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GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL MARKETS FOR FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS

SECOND ISSUE 2023, with January–December 2022 Statistics

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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 European Price Dashboard

Prices for hundreds of species sold in Europe, updated weekly



GLOBAL FISH ECONOMY

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Consumer demand a major challenge moving into 2023

Fisheries and aquaculture production for 2023 is projected to experience a slight uptick compared to 2022 (0.6 percent), as growth in the aquaculture sector compensates for a minor decline in wild catches.

The expansion of aquaculture will persist and is envisaged to reach 96 million tonnes in 2023, approximately a 2.8 percent rise from 2022. However, this projected growth rate is slightly lower than the sector's historical average; between 2015 and 2021 year-on-year growth averaged 3.7 percent between 2015 and 2021. While the growth of species like salmon and tilapia has decelerated, others such as pangasius and shrimp are undergoing progressive expansion. Escalating production costs, particularly for feed, are exerting pressure on the profitability of numerous farmers.

Projections indicate a modest decrease of approximately 1.6 percent in production from capture fisheries in 2023. This can be attributed to adverse weather conditions and reduced quotas, leading to limited catches of several crucial species. Anchoveta catches, which already witnessed a decline of around 1 million tonnes between 2021 and 2022, are anticipated to drop further in 2023 due to ongoing poor catches and the potential occurrence of an El Niño weather phenomenon in the latter half of the year.

Overall, prices remain elevated, with the FAO Fish Price Index climbing from 122 points at the start of 2023 to 130 points in April, approaching the previous peak recorded in June of the preceding year. This upward trend in prices is expected to maintain the value of global trade in aquatic products at levels surpassing previous years. The price gap between capture and aquaculture series has widened to 35 points, with specific groundfish and tuna species achieving record highs.

Although concerns of an economic downturn are subsiding, the prevalence of inflation and sluggish economic growth is curbing consumers' disposable incomes. This is contributing to a reduced growth in demand for aquatic products, which is already evident. Additionally, there is an accelerated shift in product preferences towards affordable farmed fish with more favour being shown towards lower-cost farmed fish over increasingly pricey wild-caught whitefish.

BIVALVES

■ GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Bivalve supply low

Climate change is bringing long periods of drought, impacting global bivalve production. Last year most producing countries were affected, and supply stayed below expectations. Demand for bivalves was strong after the long COVID-19 pandemic period. As a result, prices of bivalves went up and are expected to continue their upward trend.

Mussels

In Europe, the four main mussel producers are Spain (about 200 000 tonnes), the Kingdom of the Netherlands (100 000 tonnes), France (75 000 tonnes) and Italy (50 000 tonnes). There is strong competition among the European producers, together with plentiful imports coming from Chile, which at times reach 80 000 tonnes. Production is closely dependent on uncontrollable weather and environmental conditions, which was felt especially in 2022 when the severe drought in France and Italy impacted the mussel-growing areas. The recruitment of juveniles from the natural environment also impacts production cycles.

The mussel growing areas are generally not owned by mussel farmers, but they are only concessionaires of their parks. This can generate a number of difficulties both in the management of the farms, in the transfers and extensions of breeding areas, vis-à-vis other users (fishing, yachting, residents, tourism etc.) and in the transfer of companies when the activity ceases. The presence of toxic algae limits exploitable areas in many production areas.

On the other hand, the water quality is well controlled by national authorities, guaranteeing the sanitary safety of mussel products. In addition, the idea of mussels being a sustainable aquaculture product has led to steadily increasing demand. Value addition and new product forms are opening up markets among the younger population.

Imports of mussels experienced some declines in 2022, as the major importing countries such as the United States of America (the United States) and France imported substantially less mussels during that year when compared with 2021. The Russian Federation also imported less in 2022 due to the trade embargo as a result of the war in Ukraine.

Exports were about stable, with Chile as the main mussel exporter, reporting some declines in export volumes. On the other hand, the Kingdom of the Netherlands saw quite a successful 2022: some 60 000 tonnes were sold overseas, 50 percent more than in 2021.

BIVALVES

Oysters

With over 2 000 miles of coastline, France is the largest producer of oysters in Europe. In France, the oyster has been beloved by kings and peasants for thousands of years and today, the French continue to love these salty and briny treats from the sea. At bistros and brasseries around the country, there are raw oysters on the menu, and many believe French oysters to be the best in the world. In France, on both the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts, oysters are grown in marshes and estuaries. Oysters thrive in saltwater and brackish water, where changing tides help the molluscs grow strong shells. Many of France's oysters come from shallow bays or lagoons.

In France, there are two kinds of oysters grown. The flat oyster (huître plate) is a native variety that's a bit pricier and harder to find. Sometimes called belon or marennes, they are produced in small quantities and make up only about 1–2 percent of the oyster industry in France. The cupped oyster (huître creuse) is a species that was first imported from Japan.

Oysters can take anywhere from a year to three years to be ready for consumption. Left unharvested, an oyster can live in the ocean for 20 years and grow to 12 inches or more.

France continues to be the main oyster exporter in the world. However, in 2022, the drought negatively impacted oyster production and trade, which prevented nutrients from rivers from reaching the sea. As a result, oyster growth was reduced. In 2022, French exports of oysters were only 10 100 tonnes, 23 percent less than in 2021. China became a very close second exporting country with 10 000 tonnes exported in 2022.

Scallops

World scallop trade is mainly in the hands of Chinese producers. In 2022, this country managed to import some 100 000 tonnes of scallops and export some 36 000 tonnes. Peru, which had experienced a boom in scallop production in 2021, experienced some setbacks in 2022, and exports declined by 40 percent last year.

Clams

China is the world's main exporter of clams, but the country experienced a decline in shipments during last year. Some 110 000 tonnes of clams were exported in 2022, 22 percent less than in 2021. This was mainly due to strong domestic demand with consumers willing to pay higher prices compared to main importing countries, namely the Republic of Korea and Japan. As a result, Japanese imports of clams declined by 40 percent, Republic of Korea imports by 11 percent. Spain emerged as the second largest clam importer, despite a 5 percent reduction in imports.

BIVALVES

Outlook

Bivalve prices are growing in all major markets, as a result of inflation, high demand and declining production. Production growth is subject to climate changes, and further reductions in supply are likely to emerge in 2023. The summer is likely to be a period of strong demand, especially in North America and Europe and production is expected to stay limited.

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

	2020	2021	2022
Imports			
China	60.08	99.88	101.78
United States of America	16.56	25.13	23.21
Republic of Korea	11.15	14.46	14.42
Other countries	71.34	79.96	75.07
Total imports	159.13	219.43	214.49
Exports			
China	27.46	38.56	36.34
France	5.69	9.38	8.97
Canada	6.35	6.35	6.99
Other countries	25.78	28.41	17.77
Total exports	65.28	82.70	70.08

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

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

	2020	2021	2022
Imports			
United States of America	11.08	15.54	17.54
Italy	5.97	9.18	6.96
France	6.54	9.60	5.97
Other countries	33.28	37.23	34.12
Total imports	56.87	71.55	64.59
Exports			
France	11.30	15.73	12.13
China	10.50	9.99	10.09
Republic of Korea	9.46	10.13	9.55
Other countries	29.89	40.83	39.06
Total exports	61.15	76.68	70.83

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

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

	2020	2021	2022
Imports			
France	46.42	52.73	44.97
United States of America	31.60	41.32	35.07
Italy	38.01	47.38	31.33
Other countries	161.23	196.81	124.50
Total imports	277.27	338.24	235.87
Exports			
Chile	87.91	98.24	86.38
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	44.09	42.53	60.37
Spain	51.82	64.02	52.51
Other countries	130.23	143.74	113.98
Total exports	314.05	348.53	313.25

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

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

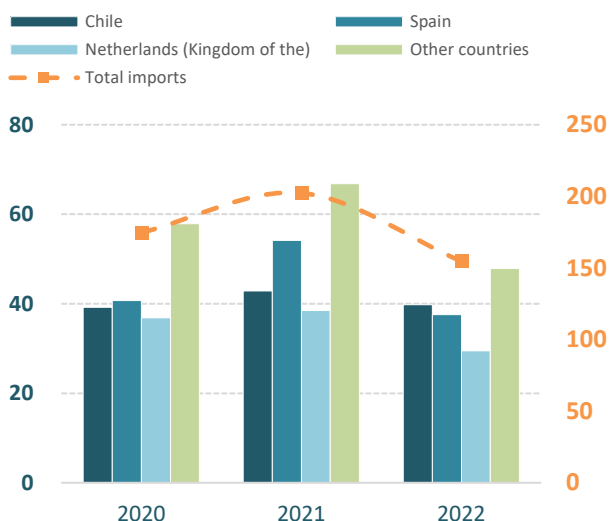
	2020	2021	2022
Imports			
Republic of Korea	51.30	49.83	44.27
Spain	43.50	44.94	42.38
Japan	65.98	62.68	38.36
Other countries	105.77	132.33	116.84
Total imports	266.55	289.78	241.84
Exports			
China	129.94	141.17	110.11
Canada	10.43	12.71	12.21
Republic of Korea	15.34	13.06	8.40
Other countries	86.27	86.15	70.16
Total exports	241.98	253.09	200.89

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

BIVALVES

European Union | Imports | Mussels Top three origins

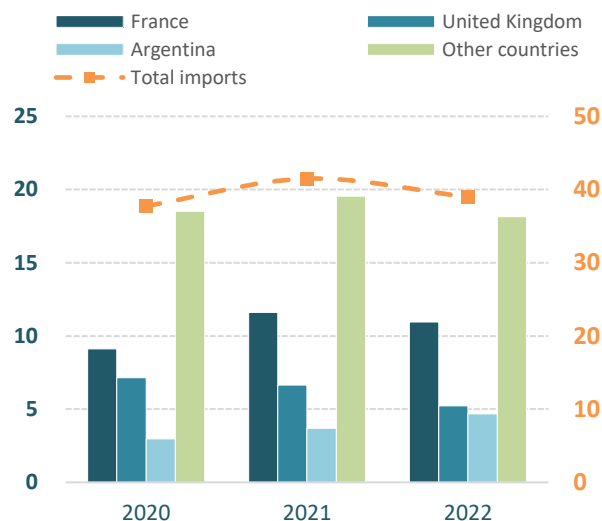
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

European Union | Imports | Scallops Top three origins

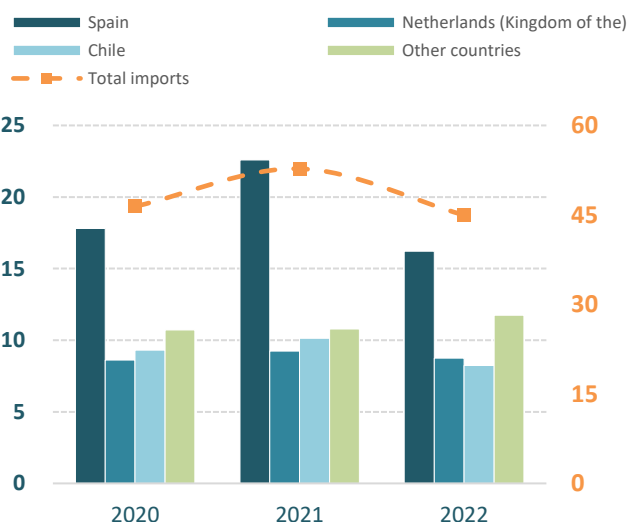
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2022. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

France | Imports | Mussels Top three origins

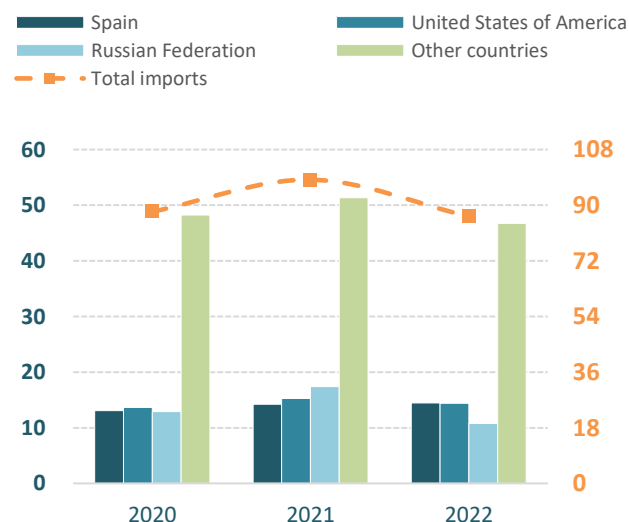
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Chile | Exports | Mussels Top three destinations

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



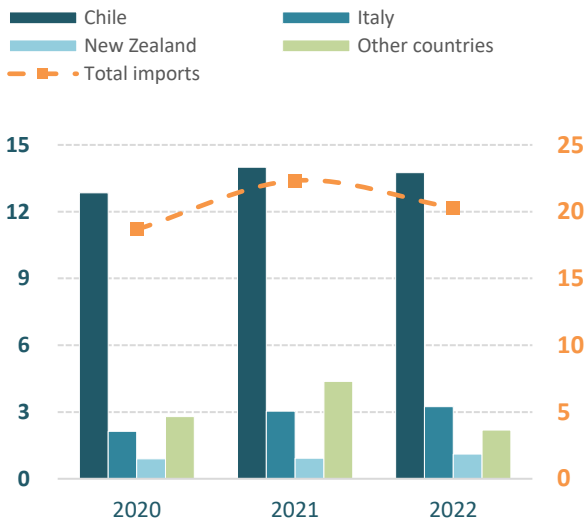
Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

BIVALVES

Spain | Imports | Mussels

Top three origins

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December

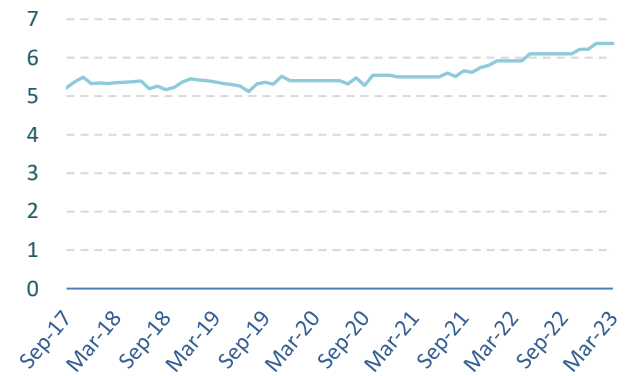


Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Prices

Mussels: France

EUR/kg



Monthly average consumer prices in metropolitan France

Source: Author's own elaboration based on the European Price Report. 2023. GLOBEFISH. Cited 1 May 2023 www.globefish.org

CEPHALOPODS

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Tighter supplies and rising prices

Octopus is becoming increasingly popular in several markets, but there are issues with supply. There has been a decline in catches in recent years, with limited availability pushing prices up.

While some quotas for squid have increased, landings in South America have recently decreased. As such, there may be difficulties in securing sufficient supplies in 2023.

Octopus

In a report published by Renub Research in 2020, it was predicted that the global market for octopus would grow to almost 625 000 tonnes by 2025. However, global production of octopus is far from that. In 2021, some 375 000 tonnes of octopus (all species) were landed. Total exports of octopus (all products) in 2020 amounted to just 283 577 tonnes, an 11.8 percent decline from 2019.

The most important countries for the octopus sector have remained fairly consistent over the years. China is by far the largest producer, with 106 300 tonnes in 2021, or 28 percent of total landings. Other important producers include Morocco, Mexico and Mauritania, with catches of 63 541 tonnes, 37 386 tonnes, and 27 277 tonnes, respectively.

The largest exporters of octopus in 2020 were Morocco (50 943 tonnes worth USD 438 million), China (48 456 tonnes worth USD 404 million) and Mauritania (36 419 tonnes worth USD 253 million).

The largest importers of octopus in 2020 in terms of volume were the Republic of Korea (72 294 tonnes), Spain (49 970 tonnes) and Japan (44 873 tonnes).

Trade

Japan's imports of octopus have dropped dramatically since 2016 due to high prices. In 2016, Japan imported 56 534 tonnes, but in 2020, this had dropped to 44 873 tonnes, and in 2021 further to 33 740 tonnes. In 2022, Japanese imports of octopus increased again to 38 333 tonnes.

The largest suppliers to Japan were China, which shipped 9 674 tonnes in 2022 (down 3.9 percent on 2021), Mauritania (8 442 tonnes, up 11.1 percent) and Viet Nam (8 180 tonnes, up 39.1 percent).

The Republic of Korea also registered a decline in imports in 2022 going from 73 157 tonnes in 2021 to 65 380 tonnes in 2022 (down 10.6 percent). All the largest suppliers saw reduced amounts shipped to the Republic of Korea: China down 15.1 percent to 27 275 tonnes, Viet Nam down 15.2 percent to 24 646 tonnes, and Thailand down 4.9 percent to 5 947 tonnes.

CEPHALOPODS

Squid

Major international squid producers operating in the Pacific have voiced concerns with the management of jumbo squid (*Dosidicus gigas*) resources in the Pacific. Although members of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Organization (SPRFMO) agree on the importance of the fishery and the need for better management, they seem to be unable to reach a consensus. There appears to be interest in limiting fishing effort, but members have been unable to agree on the specifics. The fishery had an average annual production of about 840 000 tonnes between 2016 and 2020.

According to data published by the Argentine Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing, the Argentine fishing fleet landed some 22 189 tonnes of *Illex* squid in March 2023. This figure is 33 percent lower than the same month of 2022. The fishery has been relatively stable in previous years, but output fell in the early months of 2023.

During the first three months of 2023, total Argentine landings of *Illex* squid amounted to almost 65 000 tonnes, considerably less than in previous years. The poorer supply situation has led to expectations of rising prices in 2023.

Trade

US squid imports are on a downward trend, and in January 2023, imports dropped by as much as 35 percent to 4 529 tonnes worth USD 30.5 million. However, the import value increased by 20 percent compared to January 2022 because prices were up significantly. The United States imported much less squid from China. Imports from China dropped by 45 percent to 1 120 tonnes worth USD 6.3 million. While import volumes have been on a downward trend, the price trend is pointing up. Import prices in the United States have been going up since mid-2020, but took a tumble in the beginning of 2022. In mid-2022, US import prices for squid made a recovery and are now still on the way up.

During 2022, Argentina's exports of *Illex* squid increased compared to 2021. A total of 146 645 tonnes worth USD 314.8 million were imported. This represented an increase of 21.3 percent in terms of volume and 26.4 percent in value compared to 2021.

In 2022, Spain imported 242 876 tonnes of squid and cuttlefish, down 13.2 percent compared to 2021. The two largest suppliers were the Falklands Islands (Malvinas) (57 841 tonnes, down 14.4 percent), Peru (41 623 tonnes, down 27.3 percent) followed by India (29 379 tonnes, down 5.1 percent).

The United States imported 74 606 tonnes of squid and cuttlefish in 2022, down 4.5 percent from 2021. China was the largest supplier, with 18 502 tonnes, but registered a 32 percent decline in shipments to the United States. On the other hand, Argentina and India have won market share from China. Argentina shipped 11 324 tonnes (up 24.7 percent compared to 2021), while India shipped 10 347 tonnes (up 38 percent).

CEPHALOPODS

The Republic of Korea also saw a moderate decline in imports: in 2022 the country imported 142 727 tonnes of squid and cuttlefish, down 6.5 percent compared to 2021. The largest suppliers were China (55 083 tonnes, up 8.7 percent), Peru (39 691 tonnes, down 22.1 percent) and Chile (14 112 tonnes, up 27.2 percent).

Japan's imports of squid and cuttlefish in 2022 ended up at the same level as in 2021: from 157 898 tonnes to 157 337 tonnes. The major suppliers were China, Peru and Chile.

China's imports of squid and cuttlefish dropped by 36.4 percent in 2022 compared to the previous year. Imports totalled 311 243 tonnes, with 72 995 tonnes coming from Indonesia (down 18.7 percent from the year before), 35 734 from the United States (up 17.9 percent) and 22 805 tonnes from Viet Nam (up by an impressive 58.6 percent).

But China exported even more squid and cuttlefish. In 2022, Chinese exports of these species amounted to 532 988 tonnes, down by just 1.7 percent compared to 2021. As much as 19 percent, or 100 441 tonnes, went to Japan. 75 614 tonnes went to Thailand (up 3.8 percent) and 54 281 tonnes to the Republic of Korea (up 7.8 tonnes).

