Last update: 07-04-2026

IRELAND IN THE WORLD AND IN THE EU

2023, sources: Eurostat and FAO

In 2023, Ireland ranked 6th in the EU-27 in terms of fishery production and 6th in terms of aquaculture production.

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-27	Ireland	% world	% EU-27
Catches	91.681	3.555	215	0,191%	6%
Aquaculture	136.140	1.043	33	0,031%	3%
Total	**227.821**	**4.598**	**248**	**0,097%**	**5%**

FISHING FLEET

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

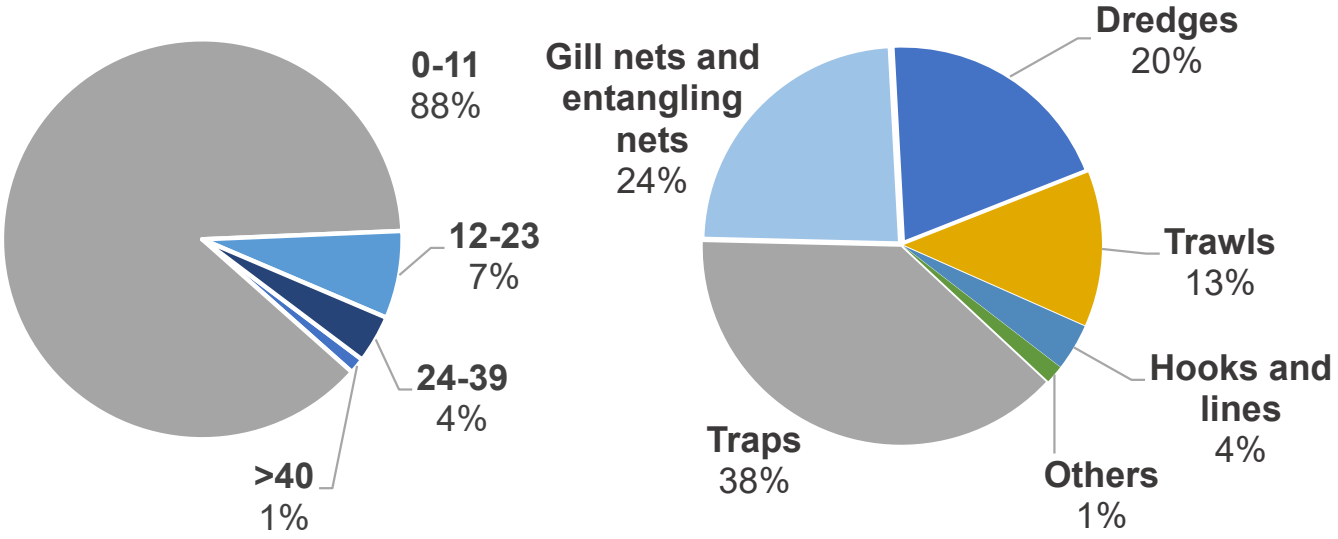
Vessels (2024)	Capacity (2024)	Power (2024)
Number: 2.019	GT: 62.850	KW: 176.163
TOTAL FTE: 1.743 (2023, source: JRC)		

0-11 m	12-23 m	24-39 m	>40 m
Jobs (FTE): 56%	Jobs (FTE): 19%	Jobs (FTE): 17%	Jobs (FTE): 8%

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

The Irish fishing fleet by length and gear

(% of total number of vessels)



