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**Italy**

## Fishery Products – Annual Report

**2006**

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**Report Highlights:**

Italian and EU fish catches continue to drop, due to diminished stocks, strict fishing and environmental laws and a shrinking fishing fleet. While aquaculture and freshwater production are steady, Italian seafood consumption is rising, and favoring a boost in imports.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes  
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### Overview of Italian fisheries

Italy's fish and seafood sector relies on imports to bridge the gap between increasing consumer demand and reduced domestic production. Recent data from IREPA (The Italian National Economic Observatory on the Productive Structures of Sea Fisheries), indicate that during the first four months of 2006 national fish industry output dropped by 7% to just over 49,000 tons compared with some 53,000 tons produced during the same timeframe in 2005. This decline is the result of both a continued reduction in total capacity and a lower activity level. However, market value increased by 7%, going from over 267 million Euros in 2005 to over 286 million Euros in 2006. Italy's southern regions, especially Sicily, were affected the most by the decrease in production.

**Table 1. Italian Marine Production (metric tons)**

	Species	FISH		SHELLFISH		Crustaceans	TOTAL
	Anchovies, Herring & Mackerel	Tuna	Other	Squid, Octopus & Cuttlefish	Other		
<b>Timeframe</b>							
2003	61,903	14,184	65,648	15,458	89,534	18,404	<b>265,133</b>
2004	70,390	16,385	64,546	14,477	78,396	16,368	<b>260,565</b>
2004 Jan-Oct	58,468	13,977	52,568	12,233	65,625	12,767	<b>215,639</b>
2005 Jan-Oct	68,285	13,556	88,165	14,647	31,246	24,003	<b>239,904</b>

Source: ISTAT (Italian Official Statistics Institute)

**Table 2. Italian Fish Imports & Exports to/from the World (metric tons)**

Year	2004	2005	Jan-July 2005	Jan-July 2006
<b>Imports</b>	650,314	658,382	367,873	388,281
<b>Exports</b>	98,189	105,179	60,039	65,543

Source: ISTAT (Italian Official Statistics Institute)

The Italian fishery industry represents 1% of Italy's Gross Domestic Product. The importance of the industry continues to decline largely due to a falling fish stocks and the subsequent limitations placed on the fishing industry. In 2004, the Italian fish catch represented almost 5% of the total EU25 production, with over 50% of the EU25 consumption sourced from the Mediterranean. Mediterranean Sea catch and aquaculture account for most of the Italian production, while the freshwater and Atlantic Ocean catch are much less significant.

The average number of days at sea for the Italian fishing fleet decreased from 141 in 2004 to 134 in 2005. Increasing operating costs (in particular of fuel) and bad weather conditions reduced total effort and caused a significant change to fishing areas, with higher effort in coastal areas, even if this implied lower productivity. Industry sources forecast that for the 2006/2007 fishing season, revenues will remain stable, but increasing costs, mostly due to rising fuel prices, will negatively affect the profitability of the entire fleet.

**Marine catch**

Italy has about 8,000 kilometers of Mediterranean coastline. According to 2005 data, over 14,000 vessels operate off the coast, with a total Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) over 168,700 tons and total engine power of 1,184.130 kw. This 2005 fishing fleet is down almost 4%, or 569 ships, from 2004. It is an aging fleet, with 45% of the ships more than 26 years old, and 29% between 15 and 25 years of age.

**Table 3. Italian Fishing Fleet**

Year	Number of Vessels	Change %	Total Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT)	Total Engine Power KW
1996	16,067	N/a	226.147	1,465,582
1997	16,293	1,4	225.867	1,464,960
1998	19,608	20,3	228.517	1,522,056
1999	19,798	1,0	230.018	1,534,284
2000	18,390	-7,1	207.550	1,404,929
2001	16,636	-9,5	187.347	1,300,256
2002	15,915	-4,3	178.344	1,253,177
2003	15,602	-2,0	178.037	1,253,825
2004	14,873	-4,7	172.302	1,212,532
2005	14,304	-3,8	168.700	1,184,130

Source: ISTAT (Official Italian Statistical Institute)

**Table 4. Economic indicators for the Italian Fishing Fleet in Millions of EUROS**

	2004	Change 2004/2003, %
• Value of landings	1,380	-5.9
• Net profit	368	-9.1
• Employment on board (FTE)	35,195	-7.8
• Invested capital (million EUROS)	2,208	0.9
• Fleet - number of vessels	14,873	-4.7
• Fleet - total GRT (1000)	172	-3.2
• Fleet - total kW (1000)	1,213	-3.3