Outlook

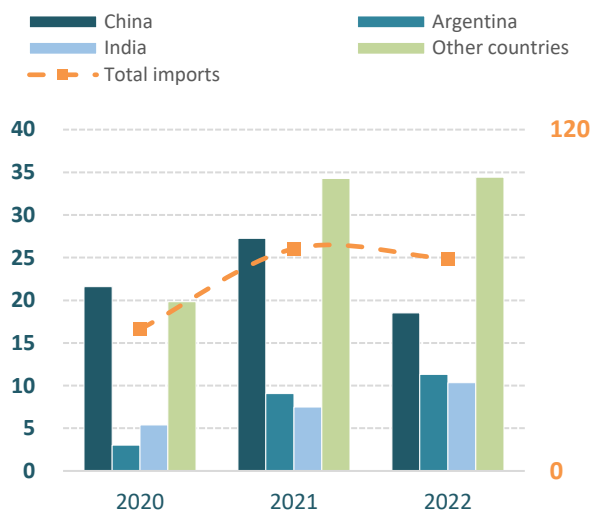
It looks like supplies will be a bit tighter in 2023. Landings of octopus are expected to continue their downward trend, and therefore prices will rise further. This could result in consumer resistance in some markets. But at the same time, octopus is increasing in popularity in some markets, and it is expected that summer sales in the holiday countries around the Mediterranean will increase in 2023.

There will also be a tighter supply situation for squid. The major producers have reported lower landings. Consequently, prices for squid are also expected to rise.

CEPHALOPODS

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

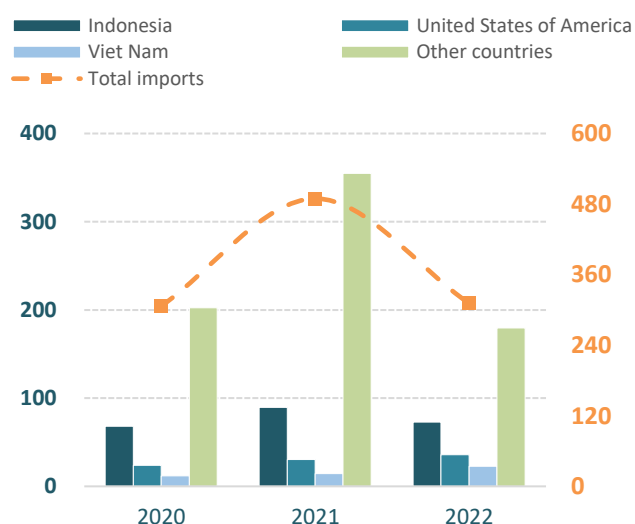
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

China | Imports | Squid and cuttlefish Top three origins

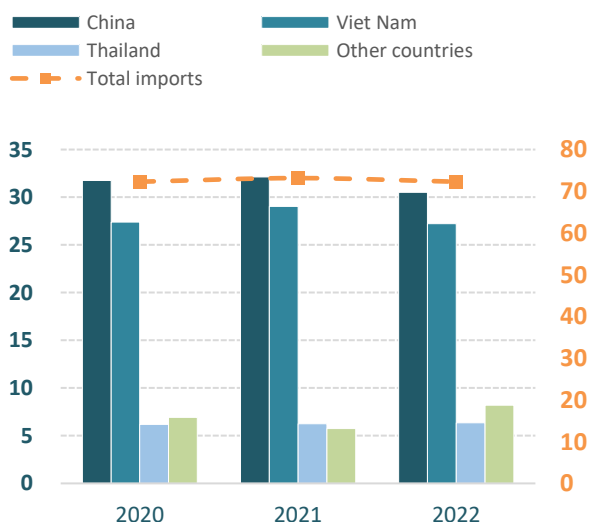
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Republic of Korea | Imports | Octopus Top three origins

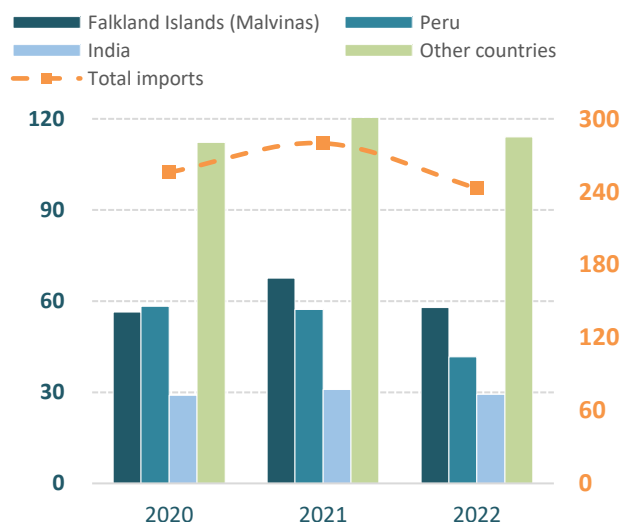
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Spain | Imports | Squid and cuttlefish Top three origins

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December

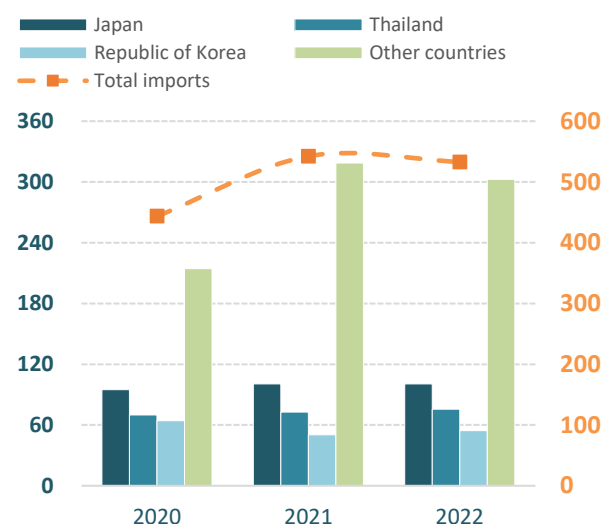


Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

CEPHALOPODS

China | Exports | Squid and cuttlefish Top three destinations

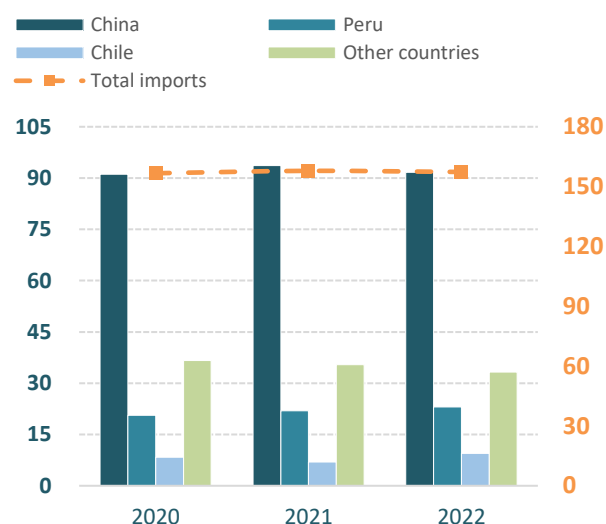
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Japan | Imports | Squid and cuttlefish Top three origins

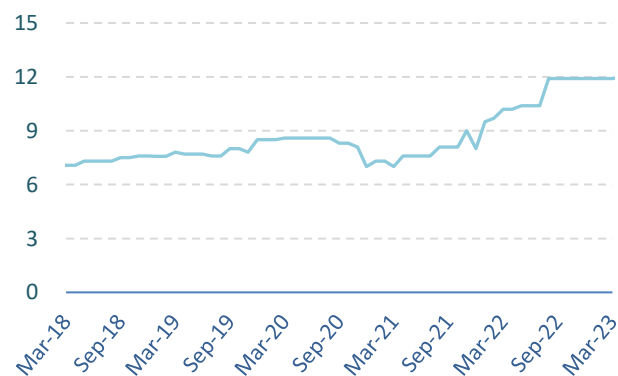
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. 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. 2023. GLOBEFISH. Cited 1 May 2023. www.globefish.org

CRAB

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Increased snow crab quota, improving demand, but weak prices

Demand for crab, in general, appears to be recovering in most markets, but supplies of some products are tight. Snow crab quotas for the 2023 season are the highest since 2016, totalling 160 000 tonnes. However, consumer demand may be muted, keeping prices low.

Supplies

The 2023 quotas for snow crab (*Chionoecetes opilio*) in Canada, the Russian Federation and Norway have risen, while the Alaska snow crab fishery has been closed for 2023. The combined global snow crab quotas for 2023 are the highest since 2016.

Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has announced an 8.3 percent increase in the Southern Gulf of Lawrence quota, to 35 216 tonnes, and an 8.4 percent increase in the quota for Newfoundland and Labrador, to 54 727 tonnes. Combined with other smaller snow crab fisheries, Canada's total quota will amount to 103 000 tonnes.

In addition, the Russian Federation has set the quota for 2023 at 47 825 tonnes, and Norway has increased its snow crab quota by 15 percent to 7 790 tonnes. Thus, the total global snow crab quota for 2023 will be 160 000 tonnes.

However, the Canadian crab processors are not all happy about the quota increase. They have asked the DFO to forego the increases because of the abundant frozen inventory left over from 2022 and plummeting prices in the wholesale market.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) finally opened the Dungeness crab fishery on 4 February 2023 after tests of crabs samples revealed that levels of domoic acid were low enough to be safe for human consumption. However, the recreational harvest of razor clams has been closed for the entire state due to excessive levels of biotoxins. Dungeness crab feeds on razor clams, and the ODWF might have to close the Dungeness fishery again if the domoic acid levels increase.

Dungeness crab landings in California have been up this season, but prices are low and the season closed on 15 April. At the end of March, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) announced that it was closing the fishery to minimize the entanglement risk for humpback whales as they return to feeding grounds in the region. In 2022, a number of entanglement cases were reported in March and April.

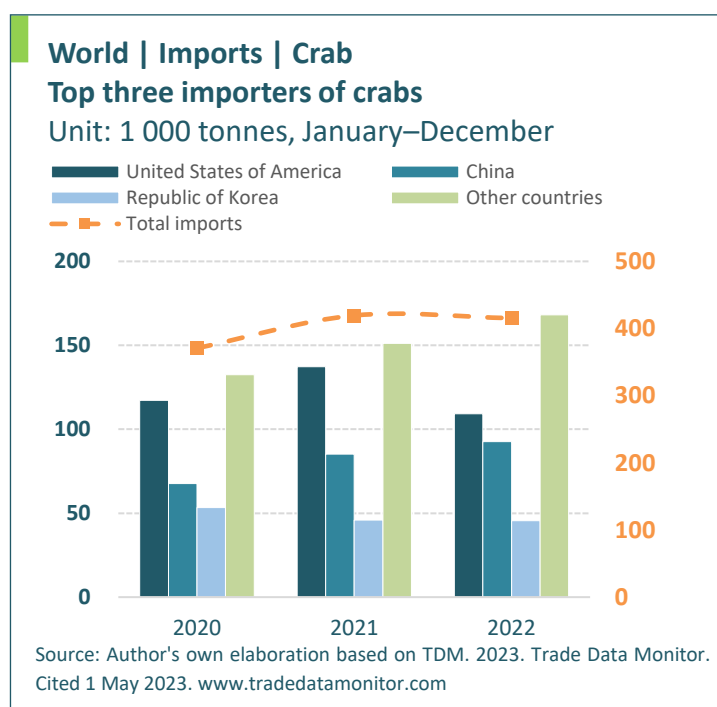
Supplies of blue swimming crab are low, only about 50 percent of what they were a year ago. But according to Urner Barry, prices for both blue swimming crab and red swimming crab declined in January 2023 compared to mid-December 2022.

Supplies from the major supplier, Indonesia, are tight, and as much as 70–80 percent reduction in production were reported during Ramadan. Consequently, prices are rising rapidly and will continue to do so.

CRAB

Market

The snow crab market is expected to return to "normal" after the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. However, snow crab prices in the United States fell from USD 19.00 per pound in January 2022 to USD 7.50 per pound in January 2023, and sales have been slow so far this year. Canada, the world's largest snow crab supplier, is expecting a regular season, but the market is unstable and there are ongoing disputes over prices.



With the ban on king and snow crab fishing in parts of Alaska, supplies to the US market are tight but will be filled, at least partly, by Canadian crab. Canada is already the largest supplier of snow crab to the United States.

In addition to increased quotas, Canada was sitting on a large inventory of snow crab from the 2022 harvest. Consequently, there was concern about the market situation just weeks before the 2023 season began in Newfoundland, Labrador, and the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

On the bright side, the US market appears to be recovering. In January 2023, the United States imported 1 313 tonnes of snow crab from Canada. This was almost

seven times more than the 195 tonnes imported in January 2022.

International trade

Global imports of crab declined by 11.2 percent in 2022 compared to 2021, from 419 425 tonnes to 372 312 tonnes. The largest importer, the United States, saw a 23.8 percent decline, while China, the second largest importer, held its own and registered a very small change (+0.7 percent).

The largest supplier to the United States was Canada, which accounted for over 47 percent of the total, followed by Indonesia with 15 percent of the total. Imports from the Russian Federation declined by almost 63 percent, not surprisingly.

CRAB

In 2022, the United States imported a total of 45 996 tonnes of snow crab. Most of this came from Canada: 85 percent by volume and 87 percent by value. Imports from the Russian Federation dropped from 18 823 tonnes in 2021 to just 2 498 tonnes in 2022. The third largest supplier, Norway, also saw a drop in shipments to the US market, from 3 282 tonnes in 2021 to 1 474 tonnes in 2022.

Russian exports of crab declined by almost 14 percent in 2022. However, all the largest importers of Russian crab showed increasing imports: China up by 26 percent to 21 047 tonnes, the Republic of Korea up by 24 percent to 16 678 tonnes and Japan up by 24 percent to 13 002 tonnes.

Trade restrictions and bans enacted by a number of countries on trade with the Russian Federation have caused Russian exporters to look for new markets. They are now increasingly targeting Asia and the Near East for their crab exports.

Demand for blue swimming crab in the US market is strong, and the biggest supplier is Indonesia. Global supplies are tight at the moment, and prices are expected to rise again.

US imports of fresh blue crab from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in 2022 amounted to 3 675 tonnes worth USD 75.6 million. This represents an increase of 38 percent in volume and 21 percent in value compared to 2021.

Outlook

The outlook for snow crab is one of tight supplies, even though Canada's TAC is up by over 8 percent. The snow crab fishery in Alaska has been cancelled, and so total supplies will be lower.

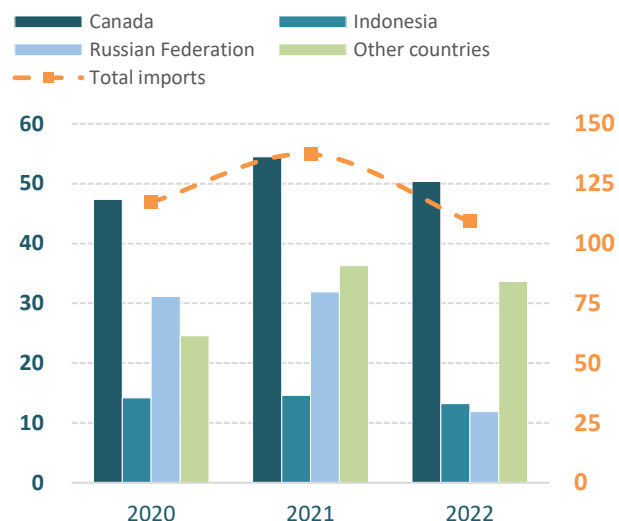
Supplies of Dungeness crab will also be tight because of the early closure of the California fishery.

Market demand for crab seems to be picking up, but much will now depend on the dynamics of the global economy. An economic downturn could hurt demand, with demand already weak.

CRAB

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

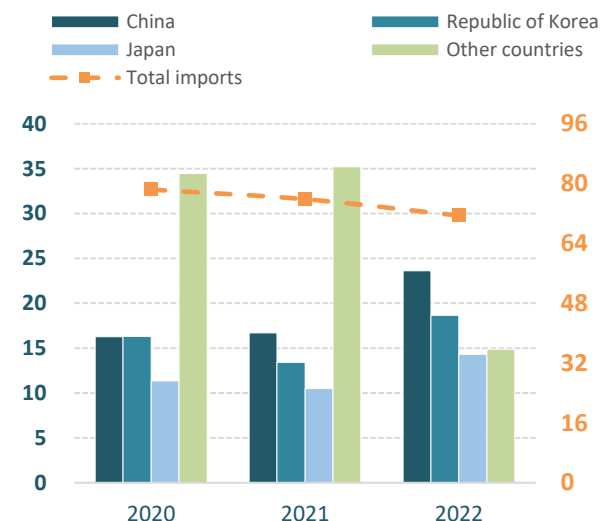
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Russian Federation | Exports | Crab | Top three destinations

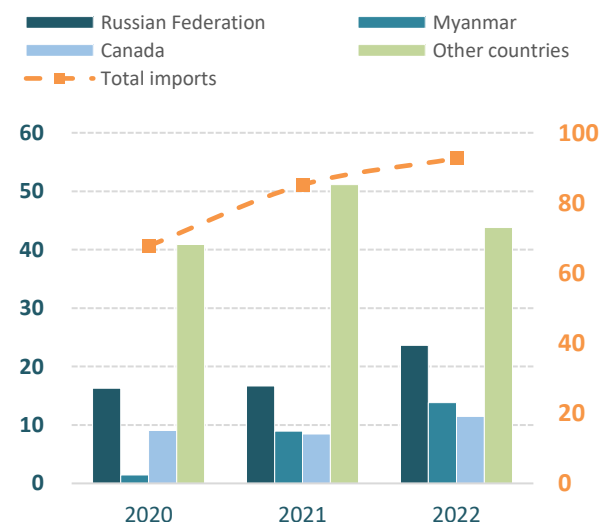
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

China | Imports | Crab | Top three origins

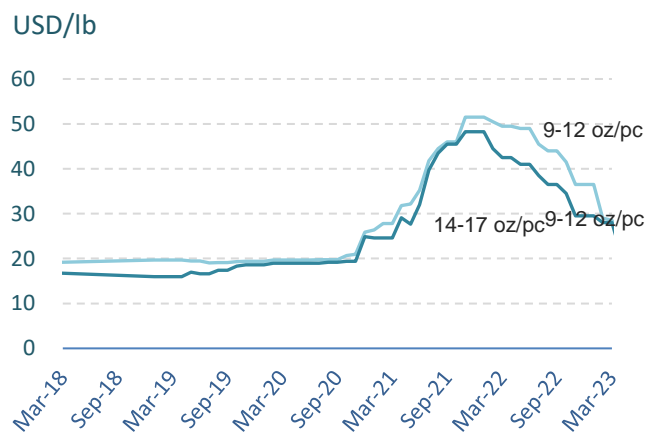
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. 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. 2023. INFOFISH. Cited 1 May 2023. www.infofish.org

FISHMEAL and FISH OIL

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Large supply deficit in 2022, difficult 2023 expected

Global fishmeal trade rose slightly to 3.86 million tonnes in 2022, an increase of 168 000 tonnes (5 percent) on 2021 levels. On the other hand, trade in fish oil decreased by 70 000 tonnes, 1 percent lower than in 2021.

An early halt to the 2022 Peruvian anchoveta fishing seasons concluded an already disappointing year for the world's largest producer of fishmeal and fish oil. While higher quotas for secondary producers in the North Atlantic have gone some way to alleviating pressure, demand still outstrips supply. Existing stockpiles, particularly in China, are being steadily depleted, with supply expected to tighten in 2023, especially for fish oil.

Production

Peru, the largest producer of both fishmeal and fish oil, saw a sub-par conclusion to the 2022 fishing seasons. The fulfilment ratio of quotas in the North-centre region, the main fishing area, was 84 percent, the lowest level since the disastrous 2016 seasons. This equated to a shortfall of some 450 000 tonnes of potential catch. High catches of juveniles persisted throughout the year, leading to numerous closures of fishing grounds and lowering fish oil yields to 2 percent of catches, far below the usual 3 percent. Peru's Institute for the Sea (Instituto del Mar del Perú) has been conducting exploratory voyages since the later part of 2022. Their findings will underpin 2023 quotas, which are expected to be announced sometime in the first half of the year.

Catches in Chile, the second largest exporter of both fishmeal and fish oil, were slightly below expectations, but increased harvests from salmon aquaculture provided enough offcuts to keep output from the reduction industry on par with previous years. Processing stood at 350 000 tonnes of fishmeal and 153 000 tonnes of fish oil, almost exactly the same as 2021 levels.

An El Niño weather event is predicted for the second half of 2023, making the chances for Latin American producers in the Pacific Ocean of returning to normal unlikely. Peru and Chile collectively account for a third of global supply of fishmeal and fish oil, and a significant proportion of higher quality production destined for aquaculture of species such as salmon and shrimp. This would particularly impact their fisheries; the last El Niño event in 2015 saw their annual anchoveta catches halve.

