September 2022. www.infofish.org

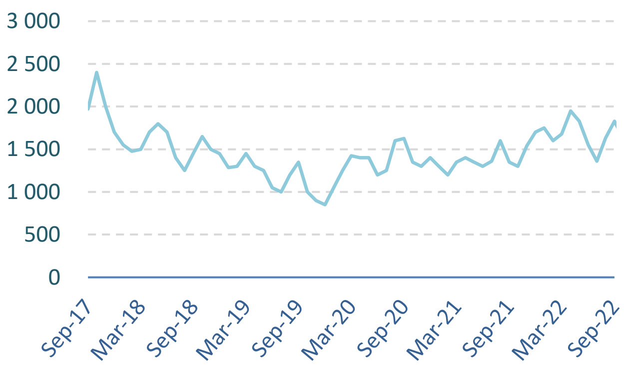
United States of America | Imports
Tuna | Prepared/preserved
Top three origins
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–June



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 30 September 2022. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Prices
Skipjack: Thailand

USD/tonne



1.8Kg lb/pc & up, CFR Bangkok, origin: Western Pacific
Source: Author's own elaboration based on the INFOFISH Trade News. 2022. INFOFISH. Cited 30 September 2022. www.infofish.org

MEET the EXPERT

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Welcome to the GLOBEFISH “Meet the Expert” Section.

"Meet the Expert" aims at exploring and analysing contemporary issues in the area of markets and international trade of fisheries and aquaculture products with leading experts worldwide to bring a comprehensive and holistic perspective of the sector.

"Meet the Expert" is a multi-media section, addressing from markets and trade to the role of FAO in supporting the sector, also exploring the importance and nuances of small-scale fisheries and gender, among other topics. There are no boundaries in the scope and complexity of the themes to be discussed in this section.

In this interview, GLOBEFISH “Meet the Expert” had the opportunity to interview Mr David Vivas Eugui, Legal Officer in the Trade, Environmental, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). UNCTAD supports developing countries to access the benefits of a globalized economy more fairly and effectively.

During the interview, Mr David Vivas Eugui explained the role of UNCTAD in the fisheries and aquaculture sector as the organization has been supporting countries around sustainable fisheries throughout the entire value chain. He mentioned the joint work and efforts with other bodies in the organization of important events worldwide, for example, the 4th Oceans Forum on Trade related aspects of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14. During the interview, the main challenges of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in terms of international trade and access to market were highlighted. A brief analysis on how tariff measures and non-tariff measures affect international trade of fisheries and aquaculture product was explained.

In the GLOBEFISH Highlights, "Meet the Expert" contains some parts of the interview, but the expert's full interview can be watched at the FAO YouTube channel within the GLOBEFISH playlist.

GLOBEFISH is always open to receiving by e-mail (globefish@fao.org) suggestions of persons to be interviewed and topics to covered.

Excerpt:

Question: Based on the studies and information that UNCTAD has carried out, what are the main challenges in terms of trade and access to new markets of fisheries and aquaculture products? What are the current concerns of the sector? In addition, how do you see the outlook of the sector for the upcoming months?

Meet the expert

Mr David Vivas Eugui: UNCTAD recently undertook a study on trade trends, market drivers and market access, including tariffs and non-tariff barriers on oceans-based sectors. Tariffs for marine fisheries are relatively low with an about 10 percent in applied tariffs. There are some important tariff peaks in relation to marine proceeds foods such as canned tuna that could bring tariffs to 25 percent and above depending on the country. However, non-tariff measure (NTMs) in the sector is important. There are 2.5. more NTMs in fisheries that in manufactured products. Most common NTMs in fisheries are Sanitary measures and technical measures.

Please click the link for the full interview!

Special Feature – EUROFISH

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Eurofish International Organisation

For the development of fisheries and aquaculture in Europe

In accordance with its mandate EUROFISH contributes to the development of fisheries and aquaculture in the European Union. EUROFISH contributes to the development of fisheries and aquaculture by publishing marketing and industry related information in the Eurofish Magazine and its website, and on the organization's website, as well as by organising conferences, workshops, seminars, business-to-business meetings and by implementing a variety of projects in the fields of post-harvest fisheries, aquaculture, processing, trade and marketing. Moreover, EUROFISH has in-depth knowledge about the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Europe and neighbouring countries, and an extensive network in the region.

The key objectives of Eurofish are to:

- Contribute to the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector.
- Promote trade of high quality, value-added fishery products.
- Facilitate the transfer of information and knowledge.

Eurofish assists the development of all aspects of fisheries and aquaculture in Europe, as well as promoting trade, markets, and cooperation in fisheries on a regional level.

Eurofish currently has 13 Member Countries:

- Albania
- Croatia
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Hungary
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Norway
- Poland
- Romania
- Spain
- Türkiye

Special Feature – EUROFISH

Eurofish is also a member of the international FISH INFONetwork (FIN) of fish marketing and information service. The network is coordinated by FAO GLOBEFISH in Rome and the members of FIN are: INFOFISH (Asia and the Pacific), INFOPECHE (Africa), INFOSAMAK (Arab countries), INFOPESCA (Latin America and the Caribbean) and INFOYU (China). The FISH INFONetwork provides the respective regions with updated information and technical advice on the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Background

Eurofish was originally launched in 1996 as the EASTFISH project of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. A Conference of Plenipotentiaries was held in Copenhagen, Denmark on 23 May 2000, when the Agreement on establishing the International Organisation for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe (EUROFISH) was adopted.

Eurofish was established as an intergovernmental organization in 2002 as a successor to the FAO-EASTFISH project. The mandate of the organization is laid down in the "Agreement for the Establishment of the International Organisation for the Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Europe (Eurofish)" adopted with the Secretariat of the United Nations in May 2000, when five founding countries – Denmark, Albania, Latvia, Norway and Romania – signed the Agreement or deposited an instrument of ratification or accession with the Depositary of the Agreement, namely the Director-General of FAO.

Projects

The expertise of EUROFISH includes the entire spectrum of the post-harvest handling of the catch, as well as aquaculture and trade and markets. The type of activities implemented as projects include market and sector studies and surveys, transfer of know-how through organising conferences, workshops and training courses, and the production of new publications.

Thanks to its highly professional and dedicated staff, as well as a large network of experts and contacts in Central and Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean and Balkan countries, EUROFISH is a partner of choice for many fisheries and aquaculture-related projects, especially for its member countries. The EUROFISH staff is fluent in 11 European languages (Croatian, Danish, English, Hungarian, Italian, Norwegian, Romania, Russian, Spanish, Swedish and Ukrainian). For more information: eurofish.dk/projects

Special Feature – EUROFISH

Eurofish Magazine

Eurofish produces a range of publications and also publishes and markets products on behalf of its partners. The best known Eurofish publication is the EUROFISH MAGAZINE. This is a bimonthly journal covering mainly, though not exclusively, the European fisheries and aquaculture sector with a special emphasis on the Eurofish member countries. The magazine deals with post-harvest issues including aquaculture, processing, trade and markets, equipment and technology. Three thousand copies of each issue of the magazine are distributed reaching key decision-makers in industry, research institutions, associations, and fisheries administrations. The magazine is also distributed at major industry events giving advertisers the maximum exposure.

Access the Eurofish Magazine here.

For more information about Eurofish please visit the Eurofish homepage: eurofish.dk

GLOBEFISH

Fisheries and Aquaculture Division –
Natural Resources and Sustainable Production

globefish@fao.org www.globefish.org
@FAOfish on Twitter

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Rome, Italy

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