Last update: 07-04-2026

LANDINGS

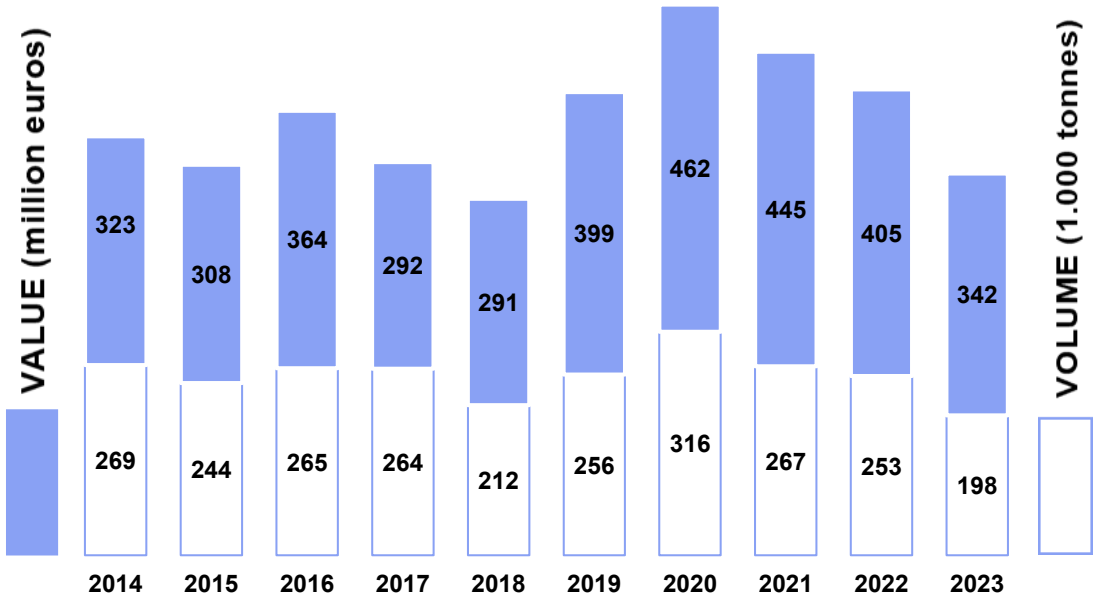
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat data

Landings comprise the initial unloading of any fisheries products from on board a fishing vessel in a given 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.

In 2023, Irish landings include almost entirely fresh whole/gutted products destined for human consumption, although smaller quantities include products for industrial, animal feed and unknown uses.

There are 172 fishing ports registered in Ireland (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

MACKEREL	61,8	18%	70,2	35%	BLUE WHITING
NORWAY LOBSTER	53,4	16%	41,3	21%	MACKEREL
MONK	41,5	12%	9,6	5%	HAKE
HAKE	33,4	10%	9,5	5%	MONK
BLUE WHITING	19,8	6%	6,8	3%	CRAB
OTHERS	132,1	39%	60,3	31%	OTHERS

Last update: 07-04-2026

AQUACULTURE

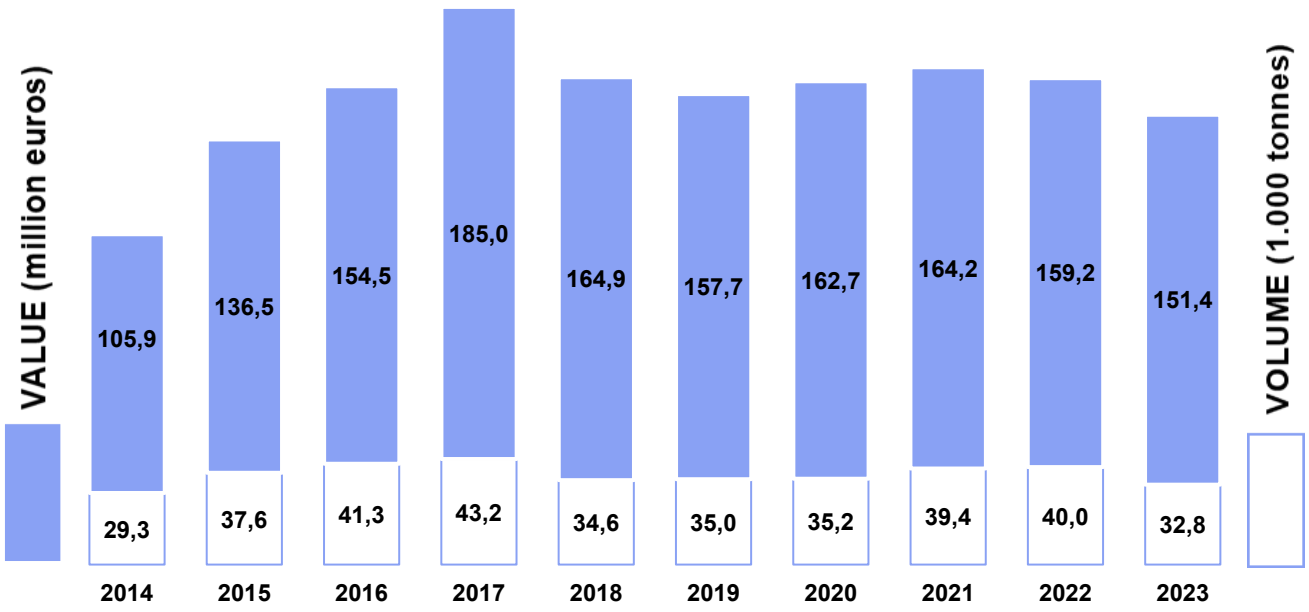
Sources: EUMOFA, based on EUROSTAT and FAO

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.