Trade

Reduced catches translated into falling trade for Peru, which exported just over 1.1 million tonnes of fishmeal in 2022, 110 000 tonnes less than it did in 2021. China remained by far the largest market, but reduced demand from pig farming and aquaculture, combined with large inventories from 2021, meant that imports fell. A strengthening of the Peruvian Sol against the Chinese Yen, which rose from 1:1.55 at the beginning of the year to 1:1.8 by the end of 2022 also contributed by making imports relatively expensive. Chinese imports of fishmeal stood at 1.7 million tonnes in 2022, 6 percent below 2021 levels. Fuelled by the burgeoning shrimp farming industry, exports to Ecuador did pick up, rising from 21 000 tonnes in 2021 to 68 000 tonnes in 2022.

FISHMEAL and FISH OIL

Norway, the largest importer of fish oil and the second largest importer of fishmeal, saw imports fall, especially for fish oil. While increased aquaculture production in 2021 had seen demand rise, high prices for fish oil and uncertainty surrounding the future direction of salmon farming in the country led to muted demand in 2022. Imports of fish oil fell by 9 percent, coming out to 203 000 tonnes in 2022. Peruvian supplies fell by 36 000 tonnes, while imports from Denmark fell by 14 000 tonnes over the course of the year. Icelandic supplies went some way to making up for this shortfall, increasing from 13 000 tonnes in 2021 to 41 000 tonnes in 2022.

Prices

As global supplies of key agricultural goods have eased, commodity prices for rapeseed and soybean fell in the latter part of 2022. Lower prices for soybean meal and other protein sources helped to keep fishmeal prices in check. Utilisation rates of fish oil in key aquaculture markets such as salmon are thought to be at their lower limit, which may well explain why fish oil prices continued their upward trend.

Fish oil continued its astronomical rise throughout 2022, finishing the year at USD 4 500 per tonne, an increase of USD 2 000 per tonne in December 2021. Reduced catches and oil yields in Peru have severely limited supply, while demand from other sectors, such as pharmaceuticals, has increased competition.

Fishmeal continued to trend up, reaching USD 1 800 per tonne (FOB Peru) towards the end of 2022, an increase of 20 percent at the beginning of the year. Prices have been increasing steadily on the back of reduced supply but have not seen dramatic increases as demand has also been muted.

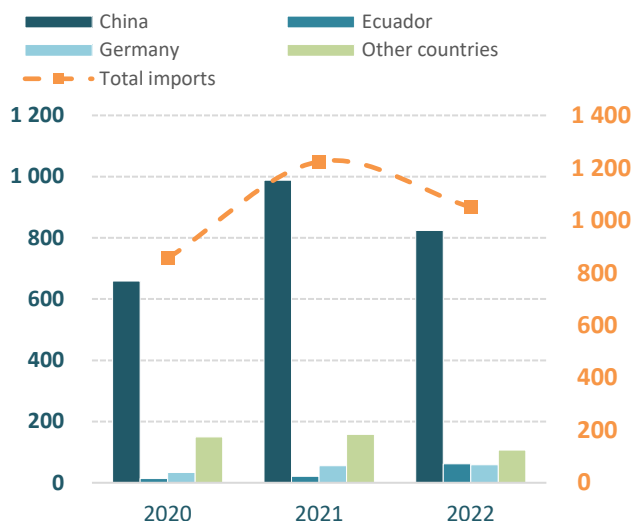
Outlook

2022 has been a difficult year for the fishmeal and fish oil industry, with supplies in 2023 expected to become tighter still. Surging fish oil prices are having a marked impact on the industries that rely on them, particularly for aquaculture of certain species, such as salmon, where alternatives are limited. Weak demand from China and a strengthening of the Peruvian sol have so far kept the market in check, but if catches remain poor in 2023 there will be a severe deficit of supply.

FISHMEAL and FISH OIL

Peru | Exports | Fishmeal Top three destinations

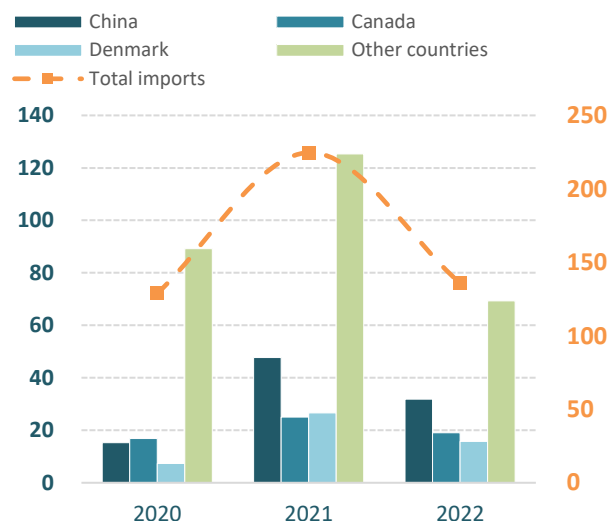
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Peru | Exports | Fish oil Top three destinations

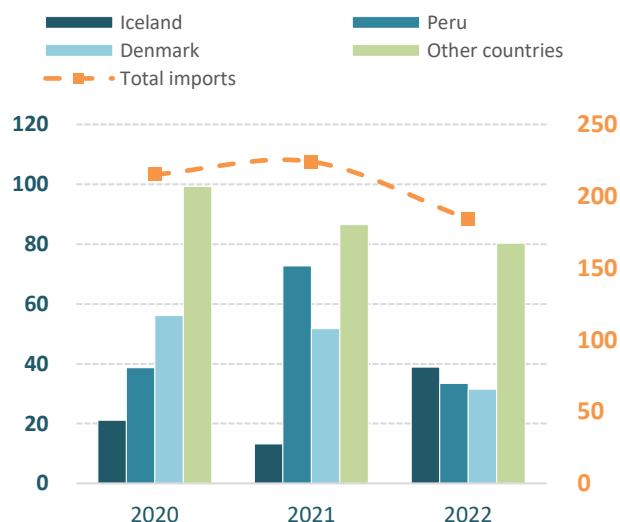
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Norway | Imports | Fish oil Top three origins

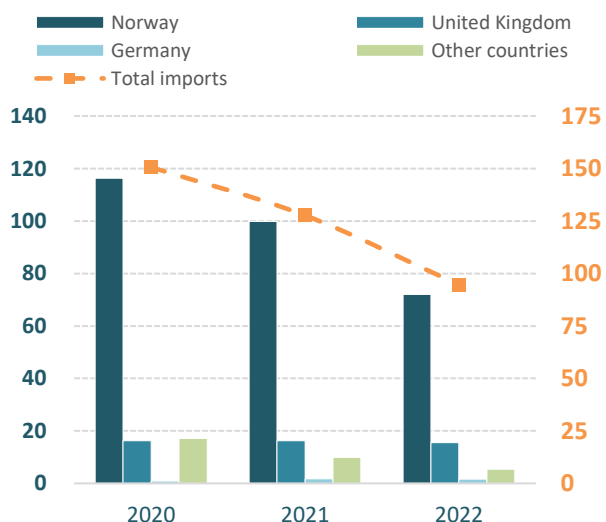
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Denmark | Exports | Fish oil Top three destinations

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December

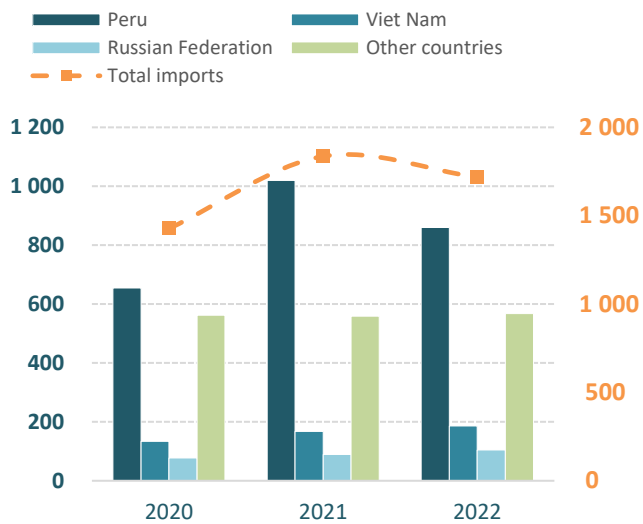


Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

FISHMEAL and FISH OIL

China | Imports | Fishmeal Top three origins

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December

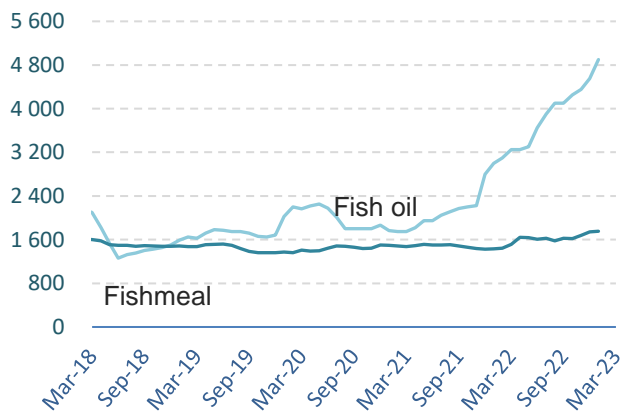


Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Prices

Fishmeal and Fish oil: Europe

USD/tonne



Source: Author's own elaboration based on the data from the IFFO. 2023. International Fishmeal and Fish Oil Organisation. Cited 1 May 2023. www.iffocom

GROUND FISH

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Modest increase in whitefish supplies, especially farmed species

Analysts predict a 2 percent increase in total whitefish supplies in 2023 compared to 2022. Groundfish catches will decline slightly in 2022, while farmed whitefish will increase slightly. As much as two-thirds of total whitefish supplies now come from aquaculture. Meanwhile, cod are expected to increase further.

Supplies

Several forecasts were presented at the North Atlantic Seafood Forum in Bergen, Norway, at the beginning of March. Seafood market analyst Kontali presented an estimate of whitefish supplies in 2022, plus a forecast for 2023. In 2022, supplies increased slightly from 2021, from 21.4 million tonnes to 21.8 million tonnes. Roughly one-third of total supplies came from wild catches and the rest from farmed whitefish operations, including those of tilapia, pangasius, seabass and seabream.

According to Kontali, total whitefish supplies in 2023 will edge downwards by 1 percent, to slightly over 21.6 million tonnes. Wild catches will decline to 7 million tonnes, while farmed whitefish production is expected to increase slightly from 14.5 million tonnes in 2022 to 14.6 million tonnes in 2023. While farmed species like tilapia and pangasius are expected to increase, and pollock supplies are also expected to go up, cod supplies will drop and hake supplies will remain more or less the same as last year.

Over the next few years, catches of Atlantic cod in the Barents Sea are expected to decline further as the catch dropped below the 1 million tonne mark in 2022, to 961 835 tonnes. The cod quota for 2023 is down by 23 percent compared to 2022, and haddock is also down by 5 percent. This downward trend is expected to continue for a few years.

Every spring, from January to about April, the skrei fishery in northern Norway takes place. Skrei is the local name for spawning cod, which comes back from feeding grounds in the Barents Sea to the coast of Norway, in the area of Lofoten and Vesterålen, to spawn. Skrei has also been introduced as the trade name for this cod, which is usually of a very high quality and therefore priced higher than other cod.

However, this year the skrei fishery was slow to start, and some now expect that it will move further north as the water temperatures in the Lofoten region increase. It could also mean that the skrei goes south later in the year, or that it will not come to the Lofoten region at all in the future, but rather find spawning areas farther north in the Barents Sea.

Scientists have tried to explain why this is happening. Some think it may be related to water temperature changes, as warmer waters could mean that the cod goes south to spawn later in the year, while others claim that it might lead the cod to go other places north of the Lofoten and Vesterålen regions in Norway to spawn.

GROUND FISH

Some producers are now pinning their hopes for future whitefish supplies on farmed cod, in spite of the difficulties that the farmed cod industry went through 15 years ago. The main reason is that the price gap between farmed and wild-caught cod is now narrowing. Prices for the aforementioned high-end cod marketed as “skrei” are, in fact, already higher than prices for farmed cod.

With declining cod catches, confidence in cod farming is thriving. Norway alone has seen a 40 percent decline in its cod catches over the past two years, and it is expected that catches will continue to decline in the immediate future. On the other hand, farmed cod production is expected to rise to about 25 000–30 000 tonnes per year. Even that amount is not enough to replace the decline in wild catches. In 2022, some 5 750 tonnes of farmed cod were produced and sold at good prices. Farmed cod sells for around USD 50 per kg on the US retail market.

The US pollock TAC declined since 2020, but is up again for 2023. The pollock quota was increased by 16 percent for 2023 to 1.457 million tonnes while the Russian Federation’s quota has been set at 1.79 million tonnes, and Japan’s quota at 175 000 tonnes. Thus, the total pollock quota for 2023 amounts to 3.5 million tonnes.

The production of pollock fillets in the US is expected to rise as the size of the fish is very favourable for fillet production, while surimi production is expected to be lower.

Markets

For a very long time, cod has been the king of the market in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the United Kingdom). It has been the preferred whitefish species of consumers in the United Kingdom, not least in the form of the famous British fish-and-chips. However, this is now changing. Pollock is the main competitor and has become the top-selling whitefish in the United Kingdom. Over the past five years, cod has lost popularity while pollock has gained. During this period, sales of cod have been reduced by 15 percent, while sales of pollock have increased by 6 percent (by volume).

Over a 12 month period from February 2022 through January 2023, cod sales in the United Kingdom declined by 12 percent in volume and 6 percent in value. During the same period, sales of pollock went up by 9 percent in value and 6 percent in volume. Other whitefish species are also capturing market shares from cod; pangasius sales have increased by 20 percent over the same period. Price must take at least an important part of the blame for this development. Inflation in the United Kingdom is very high, with food inflation in the beginning of 2023 running at 17 percent.

Another reason for falling cod sales may be due to the increasing number of retailers in the United Kingdom who have removed their fresh fish counters from their shops, which hurts the sales of fresh fish.

GROUND FISH

Trade

Norway exported only 60 642 tonnes of whole frozen cod in 2022, down from 64 831 tonnes in 2021 (-6.5 percent). There were some major shifts in the direction of trade, as exports to Poland dropped by over 44 percent, while exports to China and the United Kingdom were up by 11.9 percent and 21.8 percent, respectively.

Chinese imports of whole frozen cod fell by 3.3 percent during 2022 compared to 2021, from 143 761 tonnes to 139 045 tonnes. There was a 14.7 percent increase in imports from Norway, while there was a 29.2 percent decline in imports from the United States.

Chinese exports of frozen cod fillets showed a corresponding decline of 2.6 percent, to 92 150 tonnes. Shipments of frozen cod fillets to the United States increased by 13.4 percent, while exports to the United Kingdom and Germany declined by 12.2 percent and 11.4 percent, respectively.

Chinese imports of whole frozen pollock recovered after the slump in 2021. In 2022, the country's imports of this species increased by 44.3 percent, from 395 049 tonnes in 2021 to 570 026 tonnes in 2022. It was still less than the 626 917 tonnes registered in 2020, though.

However, Chinese exports of frozen pollock fillets did not increase at the same rate. It was up by a modest 5 percent, to 183 419 tonnes. It is speculated that more of the imported pollock is sold in the domestic markets now, and therefore less processed pollock is re-exported.

In spite of a number of trade bans and restrictions on Russian products, the Russian Federation exported 29.6 percent more whole frozen pollock in 2022 than in 2021. However, as much as 55 percent of this went to China, which increased imports of Russian frozen pollock by 44 percent. But there was still a sizeable amount going to the Republic of Korea (319 397 tonnes, up 14 percent), and a small decrease in the amounts shipped to Germany: from 31 211 tonnes in 2021 to 29 033 tonnes in 2022.

Total pollock exports from the United States dropped by 12 percent in 2022 to 273 660 tonnes, worth USD 884.6 million.

Prices for pollock fillet and surimi are set to decline in 2023, but the price drop is expected to only be temporary. Various events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, helped push prices for pollock up to record heights in 2022. A market "correction" is expected later in 2023, caused by, amongst other factors, a stronger US dollar, higher inventories and slower sales of blocks in Europe and surimi in Japan. In addition, cod supplies are falling, and therefore cod prices will continue upwards, making pollock look like a better deal.

GROUND FISH

The United Kingdom imported less cod and haddock in 2022 compared to 2021, but paid more for what they imported. The volume of cod imports dropped by 12 percent, from 96 373 tonnes in 2021 to 84 803 tonnes in 2022. But the value of cod imports increased by 15 percent, from USD 603.8 million to USD 607.7 million in 2022. Imports of haddock followed the same trend; import volumes dropped by 11 percent to 54 720 tonnes, while the import value rose by 18 percent to USD 288.3 million.

Outlook

In 2023, we can expect a slight increase in whitefish supplies. But there will be a moderate decline in supplies of wild-caught whitefish, mainly because of lower cod and haddock catches, while supplies of farmed whitefish will increase. Prices for some wild-caught species will go up, which may push consumers to move to cheaper products, for example pangasius and tilapia.

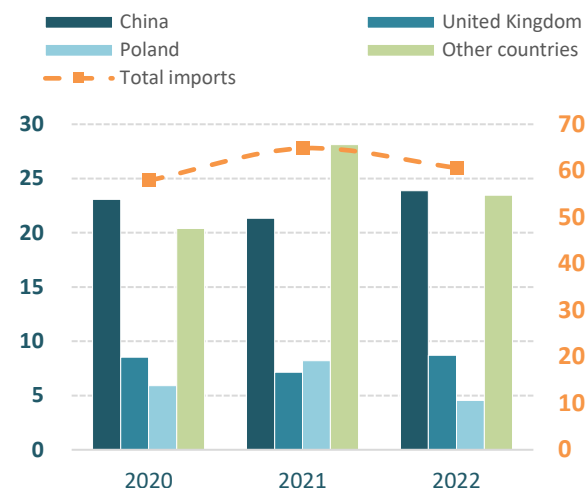
As a result of the economic crisis that seems to be developing, there will be steep increases in producer prices, followed by even steeper price increases at the consumer level, if the producers dare pass the extra cost on to the consumer.

