Last update: 09-03-2026

DENMARK IN THE WORLD AND IN THE EU

2023 sources: Eurostat and FAO

In 2023, Denmark was the second largest EU-27 producer of fisheries products and the 10th largest as concerns aquaculture production.

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-27	Denmark	% world	% EU-27
Catches	91.681	3.555	495	0,54%	14%
Aquaculture	136.140	1.043	23	0,02%	2%
Total	**227.821**	**4.598**	**518**	**0,23%**	**11%**

FISHING FLEET

Fleet: 2024, source: EU fishing fleet register - Eurostat Employment: 2023, source: JRC

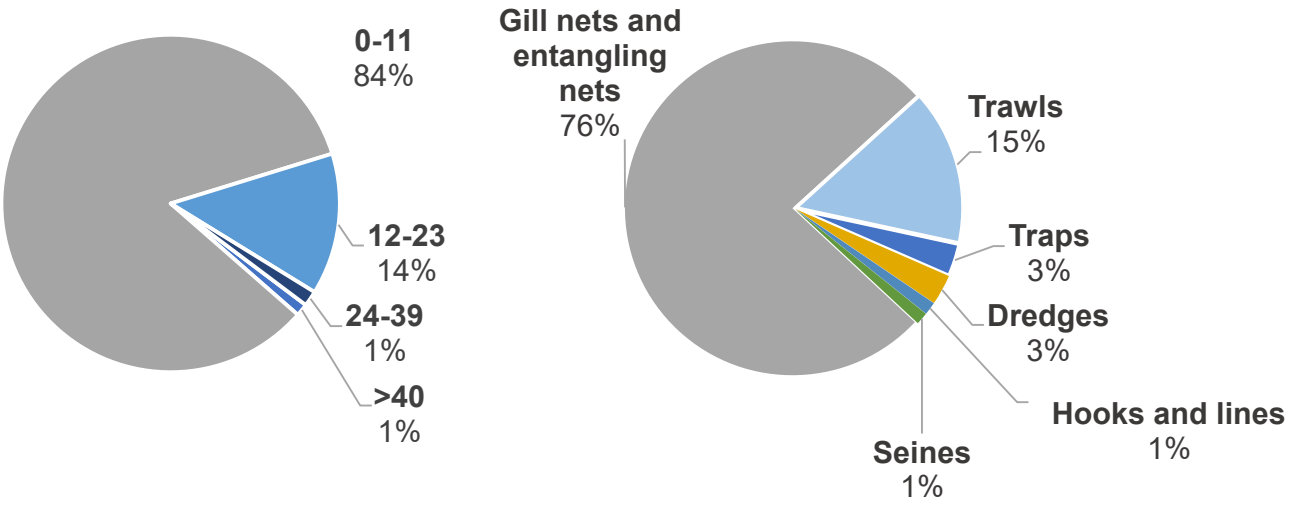
Vessels (2024)	Capacity (2024)	Power (2024)
Number: 1.767	GT: 63.554	KW: 196.081
TOTAL FTE: 760 (2023, source: JRC)		

0-11 m	12-23 m	24-39 m	>40 m
Jobs (FTE): 12%	Jobs (FTE): 55%	Jobs (FTE): 18%	Jobs (FTE): 16%

GT: Gross tonnage - KW: Kilowatt - FTE: Full Time Equivalent

The Danish fishing fleet by length and gear

(% of total number of vessels)



