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Fishery Products

Annual Report - EU Policy & Statistics

2007

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Report Highlights:
This report gives an overview of the current situation in the EU fishery sector, provides information on the EU's import requirements and statistical data on EU fish catches, aquaculture, and imports and exports.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In CY 2005, total EU imports of fish, crustaceans and mollusks amounted to 4.4 million MT, a 5% increase in terms of volume compared to 2004. As a result of the near depletion of certain EU fishery stocks and the reduced annual catch quotas, the EU is becoming increasingly dependent on imports from third countries for its processing industry. In CY 2005, non-processed fishery products accounted for 84% of total EU imports of fish and fishery products.

In terms of volume, 5.4% of total CY 2005 EU imports of fish, crustaceans and mollusks came from the United States (5.8% in CY 2004). The EU imported 240,615 MT of fish and fishery products from the United States, with a value of EUR 669 million. “Fish fillets and other fish meat” (HS code 0304) accounted for 25% of total EU imports. The U.S. market share in this particular category is 12%.

In March 2006, the EU published Commission Decision 2006/199/EC, laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from the United States. Annex I to Decision 2006/199/EC establishes the model health certificate that U.S. exporters have to use for fishery products; Annex II lists the establishments that have been approved for export to the EU. This decision will facilitate trade between the United States and the EU.

Also in March 2006, the EU published Council Regulation 711/2006, which establishes amended duty rates and new quotas for certain products to compensate the United States for tariff increases that the EU implemented as a result of enlargement. The EU agreed to permanently reduce the tariffs on frozen fillets of hake (6.1% instead of 7.5%), frozen fillets of Alaska Pollack (14.2% instead of 15%) and surimi (14.2% instead of 15%).

SECTION I: SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

PRODUCTION – GENERAL

EU FISH CATCHES

In 2004, the EU-25 catch was 5.9 million MT, 6.2% of the world total. The Northeast Atlantic fishing region is of major importance with 72% of the EU-25 catches coming from this region. Denmark and Spain are the main contributors to the EU-25 catch. The 10 new member states only accounted for 9.8% of the EU-25 total catch. As a result of unsafe biological stock levels, catch limits are in place for several species such as anchovy, sandeel, herring, blue whiting, cod and sole.

EU Fish Catches - in 1,000 MT live weight			
	2003	2004	2005 (Provisional)
Belgium	27	27	24
Denmark	1 031	1 090	911
Germany	261	262	286
Greece	92	93	90
Spain	898	854	758
Finland	122	135	132
France	709	669	586
Ireland	266	280	*
Italy	283	279	294
Netherlands	526	522	547
Austria	0	0	0
Portugal	214	221	212
Sweden	287	270	255
U.K.	640	655	667
Total EU-15	**5 369**	**5 357**	**4 762**
Czech Rep.	5	5	4
Estonia	79	88	100
Cyprus	2	2	2
Latvia	115	125	151
Lithuania	157	162	138
Hungary	7	7	*
Malta	1	1	1
Poland	180	192	131
Slovenia	1	1	1
Slovak Rep.	2	2	3
Total EU-25	**5 918**	**5 941**	**5 293**

Source: Eurostat - * 2005 data are not yet available for Ireland and Hungary

Distribution of EU catches by major fishing zones, 2003-2004 - 1,000 MT live weight		
FAO Region	**2003 (EU-25)**	**2004 (EU-25)**
Northwest Atlantic	96	68
Northeast Atlantic	4173	4291
Eastern Central	575	571
Mediterranean & Black Sea	502	480
Southwest Atlantic	37	47
Southeast Atlantic	22	18
Indian Ocean, West	315	282
Inland waters	125	121
Total EU-25	**5918**	**5941**

Source: Eurostat

Catches of principal species by the EU-25, 2003-2004, in 1000 MT live weight		
	2003	2004
Common sole	36	35
European plaice	83	78
Cod	141	151
Norway pout	23	14
Haddock	63	63
Blue whiting	338	380
Whiting	35	29
European hake	58	60
Ling	19	13
Saithe	56	51
Sandeel	307	338
Atlantic redfish	57	36
Angler	19	18
Atlantic horse mackerel	176	182
Atlantic herring	673	737
European pilchard	245	258
European anchovy	115	144
European sprat	536	608
Skipjack tuna	222	182
Yellowfin tuna	210	250
Albacore	28	18
Swordfish	32	31
Atlantic mackerel	396	370
Norway lobster	54	56
Edible crab	40	40
Common shrimps	36	39
Blue mussel	96	112
Mediterranean mussel	43	35
Striped venus	45	42
sub-total	4184	4370
all others	1729	1571
Total catches	**5913**	**5941**

Source: Eurostat

AQUACULTURE

In 2004, the EU-25 aquaculture sector represented 18.8% of the total fisheries production. The main activities in EU aquaculture are sea fish farming, marine shellfish farming and fish farming in fresh water. In 2004, 45% of the total EU-25 aquaculture production was of fish and 55% of mollusks. 78% of aquaculture species were produced in marine waters: 63% from the Atlantic and 15% from the Mediterranean. Inland waters accounted for 22% of the production.