GROUND FISH

Norway | Exports | Cod Frozen whole

Top three destinations

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December

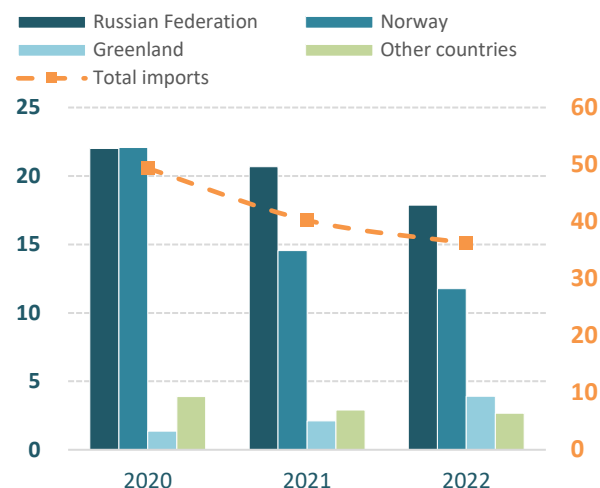


Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Netherlands (Kingdom of the) Imports | Cod | Frozen whole

Top three origins

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December

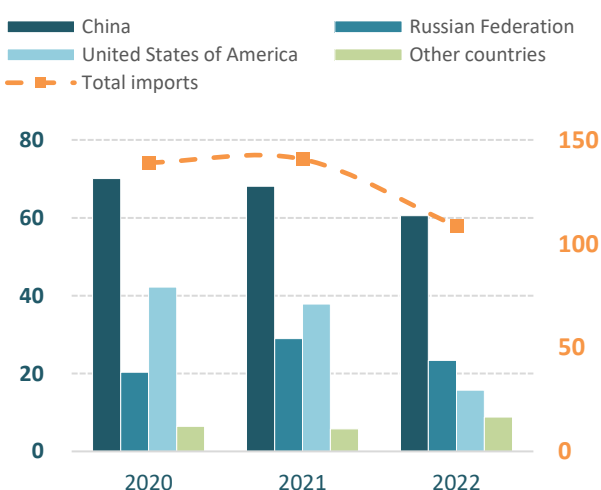


Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Germany | Imports | Alaska pollock Frozen fillets

Top three origins

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December

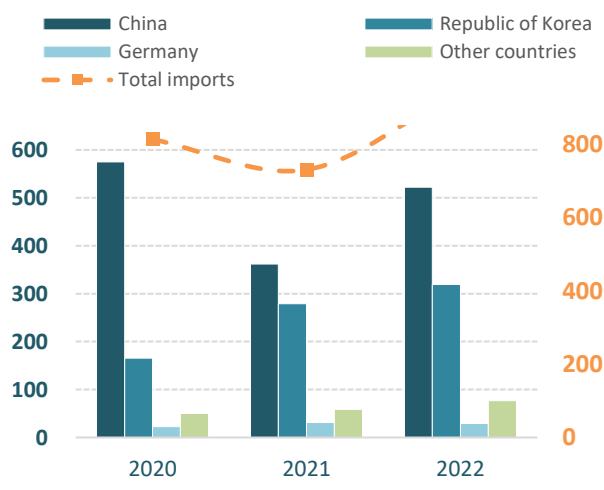


Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Russian Federation | Exports | Alaska pollock | Frozen whole

Top three destinations

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December

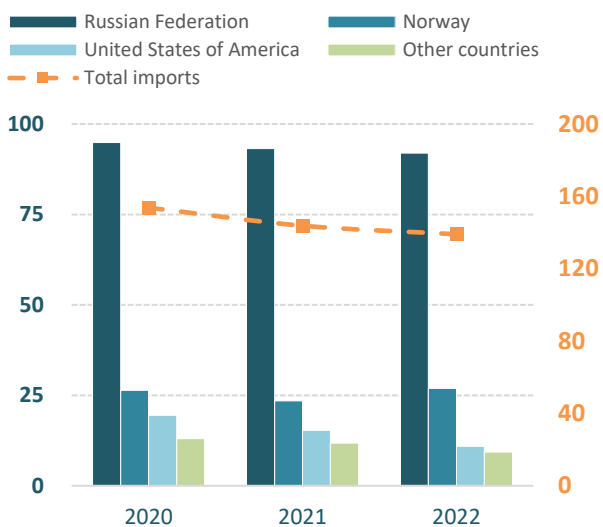


Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

GROUND FISH

China | Imports | Cod | Frozen whole Top three origins

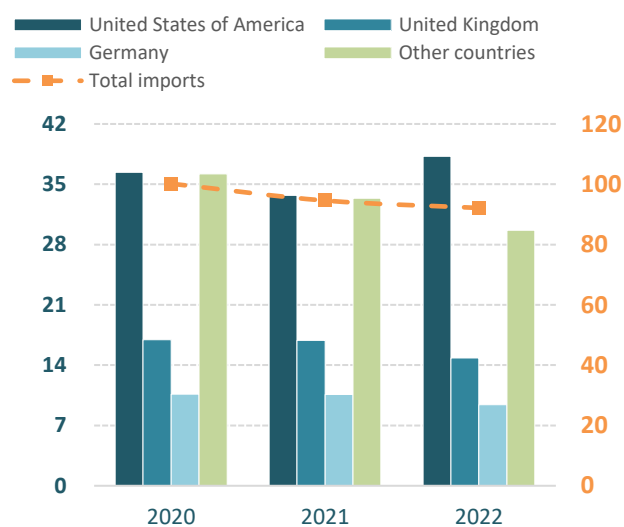
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

China | Exports | Cod | Frozen fillets Top three destinations

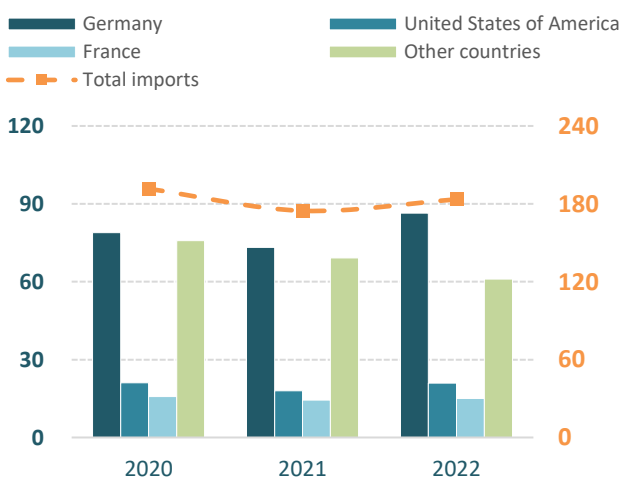
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

China | Exports | Alaska pollock Frozen fillets Top three destinations

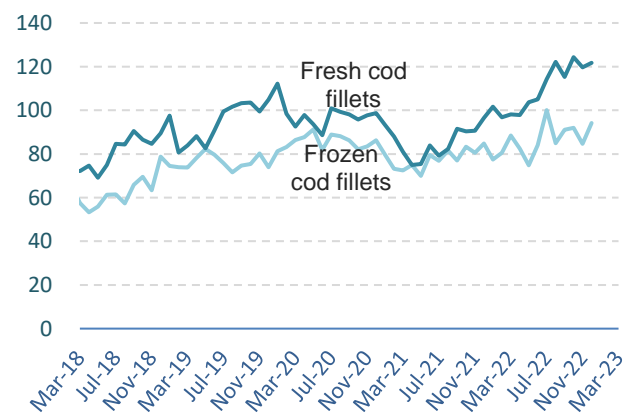
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Export price Cod: Norway

NOK/kg



Source: Author's own elaboration based on NSC data. 2023. Norwegian Seafood Council. Cited 1 May 2023. www.seafood.no

Lobster

■ GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Tight supply situation, and prices are up

Supplies of American lobster and spiny lobsters are tight and may not increase again until the end of May. Consequently, prices are high. In addition, consumer demand is recovering in Asia and North America, while the market in Europe is stable.

Supplies

The Canadian lobster industry is in good shape, according to representatives of the industry quoted at the Boston seafood show. Inventories of both live and frozen lobsters are being depleted, and will only last until early May. Chinese buyers have come back in force, and the European market is stable. Most importantly, the North American market is recovering. People are going out and spending money on eating out, and lobster is a very popular item on the menu.

A recent study of lobsters in Atlantic Canada indicates that the North American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) may be better able to cope with the warmer waters than previously expected. Researchers with the Centre for Marine Applied Research in Nova Scotia studied how lobsters were able to acclimatise to various temperatures from 5 degrees Celsius to 15 degrees Celsius. The findings showed that lobsters in colder water had a lower tolerance for high temperatures than lobster kept at higher temperatures. For example, lobsters kept at 5 degrees were able to tolerate temperatures up to 25.7 degrees, while lobsters kept at 15 degrees were able to tolerate temperatures up to 29.6 degrees. The results indicate that if global warming occurs slowly, the North American lobster may be able to adapt to these temperatures and consequently the lobster population should be able to survive moderate temperature increases.

There is a shortage of supplies of lobster tails as most North American wholesalers were out of stock in mid-March. The lobster fishing season does not start until 20 April, and most fisheries will be open by mid-May. Therefore, supplies will be tight until then.

The difficult supply situation has pushed prices for lobster tails up. According to Urner Barry, prices have increased by as much as 33 percent since December. Prices will stay high until the new season is open and more lobsters enter the market.

Recently released data shows that the global catch of spiny lobster is continuing to decline. From 2018 to 2021, the catch declined by about 9 million pounds (4 082 tonnes), and in 2022 it is expected that the catch will decline further. The main producer nations are Honduras, the Bahamas, Brazil and Nicaragua.

RECENT NEWS

The on-going dispute over the rules to protect the right whale on the US Atlantic coast never seems to stop. After getting a congressionally approved six-year reprieve from economically restrictive rules related to the preservation of the right whale, the industry is now facing new challenges. Maine lobstermen continue to fight the National Marine Fisheries Service over the biological opinions for right whales.

The dispute over the use of gear that may hurt the right whale now seems to be spreading to other fisheries, not only the North American lobster fishery. The Monterey Bay Aquarium Foundation has, through its Seafood Watch program, announced that it is changing the ratings for North American lobster, Canadian-caught snow crab and several species of flounder and Atlantic cod because of concerns about the gear used being a danger to the North Atlantic right whales. Lobster was previously rated as a “Good alternative”, but has now been changed to “Avoid”. Naturally, the Maine lobster industry is protesting, even to the extent of suing Monterey Bay Aquarium with the contention that the new rating is defaming the industry, and that the Seafood Watch program lacks scientific basis for their ratings.

The dispute over the right whales is not the only challenge facing the US lobster industry, though. As of 1 January, US lobstermen are obliged to report their harvest electronically. Maine lobster industry accounts for about 80 percent of the US lobster catch.

There is also talk of increasing the minimum size of lobsters allowed to be caught in coastal waters and decreasing the maximum size of lobsters caught offshore.

Markets and trade

Global trade in lobsters declined by about 15 percent during 2022, after having increased by 15 percent in 2021 compared to 2020. While all the major exporters lost ground, the largest decline was registered by the United States, which exported 23 percent less in 2022 than in 2021. Canada, on the other hand, suffered a decline of only 8.5 percent in its lobster exports.

Canada and the United States are the two most important exporters of the American lobster (*Homarus americanus*), and the two countries have competed for the top spot over the years. But Canada has been in the lead, and in 2022 strengthened its position as the number one exporter, shipping 98 153 tonnes, worth USD 2 billion, while the United States exported 31 985 tonnes (less than one third of Canada’s export volume), worth USD 543.9 million. Canada’s export prices also won the day; the average export price for Canadian lobster was USD 20.66 per kg, while the US export price was just USD 17.00 per kg.

China’s lobster imports saw a major increase in imports from Viet Nam: from 1 063 tonnes in 2021 to 7 737 tonnes in 2022. However, 2021 was a bad year from Vietnamese lobster exports to China. In 2020, the country exported 6 452 tonnes, so the performance in 2022 was a return to “normal” levels.

Lobster

The United States exported some 4 872 tonnes of live, fresh lobster to China in 2022. This represents a 22 percent decline in volume, but only a 2 percent decline in value, as prices went up sharply during the year.

This seems to be turning around now, though. In January 2023, the United States exported 1 076 tonnes of live, fresh lobsters worth USD 22 million to China. This represented a 76 percent increase in volume and an 80 percent increase by volume year-on-year. Total US exports of live, fresh lobsters were up by 65 percent in volume in January, to 1 754 tonnes. The European Union imported 15.9 percent less in 2022 than in 2021. The main supplier to the European Union, Canada, saw a 7.8 percent decline in shipments, while the United States had a 17.6 percent decline.

Outlook

The outlook for the lobster industry seems to be relatively bright. Consumers in North America are again enjoying lobsters, and China is buying larger quantities again, while demand in Europe appears to be stable. The supply situation for both American lobsters and spiny lobsters is tight because of diminishing stocks and growing demand, and prices are high.

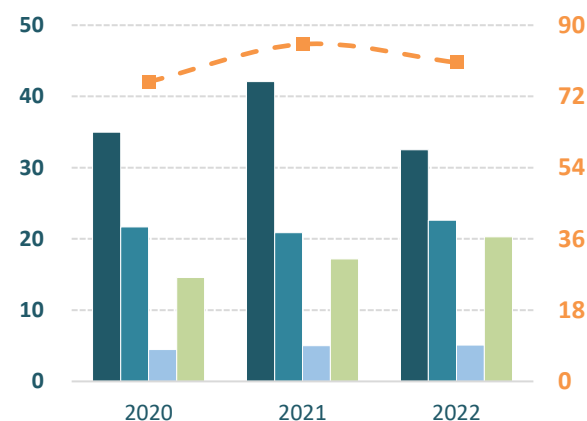
The uncertainty now relates to the economy in major markets. European countries may be in for difficult times, and especially food prices have increased dramatically over the past year and may continue to rise. Consumer purchasing power is likely to be under pressure in most markets. This may quickly affect the market for luxury food items such as lobster. North American markets seem to be performing well at the moment, but an economic downturn would hurt this market, too.

Canada | Exports | Lobster

Top three destinations

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December

■ United States of America ■ China
■ Republic of Korea ■ Other countries
- - - Total imports



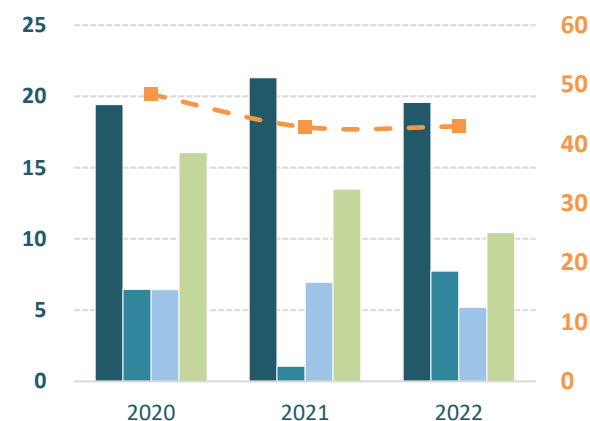
Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

China | Imports | Lobster

Top three origins

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December

■ Canada ■ Viet Nam
■ United States of America ■ Other countries
- - - Total imports

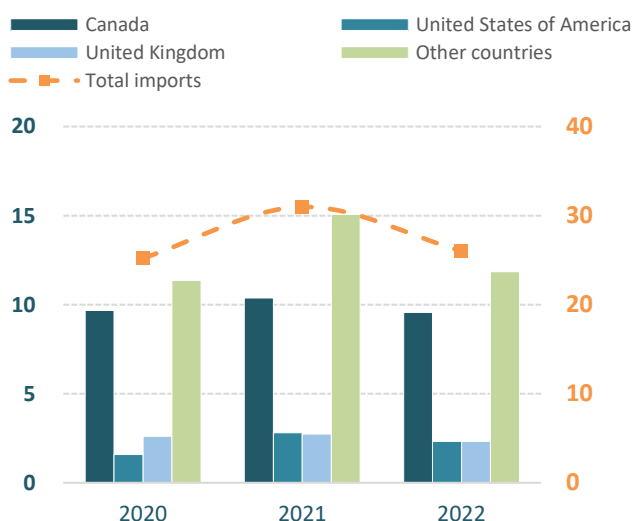


Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Lobster

European Union | Imports | Lobster Top three origins

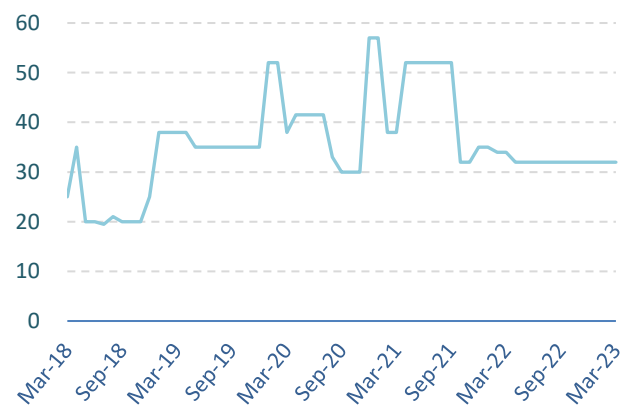
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, Januar–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Prices European lobster: Europe

EUR/kg



Live, origin: Ireland; 400–600, 600–800 g/pc

Source: Author's own elaboration based on the European Price Report. 2023. GLOBEFISH. Cited 1 May 2023. www.globefish.org

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

	2020	2021	2022
Imports			
United States of America	49.63	61.83	46.75
China	48.37	42.84	42.95
Canada	19.82	26.48	18.33
Other countries	46.38	57.72	50.98
Total imports	164.20	188.86	159.00
Exports			
Canada	83.31	97.47	89.15
United States of America	34.38	43.34	33.34
Australia	6.46	6.45	5.72
Other countries	41.70	42.21	33.61
Total exports	165.84	189.47	161.82

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Pangasius

■ GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Renewed Chinese demand bolsters pangasius trade

The past year has seen a marked improvement in outlook for the pangasius industry. Global trade reached an estimated 657 000 tonnes in 2022, a 30 percent increase on 2021 volumes. Much of this was due to the lifting of restrictive trade requirements for Chinese imports, which enabled trade to grow by some 95 000 tonnes in 2022.

Prices for pangasius remain above previous levels, as, despite increased stocking, years of disruption meant that producers could not fully meet demand. 2023 farmgate prices in Viet Nam were around 50 percent higher than in 2022, with at times acute shortages of key marketable sizes. Vietnamese industry stakeholders remain cautious of a glut if these high prices provoke oversupply, with calls for producers to avoid high stocking levels.

Production

Production in Viet Nam, the world's largest global supplier of pangasius, recovered remarkably well as farmers brought an estimated 200 000 tonnes of additional stock onto the market in 2022, far exceeding expectations. A widespread lockdown in 2021 had left large stocks of surplus fish in ponds and led to numerous pangasius processors to temporarily cease operations, while others faced significant constraints in the flow of goods and personnel. This was followed by surging demand from the second quarter of 2022, which drove farmgate prices to unprecedented levels, peaking at VND 32 000 per kg. An acute shortage of juvenile fish in the early months of 2022 caused some alarm, with prices for fingerlings rising from VND 31 000 per kg in January 2022 to VND 50 000 per kg in March. While there was some respite following the start of the main breeding season in April, prices and supply have since fluctuated wildly, and are likely to negatively impact stocking for harvest in 2023.

Trade

Trade volumes for 2022 rose by some 163 000 tonnes, a 30 percent increase from 2021. The Chinese market reclaimed its spot as the top importer of pangasius by volume, with imports of 200 000 tonnes, 30 percent of global trade. Trade in 2021 had been mired by reduced demand and challenges accessing the Chinese market, driven by China's strict COVID-19 policy. Increased border testing for traces of COVID-19 traces in packaging led to multiple Vietnamese pangasius shipments being turned back in late 2021 and early 2022. However, a reversal of these policies facilitated purchases, with resurgent demand pushing imports to their highest ever level.

On the US market, the largest by value, pangasius saw imports in 2022 of 136 000 tonnes, 20 percent of global trade. Increased trade with China did draw supplies away from emerging markets for pangasius. Following several consecutive years of promising growth, Mexican imports fell to 22 000 tonnes in 2022 – a 39 percent decrease on 2021 levels.

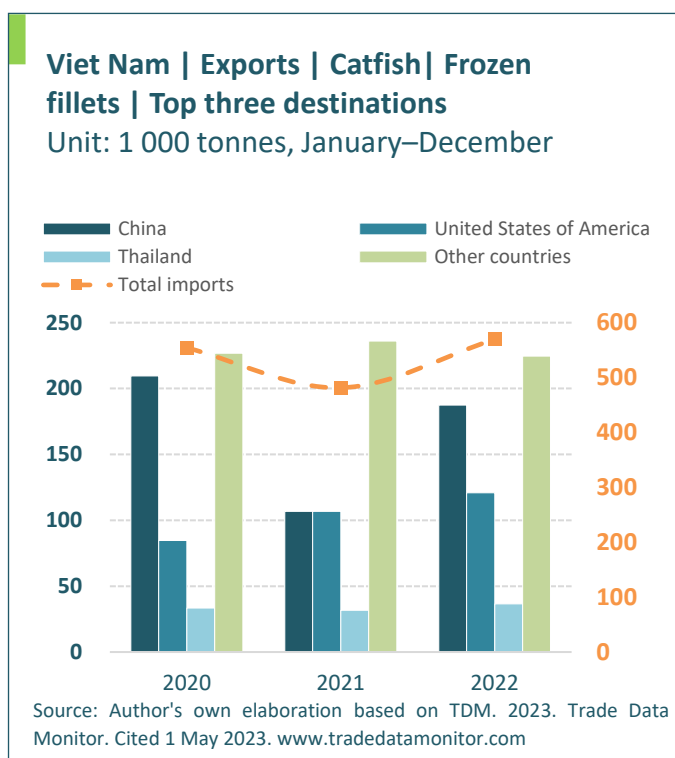
PANGASIUS

Prices

In recent months, the low volumes available on the market have led to rapidly rising farmgate prices, with Vietnamese farmers receiving VND 32 500 per kg (USD 1.42 per kg) in early May. This is a substantial increase on last year when prices were VND 20 000 per kg. Similar prices have not been seen since the last peak between May and November 2018, after which they took a rapid tumble.

Outlook

The demand for pangasius in key export markets is likely to continue, but the industry's ability to avoid the overproduction that has previously caused gluts remains uncertain. Although these high prices have persisted recently, historical patterns have shown that they are often followed by market gluts and prices returning to near breakeven levels, with stakeholders anxious not to see a repeat of events last seen in 2018.



SALMON

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Main producers see record-breaking exports

Inflation, increased energy, raw materials and feed costs marked 2022. The volume of global salmon production declined slightly compared to 2021, while exports from the main producers reached historic highs in value terms. Fluctuations in production are expected to normalize in 2023, with an increase of up to 4 percent worldwide, although the definition of the Norwegian tax proposal is an event that is yet undefined and could be decisive for the industry.