Last update: 09-03-2026

LANDINGS

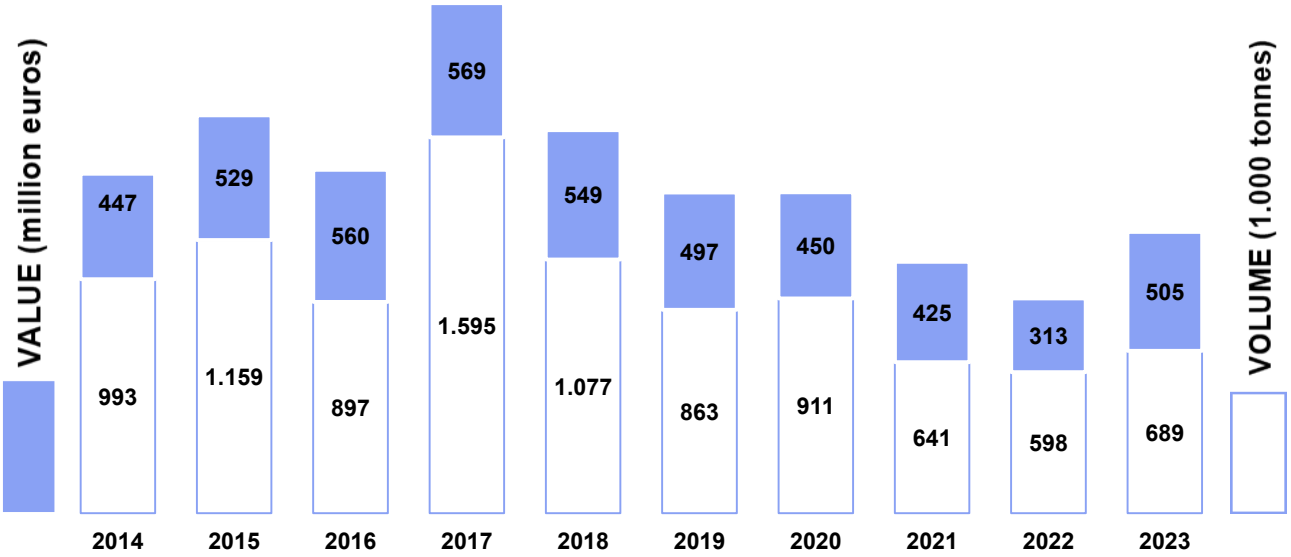
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat and Statistics Denmark data

Landings comprise the initial unloading of any fisheries products from on board a fishing vessel in each Member State. They include aquatic plants and species not destined for human consumption. Landings are recorded in net weight and value, and concern landings made by vessels from EU Member States, Iceland, Norway and the UK.

A large share of landings in Denmark are destined to industrial uses (62% in 2023), while almost all landings consist of fresh whole/gutted products (95% in 2023).

There are 131 fishing ports registered in Denmark (source: EU Master Data Register, 03 December 2025).

Total landings. Values are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2020)



Main commercial species landed and % of total
2023, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes

HERRING	105,7	21%	173,0	25%	SPRAT (= BRISLING)
SPRAT (= BRISLING)	68,4	14%	138,4	20%	HERRING
BLUE WHITING	41,5	8%	138,2	20%	BLUE WHITING
NORWAY LOBSTER	40,2	8%	17,6	3%	MUSSEL *MYTILUS* SPP.
COD	31,8	6%	14,0	2%	MACKEREL
OTHERS	216,9	43%	208,0	30%	OTHERS

Last update: 09-03-2026

AQUACULTURE

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat and FAO data

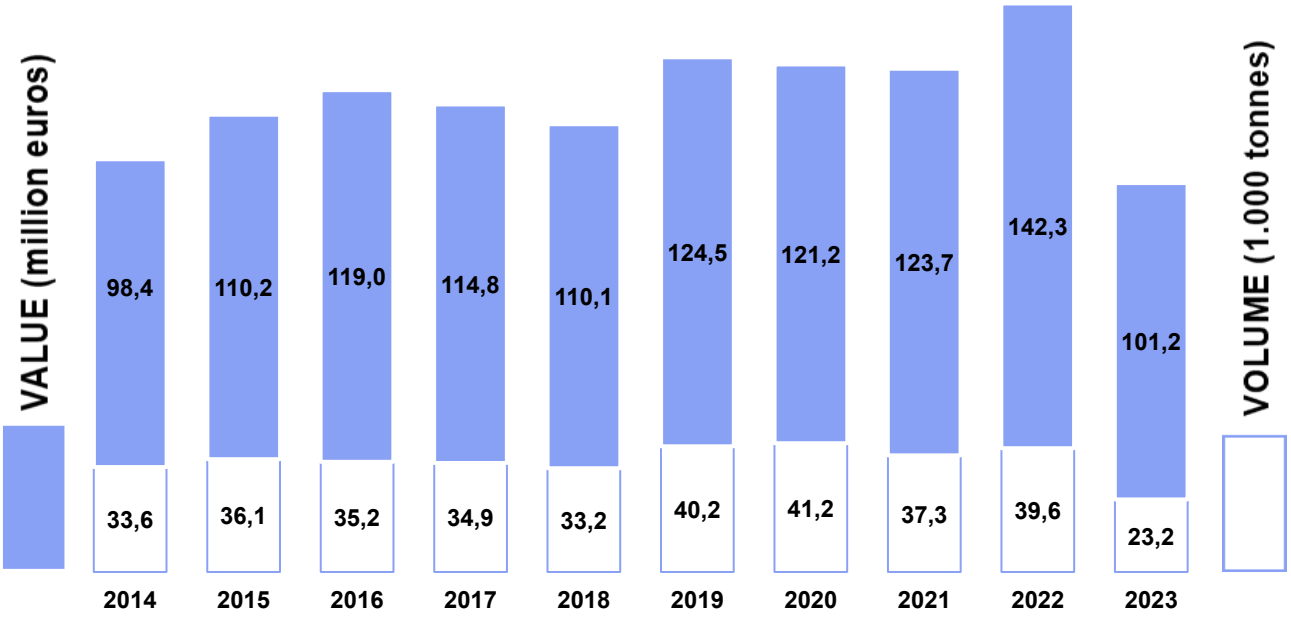
Aquaculture consists in the farming of aquatic (fresh or saltwater) organisms, such as fish, molluscs, crustaceans, and aquatic plants. Aquaculture data are reported in live weight equivalent and value.