The majority of Irish production occurs in sea and brackish water, while only 1% takes place in freshwater. The following main production methods were used:

- 59% of production: off bottom in sea brackish water;
- 28% of production: in cages in sea and brackish water;
- 12% of production: on bottom in sea and brackish water.

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

SALMON	94,8	62,6%	14.,7	44,8%	MUSSEL *MYTILUS* SPP.
OYSTER	43,2	28,5%	9,3	28,4%	SALMON
MUSSEL *MYTILUS* SPP.	12,9	8,5%	8,3	25,2%	OYSTER
OTHERS	0,7	0,4%	0,5	1,6%	OTHERS

Last update: 07-04-2026

PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

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

In Ireland, **7 producer organisations (POs)** are formally recognized. 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.

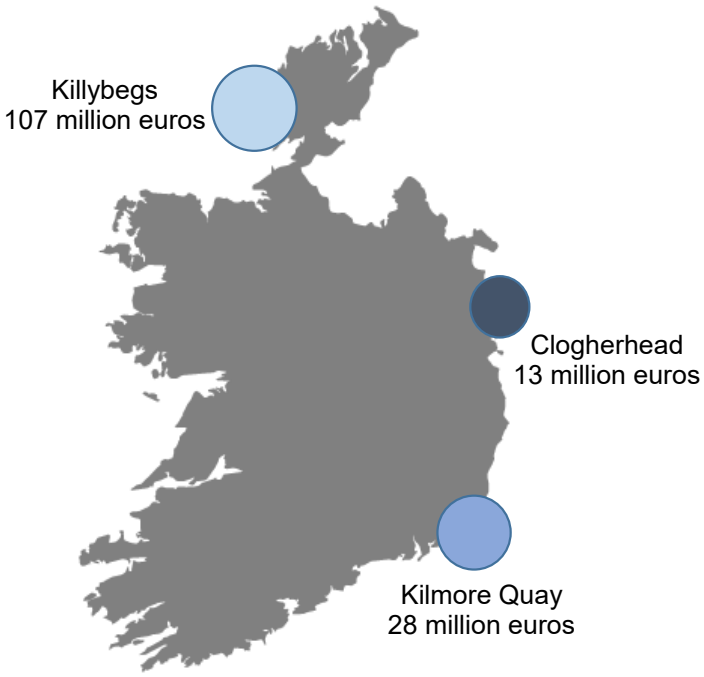
Of the 7 POs, 4 operate in the fishery sector, 1 operates in aquaculture and 2 in both the fishery and aquaculture sectors.

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 2025, total first sales amounted to 171.610 tonnes and 241 million euros. The top-3 places of sale covered 81% and 55% of total first sales, respectively in volume and value terms.



Top-3 places of sale	Volume (tonnes)	Value (million euros)	Top-3 main commercial species (in value)
Killybegs	141.258	107	Mackerel, blue whiting, Atlantic horse mackerel
Kilmore Quay	7.688	28	Norway lobster, other molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, monk
Clogherhead	1.414	13	Norway lobster, clam, monk

Last update: 07-04-2026

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.

There are no structured wholesale markets in Ireland, but several companies operate as wholesale distributors. Due to consolidation during the last few years, approximately 80% of the market is now controlled by six wholesalers. The wholesale distributors buy products both from fisheries and aquaculture, but the major bulk of their products is imported. Source: Bord Iascaigh Mhara.

PROCESSING

According to Eurostat-SBS, 2.483 persons were employed in the Irish fish processing industry in 2023. The sector recorded a value added of 357 million euros, covering 4% of the value added of total manufacture of food products.

In 2024, the main products sold were “Frozen whole salt water fish” and “Fresh or chilled fish fillets and fish meat (including shark fins), whether or not minced” (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

118 companies
Net turnover: 600 million euros
(2024, source: Eurostat - SBS)