Production

Atlantic salmon

Global supply of Atlantic salmon reached around 2 863 700 tonnes during 2022, a marginal decrease of 1.1 percent compared to 2021. The main producer, Norway, accounted for 1 511 100 tonnes, down 1.4 percent compared to the previous year.

On the other hand, the latest production figures available from the Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Chile (SUBPESCA) indicate that the harvest of Atlantic salmon between January–November 2022 was 692 800 tonnes, up 3.4 percent compared to the same period last year.

The standing biomass in Norway at the end of the fourth quarter of 2022 was estimated to be 1.3 percent less than at the end of the fourth quarter of 2021. It was 8.2 percent lower in Chile, 5.3 percent lower in the Faroe Islands and 6.2 percent higher in the United Kingdom.

Other farmed salmonids

Trout biomass in Norwegian farms declined by around 4 percent at the end of December 2022 compared to last year.

In Chile, the latest figures available for rainbow trout (up to November) show that the cumulative harvest in 2022 was 62 500 tonnes, an increase of 21.4 percent year-on-year, while 174 700 tonnes of coho salmon represented a 13 percent year-on-year increase.

Wild-caught salmon

Salmon runs in Alaska and the Russian Federation decreased in 2022, but are likely to increase in 2023 for some species. The only species in 2022 that saw generous harvests was sockeye salmon, especially from Bristol Bay. As for the US pink salmon fisheries, it was a normal non-peak year, but still lower than the last five or six periods.

SALMON

Industry sources also pointed out that Japan has been increasing its chum salmon harvest in recent years, which has helped supply the Asian market. However, the effects of this increase have been minimal on the US chum salmon fishery, as US salmon consumers are loyal to their domestic products.

Markets

Inflation, increased costs of energy, raw material and feed are some of the drivers influencing the salmon market worldwide, along with some key events at the tax level that could set the course of the industry in the near future. At the consumption level, salmon continues to be one of the favourite fishery products for consumers, despite some significant price increases registered in the period under review.

Six months after it was first proposed and generated significant domestic and international uproar, the details of the Norwegian Government's salmon tax proposal have finally been released. The plan, which must be approved by parliament, proposes a tax rate for fish farming carried out in coastal waters of 35 percent; that is 5 percent less than the initial 40 percent. Although the basic plan was not significantly changed, the Government heard all 420 response submissions. According to the Government, only companies with "significant profits" – meaning profits above NOK 70 million (USD 6.7 million) – will pay resource rent tax.

The Government insists that there is a long tradition in Norway in which the value created from the use of common natural resources is dedicated to benefit society as a whole. In other words, access to common natural resources has enabled this industry to generate particularly high profits, and everyone should be able to derive greater benefit from the value created.

However, some Norwegian salmon farming companies stated that there were not many changes compared to the original proposal and a final clarification is expected before the summer. Companies continue to evaluate and speculate how this tax will affect their strategies and investments. The discussion in parliament may still bring changes.

Another salmon producer looking to increase its tax on the industry is the Faroe Islands, and the newly elected Government announced its proposal to adjust the income tax for the salmon farming industry, effective 1 August 2023. The proposal is under discussion with the salmon farming industry and would increase the top tax rate from the current 5 percent to 20 percent.

In the United Kingdom, the Scottish sector is satisfied with sales in 2022, reporting yet another successful year. Salmon sales via retailers in the United Kingdom amounted to GBP 1.2 billion a year, with fish overall increasing its market share towards Christmas. In the 12 months to October 2022, salmon accounted for 29.6 percent of total fish sales, an annual increase of 28.9 percent, despite lower volumes and higher food prices. With the turkey shortage in 2022 and the rising cost of living, Scottish salmon was in good demand for Christmas dinners. For Salmon Scotland, the organization representing salmon farming companies in the country, despite rising food prices, rising energy bills and rampant inflation, the fact that salmon has increased its share of the market in the United Kingdom demonstrates the popularity of the fish.

SALMON

In Chile, the Government has intensified regulations and investigations into overproduction and escapes of fish in the country's salmon farming industry, with heavy sanctions on companies that have violated the parameters of their permits. This, together with the administrative processes for the renewal and approval of concessions and the production challenges that the industry must face, such as investment in R&D and innovation, somewhat slowed down production.

The Salmon Council, a union that gathers companies representing over half of Chilean salmon production by volume, stated that 2022 was a year of recovery in Chilean salmon exports after overcoming the demand disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighted the industry's ability to overcome the associated difficulties. Companies have added more value to their products in line with the global trend regarding the consumption of healthy and sustainable proteins such as salmon. It should be noted that, unlike the previous year, this increase does not correspond to a higher production volume but to better prices and a higher added value of the products.

In the US market, some trends installed circumstantially during the COVID-19 pandemic seem to have stayed. In particular, the strong demand and consumption of frozen Atlantic salmon fillets in the US market is a development that was notably marked during 2022 and a trend already observed in 2021. This is in line with the country's records of imports of fishery products in the year, in which salmon was one of the most outstanding products. More Atlantic salmon is being consumed, and more is being paid, as prices have risen throughout the year.

Industry sources and analysts highlight that in these two years there were higher sales through the retail sector compared to restaurants that suffered from restrictions. In addition, consumers are increasingly looking for products that they can keep and cook at home, so frozen fillets will continue to grow. Nevertheless, fresh fillets remained the main category of Atlantic salmon in the US market.

Trade

Some important overall seafood trade flow changes in recent years become apparent. China went from being the main seafood exporter to becoming a net importer, which led Norway to become the new top exporter after a decade in second place. Norwegian exports mainly come from salmon exports, representing more than 70 percent of total export earnings.

2022 was the best year ever registered for Norwegian seafood exports in terms of value, and this is replicated for the main species produced in the country, salmon. For the Norwegian Seafood Council (NSC), the reopening of society after the COVID-19 pandemic has positively affected the demand for salmon. Norway exported 1 255 851 tonnes of salmon worth NOK 105.8 billion in 2022, exceeding NOK 100 billion for the first time. This was despite a slight decline of 2 percent in volume, as the value of trade rose by 30 percent from 2021.

SALMON

Norwegian salmon has had an annual growth in export value of 14 percent over the past ten years. These are extraordinary figures and far above figures seen for other fisheries and aquaculture from Norway. An increase in demand, combined with a slight decrease in produced volume globally and in the domestic market, is the biggest reason for the price increase, in addition to increased further processing and a weakened Norwegian krone. Poland, France and the United States were the largest markets for salmon in 2022, with Poland remaining the largest single market due to its processing industry.

Regarding trout, Norway exported 54 979 tonnes worth NOK 5 billion in 2022, a decline of 13 percent in volume but an increase of 24 percent in value. This was also a year with record-high export value for trout. The United States, Thailand and Lithuania were the largest markets for Norwegian trout in 2022. NSC highlights that a substantial shift towards the export of fillets instead of whole fish contributes enormously to the increase in value in the US market.

For Salmon Scotland, despite a series of economic challenges last year, Scottish salmon farmers continued to meet international demand for the United Kingdom's most popular food export. Scottish salmon was the United Kingdom's biggest seafood export in 2022, after accounting for GBP 578 million, down 6 percent compared to 2021, while in terms of volume, there was a decline of 26 percent due to tight supplies globally and more Scottish salmon being sold in the domestic market of the United Kingdom. This product was exported to 54 countries, with the European Union market absorbing almost 64 percent of sales and France as the foremost market. At the same time, North America and Asia registered increasing demand, specifically the United States and China.

In Chile, record export figures were reached during 2022 after exporting 751 000 tonnes of salmon and trout, worth USD 6 605 million, increases of 3.8 percent in volume and 27.3 percent in value, although the volume remains below levels seen prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. High prices in the most relevant markets for the industry, such as the United States, Japan and Brazil, were highlighted, caused by an increase in the cost of inputs for salmon production, greater global demand and the lack of crop growth, which impacted the supply of salmon.

The US market took a third of this volume and nearly half of the value, seeing a significant increase from 2021 levels. Japan was another important market, absorbing 21 percent of the volume exported. Regarding the Latin American markets, Brazil and Mexico are the countries where Chilean salmon is highly appreciated by consumers and registered significant increases in volume and value on exports of salmonids. On the other hand, although China bought smaller quantities of Chilean salmon compared to the other markets, it registered significant year-on-year increases: 58 percent in volume and 83 percent in value.

In the United States, in 2022, some 499 300 tonnes of salmonids were imported worth USD 6 256 million, up 3 percent in volume and 19 percent in value compared to the previous year. Chile was the leading supplier with 46 percent of the volume share, Canada provided 17 percent, and Norway almost 14 percent.

SALMON

Prices

Salmon prices began the year with an upward trend in both Norway and Chile, while a more irregular trend was observed in Scotland. In some markets, prices rose to record highs at wholesale and consumer levels. However, according to the NASDAQ salmon index, Norwegian fresh, head-on-gutted Atlantic salmon were selling for NOK 101.26 (USD 9.69) per kg in week 13 of 2023, falling for two consecutive weeks. Prices for Chilean fillets exported to the US market reached USD 6.71 per kg at week 12, starting a downward trend since week 8. Meanwhile, Scottish fresh, head-on-gutted Atlantic salmon to factories in the United Kingdom were selling for GBP 8.90 per kg (USD 10.99) in week 13, remaining flat since week 11 and compared to GBP 8.70 in week 10.

Outlook

Salmon production is expected to normalize by 2023. In particular, for Atlantic salmon production, there will be a "normalization of growth" in production, as Norway and Chile use regulatory controls to moderate supply growth. Global salmon production is projected to increase by approximately 4 percent in both 2023 and 2024, approaching 3 million tonnes in 2023 and surpassing that amount in 2024. In Norway, the uncertainty surrounding the final definition of the proposed taxes has already translated into reduced investment. The Scottish salmon industry is seeking new export opportunities and trade facilitation following disruptions associated with BREXIT. The challenges for the coming year also include more investment in research, development and innovation in aquaculture. For Chile, there is optimism in the sector that exports will remain dynamic during 2023. The sector expects to continue with the trend shown in 2022 of sustained demand and price that gives stability to the industry and a long-term growth perspective for the production chain. However, the rise in the cost of raw materials in global markets is a cause for future concern. The US market closely follows all the events that may impact the main salmon producers. Norwegian taxes, hatchery closures in Canada and flat production prospects in Chile may affect future contracts. Traders in the US wild salmon sector are uncertain as to how much Russian product will enter global supply chains. After the war in Ukraine, many countries sanctioned and prohibited products from this source, but some wild salmon from the Russian Federation still enters international trade through third countries for processing, therefore, the excess of pink salmon in the Russian Federation during 2023 could lead to more Russian salmon arriving in western markets after being processed in third countries. Furthermore, the end of China's "zero-COVID" policy will reactivate this important processing capacity.

Preliminary forecasts for 2023 show an expected total harvest of 511 000 tonnes of Pacific salmon in the Russian Federation, double levels seen in 2022. In addition, landings of 375 000 tonnes of pink salmon, 91 000 tonnes of chum salmon, 35 000 tonnes of sockeye salmon and 9 000 tonnes of coho salmon are expected. It should be noted that, in 2021, the Russian Federation caught 520 000 tonnes of salmon in total.

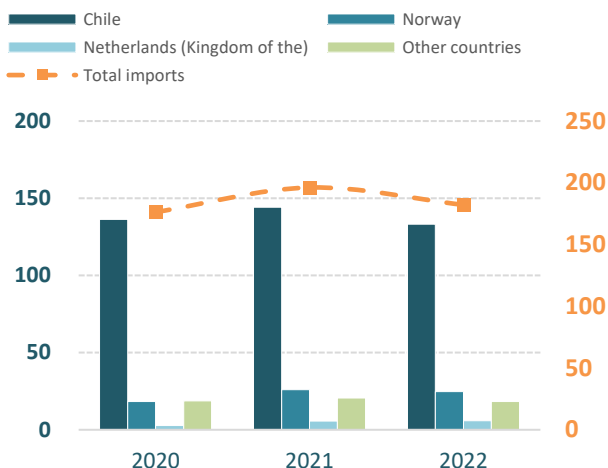
According to industry sources, after dealing with two years of complications from the COVID-19 pandemic, Russian salmon companies are now facing possible Government intervention as a means of keeping domestic prices low.

SALMON

United States of America | Imports | Salmon | Fresh fillet

Top three origins

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December

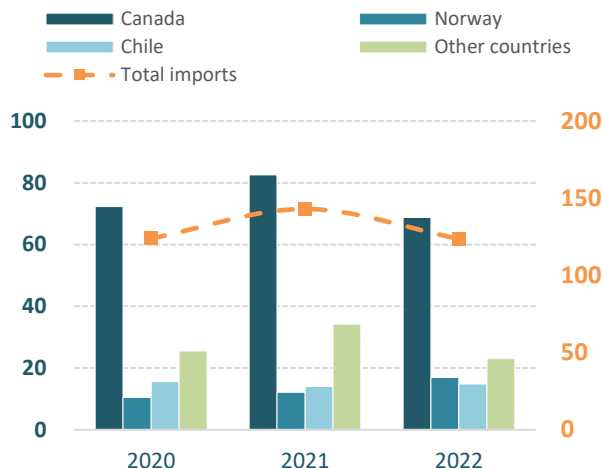


Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

United States of America | Imports | Salmon | Fresh whole

Top three origins

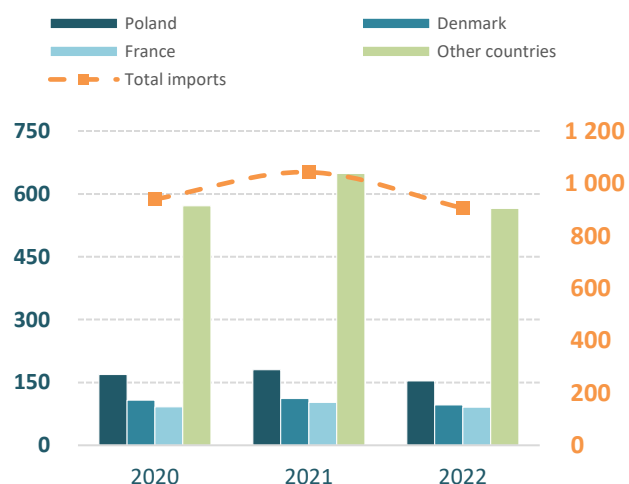
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

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

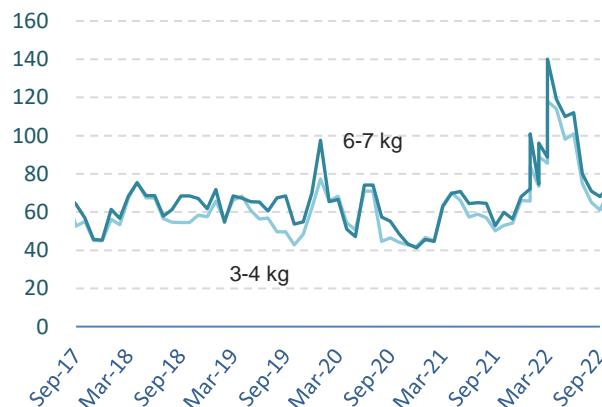
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Prices Salmon: Norway

NOK/Kg



FOB prices

Source: Author's own elaboration based on NSC data. 2023. Norwegian Seafood Council. Cited 1 May 2023. www.seafood.no

SEABASS and SEABREAM

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Production volumes rise along with prices

Harvest volumes of both seabass and seabream exceeded expectations in 2022, coinciding with high prices. Seabass increased by an estimated 10 000 tonnes (4 percent) year-on-year, while gains for seabream were more modest at 5 000 tonnes (2 percent). Prices for seabass remain above the previously more expensive seabream, reflecting the especially tight market for the former.

Economic pressures are becoming more acute, with producer and consumer organizations expressing concern for the future stability of the market. Trade dipped slightly in 2022, with Italian imports falling by close to 30 percent, likely a reflection of waning consumer demand in the face of rising prices. Producers in Türkiye, in particular, are facing an increasingly precarious business environment, with a deepening economic crisis characterised by deteriorating exchange rates, high inflation and rising borrowing costs.

Production

Healthy demand encouraged higher stocking levels for harvest in 2022, while favourable weather conditions were conducive to pushing up survival rates. Seabass production rose significantly from 2021, with total supply increasing by some 10 000 tonnes year-on-year. Following low volumes of output in 2019 and 2020, Turkish producers were able to bring more product to market, accounting for close to half of total supply. This was despite the mounting challenges posed by the ongoing Turkish economic crisis. The continued downward slide of the Turkish Lira against major currencies has made imports of inputs considerably more expensive. That being said, fishmeal imports – much of which goes to making feed for the aquaculture industry – rose from 150 000 tonnes for 2021 to close to 200 000 tonnes in 2022, indicating that, at least for now, farmers are increasing investments.

Secondary producers, namely Croatia, Greece, Italy and Spain, all saw moderate increases of around 1 000 tonnes. Mounting production costs remain a predominant concern for farmers, largely negating the advantages of the elevated prices being paid by consumers. A Greek producers' organization recently voiced their concerns, highlighting that farmers were operating at a loss, with quoted first-sale prices of EUR 5.30 per kg for seabass and EUR 4.80 per kg for seabream. Concurrently, production costs had surged to EUR 5.50 per kg.

Trade

Despite growing harvest volumes, trade in both seabass and seabream fell slightly in 2022. Total imports were 295 000 tonnes in 2022, a 3 percent decrease on 2021 levels. Trade in the first quarter of the year was slightly higher than in previous years, carrying over from a surprisingly busy winter season towards the end of 2021. However, all important summer demand failed to reach levels seen in previous years, despite rising tourist numbers in major markets.

SEABASS and SEABREAM

Italy remained the largest market in both value and volume terms despite import volumes for seabass and seabream falling to 67 500 tonnes for 2022. Seabass volumes were down by 9.1 percent and seabream by 8.6 percent, with especially reduced demand for Turkish supplies. Other markets seemed more positive, with Spanish imports over the course of 2022 rising to 55 000 tonnes (+8.6 percent year-on-year), while French imports were 24 000 tonnes (+12 percent year-on-year). Seabass and seabream are experiencing expanded growth in the United States, with imports growing from 8 000 tonnes in 2020 to 14 000 tonnes in 2022, primarily as a result of seabass imports from Greece.

Prices

Final sale prices substantially increased in 2022, rising above previous highs for both species. Higher production levels have failed to soften the market for seabass, which remains in short supply. Spanish wholesale data for December 2022 put average seabass prices across all sizes at EUR 8.50 per kg, compared to EUR 5.95 quoted for seabream. Large seabass sold for an average of EUR 14.00 per kg, far higher than EUR 8.00 per kg that they could expect just a year earlier.

Farmed seabream prices showed little variation through much of 2022, although they did peak in August before returning to their previous elevated level. In December 2022, small seabream on the Spanish wholesale market were priced at EUR 5.60 per kg (up 14 percent from December last year), and large fish at EUR 7.30 per kg (up 14 percent from December 2021).

Outlook

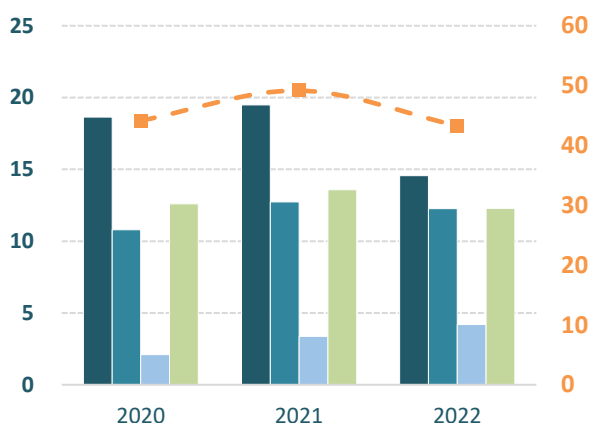
Despite increased production, supply of seabass is expected to remain tight in 2023, while seabream will remain readily available. While production levels have been climbing since 2020, the shortfall in Turkish supply continues to be felt by the market, with supply edging past 2019 levels. While prices are high, much of the increased dividends will be going towards satiating farmers' margins, which are now considerably tighter, while inflationary pressures are liable to keep growth in consumer demand low.