In 2023, around 45% of Danish production occurred in freshwater, 51% in marine waters and the rest has been classified under “not specified” for which no detail is available. The following main production methods were used:

- 39% of production: in recirculation systems, mostly in freshwater (38%) and a small percentage in sea and brackish water and other not specified methods (1%);
- 29% of the production: in cages in sea and brackish water;
- 19% of the production: off-bottom.

The rest was farmed in ponds (5%), in tanks and raceways (2%) and with other methods for which no detail is available (4%).

Total production. Values are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2020)



Main commercial species farmed and % of total

2023, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes

TROUT	101,14	99,9%	23,19	99,9%	TROUT
SEAWEED AND OTHER ALGAE	0,7	0,1%	0,01	0,1%	SEAWEED AND OTHER ALGAE

Last update: 09-03-2026

PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

Source: European Commission, List of the recognised producer organisations in the fishery and aquaculture sector

In Denmark, **4 producer organisations (POs)** are formally recognized, 3 operating in fishery and 1 in aquaculture sector. Their role is to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and of the Common organisation of the markets (CMO) through the collective management of their members' activities.

FIRST SALES

2025, source: EUMOFA

First sales concern the fish that is sold or registered at an auction center or to registered buyers or to producer organizations (PO). First sales may differ from landings since the former do not cover fish that is landed by vessels owned by processing companies or direct sales to processors.

In Denmark, there are nine fish auction centres, the largest in Hanstholm on the West coast. ”Danske Fiskeauktioner” in Thyborøn is the second largest which sells on an Internet auction system the fish from the harbours of Thyborøn, Hvide Sande and Thorsminde.

In 2025, total first sales in Denmark amounted to 670.044 tonnes and 526 million euros. Five main commercial species covered 77% and 60% of total first sales, respectively in volume and value terms.

Top-5 main commercial species	Volume (tonnes)	Value (million euros)
Sprat (=Brisling)	187.617	87
Herring	108.059	85
Blue whiting	200.362	68
Norway lobster	5.284	42
Mackerel	11.630	35

WHOLESALE

Wholesale is an intermediary stage in the distribution channel that buys in bulk and sells to resellers (e.g. retailers) rather than to consumers. In Denmark, there is only one wholesale market involved in sales of fishery and aquaculture products: “Københavns Fisketorv”. It is situated in the Northern harbour area of Copenhagen (Source: Eurofish).