TOTAL AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION BY MEMBER STATE (Metric Tons)		
	CY 2003	CY 2004
Belgium	1 010	1 200
Denmark	32 187	42 252
Germany	74 280	57 233
Greece	101 209	97 068
Spain	313 288	363 181
France	245 846	243 907
Ireland	62 516	58 359
Italy	191 662	117 786
Netherlands	67 025	78 925
Austria	2 233	2 267
Portugal	7 829	6 700
Finland	13 335	12 821
Sweden	6 334	5 989
United Kingdom	181 837	207 203
Total EU-15	**1 300 591**	**1 294 891**
Czech Rep.	19 670	19 384
Estonia	372	252
Cyprus	1 821	2 425
Latvia	637	545
Lithuania	2 356	2 697
Hungary	11 870	12 744
Malta	881	868
Poland	34 526	35 258
Slovenia	1 353	1 599
Slovak Rep.	881	1 180
EU-25	**1 374 958**	**1 317 813**

Source: Eurostat

In 2004, aquaculture in the EU-15 represented 95% of total EU-25 production, with Spain (26%), France (18%), U.K. (15%) and Italy (9%) being the major contributors. Main species produced in the EU-25 are mussels and oysters, salmon, rainbow trout, seabream and common carp. Over 99% of the aquaculture production in the 10 new member states is of fish, mainly carp and trout.

EU-25 AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION - MAJOR SPECIES	
Belgium	Rainbow trout and common carp
Czech Republic	Common carp and bighead carp
Denmark	Rainbow trout and European eel
Germany	Rainbow trout and common carp
Estonia	Rainbow trout and common carp
Greece	Gilthead seabream and Mediterranean mussel
Spain	Blue mussel and rainbow trout
France	Pacific cupped oyster and blue mussel
Ireland	Blue mussel and Atlantic salmon
Italy	Mediterranean mussel and rainbow trout
Cyprus	Gilthead seabream and European seabass
Latvia	Common carp

Lithuania	Common carp
Hungary	Common carp and silver carp
Malta	Gilthead seabream and European seabass
Netherlands	Blue mussel and European eel
Austria	Rainbow trout and common carp
Poland	Common carp and rainbow trout
Portugal	Grooved carpet shell and gilthead seabream
Slovenia	Rainbow trout and common carp
Slovakia	Rainbow trout and common carp
Finland	Rainbow trout and European whitefish
Sweden	Rainbow trout and blue mussel
U.K.	Atlantic salmon and blue mussel
EU-10	**Common carp: 62% of total production** **Rainbow trout: 23% of total production**
EU-15	**Blue mussel: 39% of total production** **Rainbow trout: 15% of total production**
EU-25	**Blue mussel: 36% of total production** **Rainbow trout: 16% of total production**

Source: Eurostat

AQUACULTURE – EU FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products is one of the five target priority areas of the new European Fisheries Fund for the period 2007-2013. The following measures in aquaculture production will be eligible for EU financial support:

- Productive investments in aquaculture: diversification towards new species, production of species with good market prospects, support to traditional aquaculture, purchase of equipment to protect farms from natural predators.

- Aqua-environmental measures: environmentally friendly farming, participation in the EU's voluntary Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), and organic farming.

- Public health measures: compensation to mollusk farmers in cases of certain contaminations.

- Animal health measures: aid for control and eradication of diseases.

AQUACULTURE – INTRODUCTION OF NON-NATIVE SPECIES

In April 2006, the European Commission tabled a proposal to regulate the introduction of non-native species in aquaculture through a permit system at national level. A large portion of current EU aquaculture practices is based on non-native or alien species such as rainbow trout, Pacific oyster or carp. As aquaculture is a fast-growing industry where innovation and new outlets are being explored, it is very likely that new species will continue to be introduced in order to satisfy the needs of the market. However, in some cases, the introduction of alien species can have an adverse effect on ecosystems and cause significant loss of biodiversity. Under the proposed new rules, all projects to introduce an alien species would have to be submitted for approval to a national advisory committee, which would determine whether the proposed introduction was "routine" or "non-routine." In the case of "non-routine" introductions, an environmental risk assessment would have to be carried out. Only low-risk introductions would be granted a permit. For medium or high-risk introductions, operators would need to prove the availability of adequate mitigation procedures or technologies, which could reduce the risk to an adequately low level. The proposal also sets out a number of requirements concerning contingency plans, monitoring procedures and the keeping of national registers. The proposal was notified to the WTO (notification G/TBT/N/EEC/110) on June 2, 2006.

AQUACULTURE – HEALTH OF FARMED FISH AND SHELLFISH

In October 2006, the Council adopted new rules - Directive 2006/88/EC – on the health of farmed fish and shellfish and disease control in the aquaculture sector. The new directive repeals the rules that were previously laid down in three different directives (91/67/EEC, 93/53/EEC and 95/70/EC) and introduces a series of new measures, including more emphasis on disease prevention by applying stricter controls at each point in the production chain. Chapter IV of Directive 2006/88/EC sets the general requirements for the introduction of aquaculture animals into the EU from third countries. An animal health certificate must accompany all consignments of aquaculture animals, and products thereof.

PRODUCTION POLICY

COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

In December 2005, the European Commission launched its 3-year "Action Plan 2006-2008" to simplify the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Two areas of priority were established: stock conservation policy and control of fishing activities. For details on the CFP, see GAIN reports E24009 and E36013.

TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES (TACs) FOR 2007

Each year in December, the Council has to reach agreement on the Commission's proposal for Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and quotas for the next year. In this yearly exercise, the Commission tries to balance the need to rebuild depleted stocks with social-economic needs. The Commission proposal takes into account the scientific advice form the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the Commission's own Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries (STECF), as well as input from stakeholders. However, the final compromise reached at the Council is never as drastic as recommended, which triggers severe criticism from environmental groups.

For 2007, TACs for cod stocks will be cut by 20% in the west of Scotland and the Celtic Sea, and 15% for other stocks covered by a recovery plan. The cod catch in the North Sea will be cut by only 14% and not by 25% as originally proposed by the Commission. The number of days that vessels may spend at sea will be reduced by between 7% and 10% depending on the net mesh size. This deal was reached despite ICES' advice to completely ban cod catches and a cod recovery plan that has not yet produced the expected improvements. The Commission is proposing a review of the cod recovery plan in 2007.