Source: IREPA – Italian National Economic Observatory on the Productive Structures of Sea Fisheries

In 2005, the Italian fleet was over 16 percent of the total EU fleet, with over 14,000 vessels. Of these, over 9,000 are vessels smaller than 12m in length, and use passive gear. The number of active fisherman was over 35,000. Total capacity, in tonnage, has decreased over 20% in the last six years. The Italian fishing sector is highly fragmented among the many coastal regions in Italy, with many structural and technical differences in vessels belonging to different areas. Two fishing areas, the Adriatic Sea and the Straits of Sicily, supply almost two thirds of all landings. While Italian fishery output continues to decrease, average producer prices continue to increase for sardines, shrimp, mussels and clams. Average producer prices are decreasing for tuna and lobster.

**Table 5. Average Annual Producer Prices for Selected Species**

	<b>% of total catch</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>04/03 change</b>
	<i>(in volume 2004)</i>	<i>(euros/kilo)</i>		<i>(%)</i>
<b>Anchovies</b>	21.50%	1.43	1.32	-7.70
<b>Sardine</b>	4.40%	1.26	1.48	17.50
<b>Tuna</b>	6.30%	5.10	4.36	-14.50
<b>Cod</b>	3.40%	6.33	6.07	-4.10
<b>Cuttlefish</b>	0.70%	12.25	11.53	-5.90
<b>Squid</b>	2.40%	6.27	5.85	-6.70
<b>Mussels</b>	12.90%	1.59	1.77	11.30
<b>Clams</b>	13.80%	4.39	5.76	31.20
<b>Lobsters</b>	0.10%	24.40	20.92	-14.30
<b>Shrimps</b>	1.90%	6.67	7.93	18.90

Source: *Italian Statistical Office, ISTAT – January 2006*

### **Freshwater fisheries**

Italy has over 20,000 square km of lakes, reservoirs and rivers. Output of freshwater species in 2005 increased by 17%, with total production over 5,000 tons, compared to 4,500 tons in 2004. Caspian-sand Smelt and other small fish accounted for about 50% of the total catch. Trout, and other similar fish accounted for about 20% of the catch and the remainder consisted of eels, carp, tench, and others. The largest share of 2005 production, and growth in production, occurred in the central and northern regions, particularly Lombardia, Piemonte and Umbria.

### **Aquaculture**

Aquaculture in Italy has two main sectors. The first is based on coastal lagoon management, with culture-based fisheries, and the second involves intensive rearing systems in both inland freshwater bodies and the open sea. A wide range of species are raised.

While aquaculture in Italy has gained importance over the last decade, its development is still constrained by environmental concerns and legislation, by insufficient area with the specific necessary characteristics, and an uncertain corporate tax regime. Industry sources report that production of freshwater fish is an important part of Italian and European aquaculture, but the products have a relatively low market value in relation to production costs, and thus, producers' profit margins are low. Moreover, market demand for freshwater species, other than trout and carp, is currently rather limited throughout Europe.

Italy currently has over 900 aquaculture facilities, mainly located in northern Italy, predominately in the Veneto region. However, southern Italy is also expanding its aquaculture capabilities, especially in the Abruzzo and Puglia regions. The Italian aquaculture sector employs more than 8,000 people. While aquaculture production in 2004 was down 14% from 2003, mainly due to a reduction in the production of mussels and clams, it still accounted for 43% of the national fishery production.

The development of marine farming around the Mediterranean basin is due to the application of intensive production systems, particularly cages. As of 2003, over 80% of the seabass

and seabream production comes from sea cages that are moored near the Italian shore in depths less than 40m. However, Italian and EU fish farming activities face various challenges, including biological, environmental, geographical, and economic restrictions. The recent introduction of new production technologies, including water re-circulation systems, will overcome some of these limitations.