Last update: 09-03-2026

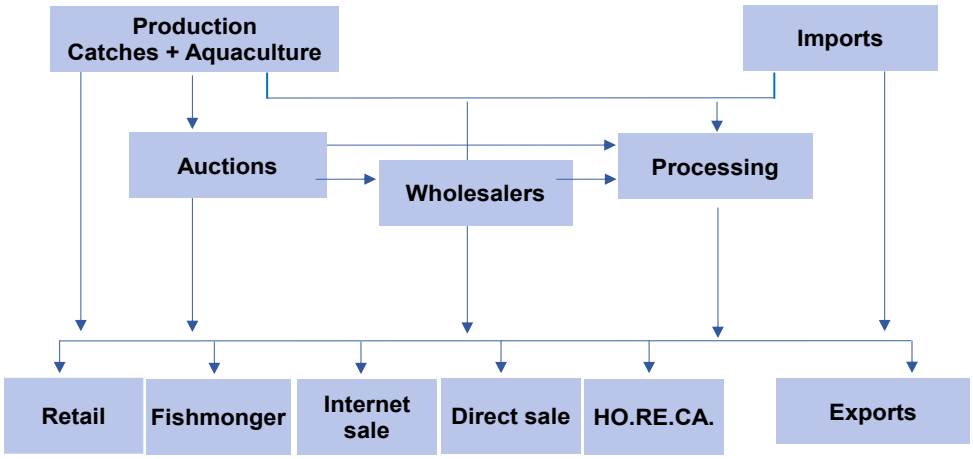
PROCESSING

According to Eurostat-SBS, 2.522 persons were employed in the Danish fish processing industry in 2023. The sector recorded a value added of 262 million euros, covering 5% of the value added of total manufacture of food products. In 2024, the main products sold were “Flours, meals and pellets of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates, unfit for human consumption”, “Other inedible products of fish, crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates or seaweed (including fish waste; excluding whalebone and whalebone hair, coral or similar materials, shells an cuttle-bone, unworked or simply prepared/natural sponges)” and “Fats and oils and their fractions of fish or marine mammals (excluding chemically modified)” (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

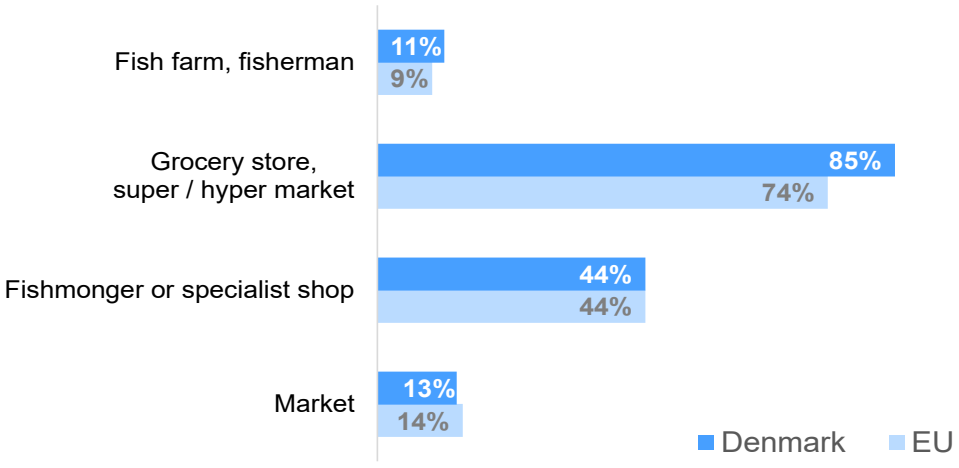
82 companies
Net turnover: EUR 1,78 billion
(2024, source: Eurostat - SBS)

DISTRIBUTION

The supply chain of fisheries and aquaculture products in Denmark (source: Eurofish):



Consumer preferences on purchasing channels (source: Eurobarometer, 2024):



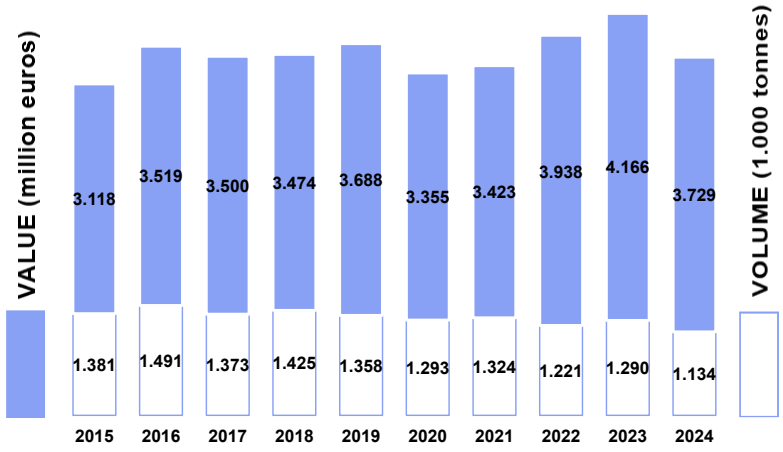
Last update: 09-03-2026

IMPORT – EXPORT

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat-COMEXT data

Values in the bar charts are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2020)