With a proposed zero TAC, the anchovy fishery would in theory be closed. However, the Council agreed to allow an "experimental" fishing scheme between April 15 and June 15, 2007, on condition that scientific observers are allowed on board the vessels to gather data on anchovy stocks. Following the results of the experimental fishing scheme and new advice from ICES, the Commission will decide whether or not to re-open the fishery for anchovy.

Although recovery plans have been established for northern hake and sole in the Bay of Biscay and despite scientific advice to keep the TACs at 2006 levels, the TAC for northern hake has been increased by 20 % and by 12% for sole.

Recovery plans also exist for southern hake and Nephrops. As provided for in these plans, TACs will be cut by 8% and days allowed at sea will be cut by 10%. The Commission's proposal for long-term management plans for North Sea sole and North Sea plaice were not adopted at the December Council. However, the TAC for North Sea sole has been cut by 15% and by 12.5% for North Sea plaice.

The TAC for ling, skates and rays has been reduced by 20% and a number of TACs will remain at their 2006 levels, including megrims, horse mackerel, anglerfish, turbot, brill, lemon sole and witch.

The TACs agreed at the December Council were published in Official Journal L 15 of January 20, 2007 (Council Regulation 41/2006).

BALTIC SEA FISH TACs

TACs for the Baltic Sea were already adopted by the Council in October. Cod quotas will be reduced by 10% for the eastern stock and by 6% for the western stock. These reductions have been set on condition that agreement will be reached on a long-term cod recovery plan by June 30, 2007. If such an agreement is not reached by that date, the reductions will automatically increase to 15% for both stocks. Days allowed at sea have been further reduced by 10%.

The quota for salmon has been cut by 5%, the quota for plaice will remain at 2006 level. The TAC for sprat has been increased by 8%.

The TACs for the Baltic Sea were published in Official Journal L 367 of December 22, 2006 (Council Regulation 1941/2006).

DEEP-SEA FISH TACs

Deep-sea species such as sharks, black scabbardfish, tusk and forkbeards grow slowly and reproduce late which makes them particularly vulnerable to over-fishing. Due to the high risk of collapse of the deep-sea ecosystems, the Commission proposed significant cuts in TACs of 33% in 2007 and a further 33% in 2008 for the most endangered stocks. However, the cuts in TACS adopted at the November Council were not as drastic as proposed: TAC cuts of 25% in 2007 and 2008 were agreed for deep-sea sharks and orange roughy with the fishery phased out over 4 years, of 21% in 2007 and 2008 for blue ling and of 15% for roundnose grenadier.

The TACs for deep-sea fish stocks for 2007 and 2008 were published in Official Journal L 384 of December 29, 2006 (Council Regulation 2015/2006).

RECOVERY PLANS

There are two types of multi-annual plans: recovery plans to help rebuild stocks that are in danger of collapse and management plans to maintain stocks at safe biological levels. Recovery plans contain formulas for calculating annual TACs and quotas based on scientific stock estimates. The following plans have been adopted/proposed:

- Multi-annual plan for sole in the Bay of Biscay (Council Regulation 388/2006)

- Recovery plan for Southern hake and Norway lobster in the Cantabrian Sea and Western Iberian peninsula (Council Regulation 2166/2005)

- Recovery plan for Greenland halibut in the framework of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (Council Regulation 2115/2005)

- Recovery plan for Northern hake (Council Regulation 811/2004)

- Recovery plan for cod in the North Sea, Kattegat, Skagerrak, Eastern Channel, west of Scotland and Irish Sea (Council Regulation 423/2004)

- Multi-annual plan for cod stocks in the Baltic Sea (proposal)

- Management plan for plaice and sole in the North Sea (proposal)

- Recovery plan for European eel (proposal)

NEW EUROPEAN FISHERIES FUND

In June 2006, the Council adopted the Commission's proposal for a new European Fisheries Fund (EFF). The EFF, published as Council Regulation 1198/2006, replaces the former Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) as the EU's key instrument for financial support to the fisheries sector. The EFF covers the period January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2013, with a budget of EUR 3.849 billion. The EU's less developed areas, the so-called convergence regions, have been allocated the biggest shares of the EFF.

The new EFF will target five priority areas:

- Adaptation of the EU fishing fleet to available sources
- Aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products
- Measures of collective benefit
- Sustainable development of fisheries areas
- Technical assistance to facilitate the delivery of EFF aid

Allocation of EFF aid from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2013, is as follows (in EUR):

Member State	Convergence	Non-convergence	Total
Austria	167 228	4 500 253	4 667 481
Belgium		23 301 312	23 301 312
Cyprus		17 500 989	17 500 989
Czech Republic	24 003 691		24 003 691
Denmark		118 606 682	118 606 682
Estonia	74 632 182		74 632 182
Finland		35 001 972	35 001 972
France	30 389 485	161 309 090	191 698 575
Germany	86 073 715	52 352 951	138 426 666
Greece	157 293 830	27 501 551	184 795 381
Hungary	30 399 339	496 000	30 895 339
Ireland		37 502 115	37 502 115
Italy	282 489 352	94 105 302	376 594 654
Latvia	110 369 814		110 369 814
Lithuania	48 418 135		48 418 135
Malta	7 435 476		7 435 476
Netherlands		43 102 430	43 102 430
Poland	651 791 012		651 791 012