**Table 6. Italian Aquaculture Production by Category (tons)**

	Freshwater		Brackish		Marine		Total		
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	04/03 ch.
<b>Fish</b>	36,792	33,605	106	2,615	14,262	11,189	<b>51,160</b>	<b>47,409</b>	-7%
<b>Mollusks</b>	0	0	18,275	31,052	69,075	39,305	<b>87,350</b>	<b>70,357</b>	-19%
<b>Shellfish</b>	0	0	0	0	12	8	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	-33%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,795</b>	<b>35,609</b>	<b>20,384</b>	<b>35,671</b>	<b>85,352</b>	<b>52,506</b>	<b>144,531</b>	<b>123,786</b>	-14%

Source: Italian Statistical Office, ISTAT – January 2006

### Processing

The number of companies involved in fish processing in Italy has steadily declined over the last two decades. According to the only available official data, which dates back to the last industry census in 2001, there are 415 fish processing companies operating in Italy. These companies account for less than 1% of the total Italian food-processing sector and employ 6,640 people, less than 2% of the Italian food industry labor force.

Tuna canning, with about 91,000 tons processed in 2005, accounts for nearly 70% of the processing sector, based on value. Sardine canning has a total output of 2,000 tons, anchovies in salt 12,000 tons, anchovies fillets in oil 9,000 tons, processed clams 2,400 tons, and others miscellaneous processed fish 16,000 tons. The tuna canning industry has experienced sharp operational downsizing in the last decade as large companies moved investment to countries with a larger availability of raw material for processing. Italian processors believe that the blue fin tuna quota allocated to Italy by ICCAT is too low to supply the national fishing fleet and processors. In 2005, the wholesale value of canned tuna production was about €415 million (about \$500 million). Tuna processing is expected to increase in the future (although perhaps not in Italy) as companies develop new markets for products, such as mixes for salads and ready meals.

### Consumption

Italian seafood consumption has increased by more than 50% since 1988, and further growth is expected. Demand is mainly for white-meat fish. Total Italian household consumption of fish products in 2005 was just shy of 424,000 tons, an increase of almost 2% from 2004. While average prices for most unprocessed or slightly processed products were down, ready-to-cook product prices increased. Consumption trends for raw, fresh, or defrosted, freshwater fish are on the rise, especially for white trout (+11%) and salmon trout (+20%), while consumption of eel is declining (-10.6%). Consumption of mussels is up by over 5%, octopus over 7%, and squid over 13%, while consumption of both salmon and clams is down by more than 4%. Sea fish consumption remained stable between 2004 and 2005, considering adjustments for species availability. Consumption of shellfish declined

about 5%, mainly because of reduced consumption of prawns (-3.4%) and scampi (-26.8%). Consumption of ready-to-cook frozen products grew by more than 7%, thanks to fillets and fish fingers. Canned tuna consumption grew by more than 6%, while consumption of canned tuna in oil decreased by 1%. Smoked salmon consumption grew by more than 11%. Italians in 2005 consumed 26.2 kilos of fish per person. Italy is the largest EU importer of fresh seabass and seabream, and in 2004 imported more than € 83 million and € 58 million, respectively.

**Table 7. Total Italian Household Fishery Consumption in 2005**

Product	Volume			Value			Average price	
	Weight		Var. %	Euro		Var. %		Var. %
	MT	%	05/04	,000	%	05/04	euro/kg	05/04
<b>Fresh and unfrozen</b>	<b>223,812</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1,907,551</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>8.52</b>	<b>0.1</b>
- raw	217,893	51%	2.4	1,804,188	49%	2.2	8.28	-0.2
Saltwater	116,116	27%	0.2	1,044,779	28%	0.7	9	0.4
Freshwater	32,613	8%	9.3	255,361	7%	8.2	7.83	-1.0
Mollusks	57,327	14%	5.0	358,555	10%	5.5	6.25	0.4
Shellfish	11,843	3%	-5.1	145,496	4%	-3.9	12.29	1.3
- prepared	5,919	1%	3.5	10,336	0%	9.6	17.46	5.9
Breaded	2,406	1%	-0.1	4,139	0%	10.2	17.2	10.3
Prepared	3,513	1%	6.1	61,977	2%	9.2	17.64	2.9
<b>Frozen bulk</b>	<b>35,285</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	<b>237,417</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>-3.6</b>	<b>6.73</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
- raw	30,410	7%	-2.6	209,539	6%	-3.8	6.89	-1.2
- prepared	4,877	1%	-2.5	27,875	1%	-2.1	5.72	0.5
<b>Frozen portioned</b>	<b>61,775</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>578,712</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>9.37</b>	<b>-3.0</b>
- raw	35,839	8%	2.6	349,678	9%	-0.7	9.76	-3.3
- prepared	25,936	6%	7.7	229,034	6%	5.1	8.83	-2.4
<b>Canned</b>	<b>84,958</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>72,763</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>8.56</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
<b>Dried, salted, smoked</b>	<b>18,146</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>259,437</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>Total fish and seafood</b>	<b>423,977</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>3,710,742</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>8.75</b>	<b>-0.5</b>