SEABASS and SEABREAM

Greece | Exports | Seabass | Fresh Top three destinations

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December

Italy Spain
United States of America Other countries
Total imports

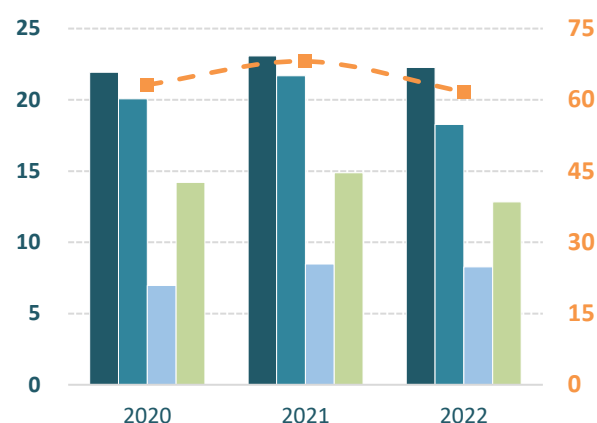


Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Greece | Exports | Seabream | Fresh Top three destinations

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December

Spain Italy
France Other countries
Total imports

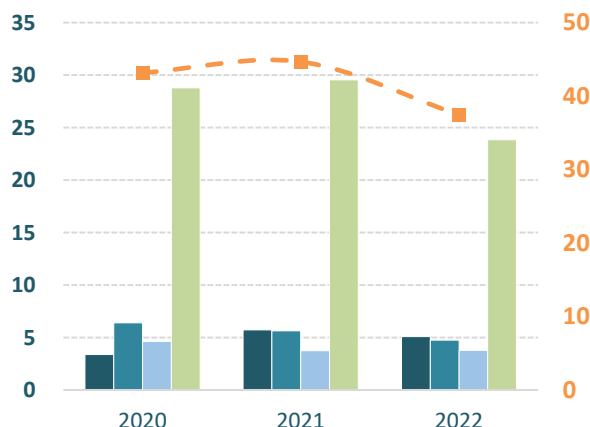


Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Türkiye | Exports | Seabass | Fresh Top three destinations

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December

United Kingdom Italy
Greece Other countries
Total imports

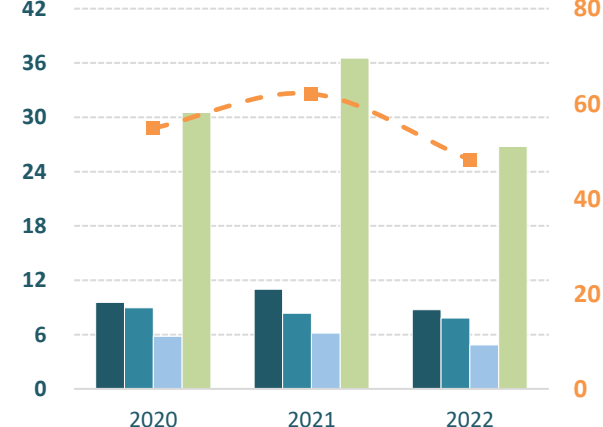


Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Türkiye | Exports | Seabream | Fresh Top three destinations

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December

Italy Greece
Netherlands (Kingdom of the) Other countries
Total imports

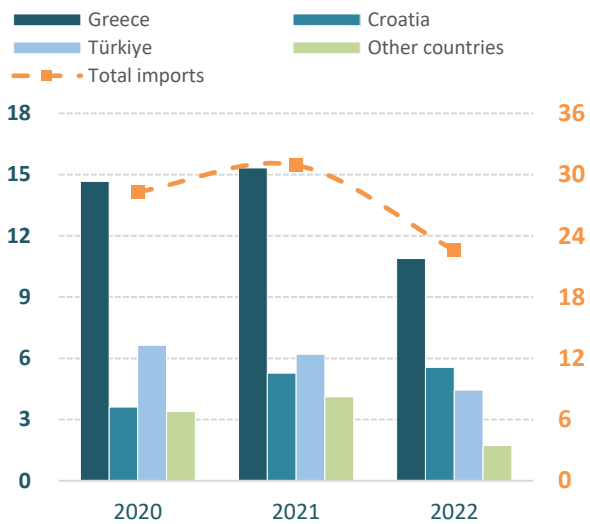


Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

SEABASS and SEABREAM

Italy | Imports | Seabass | Fresh Top three origins

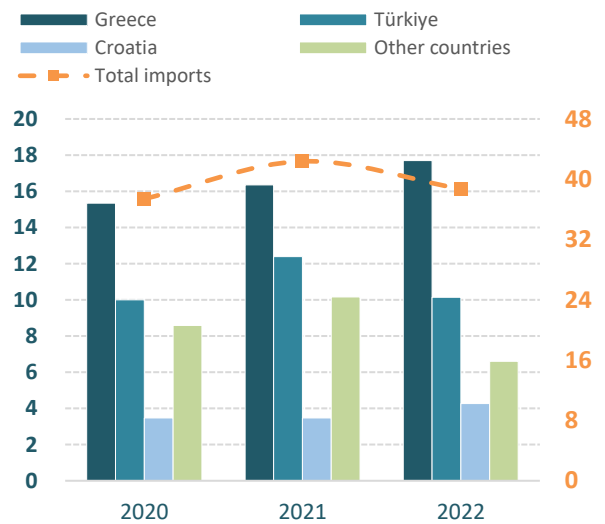
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Italy | Imports | Seabream | Fresh Top three origins

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

SHRIMP

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

China dominates world shrimp market with record high imports

Shrimp imports remained weak in the traditional large markets of North America, Europe and Japan but increased in China during the first quarter of 2023. Shrimp farmers in Asia started the season in March with low density production, resulting in a lower supply of farmed shrimp during the first half of the year.

Supply

Global supply of farmed shrimp increased in 2022 credited to the large production in Ecuador.

World production of farmed marine shrimp (vannamei and black tiger shrimp) in 2022 increased by 19.5 percent at 5.5 million tonnes in comparison with 4.6 million tonnes in 2021. Ecuador ranked as the top producer and harvested 1.3 million tonnes of vannamei shrimp in 2022 which was 28.9 percent higher than in 2021. India held the second position followed by China, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia and Bangladesh.

The estimated production of farmed shrimp in Asia was 3.5 million tonnes consisting of 3 million tonnes of vannamei and 500 000 tonnes of black tiger shrimp. Viet Nam and China were the top producers of black tiger shrimp with increased harvests in 2022 compared with the previous year.

Viet Nam and Thailand also imported raw frozen shrimp for export processing. Vietnamese imports increased by 32 percent at 66 500 tonnes in 2022 mostly supplied by India (45 660 tonnes) and Ecuador (17 735 tonnes). Imports in Thailand declined by 31 percent at 22 600 tonnes compared with 2021.

For sea caught shrimp, Argentina had a solid start of the year. Some 42 500 tonnes were landed during the first six weeks of 2023, which is a record result.

International Trade

An estimated 3.53 million tonnes of shrimp were traded in the international market in 2022, which compares to 3.51 million tonnes in 2021.

Exports

Through stable production of farmed shrimp and good sales strategies, Ecuador increased its share in the international shrimp trade from 25 percent in 2021 to 30.5 percent in 2022, retaining the top position in the export trade. Annual exports surpassed one million tonnes in Ecuador reaching 1.06 million tonnes worth USD 6.65 billion, up 26 and 31 percent, respectively, year-on-year. In total exports, China was the number one destination market with a 55 percent share followed by the United States (18.8 percent) and the European Union (15.5 percent).

SHRIMP

India held the second position as top shrimp exporter, but had a negative growth (-4 percent) associated with large export deficits in the US market (-20 percent at 68 000 tonnes) although exports increased to China, the European Union (+22.5 percent) and Asia Far East.

The supply gap between Ecuador and India thus widened from 119 000 tonnes in 2021 to 371 000 tonnes in 2022.

Year-on-year exports from Viet Nam increased by 12.8 percent due to increased sales of processed shrimp (157 000 tonnes; +10 percent) which had a 40 percent share in total exports; the top markets were North America, Europe, Japan and Australia. Export trends were negative for Indonesia, China, Argentina and Thailand.

Imports

In comparison with 2021, there was a 44 percent rise in annual shrimp imports in China, making China the world's number one shrimp importer in 2022. As the top import market, volume imports in China reached close to 1 million tonnes overtaking the United States.

Shrimp imports in the US market declined by 6 percent at 841 628 tonnes in 2022 but increased by 12.8 percent in the European Union at 835 976 tonnes. Imports increased marginally in Japan (+1.3 percent) at 222 205 tonnes.

Combined imports of the top four markets, China, the United States, the European Union and Japan were 2.850 million tonnes during this period, representing 80.7 percent of global shrimp trade.

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

	2020	2021	2022	% change 2022/21
Ecuador	692.00	855.10	1 077.4	26.00
India	579.50	736.90	706.90	-4.12
Viet Nam	343.80	359.60	388.10	7.90
Indonesia	363.30	248.30	240.40	-3.20
Thailand	147.30	148.50	145.00	-2.50
China	151.70	170.90	143.10	-16.30
Argentina	129.70	165.50	135.80	-18.00

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

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

	2020	2021	2022	% change 2022/21
China	613.10	658 .1	949.30	44.30
European Union	660.10	741.20	835.90	12.80
United States of America	747.40	895.00	841.60	-6.00
Japan	211.90	219.30	222.20	1.30
Republic of Korea	77.90	86.10	94.10	9.40
United Kingdom	75.80	82.80	77.60	-6.30
Russian Federation	58.70	89.80	55.70	-38.00

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

SHRIMP

China

The preliminary data on China's domestic farmed shrimp production confirmed a shortfall in the country in 2022. On the other hand, the domestic market for shrimp remained strong, along with good demand in the HORECA sector.

To cater to the rising consumer demand, imports in 2022 increased by 44 percent at 949 160 tonnes. Among the top ten exporters to this market, supplies increased from all. Imports from Ecuador, the number one supplier, increased by 49 percent year-on-year at 564 597 tonnes including 92 172 tonnes of head-on shrimp. Ecuadorean shrimp had a 59.5 percent share in total imports in this market. India and Viet Nam were the next largest suppliers at 136 840 tonnes (+17.5 percent) and 38 828 tonnes (+110 percent). Imports also increased from Canada, Greenland, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Argentina and Indonesia.

RECENT NEWS

Ecuador successfully closed with China the negotiation process at the technical level of a Free Trade Agreement that will allow preferential access for 99 percent of Ecuador's current exports to China, highlighting mainly agro-industrial products, such as shrimp. The Ecuadorian Government emphasizes that this commercial instrument will substantially improve the access of the Ecuadorian supply to this important market, boosting exports.

United States of America

The shrimp market in the United States was unsteady, particularly during the second half of 2022. Inflation squeezed consumers' disposable income, causing them to reduce purchases of luxury items like shrimp. US households bought less shrimp in 2022 as they reduced trips for groceries. In addition, consumers purchased less shrimp during each trip to retailers. Shrimp prices increased along the distribution chain, including farming, processing, cold storage, transportation and other logistics.

The two semesters of 2022 had different situations regarding shrimp imports in the United States. The first half surpassed the record imports of 2021, but there were declines in year-on-year imports in the second half. Between January–December 2022 cumulative imports of shrimp in the US market were 6 percent lower in quantity and 3 percent in value at 841 630 tonnes worth USD 7.8 billion. India remained the top supplier, but registered an eleven percent decline in trade. Among the top ten suppliers, imports increased only from Ecuador and Mexico but declined from the others.

SHRIMP

Among the main product groups, imports of raw shrimp shell-on and peeled shrimp declined by 8.3 percent and 11 percent respectively. However, imports of processed shrimp, including the popular breaded shrimp, increased by 8 percent at 216 000 tonnes against the same period in 2021, largely supplied by Indonesia, Viet Nam and Thailand.

Europe

In general, shrimp imports in Europe posted positive trends, although affected by inflation and falling disposable income of consumers for luxury seafood like shrimp.

The 27 member countries of the European Union imported 835 976 tonnes of shrimp in 2022 (+12.8 percent); the top markets were Spain, France, Denmark, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Italy and Germany. Of these supplies, 73.7 percent or 616 548 tonnes were imported from extra-European Union sources, namely Ecuador, India, Viet Nam, Greenland and Argentina. Imports increased from all but Argentina. Supplies of value-added shrimp in extra-European Union imports increased by 12.7 percent at 124 100 tonnes.

Outside the European Union, shrimp imports declined by 6 percent in the United Kingdom at 77 610 tonnes due to an 11 percent fall in raw shrimp imports, while imports of processed shrimp increased by 51 percent at 35 505 tonnes.

Shrimp imports in Norway were 17 percent lower at 12 500 tonnes. Switzerland posted a small rise (+5 percent; 8 830 tonnes).

The war in Ukraine reduced shrimp imports to half in both the Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Imports in 2022 were estimated to be 55 000 tonnes in the Russian Federation, with increased supplies from India and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and 8 500 tonnes in Ukraine.

Japan

Post-pandemic demand for shrimp in Japan's HORECA sector did not recover much in 2022 as the Government's stringent restrictions on outdoor dining continued until the third quarter of the year.

Total imports of shrimp were 222 203 tonnes in 2022, only 1.3 percent more than last year. Imports of raw shrimp (shell-on and peeled) generally used in restaurants were 153 787 tonnes, a decline of 2 percent. Processed shrimp imports increased by 9.1 percent to 68 420 tonnes and had a 30 percent share in total imports of shrimp. Viet Nam, Thailand and Indonesia were the main suppliers.

In 2023, brisk business was observed in the restaurant business during *Sogatsu* the Japanese New Year celebration from the last week of December to the first week of January. It is considered one of the biggest festivals in Japan.

SHRIMP

Southeast Asia and the Pacific

Post-pandemic demand for shrimp continued to recover in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, where demand for fresh and frozen shrimp remained good, with prices firm.

In 2022, the estimated imports were 410 660 tonnes in the 10 regional markets, including Australia and New Zealand but excluding China and Japan. Nearly 25 percent of this volume was meant for export processing imported by Viet Nam and Thailand. The balance entered the regional consumer markets. Intra-regional shrimp trade among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) remained strong between Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. Frozen shrimp imports in the ASEAN region also increased from Ecuador and India in 2022.

Prices

Shrimp prices in international trade started to weaken in the last quarter of 2022. Despite the low production season in Asia, export prices for farmed vannamei in Latin America and Asia remained under pressure particularly from the western markets.

However, prices for sea-caught Argentine shrimp started to increase from March 2023, particularly for large sizes, and remained stable for smaller ones. Thus, big shrimp are again commanding higher prices compared to small ones.

Outlook

The 2023 shrimp farming season in the Asian region started in March. Reportedly farmers have seeded their ponds with low density and production during the first half of the year is likely to be low while demand remains weak in the western markets. In Asia, production costs of farmed shrimp increased by 15–20 percent since 2022, and these costs are not being compensated by the markets.

In Latin America, April through June will be the low production season. Ecuador, the world's leading producer of farmed shrimp, aims to produce 1.4 million tonnes of shrimp to maintain one million tonnes of exports in 2023.

Meanwhile, the shrimp market worldwide remained weak during the first quarter of 2023. Compared with last year, imports declined in most markets globally except in China, where imports increased by 33.4 percent to 254 310 tonnes between January–March 2023.

In the United States, imports between January–March 2023 were 18.4 percent lower, with negative supply trends from the top 10 exporters excluding Ecuador.

Shrimp imports in Japan also declined during the first quarter of 2023 by 10 percent, indicating large inventories in the market. However, with the reopening of the restaurant trade and international borders for foreign tourists, shrimp consumption will likely improve in Japan during the Spring festivals in April–May.

SHRIMP

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

	2020	2021	2022
Imports			
Ecuador	318.64	378.89	564.60
India	105.44	116.39	136.84
Viet Nam	33.38	23.96	41.44
Other countries	162.15	145.05	211.62
Total imports	619.61	664.29	954.50
Exports			
Japan	31.92	33.71	22.17
China, Hong Kong SAR	14.44	19.96	16.03
Malaysia	4.35	8.21	13.57
Other countries	108.77	118.18	93.72
Total exports	159.48	180.07	145.50

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

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

	2020	2021	2022
Imports			
Ecuador	125.97	147.21	160.03
India	52.08	64.13	78.58
Vietnam	50.23	52.14	64.42
Other countries	477.12	477.75	532.95
Total imports	660.18	741.23	835.98
Exports			
China	23.86	19.86	34.26
France	22.86	23.57	27.21
Italy	23.04	28.76	23.89
Other countries	174.28	205.71	200.03
Total exports	244.04	277.90	285.38

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

SHRIMP

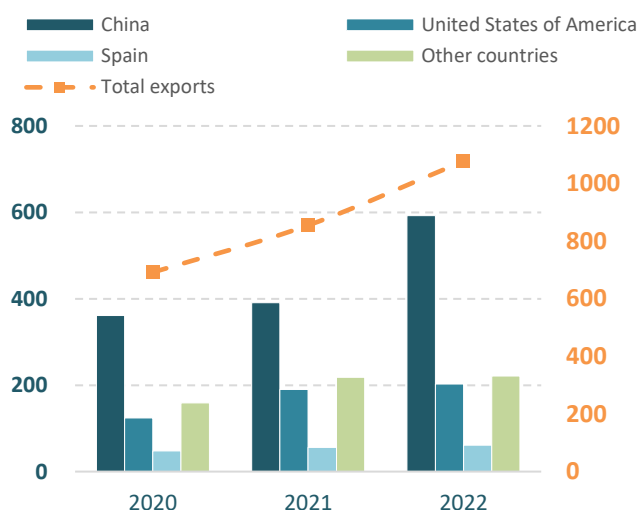
India exports of shrimp, January–December, 2020–2022 (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022
Exports			
United States of America	260.41	346.94	278.42
China	101.48	122.48	137.31
Viet Nam	30.56	40.99	45.66
Other countries	187.31	226.99	246.10
Total imports	579.75	737.41	707.50

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Ecuador | Exports | Shrimp Top three destinations

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–September



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Japan | Imports | Shrimp Top three origins

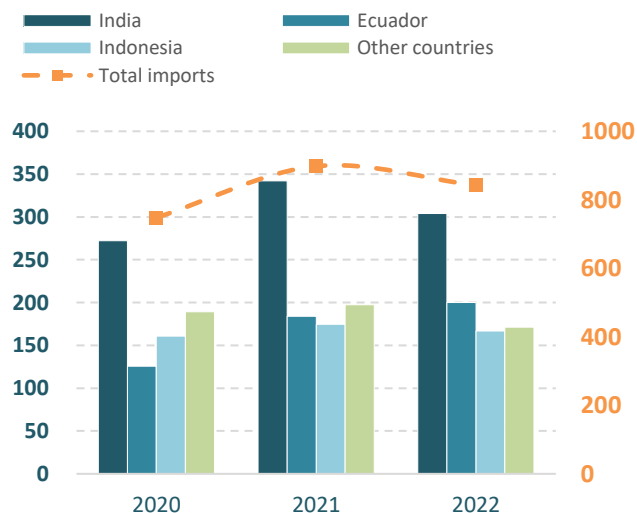
Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–September



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

United States of America | Imports Shrimp | Top three origins

Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–September



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

SMALL PELAGICS

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Mackerel prices keep climbing, herring prices following suit

With reduced quotas for both mackerel and herring, prices have continued to increase in 2023. While Norway, as a major supplier, had a reduction in herring exports in 2022, the Russian Federation saw a major increase and appears to have taken over market share in Asia.

At the North Atlantic Seafood Forum in Bergen in March, seafood analysis company Kontali presented their estimates of the 2023 landings of the most important small pelagic species. Kontali expects that supplies of Atlantic mackerel will decline by about 30 000 tonnes, while landings of Atlantic herring are expected to decline by about 160 000 tonnes in 2023 compared to 2022. Landings of capelin are expected to decline by about 380 000 tonnes in 2023. Blue whiting catches are expected to increase by some 80 000 tonnes.

Mackerel

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) recommended that for 2023, the catches of northeast Atlantic mackerel should not exceed 782 066 tonnes. However, the coastal states have set their own quotas, which when combined amount to 1 131 416 tonnes, or over 30 percent more than the recommendation of ICES.

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) has suspended the MSC certifications for the mackerel fishery in the northeast Atlantic until quotas are brought in line with the scientific advice.

The Fish Food and Allied Workers Union in Canada is calling for the DFO to reopen the Atlantic mackerel fishery this year, claiming that the mackerel population is larger than DFO's assessment. The DFO has stated that the Atlantic mackerel stocks have been in a critical state for a long period and must be allowed to regenerate before the fishery is reopened.

Trade

Norwegian exports of frozen mackerel declined by 13.1 percent, from 370 361 tonnes in 2021 to 321 792 tonnes in 2022. However, prices went up, so the value of exports increased by 5.4 percent, from NOK 5.5 billion (USD 525 million) in 2021 to NOK 5.8 billion (USD 553 million) in 2022. The largest market, China, registered a 16.5 percent increase in volume and a 40.5 percent increase in value. Exports to Japan increased only 1.7 percent by volume, increased in value by 24.5 percent. This trend continued into the first quarter of 2023.