Portugal	198 766 492	20 001 128	218 767 620
Slovakia	11 242 552	892 801	12 135 353
Slovenia	19 330 990		19 330 990
Spain	840 215 806	165 209 310	1 005 425 116
Sweden		48 502 732	48 502 732
United Kingdom	38 335 019	84 004 734	122 339 753
Total	**2 611 354 118**	**933 891 352**	**3 545 245 470**

Source: European Commission

TRADE AGREEMENTS

Bilateral fisheries agreements between the EU and third countries establish the general framework for the access of EU fleets to the waters of these countries. Each agreement includes a "Protocol" which lays down the specific conditions for its implementation. The type of agreement varies in terms of the partner country. Reciprocity agreements are usually concluded with Northern European countries and take the form of a straightforward exchange of fishing quotas in their respective waters. With other countries (African, Indian Ocean and Greenland), which do not fully exploit their fishery resources, the EU concludes partnership agreements. Under such agreements, the EU pays a financial contribution to access the third country's fishing zone. Vessel owners wishing to operate within the framework of these agreements have to pay a contribution.

Agreements have been concluded with Cape Verde, Comoros, Ivory Coast, Greenland, Guinea, Mauritania, Micronesia, Morocco, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Norway, Faroe Islands and Iceland.

IMPORT POLICY

In January 2006, the EU's new food hygiene rules entered into force. General hygiene rules are established for the production of all food but specific rules exist for bivalve mollusks and fishery products. Detailed information on the EU's hygiene rules is available on our website at http://useu.usmission.gov/agri/foodsafe.html.

U.S. EXPORTS TO THE EU

In the context of the Veterinary Equivalency Agreement, the EU published Commission Decision 2006/199/EC, laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from the United States. Annex I to Decision 2006/199/EC establishes the model health certificate that U.S. exporters have to use for fishery products; Annex II lists the establishments that have been approved for export to the EU. This decision will facilitate trade between the United States and the EU, as imports of U.S. fishery products are no longer restricted to the member state of "first port of entry". Products can now be marketed throughout the EU and member states no longer have the possibility to impose national requirements in addition to EU requirements.

Specific EU import conditions have **not** yet been set for imports of live bivalve mollusks from the United States which means that certification requirements set by Commission Decision 2003/804/EC, amended by Commission Decision 2005/409/EC, still apply. In addition to the requirements set by EU legislation, member states can impose additional requirements.

In the United States, both the Food and Drug Administration and National Marine Fisheries Service have the authority to issue certificates for export to the EU. For more information on EU certification requirements, please contact:

- Food and Drug Administration
Office of Seafood
Tel: 301-436-2300
http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~frf/sfeuexp.html

- Stephane Vrignaud
National Marine Fisheries Service Representative
U.S. Mission to the EU, Brussels, Belgium
Tel: 32-2-508-2842
E-mail: Stephane.Vrignaud@mail.doc.gov

CONTAMINANTS

Commission Regulation 1881/2006, applicable as of March 1, 2007, sets out new maximum levels for lead, cadmium, mercury and dioxins in fishery products. For more information see our website http://useu.usmission.gov/agri/contaminants.html

The monitoring of residues of veterinary drugs and other chemicals in animals and animal products is addressed in Council Directive 96/23/EC. In order to export to the EU, third countries must submit residue-monitoring plans. For aquaculture, the United States is included in the list established by Commission Decision 2006/208/EC on the approval of reside-monitoring plans submitted by third countries.

IMPORT DUTIES & QUOTAS

TARIFFS

EU import duties for fish and process fish products are published in the EU's Tariff Schedule. Tariffs applicable as of January 1, 2007, can be found in Official Journal L 301 of October 31, 2006, and can be accessed through our website at http://useu.usmission.gov/agri/customs.html. Chapter 3 of the EU Tariff Schedule relates to fresh, chilled and frozen fish; chapter 16 to processed fish products.

In March 2006, the EU published Council Regulation 711/2006, which establishes amended duty rates and new quotas for certain products to compensate the United States for tariff increases that the EU implemented as a result of enlargement. The EU agreed to permanently reduce the tariffs on frozen fillets of hake (6.1% instead of 7.5%), frozen fillets of Alaska Pollack (14.2% instead of 15%) and surimi (14.2% instead of 15%).

QUOTAS

Council Regulation 1255/96, amended by Council Regulation 1897/2006, temporarily suspends the tariff duties on certain industrial, agricultural and fishery products, which cannot adequately be supplied by EU producers. Due to the EU's strong dependency on imports of fresh products and raw materials for its fisheries processing industry, Council Regulation 1897/2006 suspends import duties on the following products for the period 2007-2008:

CN Code	Description
0302 69 99 0302 79 98	Sturgeons, fresh, chilled or frozen, for processing
0302 69 99	Lump fish with roe, fresh or chilled, for processing
0302 69 99	Red Snapper, fresh chilled or frozen, for processing

0302 79 98	
0302 70 00 0302 80 90	Hard fish roes, fresh, chilled or frozen
0303 11 00 0303 19 00	Pacific salmon, frozen and headless, for the processing industry for manufacture into pastes or spreads
0304 19 39 0304 19 99 0304 29 61 0304 99 99	Fillets and meat of dogfish, fresh, chilled or frozen
0305 20 00	Hard fish roes, salted or in brine
0306 19 90 0306 29 90	Krill for processing
1604 11 00 1604 20 10	Pacific salmon, for the processing industry for manufacture into pastes or spreads
1604 30 90	Hard fish roes, washed, cleaned of adherent organs and simply salted or in brine, for processing
1605 10 00	Crabs of the species “King”, “Hansaki”, “Kengani”, “Queen” and “Snow”, “Red”, “Rough Stone”, “Mud”, simply boiled in water and shelled, whether or not frozen, in immediate packings of a net content of 2 kg or more
1605 10 00	Crabs of the species Paralomis granulosa