IMPORT

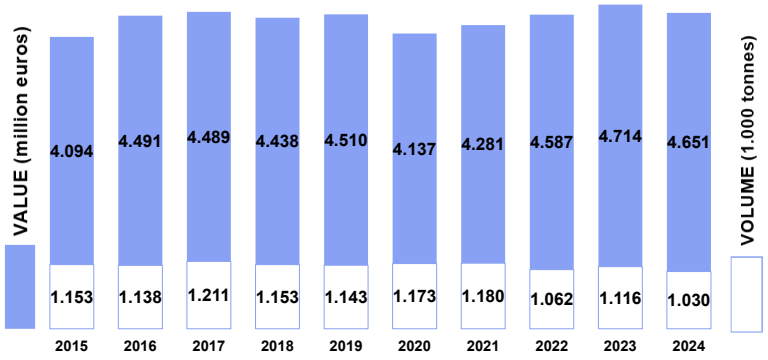


Main commercial species imported and % of total imports

2024, million euros (nominal value)

SALMON	1767	43%
SHRIMPS (MOSTLY COLDWATER)	468	11%
COD	388	9%
FISH OIL	257	6%
GREENLAND HALIBUT	184	5%
OTHERS	1028	25%

EXPORT



Main commercial species exported and % of total exports

2024, million euros (nominal value)

SALMON	1612	32%
FISH OIL	481	9%
COD	477	9%
FISHMEAL	368	7%
SHRIMPS (MOSTLY COLDWATER)	332	7%
OTHERS	1835	36%

Main countries of **ORIGIN** (in value, 2024)

- Norway 38%
- Greenland 16%
- Faroe Islands 9%
- Sweden 5%

Main countries of **DESTINATION** (in value, 2024)