Prices for Norwegian mackerel exports thus increased significantly in 2022, which seemed to continue into 2023. In 2022, the average export price of frozen mackerel from Norway increased by 21.3 percent, from NOK 14.87 (USD 1.42) per kg in 2021 to NOK 18.04 (USD 1.72) per kg in 2022. The rise continues in 2023, reaching NOK 19.64 (USD 1.87) per kg in March 2023.

SMALL PELAGICS

Chinese imports of whole frozen mackerel in 2022 declined by 7 percent, from 81 329 tonnes in 2021 to 75 667 tonnes in 2022. Thus, the downward trend continued from 2020. The largest suppliers were Norway (44 815 tonnes or 59 percent of the total), the Republic of Ireland (8 519 tonnes, 11.3 percent of the total) and Iceland (6 635 tonnes, 8.8 percent of the total).

China's mackerel exports have been on a rollercoaster ride for the past five years. In 2018, exports amounted to 357 000 tonnes valued at EUR 618 million. In 2021, exports had dropped to 259 000 tonnes worth EUR 471 million. But in 2022 exports increased again to 305 000 tonnes worth EUR 600 million. Thus, the value of exports in 2022 increased by 27.4 percent from 2021 to 2022.

Herring

In March 2023, the European Union and Norway signed three bilateral agreements that concerned an exchange of quotas and access to the herring fishery in Kattegat, Skagerak and the North Sea. As a result of the agreements, the reciprocal access to jointly managed stocks in the North Sea will decrease slightly. The European Union will have access to up to 85 percent of the pelagic stocks included in Norway's quota for Atlanto-Scandian herring. In return, Norway will have access to EU waters to fish up to 150 000 tonnes of blue whiting.

ICES has advised a TAC of 23 250 tonnes of herring in the Skagerak and Kattegat region for 2023 – a 7.1 percent decrease compared to 2022. ICES also stated that the TAC for Atlantic herring should not exceed 511 171 tonnes in 2023.

Small pelagics are used for both human consumption and reduction purposes (fish meal and fish oil). Currently, the prices for meal and oil are very high, which pulls some amounts of herring away from human consumption to be diverted to oil and meal production. During 2022, fish oil prices went as high as USD 3 000 per tonne.

This situation is expected to ease slightly in 2023, as the quotas for blue whiting have been increased. Thus, blue whiting as a raw material for fish meal and fish oil production will be cheaper than herring.

Trade

Russian exports of whole frozen herring made a significant jump in 2022. Exports increased from 99 608 tonnes in 2021 to 136 470 tonnes in 2022 (up 37 percent). The largest markets were China, which took 65 281 tonnes or 47.8 percent of the total. The second largest market was the Republic of Korea (26 167 tonnes, 19.2 percent of the total), followed by Côte d'Ivoire (18 758 tonnes, 13.7 percent of the total).

Norwegian herring exports, on the other hand, fell significantly in 2022. Exports of whole frozen herring declined by 21.4 percent to 128 557 tonnes. Prices went up, though, so the decline was only 12.0 percent by value. The largest markets were the European Union, Egypt, and Nigeria.

SMALL PELAGICS

Norwegian exports of whole frozen herring fell by 23 percent during the first three quarters of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021, from 249 290 tonnes to 192 038 tonnes. However, the average exports price went up by almost 25 percent, so exports declined by only 3.9 percent to NOK 3.5 billion (approx. USD 350 million). Exports to China increased by 7.3 percent to 39 258 tonnes, while exports to Japan declined by 2.6 percent to 29 413 tonnes and the Republic of Korea by 27.7 percent to 17 187 tonnes. Exports to the European Union declined by 31.3 percent to just 21 687 tonnes.

German imports of prepared or preserved herring increased very modestly from 32 276 tonnes during the first three quarters of 2021 to 33 513 tonnes during the same period in 2022. Most of these imports (78.5 percent) came from Poland.

Capelin

At the end of March, Norway was about to end its capelin fishery in the Barents Sea as the 37 000 tonnes quota had been filled.

Iceland's Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI) on 03 February 2023 issued its advice on the capelin quota for the 2022–2023 season at 275 705 tonnes. On 24 February, it corrected this advice and increased it by over 66 percent to 459 800 tonnes. Two-thirds of this should be caught in the waters north of Iceland. However, on 02 March, DFO again adjusted its advice, saying that since little capelin had been registered north of the country, fishing would be taking place mainly west of the island nation.

However, predictions presented by Kontali indicate that total global capelin catches will be less than 330 000 tonnes in 2023.

Outlook

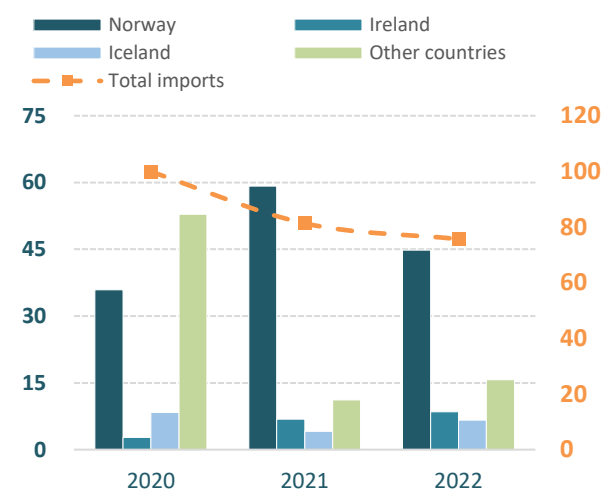
The suspension of the MSC certification of the northeast Atlantic mackerel fishery will force the major producers to reduce their quotas further for 2023. Consequently, supplies of Atlantic mackerel will be tighter, and prices will continue to rise.

For herring, the situation is similar. Supplies will be tighter, and prices will edge upwards.

This season's capelin fishery is drawing to an end. Iceland has increased its quota considerably, and this may have an effect on prices of capelin roe as well as on whole frozen capelin for reduction purposes. However, increased blue whiting landings may compete with capelin and herring as raw material for fishmeal and fish oil.

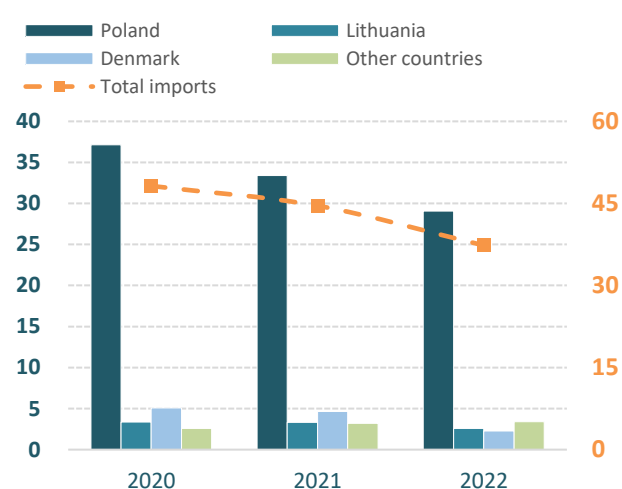
SMALL PELAGICS

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



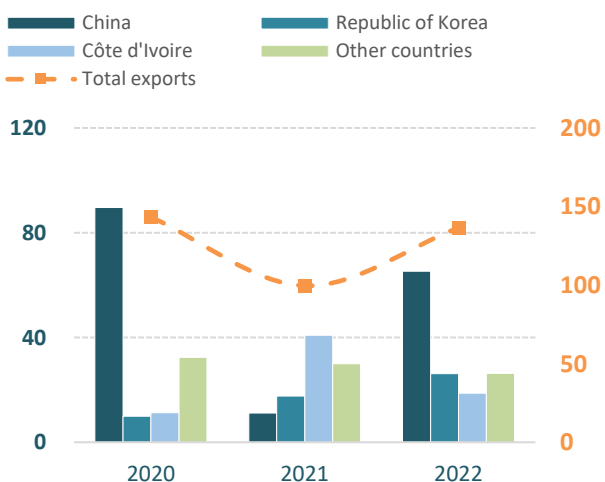
Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

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



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

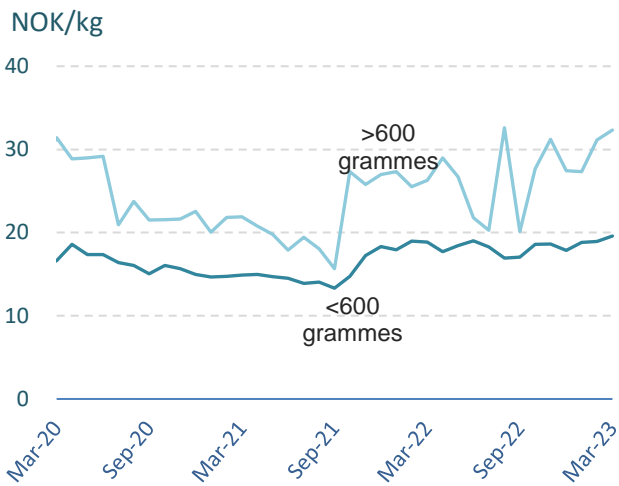
Russian Federation | Exports | Herring | Frozen whole Top three destinations Unit: 1 000 tonnes, January–December



Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

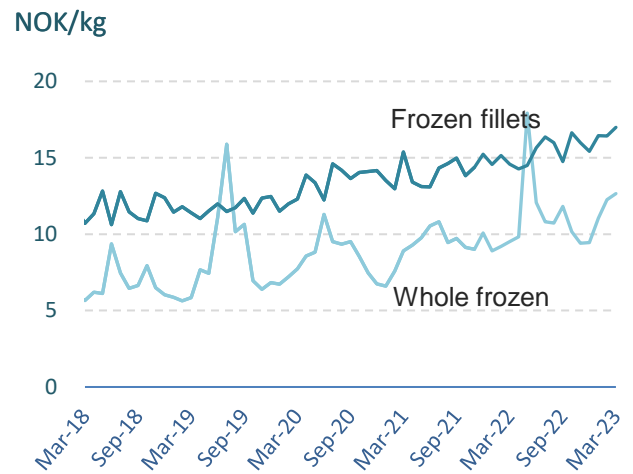
SMALL PELAGICS

Export prices Frozen mackerel: Norway



Source: Author's own elaboration based on NSC data. 2023. Norwegian Seafood Council. Cited 1 May 2023. www.seafood.no

Export prices Frozen herring: Norway



Source: Author's own elaboration based on NSC data. 2023. Norwegian Seafood Council. Cited 1 May 2023. www.seafood.no

TILAPIA

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Tilapia sector growth to resume after a sluggish period

The tilapia market saw limited price fluctuations in 2022 and is expected to resume its previous pattern of growth, with new programs in place to increase farming and a continually expanding consumer market.

Production

In 2022, global tilapia supply saw steady growth, with several countries seeing expansion accelerate. China still dominates tilapia production in the global market, although its production growth this year is below the historical rates due to strict COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Other Asian countries emerged as strong suppliers in the tilapia market, such as Indonesia, with a 7.2 percent growth rate in 2022 according to a survey conducted by the Global Outlook for Aquaculture Leadership. Viet Nam (14 percent) and Bangladesh (7 percent) achieved historically high growth in tilapia production this year.

Africa and Latin America are expanding their supply. Egypt remains the largest tilapia producer among all the African countries, with a 4 percent growth in production in 2022. In Latin America, tilapia aquaculture saw significantly improved productivity due to extending farming areas and the adoption of new technologies. According to the Brazilian Association of Fish Farming (PeixeBR), Brazilian tilapia production in 2022 reached 550 060 tonnes, increasing 3 percent compared to 2021, followed by Colombia and Mexico. For future development, many tilapia breeding programs have been established in Brazil, bringing more opportunities to improve the production performance and quality of tilapia and strengthening the support of the aquaculture industry in regional economic development. Elsewhere, Mexico is expanding aquaculture operations to meet potential significant sales opportunities in its domestic market.

Markets and trade

Tilapia has benefitted from its relatively lower price compared to other fish species. The value of tilapia imports in the United States has achieved a higher growth rate this year compared to last year. However, higher costs and challenges in logistics have led to a decline in import volume. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 182 238 tonnes of tilapia worth USD 752 million were imported during January–December 2022, down 5 percent in terms of volume but up 13 percent in value. Due to the rising prices, tilapia saw declining quarter-on-quarter sales in 2022.

TILAPIA

The tariffs between China and the United States keep trade costs high and give other competitors in the tilapia market opportunities. China was still the largest tilapia supplier to the United States in 2022, with 116 526 tonnes worth USD 404 million, followed by Colombia (16 990 tonnes worth USD 101.5 million). Honduras was the third largest supplier in terms of value, with exports reaching USD 64.7 million in 2022. Due to the convenience of logistics, Colombia is now the leading supplier of fresh tilapia fillets to the United States, reaching more than 93 900 tonnes in 2022, increasing 21 percent in volume year-on-year. China and Indonesia are the largest suppliers of the United States for frozen tilapia fillets, with a 13 percent decline in import volume and a 4 percent increase in volume year-on-year, respectively.

In Latin America, tilapia production has expanded rapidly, with the domestic markets showing great potential for further sales. Honduras exported USD 50 million of tilapia fillets this year, and the Colombian aquaculture sector had a record high in exports in 2022. The United States is the main market for tilapia products from Latin America, and their domestic market also shows promise.

Brazilian producers put a break on expansion due to high costs and inflation in 2022, although they actively sought out new export markets. Brazil exported 8 492 tonnes worth USD 23.8 million in 2022, according to the Brazilian Agricultural Research Company (EMBRAPA). In Brazil, frozen whole tilapia was the leading product, with 4 853 tonnes worth USD 11.4 million (49 percent of the share) – an increase of 62 percent in volume and 70 percent in value year-on-year.

Prices

Chinese tilapia prices saw some degree of fluctuation in 2022, with a significant price drop in the third quarter of 2022, remaining at a low-price level through to the end of this year. Prices in the last quarter of 2022 were lower than in same period last year. Live tilapia from Guangdong province (DAP, Guangdong) of size 300–500 g during October to December of 2022 was selling for CNY 6.17 per kg (USD 0.87), 20 percent lower than the same period in 2021.

Outlook

Tilapia production is poised for positive growth in 2023. However, this resurgence is set against challenges such as the soaring costs of inputs and airfreight. In 2022, a combination of escalating costs and high demand met with limited supply growth, putting pressure on tilapia prices. Nevertheless, analysts foresee a continued market recovery in both production and consumption. As production levels rise, innovative approaches are anticipated to cater to diverse consumer needs, furthering market expansion.

TILAPIA

The global tilapia market remains resilient. Emerging trade partners are stepping up to counteract the challenges of mounting expenses. Notably, Latin American producers have bolstered their export business, particularly to the United States. This growth is primarily due to a decrease in US imports from China. With predictions indicating a 4.8 percent year-on-year increase in Latin America's tilapia production for 2023, the outlook remains upbeat.

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

	2020	2021	2022
Frozen tilapia			
Côte d'Ivoire	46.89	56.21	51.44
United States of America	24.81	29.21	21.87
Mexico	13.08	13.60	9.13
South Africa	10.04	10.29	7.28
Total exports	94.82	109.32	89.72

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

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

	2020	2021	2022
Chilled fillets			
Colombia	7.53	7.76	10.29
Honduras	7.79	8.19	7.98
Costa Rica	2.85	3.31	3.79
Other countries	3.91	3.53	1.96
Total imports	22.08	22.79	24.02

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

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

	2020	2021	2022
Frozen fillets			
China	104.99	96.95	94.43
Indonesia	6.27	6.26	7.21
Honduras	2.15	2.11	1.61
Other countries	4.07	3.53	1.96
Total imports	117.48	108.85	105.20

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

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

	2020	2021	2022
Frozen whole			
China	24.81	29.21	21.87
Taiwan Province of China	11.82	12.24	10.54
Brazil	0.25	1.85	3.09
Other countries	1.54	4.07	4.80
Total imports	38.43	47.37	40.30

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

TUNA

■ GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

Skipjack prices reached USD 2 000 in April

Imports of frozen skipjack in Thailand increased during the first quarter of 2023, supported by good demand for end products in the United States and the Near East and North Africa (NENA) markets. However, poor catches, particularly in the Western Pacific, pushed skipjack price up to USD 2 000 per tonne in April, slowing advance contracts with many markets. Demand for cooked frozen loins also declined from tuna packers in Europe and Thailand.

Supply

Between January–April 2023 tuna catches were low worldwide, pushing frozen raw material prices high in international trade.

Oceanic catches in the Western and Central Pacific (WCP) were “very poor”. Supply short falls in Southeast Asia were partially compensated by better catches in the Indian Ocean region but at prices higher than the last two years.

Tuna packers in Manta, Ecuador, have had better access to raw materials as catches in the Eastern Pacific Ocean improved by 10 percent year-on-year.

The 72-day FAD fishing closure in the Atlantic Ocean ended on 13 March 2023 but catches remained slow, leading to raw material shortages among the regional tuna packers.

Raw material imports

In 2022, tuna packers in Southeast Asia and Europe moved away from raw frozen fish to semi-processed cooked loins as prices of whole frozen tuna increased significantly.

The average import price of frozen skipjack in Thailand was 23 percent higher in 2022 for skipjack and 17.6 for yellowfin in comparison with 2021.

Total imports of raw frozen tuna increased marginally in Thailand at 690 660 tonnes (+1.6 percent) in 2022, consisting of 79 percent skipjack (+10 percent; 546 723 tonnes), 13 percent yellowfin (-16.3 percent; 90 000 tonnes) and 5 percent albacore (-16 percent; 34 100 tonnes). Notably, imports of cooked frozen loins were 37 percent higher in 2022 at 54 100 tonnes, for which the average import price increased by 12.8 percent.

In the Philippines, imports of raw frozen tuna for processing were 162 060 tonnes, 21 percent lower than the previous year.

Tuna canners in Europe also procured less raw fish and more cooked loins in 2022. Imports of raw frozen tuna in Spain declined by 13.6 percent to 116 404 tonnes, but increased for cooked frozen loin by 11 percent at 113 285 tonnes in 2022 compared to 2021 levels. Total imports of cooked frozen loins were 185 000 tonnes compared with 176 460 tonnes in 2021.

TUNA

Fresh and frozen tuna market (non-canned)

Consumer demand for high-value fresh and frozen tuna started to recover from 2021 along with the restaurant and catering trade reopening.

The continued reopening of the hotel, restaurant and catering sector in 2022 boosted sales of higher value tuna for sashimi and non-sashimi usages.

An estimated 44 000 tonnes of fresh/chilled tuna (bluefin, bigeye and yellowfin) entered international trade during 2022, which was 10 percent more than imports in 2021.

Worldwide demand for deep frozen tuna fillet, loins and steaks, (for sashimi and non-sashimi usages) also sustained the recovery phase in 2022. Global imports of this product group are estimated to be 10 percent higher than last year at 192 000 tonnes. The leading import markets were Japan, the United States, the European Union, the Republic of Korea, and the United Kingdom. The positive demand trends also returned in many emerging markets in Southeastern and Eastern Asian, and the Near East.

Japan

Despite year-on-year declines in per capita tuna consumption, Japan remained the number one market and importer of high value sashimi tuna.

Import shortfalls of this product group have increased since the COVID-19 pandemic due to the stringent regulations on outdoor dining and border crossing for foreign tourists until mid-2022.

The market imported 201 400 tonnes of fresh and frozen tuna and fillet/loins in 2022, with a Customs-declared value of USD 1.76 billion, of which nearly 80 percent entered the non-canned tuna market. In comparison with 2021, quantities increased marginally (+1.4 percent).

	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. 2023. INFOFISH. Cited 1 May 2023. www.infofish.org

Air-flown imports of high value fresh/chilled tuna mainly used in the sashimi and sushi trade hit a record low in 2022 at 5 200 tonnes (-27.6 percent year-on-year), valued at USD 74.7 million, of which 48 percent was bluefin tuna.

TUNA

Stocks of unsold deep-frozen tuna loins (-60 degrees Celsius) also caused a 5.1 percent dent on year-on-year imports at 57 182 tonnes, with a Customs declared value of USD 915 million. In volume imports, bluefin fillet had the highest share (42 percent), followed by yellowfin (30 percent) and bigeye (16 percent).

In general, the import trend for fresh and frozen tuna was positive (+1.6 percent; 201 418 tonnes) because of the 6 percent rise in frozen tuna imports.