Under the Uruguay Round Agreement, the EU agreed to open tariff quotas for certain commodities. The table below shows the WTO quotas for fish, as published in Annex 7 to the EU’s 2007 Tariff Schedule:

Description	Quota Quantity (MT)	Rate of Duty (%)
Tunas (for the canning industry)	17 250	0
Herrings	34 000	0
Silver hake	2 000	8
Fish of the genus Coregonus	1 000	5.5
Fish of the genus Allocyttus and of the species Pseudocyttus maculates	200	0
Cod of the species Gadus morhua and Gadus ogac	25 000	0
Shrimps of the species Pandalus borealis, shelled, boiled, frozen, but not further processed	500	0

MARKETING

LABELING

ALLERGEN LABELING

[Directive 2003/89/EC](), in force since November 2005, makes the labeling of potential allergens mandatory. The list of 12 groups of potential established by this directive includes “fish and products thereof” and “crustaceans and products thereof”. Food manufacturers must indicate the source allergen on the label if it is used as an ingredient at any level in pre-packed foods. Directive 2006/142/EC (applicable as of December 2008) adds “mollusks and products thereof” to the list of potential allergens. More information on food labeling can be found on our website at http://useu.usmission.gov/agr/label.html.

ECO-LABELING

With supermarket chains and trading companies becoming increasingly interested in food products that are labeled as environmentally responsible, there has been a proliferation of private eco-labeling initiatives. In June 2005, the European Commission presented a “Communication” with the objective to launch a debate on the eco-labeling of fishery products. Three possible options were presented: non-action, creating a single EU eco-labeling scheme or establishing minimum requirements for voluntary eco-labeling schemes. In June 2006, the European Parliament released a report on the Commission’s communication in which it heavily criticizes “the poor analysis and limited content”. According to the EP’s report, the wording used in the communication implies that the Commission is rejecting in advance the establishment of a single EU eco-labeling scheme. No further progress has been reported.

CONSUMPTION

No updated EU figures available.

TRADE - GENERAL

The EU has a major trade deficit in fish and fishery products. In CY 2005, EU imports of fish, crustaceans and mollusks totaled EUR 13.6 billion while exports totaled EUR 2.1 billion, a trade deficit of EUR 11.5 billion. In terms of volume, the EU imported 4.4 million MT of fish and fishery products and exported 1.7 million MT, a deficit of 2.7 million MT. Norway is the main supplier of fish and fishery products to the EU, accounting for 16.8% of total EU imports in terms of value. The other major suppliers, ranked in descending order of importance, were Iceland, China, United States, Morocco, Thailand, Chile, Ecuador, Argentina and India.

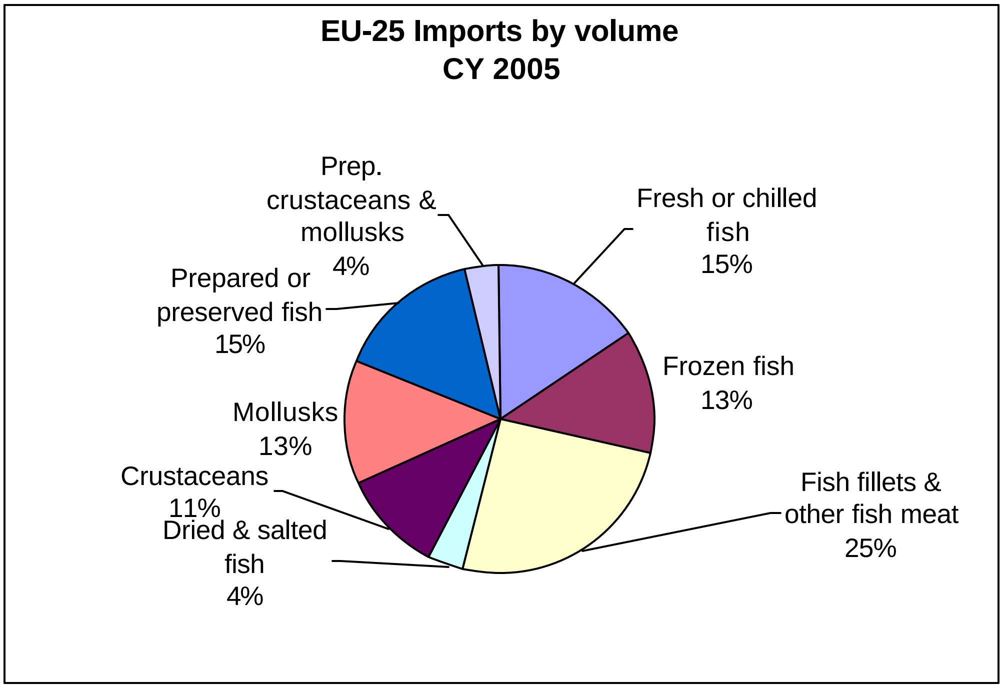
TRADE – EU/WORLD

In CY 2005, total EU imports of fish, crustaceans and mollusks amounted to 4.4 million MT, a 5% increase in terms of volume compared to 2004. As a result of the near depletion of certain EU fishery stocks and the reduced annual TACs, the EU is becoming increasingly dependent on imports from third countries for its processing industry. In CY 2005, 84% of total EU imports were non-processed fishery products. “Fish fillets and other fish meat” (HS code 0304) accounted for 25% of total EU imports. The U.S. market share in this particular category is 12%.