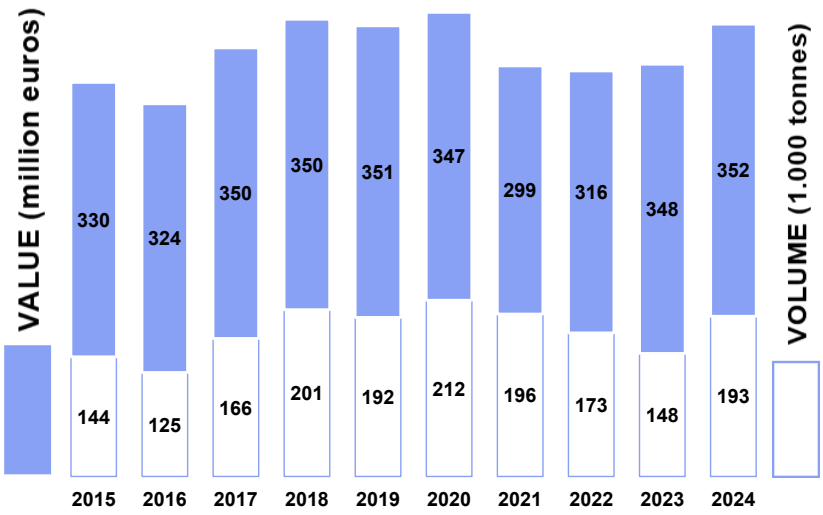
Last update: 07-04-2026

IMPORT – EXPORT

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat-COMEXT data

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

IMPORT

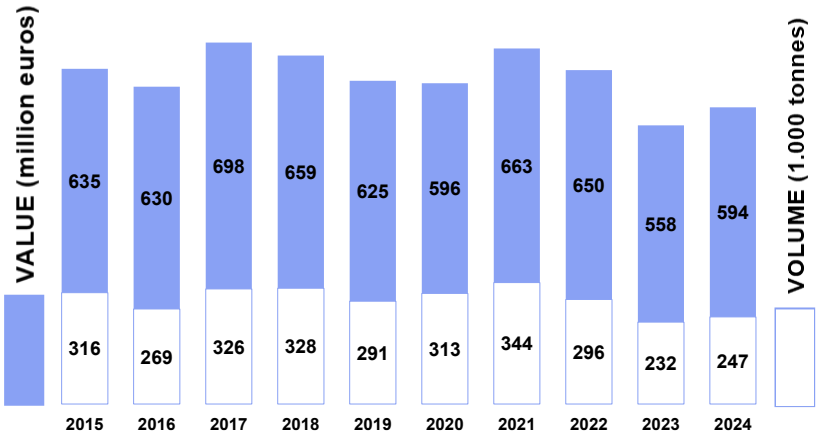


Main commercial species imported and % of total imports

2024, million euros (nominal value)

SALMON	106	26%
SHRIMPS (MOSTLY MISCELLANEOUS)	49	12%
TUNA (MOSTLY SKIPJACK)	34	8%
COD	30	7%
MACKEREL	9	2%
OTHERS	178	44%

EXPORT



Main commercial species exported and % of total exports

2024, million euros (nominal value)

SALMON	130	19%
MACKEREL	95	14%
NORWAY LOBSTER	71	10%
CRAB	47	7%
OYSTER	39	6%
OTHERS	305	44%

Main countries of **ORIGIN** (in value, 2023)

- United Kingdom 22%
- Netherlands 20%
- Sweden 8%
- Denmark 7%

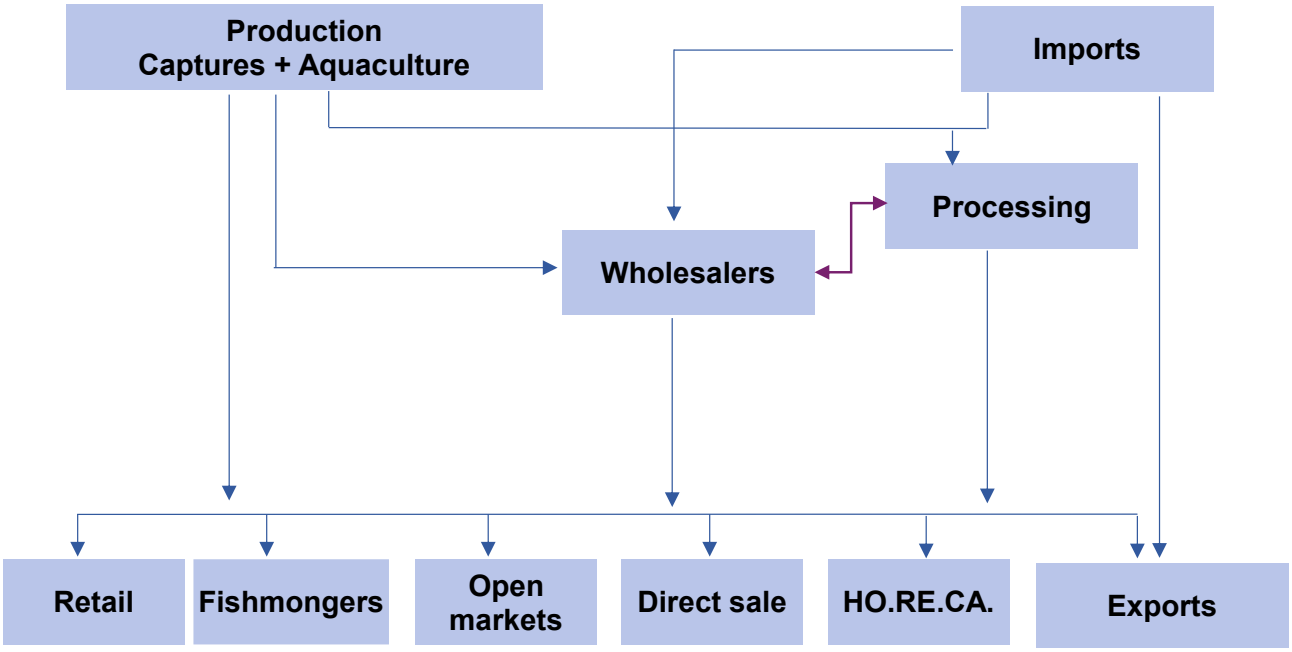
Main countries of **DESTINATION** (in value, 2023)