Source: ISMEA

### Trade

Total 2005 Italian imports of fishery products, both fresh and processed, increased by 2% in volume and 6% in dollar value. Most of the imports were from EU25 countries. U.S. exports to Italy were up 10% in dollar value, despite a 10% reduction in volume. About 80% of the total U.S. fishery exports to Italy are comprised of lobster, salmon and cuttlefish. On the export side, the trend remained stable, with some growth in the EU25 area.

**Table 8. Total Italian Fishery Imports and Exports in Volume**

By Volume (tons)				
COUNTRY	2004		2005	
	import	export	import	export
United States	7,511	322	6,728	410
EU25	377,139	86,422	359,935	92,250
World	650,315	98,189	658,383	105,179
Source: ISTAT				

**Table 9. Total Italian Fishery Imports and Exports in Value**

By value (Euros) \$1 = .803 Euros				
COUNTRY	2004		2005	
	import	export	import	export
United States	44,893,697	1,596,097	48,836,480	1,318,239
EU25	1,650,034,622	283,476,020	1,677,458,216	296,250,060
World	2,537,774,169	332,287,492	2,670,162,459	355,365,447
Source: ISTAT				

**Table 10. Italian Imports and Exports of Lobster in Volume**

By Volume (tons)				
COUNTRY	2004		2005	
	import	export	import	export
United States	2,858	0	2,880	0
EU25	296	85	339	142
World	4,048	88	4,075	146

Source: ISTAT

**Table 11. Italian Imports and Exports of Cuttlefish in Volume**

By Volume (tons)				
COUNTRY	2004		2005	
	import	export	import	export
United States	1,685	60	1,895	0
EU25	43,213	2,330	41,008	2,645
World	127,112	3,723	130,976	3,758

Source: ISTAT

**Table 12. Italian Imports and Exports of Salmon in Volume**

By Volume (tons)				
COUNTRY	2004		2005	
	import	export	import	export
United States	965	0	605	0
EU25	409	24	256	43
World	2,275	43	1,968	60

Source: ISTAT

# Import Trade Matrix

Country Italy

Commodity Lobster

Time Period  Units:   
 Imports for:    
 U.S.  U.S.

Others		Others	
Canada	605	Canada	590
Spain	20	Spain	18
France	146	France	179
Germany	77	Germany	72
United Kingdom	15	Denmark	70
Denmark	27	United Kingdom	12
Chile	11	Chile	15

Total for Others 901 944  
 Others not Listed    
 Grand Total 4048 4075



# Import Trade Matrix

Country Italy

Commodity Squid/Cuttlefish

Time Period	Year	Units:	MT
Imports for:	2004		2005
U.S.	1685	U.S.	1895
Others		Others	
Spain	27215	Spain	27924
Thailand	25445	Thailand	25447
Malaysia	8682	Malaysia	10333
India	7826	India	9145
S. Africa	6321	Vietnam	7955
Vietnam	6144	Peru	6088
Peru	5633	S. Africa	5396
China	3920	Senegal	3100
Senegal	3682	China	3000
Tunisia	1961	Tunisia	2681
Total for Others	96829		101069
Others not Listed	28598		28012
Grand Total	127112		130976

### ***EU Common Fisheries Policy***

Italy's fish and seafood industry follows the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The CFP was established in the mid-1980s to reduce over-fishing and to ensure that the EU maintained a strong and competitive fish and seafood industry. Regulations within the policy address four main issues:

- preserve depleting fish stocks, particularly cod;
- control the size and efficiency of fishing fleets to avoid over fishing;
- develop a common marketing policy for fishery products within the EU to facilitate trade; and
- gain international co-operation to achieve the policy's objectives.