Spain accounts for 22% of total EU imports, mainly importing crustaceans, mollusks and frozen fish. Other major importing states are United Kingdom (12%) mainly importing prepared fish, Denmark (12%) mainly importing fresh or chilled fish, Germany (10%) mainly importing fish fillets and Italy (9%) mainly importing mollusks and prepared fish.

TOTAL EU-25 IMPORTS, BY HS-CODE, CY 2005			
HS Code	**Description**	**Metric Tons**	**1000 EUR**
0302	Fresh or chilled fish	687 032	1 992 416
0303	Frozen fish	581 189	1 121 874
0304	Fish fillets & other fish meat	1 127 876	3 277 510
0305	Dried & salted fish	165 441	801 443
0306	Crustaceans	468 828	2 392 894
0307	Mollusks	582 923	1 562 555
1604	Prepared or preserved fish	675 539	1 700 301
1605	Prepared or preserved crustaceans & mollusks	159 553	753 376
Total		**4 449 084**	**13 602 368**

Source: Eurostat

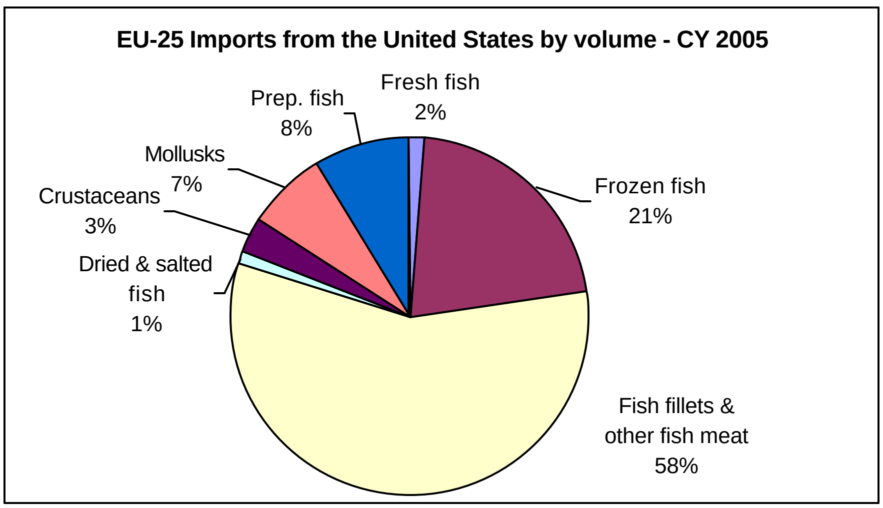


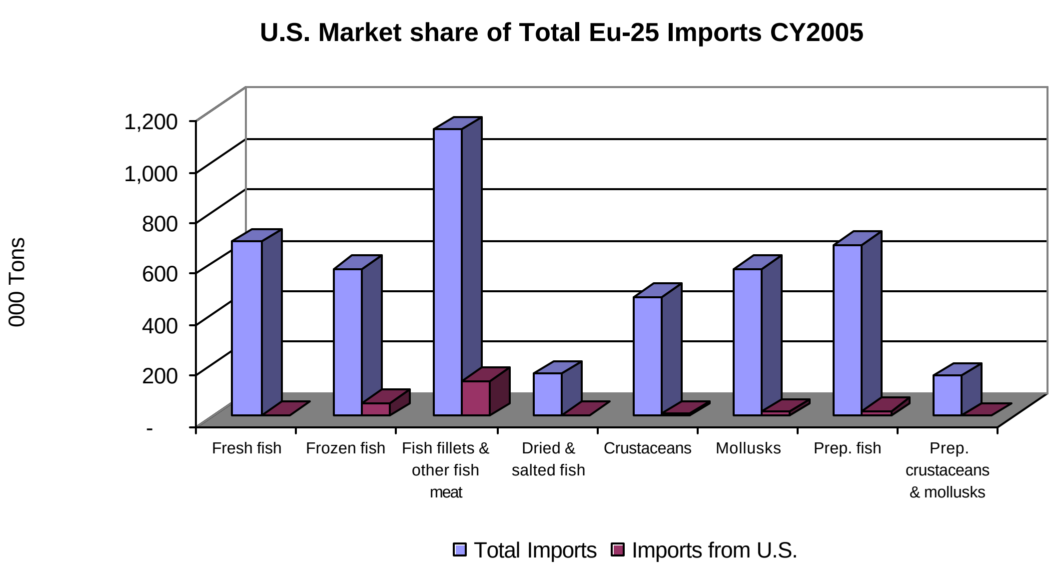
TRADE – EU / US

In terms of volume, 5.4% of total CY 2005 EU imports of fish, crustaceans and mollusks came from the United States (5.8% in CY 2004). The EU imported 240,615 MT of fish and fishery products from the United States, with a value of EUR 669 million. With 12% market share, products under HS heading 0304 "fish fillets and other fish meat" are the most significant. Imports under this heading mainly consist of frozen fillets and meat of Alaska Pollack going to Germany, France, United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

U.S. MARKET SHARE OF TOTAL EU-25 IMPORTS, CY 2005 – Metric Tons				
HS Code	**Description**	**Imports from all third countries**	**Imports from U.S.**	**% Share**
0302	Fresh or chilled fish	687 032	4 117	0.5
0303	Frozen fish	581 189	51 086	8.8
0304	Fish fillets & other fish meat	1 127 876	136 266	12
0305	Dried & salted fish	165 441	3 237	2
0306	Crustaceans	468 828	7 713	1.6
0307	Mollusks	582 923	17 538	3
1604	Prepared or preserved fish	675 539	20 275	3
1605	Prepared or preserved crustaceans & mollusks	159 553	284	0.2
Total		**4 449 084**	**240 615**	**5.4**

Source: Eurostat





In CY 2005, the main importers of U.S. fishery products were Germany (26% of total EU imports from the U.S.), France (16.3%), United Kingdom (13%), Netherlands (12%) and Spain (9%).