United States of America

The United States America, the second largest and growing market for non-canned tuna, sustained a positive demand trend in 2022. Imports of fresh and frozen tuna in 2022 were 25 percent higher at 80 000 tonnes, which had a Customs-declared value of USD 1.1 billion. Frozen tuna loins/steaks had the highest share in these imports (60 percent; 48 000 tonnes valued at USD 680 million); the top suppliers were Viet Nam, Indonesia and Thailand. Air-flown imports of high value fresh tuna had a 28 percent share in total imports at 22 750 tonnes.

Others

In the European Union, imports of fresh tuna weakened marginally in 2022 (-1.6 percent; 2 331 tonnes) but increased for frozen tuna fillet by 17 percent, reaching 33 000 tonnes valued at USD 373 million. The top markets were Spain, France, Italy, and Portugal; the leading exporters were the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, Mexico, Ecuador, and Japan.

Outside the European Union, consumer demand was positive in Switzerland but weakened in the United Kingdom due to the falling disposable income of consumers. Imports also declined in Ukraine and the Russian Federation due to the war.

Among the other developed markets, imports increased in Canada and Australia in 2022.

In the Asia-Pacific region, reopening of the HORECA sector boosted demand for high value tuna (sashimi and others) in China, the Republic of Korea, China, Hong Kong SAR, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore. Year-on-year imports of high priced fresh bluefin in China increased by 42 percent at 1 000 tonnes in 2022, of which Japan was the sole supplier.

Canned tuna trade

In 2022, overall demand for ready-to-eat products in North America, Japan, Australia and NENA improved compared to 2021. Thailand, Indonesia and Mauritius greatly benefited from this development, whereas exports declined from Ecuador, China, Spain, and the Philippines.

TUNA

Exports

Thailand, the top producer of ready-to-eat tuna products, reported increased sales to North America, the Middle East, Asia-Pacific and in the NENA region resulting in a nine percent rise in total exports. However, export trends were negative in other canned tuna exporting countries associated with weaker demand in the European Union, the United Kingdom and Latin American markets.

Imports

Despite the hikes in raw material prices, imports of ready-to-eat products increased in North America, the Middle East and Asia/Pacific in 2022 year-on-year in favour of exports from Thailand and Indonesia.

North and South America

Processed and canned tuna imports increased significantly in the largest single market for canned tuna, the United States (+19 percent; 242 438 tonnes), in favour of increased supplies from Thailand, Ecuador, Viet Nam and Mexico.

Imports in Canada were 21 percent higher with increased exports from Thailand, Viet Nam, Italy, and Ecuador to this market. In South America, canned tuna imports declined in Colombia (-14.5 percent; 33 990 tonnes), cutting exports by 25 percent from Ecuador. Imports increased in Chile (+28 percent; 25 340 tonnes), Argentina (+8 percent; 18 780 tonnes) and Mexico (+ 32 percent; 18 770 tonnes), but the decline was large in Peru (-37 percent; 11 632 tonnes).

Europe

Total imports of processed tuna in the European Union in 2022 were 12.6 percent lower than 2021 at 566 090 tonnes consisting of cooked frozen loins (+5 percent; 185 590 tonnes) and ready-to-eat products (-19 percent; 381 000 tonnes). The top importers were Spain, Italy, France, Germany and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Imports from non-European Union sources were 427 000 tonnes.

Imports in the United Kingdom increased by 3.8 percent at 96 728 tonnes in 2022; the top exporters were Ecuador, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Ghana. Imports from Spain, mostly consisting of higher value products, increased from 4 000 to 10 000 tonnes (+142 percent) year-on-year.

Among the other European markets, imports increased by 14.4 percent in Switzerland (10 243 tonnes) and 42 percent in Norway (1 916 tonnes) but declined by 32 percent to 2 490 tonnes in Ukraine.

TUNA

Asia Pacific and others

Consumer demand for ready-to-eat tuna in the NENA region improved in 2022. In response, imports increased in the large regional markets (Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates), primarily sourced from Thailand and Indonesia.

In the Asia/Pacific region, Japan and Australia are the most important markets for higher value canned tuna, where imports increased by 3.3 and 25 percent, respectively, in 2022. The top exporters were Thailand, Indonesia, Viet Nam and China. Imports also increased in China, Hong Kong SAR, mainland China and the Republic of Korea Republic but declined in Singapore.

RECENT NEWS

Malaysia is the largest import market of canned tuna in South East Asia, where imports mostly consisted of retail packs. During 2022, retail prices of conventional tuna cans (tuna in brine, in oil, in chili, mayonnaise etc.) increased by 20-30 percent, associated with rising production costs. Nonetheless supermarket shelf-space for this product group increased during this period.

Lately, supermarkets in Malaysia have started to offer higher value packs including MSC certified tuna, 220g jar of albacore in oil, made in Spain; tuna in Chilli, 95g /can; smoked tuna slices in olive oil, 125g/oval pack. Consumer response for these products is yet to be evaluated.

Prices

Tuna catches, particularly skipjack, were low from January–March 2023, keeping prices firm in the range of USD 1 700–1 900 per tonne CFR Thailand. The low supply status continued in April, pushing prices high at USD 2 000 per tonne CFR Thailand.

Frozen skipjack prices for delivery to Spain were stable at Euro 1 800 per tonne in April 2023, but increased for frozen yellowfin to Euro 2 900 per tonne as a result of rising consumer demand.

Due to weaker demand from the Spanish tuna canners, the price of single cleaned cooked skipjack loins declined to USD 5 550 per tonne (delivered, duty paid) in late April.

Prices for frozen skipjack in the Eastern Pacific Ocean was USD 1 800 per tonne CFR Manta, Ecuador. But yellowfin prices declined to USD 2 350 per tonne due to lower demand from European canners.

TUNA

Outlook

Imports of frozen skipjack in Thailand between January–February 2023 increased by 39 percent to 90 000 tonnes, with a big surge in supply from the Indian Ocean (the Maldives, Indonesia) and from Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, as local stocks of raw materials decreased. In Spain, imports of frozen yellowfin and skipjack also increased during this period. Prices of frozen tuna for reprocessing are unlikely to decrease until catches increase during the second quarter of the year.

Global economic uncertainties continue to undermine favourable market conditions for high value fishery products, including tuna. In the marketplace, mixed trends in the processed tuna trade surfaced between January–February 2023, when imports increased in North America but remained low in Europe. In view of slow catches and rising prices of frozen tuna, import demand for end products is unlikely to increase soon.

For non-canned tuna, demand trends were positive during the first quarter of 2023. In Japan, the Spring Festival events in April–May increased the number of tourists entering the country this year. Subsequently, overall demand for raw tuna improved during this period, compared with 2020 and 2021, particularly in the HORECA sector in Japan.

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

	2020	2021	2022
Canned or preserved tuna			
Ecuador	133.39	124.16	107.24
Spain	113.05	99.40	84.26
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	49.07	53.39	42.19
Other countries	404.88	371.20	332.40
Total imports	700.39	648.16	566.09

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Thailand imports of whole frozen tuna January–December, 2020–2022 (1 000 tonnes)

	2020	2021	2022	% change 2022/2021
Species				
Skipjack	610.55	498.07	546.72	9.80
Yellowfin	113.96	106.81	89.45	-16.30
Albacore	62.86	41.88	34.10	-16.60
Bigeye	24.41	31.55	18.51	-41.30
Total, including others	818.16	679.33	690.66	1.70

Source: Author's own elaboration based on TDM. 2023. Trade Data Monitor. Cited 1 May 2023. www.tradedatamonitor.com

Meet the expert

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

The World Trade Organization

Welcome to the GLOBEFISH "Meet the Expert" Section.

"Meet the Expert" aims at exploring and analyzing 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 Strahinja Ivanovic, Fishery Expert in the Rules Division at the World Trade Organization (WTO). WTO is the only global international organisation dealing with the rules of trade between nations.

During the interview, Mr Strahinja Ivanovic explained the role of WTO in terms of dealing with international trade agreements and providing technical assistance to Members. He mentioned that for fisheries and aquaculture products, there are measures that apply to them in order to be internationally commercialised worldwide, the most common are [tariffs](#). For these products, the applied tariff is ranged between zero and 30 percent, with an average of 40 percent of binding tariffs. Other non-tariff measures were explained, such as [sanitary and phytosanitary measures](#) (SPS), [rules of origin](#), [technical barriers to trade](#) (TBT), among others. Also, Mr Ivanovic expounded the [WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies](#) recently agreed by WTO Members. The different type of harmful subsidies covered and not covered in the Agreement were mentioned, as well as the process to implement this Agreement by WTO Members.

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: After more than 20 years of ongoing negotiations on fisheries subsidies, last June at the WTO 12th Ministerial Conference was a turning point for the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Members adopted the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, which prohibits harmful fisheries subsidies. Could you please explain what are the type of fisheries subsidies the WTO Agreement covers? What will happened with the other harmful subsidies not covered in the Agreement? And how will Members implement this Agreement?

Meet the Expert

Mr Strahinja Ivanovic: This Agreement was definitely a turning point for the WTO Members. The agreement is very important for ocean sustainability because it prohibits harmful fisheries subsidies that are one of the key factors in widespread depletion of the world's fish stocks. The Agreement is historic for the WTO for different reasons. First, this is the first sustainable development goal target to be fully met. This is the first SDG or Sustainable Development Goal target date has been met through a multilateral binding agreement and also for the WTO. Then, this is the first Agreement that focuses on the environment, the first broad, binding, multilateral agreement on ocean sustainability, and only the second agreement reached at the WTO since its inception.

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Please click the [link](#) for the full interview!

The War in Ukraine – Special Feature

GLOBEFISH HIGHLIGHTS

The war in Ukraine had an immediate and dramatic impact on the global economy, especially food and energy markets. There was a worsening of a number of pre-existing trends that emerged following the COVID-19 pandemic, and the effects of the war form a part of the 2021–2023 global energy crisis, 2021–2023 inflation surge and 2022–2023 food crises.

Since the start of the war, its impact on global commodity markets has abated somewhat, lessening upward pressure on input costs. The Black Sea Grain Initiative allowed Ukrainian maritime trade for certain goods from July 2022, easing global supplies of cereals and lowering aquatic feed prices. Brent crude oil prices have remained below pre-invasion levels since November 2022, easing fuel and input costs.

The following pages are a succinct overview of the major repercussions of the war in Ukraine on global markets, followed by relevant excerpts from the GLOBEFISH Highlights, chronicling the impact of the war in Ukraine as events unfolded.

Trade sanctions

While sanctions have largely focused on other goods, a number of countries have issued trade sanctions covering fish and fish products, ranging from tariffs to import bans on Russian goods and bans on Russian Federation-flagged vessels accessing ports. Certain countries already had restrictions in place following the occupation of Crimea in 2014. Major markets for fisheries and aquaculture products, most notably the United States, have banned imports of Russian seafood. Other markets, such as the European Union and Canada, have banned imports of caviar and caviar substitutes, crab and shrimp.

Trade disruptions

The Russian Federation is the third largest exporter of fish and fish products by value. The Russian fisheries sector is highly export-oriented, with more than half of production destined for international markets. Crab (snow crab, king crab), groundfish, salmon and small pelagics are the most valuable exports. Ukraine is a net importer of fish and fish products and prior to the war, was a relatively large import market for salmon and mackerel. Ukraine has a modest processing sector, primarily fileting imported salmon and cod. The war has severely impacted infrastructure, and trade is likely to be impacted for some time to come.

Energy prices

Early 2022 saw oil prices spike, with the Brent index jumping from USD 92 towards the end of February to USD 123 in early March. Prices experienced a period of volatility, but since November 2022 have remained below pre-invasion levels. The importance of fossil fuels across all stages of the fish value chain has the potential to change costs and prices significantly.

The War in Ukraine

Inflation

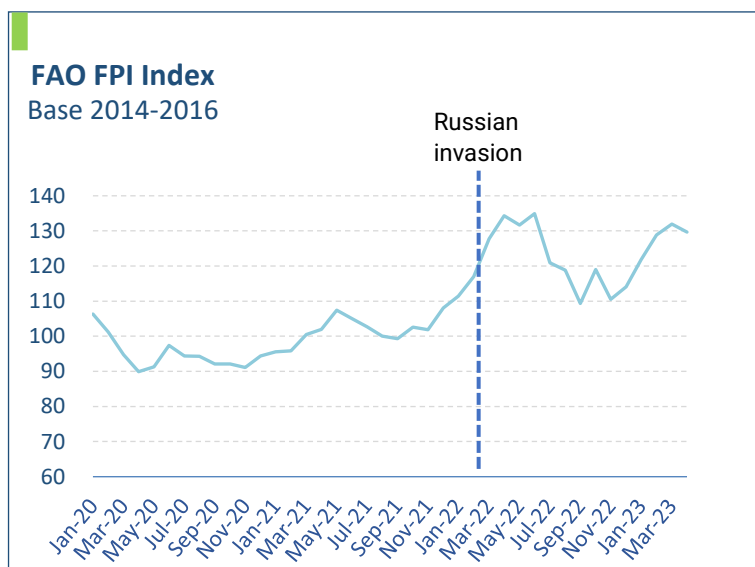
Exacerbating COVID-19 pandemic-driven trends, the war in Ukraine has been a major driver of global inflation, with food and fuel inflation being the primary sources of recent inflation.

Excerpts from GLOBEFISH material

The following texts are taken from commentaries written by GLOBEFISH analysts, touching on overall impacts and commodity-specific changes. In addition to the excerpts, data on fisheries and aquaculture production, trade and other information for [the Russian Federation](#) and [Ukraine](#) may be found in the [GLOBEFISH Market Profiles](#).

Fish and Fishery Products – Food Outlook June 2022

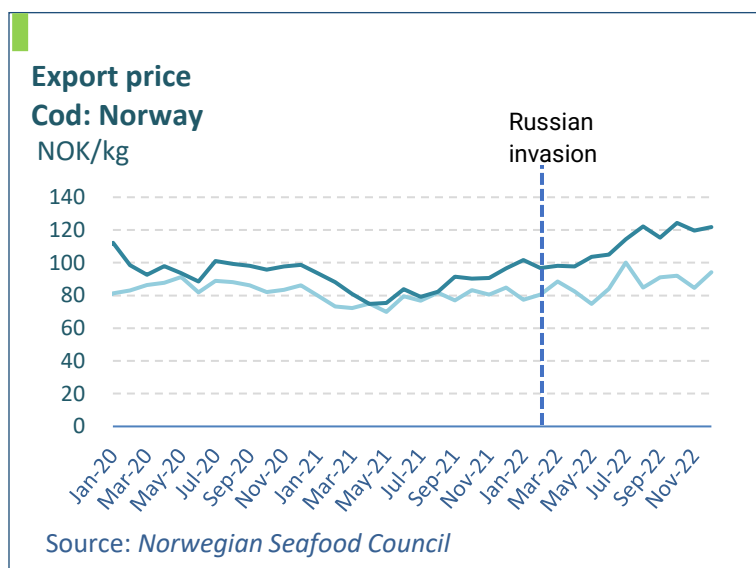
The war in Ukraine has introduced several additional concerns and uncertainties that are affecting the market. The extensive trade sanctions and boycotts of Russian products imposed by governments and businesses have prompted a reshuffling of trade routes and a scramble to fill shortfalls with alternative suppliers. In addition, inflation rates are now at extreme levels in many countries, while increasing commodity prices mean more expensive inputs, including feed and fuel. Combined with the continuing high cost of freight, this is squeezing margins all along the supply chain, particularly for processors, and pushing many seafood prices up.



The War in Ukraine

Groundfish – Highlights June 2022

The outbreak of the war in Ukraine has affected whitefish prices considerably. Prices for Norwegian headed and gutted cod shot up in March as many traders saw Russian fish as too risky. A shortage of fish is pushing prices up, and if sanctions against the Russian Federation are intensified, supplies will become even more problematic, and prices increase further. In addition to the effects of the war, inventories of several products are currently low. Normally, prices slip a bit during February and March as landings pick up, but that has not happened this year.



Salmon – Highlights June 2022

The war in Ukraine, the resulting international sanctions and the consequent impacts on logistics and the world economy are now central in the minds of analysts and observers of the global salmon sector. The rise in commodity and food prices directly impacts businesses' bottom lines, while the political repercussions of the war are deep and far-reaching. Large Western retail chains have pulled out of the Russian Federation in response to the war, and although the majority of European salmon production has been subject to a Russian embargo for many years, Chile has expanded its share of the Russian market significantly and now exports some 50 000 tonnes annually to the Russian Federation. For retailers outside of the Russian Federation, the war is nevertheless still a primary determinant of business decisions. Many have committed to reducing or eliminating products sourced from the Russian Federation, including seafood products. At the same time, the combination of increased costs, tight supply, recovering demand and widespread uncertainty is creating difficulties for many stakeholders, particularly processors and other supply chain intermediaries, despite the substantial increase in revenues resulting from spiking price levels.

The War in Ukraine

Shrimp – Highlights June 2022

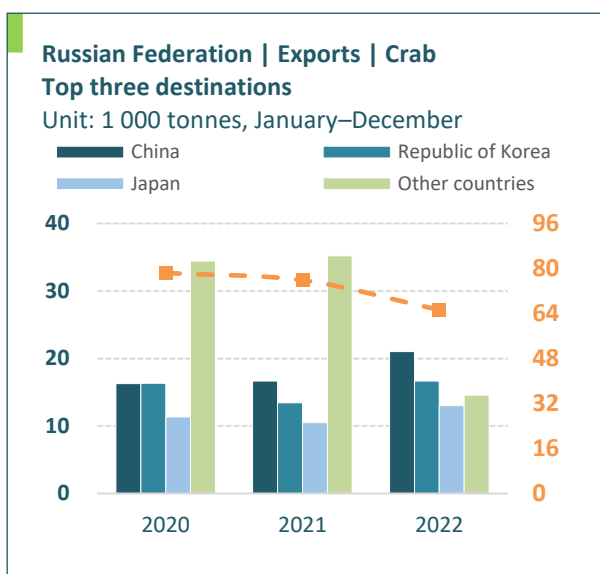
This year, imports in the Russian Federation are seriously affected because of the war in Ukraine. Shipments to the Russian Federation, Ecuador's sixth-largest shrimp market in 2021, have been forced to divert to other markets due to logistical complications and payment difficulties.

Shrimp – Highlight March 2023

The year-long war between the Russian Federation and Ukraine reduced shrimp consumption in both markets. The estimated imports in the Russian Federation would be about 30 000 tonnes, 50–60 percent lower than a year ago. Imports in Ukraine fell by 57.6 percent at 5 640 tonnes during this period.

Crab - Highlights June 2022

The war in Ukraine is having a major impact on the crab industry. The Russian Federation is the largest supplier of king crab and a major supplier of snow crab, and is now cut off from important markets. Trade has been diverted to countries that have not imposed trade sanctions on the Russian Federation. A result of all this turbulence is skyrocketing prices. The Russian Federation exported



USD 2.4 billion of crab in 2021, and secured 94 percent of the global red king crab quota for 2022. With Russian seafood now facing import bans in a number of countries, Russian crab is expected to be diverted to and through China and the Republic of Korea, neither of which have imposed sanctions.

Crab – Highlights March 2023

Supplies of king crab will be very tight in the coming months, as US distributors are running out of stocks of Russian crab. A year ago, there was a surge in imports of Russian king crab just before the ban was introduced in June. But these stocks are now running out, and it does not seem that there are any substitute supplies. Thus, supplies of red king crab on the US market will decline further, and prices are expected to rise.

The War in Ukraine

Small Pelagics – Highlights June 2022

The war in Ukraine has disrupted the market for pelagics. The Russian Federation is a major producer, market, and trader; Ukraine is an important market, especially for capelin. The Russian Federation, a big consumer, has had to rely more on domestic landings since trade was restricted following the 2014 invasion of Crimea. In the normal course of events, some of the Norwegian herring catch would find its way to the Russian Federation and Ukraine; the war has disrupted this trade for the foreseeable future.



N.B. trade data based on mirror data, as the Russian Federation has stopped reporting all trade data.

Mussels – Highlights March 2023

Total trade in mussels shrunk in the first nine months of 2022, mainly due to a sharp decline in trade with the Russian Federation. As a result of the trade stops as a reaction to the war in Ukraine, the Russian Federation imported 920 tonnes of mussels in the first nine months of 2022, which compares to 16 190 tonnes during the same period of 2021. Chile, which used to be the main mussel trading partner of the Russian Federation, was impacted by the disappearance of this trade. In fact, in the first nine months of 2022, Chile exported some 76 380 tonnes of mussels, down 6 000 tonnes from 2021. Despite this decline, Chile continues to be the main mussel-exporting country.

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