For further information on the CFP please see the EU website  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/pcp/pcp\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/pcp/pcp_en.htm)

### ***Labeling***

EU legislation requires that all food, including seafood, must have a label that includes the name under which the product is sold, the list of ingredients (in descending order of weight), net quantity of pre-packed food ingredients in metric unit, date of minimum durability (except for fresh produces), any special storage conditions or conditions of use (except for fresh produces), and the name of the manufacturer, packer or EU seller (except for non-packed fresh produce). In addition, EU regulation 2065/2201 specifically outlines labeling requirements for fishery and aquaculture products. All products offered for retail sale in the EU must be properly labeled with the following information:

1. Species commercial name;
2. Production method used: "caught in..." for wild fish, "farmed" or "cultivated", for aquaculture products;
3. Catch area must be listed: for products caught at sea a reference to areas (FAO zones), for products caught in freshwater a reference to the country of origin, for farmed products a reference to the country in which the product undergoes the final development stage.

In addition to the EU requirements, listed above, producers may voluntarily choose to give additional information, such as production methods or nutritional elements.

### ***Organic farmed fish***

While the EU currently does not have a specific regulation pertaining to "organic" seafood, in December 2005 the EU Commission adopted a proposal for a new regulation concerning organic fish farming production. This proposal intends to improve clarity for both the consumers and the farmers. Producers of organic food will be able to choose whether or not to use the EU organic logo. However, if they should choose to use the logo, their products must be labeled EU-organic and at least 95% of the final product must be organic. GMO products are not allowed to use the "organic" label, outside the 0.9 percent GMO threshold that allows for possible cross contamination.

***Controls on illegal fishing practices***

In 2005, the Italian Coastguard conducted 30,000 boat inspections and 166,000 market and landing point inspections. From these inspections they seized 250 tons of product obtained through illegal fishing practices, 3,000 pieces illegal equipment and 800 kilometers of drift nets. The Coastguard reported 925 criminal offences and 4,166 non-criminal procedures, finding the most common practices to be the mislabeling of previously frozen product as fresh and the mislabeling of species.

**Table 12. English/Italian and Latin Scientific Names of Fish and Shellfish**

<i>English</i>	<i>Italian</i>	<i>Latin</i>
Anchovy	Alice	Engraulis encrasicolus
Herring	Sarda	Clupea harengus
Mackerel	Sgombro	Scomber scombrus
Tuna	Tonno	Thunnus thynnus
Needlefish	Aguglia	Belone belone
Eel	Anguilla	Amguilla anguilla
Bullet tuna	Biso	Auxis rochei eudorax
Boga	Boga	Boops boops
Gurnard	Capone	Eutrigla gurnadus
Mullet	Cefalo	Chelon labrosus
Grouper	Cernia	Ephinepelus guaza
Dentex	Dentice	Dentex dentex
Goby	Ghiozzo	Gobius
Big-scale sandmelt	Latterino	Antherina mochon
Jack	Leccia	Lichia amia
Cackerel	Mendola	Maena maena
Cod	Merluzzo	Gadus
Umbrine	Ombrina	Umbrina cirrosa
Ox-eye	Orata	Sparus auratas
Sea bream	Pagello	Pagellus bogaraveo
Atlantic bonito	Palamita	Sarda sarda
Dogfish	Palombo	Mustelus mustelus
Blue whiting	Potassolo	Micromesistius poutassou
Sword fish	Pesce spada	Xiphias gladius
Anglerfish	Rana pescatrice	Lophius piscatorius
Ray	Razza	Raja
Turbot	Rombo	Psetta maxima
White bream	Sarago	Diplodus
Sole	Sogliola	Solea vulgaris vulgaris
Sea bass	Spigola	Dicentrarchus labrax
Horse mackerel	Sugarello	Trachurus
Red mullet	Triglia	Mullus
Squid	Calamaro	Loligo
Octopus	Polpo	Octopus vulgaris
Cuttlefish	Seppia	Sepia officinalis
Mussel	Cozza	Mytolus edulis
Little octopus	Moscardino	Ozoena moschata
Tuttler	Totano	Illex illecebrosus
Clam	Vongola	Arenomya arenaria
Crawfish and Lobster	Aragosta e Astice	Palinurus vulgaris e Homarus gammarus
Crayfish and Prawn	Gambero bianco e mazzancolla	Penaeus schmitti e Penaeus Kerathurus
Tiger prawn	Gambero rosso	Aristeus antennatus
Mantis shrimp	Pannocchia	Squilla mantis
Prawn	Scampo	Nephrops norvegicus