EU-25 IMPORTS OF U.S. FISHERY PRODUCTS, BY MEMBER STATE CY 2005 – Metric Tons HS Chapters 0302 + 0303 + 0304 + 0305 + 0306 + 0307 + 1604 + 1605	
Germany	63 128
France	39 170
United Kingdom	31 919
Netherlands	28 437
Spain	20 337
Portugal	18 401
Denmark	7 937
Italy	6 743
Lithuania	6 689
Poland	4 592
Belgium	4 227
Sweden	3 167
Greece	2 261
Czech Republic	1 584
Slovakia	844
Ireland	425
Estonia	399
Latvia	213
Austria	43
Malta	36
Slovenia	28
Cyprus	18
Finland	16
Hungary	-
Luxembourg	-
EU-25	**240 615**

Source: Eurostat

MAIN U.S. FISH & FISHERY PRODUCTS BY MAJOR IMPORTING EU MEMBER STATES – CY 2005				
Product	**CN Code**	**Member State**	**Volume (MT)**	**Value (1,000 EUR)**
Frozen fillets of Alaska Pollack	03042085	Germany Netherlands France U.K.	46 931 15 930 9 772 9 049	89 504 32 115 19 002 19 196
Live lobsters	03062210	Italy France	2 877 1 693	38 965 21 740
Frozen cod	03036090	Portugal	13 234	30 783
Frozen salmon	03031900	Germany France	4 069 3 917	8 998 7 680
Frozen surimi	03049005	France Spain	6 606 3 732	10 304 7 666

		Netherlands	3 207	4 608
Fish meat of Alaska Pollack	03049061	Germany France U.K.	2 768 2 628 1 910	3 085 3 136 2 243
Frozen whole albacore	03034111	Spain	3 444	7 036

Source: Eurostat

TOTAL EU-25 IMPORTS OF U.S. FISH & FISHERY PRODUCTS BY CATEGORY – CY 2005		
Category	**Metric Tons**	**Value (1,000 EUR)**
Salmon	16 943	39 122
Canned Salmon	18 368	58 264
Groundfish	28 183	64 300
Groundfish Fillets	98 620	188 637
Flatfish	524	2 250
Lobster	7 653	100 759
Squid / Cuttlefish	9 822	15 995

Source: Eurostat

In CY 2005, EU imports from the United States and their share in terms of volume of total EU imports were as follows: salmon 16,943 MT (5%), canned salmon 18,368 MT, groundfish 28,183 MT (9%), groundfish fillets 98,620 MT (22%), flatfish 524 MT (1%), lobster 7,653 MT (34%), squid/cuttlefish 9,822 MT (3%).

Although imports of U.S. canned salmon decreased by 18% in CY 2005 compared to CY 2004, the United States was still the number one supplier to the EU, accounting for 61% of total EU imports in terms of volume of which 82% was imported by the U.K. For more details see GAIN Report UK6032.

The United States is also a significant supplier of groundfish fillets to the EU. In CY 2005, the United States accounted for 22% (status quo with CY 2004) of total EU imports in terms of volume. This category mainly consists of frozen fillets of Alaska Pollack imported by Germany, Netherlands, France and the U.K. For more details see GAIN Report GM6037 (Germany), GAIN Report FR6054 (France) and GAIN Report UK6032 (U.K.). Imports from main competitor China increased by 11% compared to CY 2004. China has firmly re-conquered its position as leading supplier to the EU after the ban following the detection of the antibiotic chloramphenicol was lifted in 2003.

With a market share of 34% in terms of volume, the United States is the number two supplier of lobster to the EU with Canada being its main competitor. EU lobster imports from the United States increased slightly, by 2%. The main importing member states in CY 2005 were Italy and France. For more details see GAIN Report IT6021 (Italy) and GAIN Report FR6054 (France).

SECTION II: STATISTICAL TABLES

EU-25 IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS: JANUARY - DECEMBER 2005 & 2004 (Source: Eurostat)

Product: Salmon (excl. fillets) (in Metric Tons)					
Destination	**Exports from the EU-25**		**Origin**	**Imports into the EU-25**	
	2005	**2004**		**2005**	**2004**
U.S.	5 684	9 623	U.S.	16 943	18 019
Russia	2 029	805	Norway	314 913	284 769
Japan	1 196	2 321	Faroe Isles	9 500	23 504
Switzerland	708	930	Canada	4 744	6 131
Lebanon	432	454	Iceland	3 220	2 102
Faroe Isles	398	27	Chile	711	249
Ukraine	271	370	China	544	486
Sth Africa	259	252	Bulgaria	30	0
Belarus	236	159	Vietnam	30	24
Canada	205	616	India	27	0
Others	1855	3 321	Others	100	293
Total third countries	13 273	18 869	Total third countries	350 762	335 577

Product: Canned Salmon (in Metric Tons)					
Destination	**Exports from the EU-25**		**Origin**	**Imports into the EU-25**	
	2005	**2004**		**2005**	**2004**
U.S.	24	80	U.S.	18 368	22 513
Australia	83	2	Canada	8 115	7 560
Switzerland	65	70	Thailand	1 937	1 466
Hong Kong	29	37	Norway	793	677
Norway	27	57	Chile	481	633
New Caledonia	22	19	China	380	308
Japan	17	5	Vietnam	42	13
Serbia	16	0	Indonesia	22	92
Bosnia & Herzegovina	15	2	Iceland	18	55
Israel	9	1	Seychelles	14	0
Others	140	233	Others	10	197
Total third countries	447	506	Total third countries	30 180	33 514