- Germany 14%
- Norway 14%
- Netherlands 9%
- France 9%

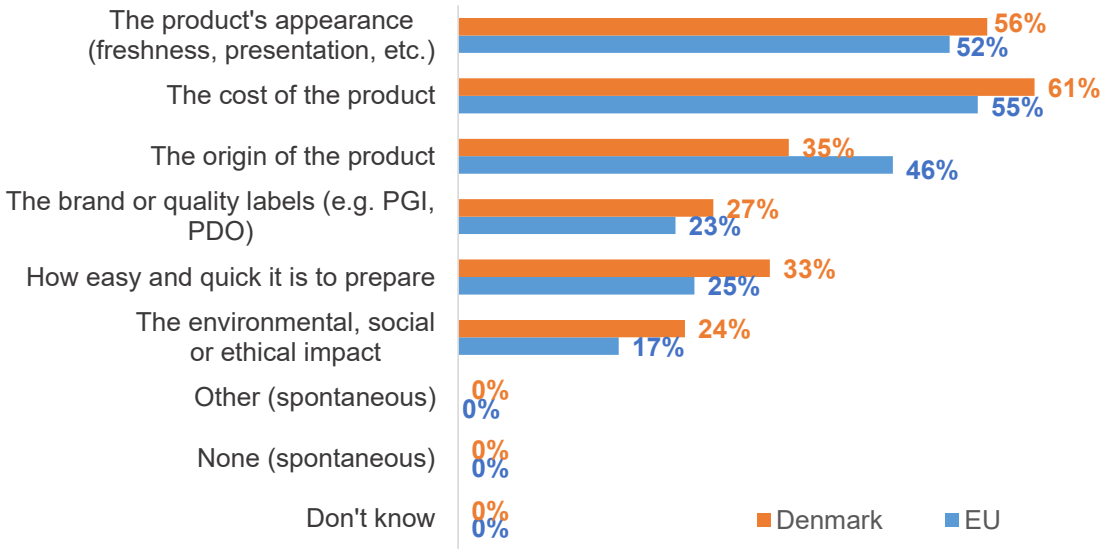
Last update: 09-03-2026

CONSUMPTION

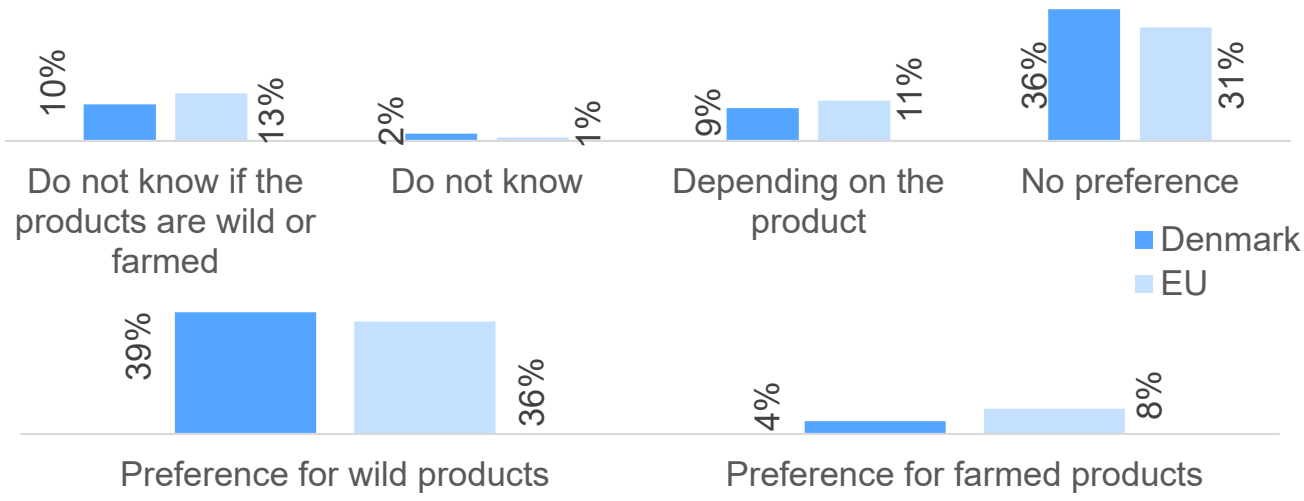
According to the estimates made by the University of Copenhagen for the latest years, per capita apparent consumption in Denmark has been between 20,00-25,00 kg LWE. The most consumed species were herring, salmon and mussel (source: EUMOFA).

20 - 25 kg per capita in live weight equivalent
(2023, source: University of Copenhagen)

Purchasing factors (source: Eurobarometer, 2024)



Preferences regarding wild or farmed product (source: Eurobarometer, 2024)



Last update: 09-03-2026

THE COUNTRY IN EUMOFA

LANDINGS

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – Fishery and integrated with Statistics Denmark. They are available on a yearly basis and accessible through dashboards, as well as through the bulk download facility.

AQUACULTURE

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – Fishery and integrated with FAO data. They are available on a yearly basis and accessible through dashboards, as well as through the bulk download facility.

FIRST SALES

Volumes and values are collected from the Danish Fisheries Agency on a monthly basis and cover all species sold in Danish places of sale. Data are accessible through dashboards, as well as through the bulk download facility. Data at disaggregated level are also accessible, through dashboards and the bulk download facility.

WHOLESALE

No data available

IMPORT - EXPORT

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – COMEXT. Data concern trade flows of all fisheries and aquaculture products as recorded by national customs. They are available on a monthly and yearly basis and accessible through dashboards, as well as through the bulk download facility.

PROCESSING

Data are collected from Eurostat – PRODCOM. They concern ex-farm quantities and values of fisheries and aquaculture products sold in the country after being transformed from raw material into final products. They are available on a yearly basis and accessible through dashboards, as well as through the bulk download facility.

CONSUMPTION

Volumes and values of household consumption of fresh fisheries and aquaculture products are collected from Europanel based on panel reporting. Data are monitored for 8 main commercial species + the item “Others”, aggregating all other species. Retail prices from online shops are available, as collected via price-scraper. Data are available on a monthly and yearly basis and accessible through dashboards and the bulk download facility.