Product: Groundfish (in Metric Tons)					
Destination	Exports from the EU-25		Origin	Imports into the EU-25	
	2005	2004		2005	2004
U.S.	531	548	U.S.	28 183	20 282
China	4 359	8 696	Norway	62 741	63 404
Ukraine	3 954	909	Russia	58 468	60 079
Russia	1 620	1 293	Sth Africa	30 806	32 710
Algeria	962	1 704	Faroe Isles	28 528	30 346
Belarus	858	306	Iceland	28 310	28 440
Switzerland	579	283	Chile	19 761	20 017
Croatia	575	926	Namibia	17 165	25 099
Macedonia	547	539	Argentina	11 956	22 775
Canada	515	282	Canada	8 000	10 363
Others		2 991	Others	17 930	21 376
Total third countries	18 924	18 913	Total third countries	311 758	334 891

Product: Groundfish Fillets (in Metric Tons)					
Destination	Exports from the EU-25		Origin	Imports into the EU-25	
	2005	2004		2005	2004
U.S.	2 098	1 988	U.S.	98 620	98 048
Russia	2 207	683	China	162 634	145 981
Switzerland	1 371	1 256	Iceland	71 631	68 247
Romania	801	117	Russia	42 491	40 606
Algeria	668	374	Norway	36 693	37 681
Norway	353	503	Faroe Isles	21 886	19 769
Kuwait	263	21	Peru	5 725	4 530
China	155	380	Greenland	2 797	1 686
Belarus	106	6	Chile	2 548	6 381
Iceland	104	328	Namibia	729	829
Others	1 342	1 028	Others	2 840	4 534
Total third countries	9 468	6 684	Total third countries	448 594	428 292

Product: Flatfish (in Metric Tons)					
Destination	Exports from the EU-25		Origin	Imports into the EU-25	
	2005	2004		2005	2004
U.S.	1 287	1 284	U.S.	524	336
China	9 729	6 986	Greenland	16 761	12 129
Japan	6 962	7 119	Norway	9 523	10 381
Taiwan	4 893	6 161	Morocco	5 796	5 747
Ukraine	1 693	748	Iceland	3 386	3 854
Hong Kong	759	887	Faroe Isles	2 771	3 354
Sth Korea	648	479	Mauritania	1 993	2 116
Russia	503	353	Senegal	1 444	2 309
Morocco	401	686	China	1 033	833
Switzerland	204	177	Russia	894	1 609
Others	1 179	1 168	Others	2 566	3 308
Total third countries	28 258	26 048	Total third countries	46 691	45 976

Product: Lobster (in Metric Tons)					
Destination	Exports from the EU-25		Origin	Imports into the EU-25	
	2005	2004		2005	2004
U.S.	80	196	U.S.	7 653	7 518
Japan	283	294	Canada	7 942	8 251
Switzerland	51	43	Cuba	2 658	2 312
Norway	35	37	Bahamas	1 236	1 040
China	21	0	Sth Africa	446	481
Russia	8	7	Australia	391	322
Croatia	6	12	Morocco	296	309
Ivory Coast	5	1	El Salvador	265	226
Gibraltar	5	5	Mauritania	116	158
Hong Kong	2	3	Madagascar	92	182
Others	206	104	Others	1 321	2 300
Total third countries	553	702	Total third countries	22 416	22 099

Product: Squid / Cuttlefish (in Metric Tons)					
Destination	**Exports from the EU-25**		**Origin**	**Imports into the EU-25**	
	2005	**2004**		**2005**	**2004**
U.S.	127	258	U.S.	9 822	10 152
Croatia	4 012	3 782	India	64 218	59 071
Sth Africa	1 745	1 217	Falkland Isl.	42 803	27 607
Turkey	760	518	Thailand	32 849	34 027
Russia	628	558	China	25 574	27 135
Thailand	473	628	Peru	21 956	17 307
Algeria	423	391	New Zealand	16 446	22 205
Morocco	414	253	Morocco	13 134	9 189
Switzerland	380	373	Malaysia	12 888	9 621
Vietnam	355	259	Sth Africa	10 666	7 751
Others	2 456	3 383	Others	53 630	59 317
Total third countries	11 773	11 620	Total third countries	304 166	283 382

GLOSSARY & SOURCES

CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
CN	Combined Nomenclature (tariff codes)
CY	Calendar Year
DG	Directorate General
EFF	European Fisheries Fund
EU	European Union
EMAS	Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (Voluntary EU scheme)
FAO	Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDA	Food & Drug Administration
HS	Harmonized System (tariff codes)
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
MT	Metric Ton (1000 kg)
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
STECF	Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
U.K.	United Kingdom
U.S.	United States
WTO	World Trade Organization

Exchange Rates:
2005: 1 Euro = 1.2441 U.S. Dollar
2004: 1 Euro = 1.2439 U.S. Dollar
2003: 1 Euro = 1.1309 U.S. Dollar

EU Legislation:
The referenced legislation can be downloaded from the Internet at http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm.

Sources:
- European Commission: DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, DG Health & Consumer Protection
- Eurostat
- SeafoodPlus
- National Marine Fisheries Service

Trade Shows

The annual European Seafood Exposition (ESE) in Brussels, Belgium, is the largest seafood event in the world and attracts buyers from over 130 countries. ESE will take place from April 24-26, 2007. For more information on ESE please visit their website at http://www.euroseafood.com or contact Mary Ann Kurvink, Office of Agricultural Affairs, The Hague, the Netherlands, phone (31-70) 310-9299, e-mail agthehague@fas.usda.gov

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