- France 21%
- United Kingdom 20%
- Italy 10%
- Spain 8%

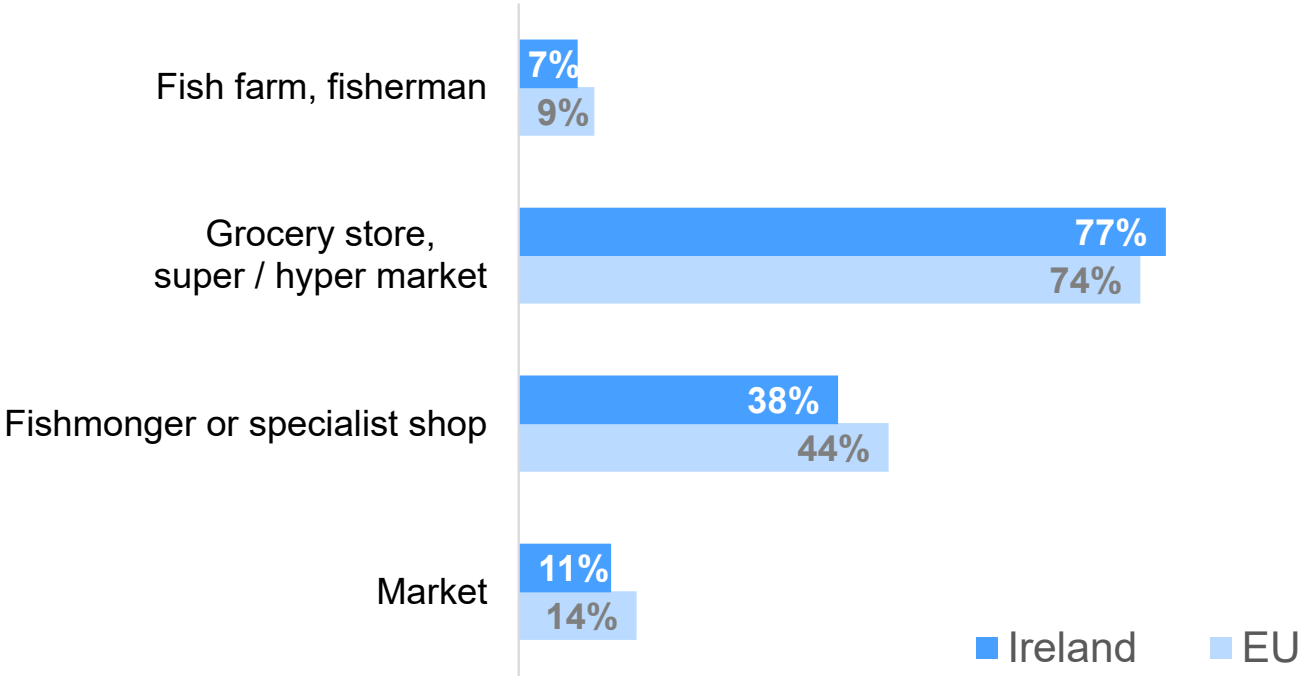
Last update: 07-04-2026

DISTRIBUTION

The supply chain of fisheries and aquaculture products in Ireland (source: Bord Iascaigh Mhara):



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

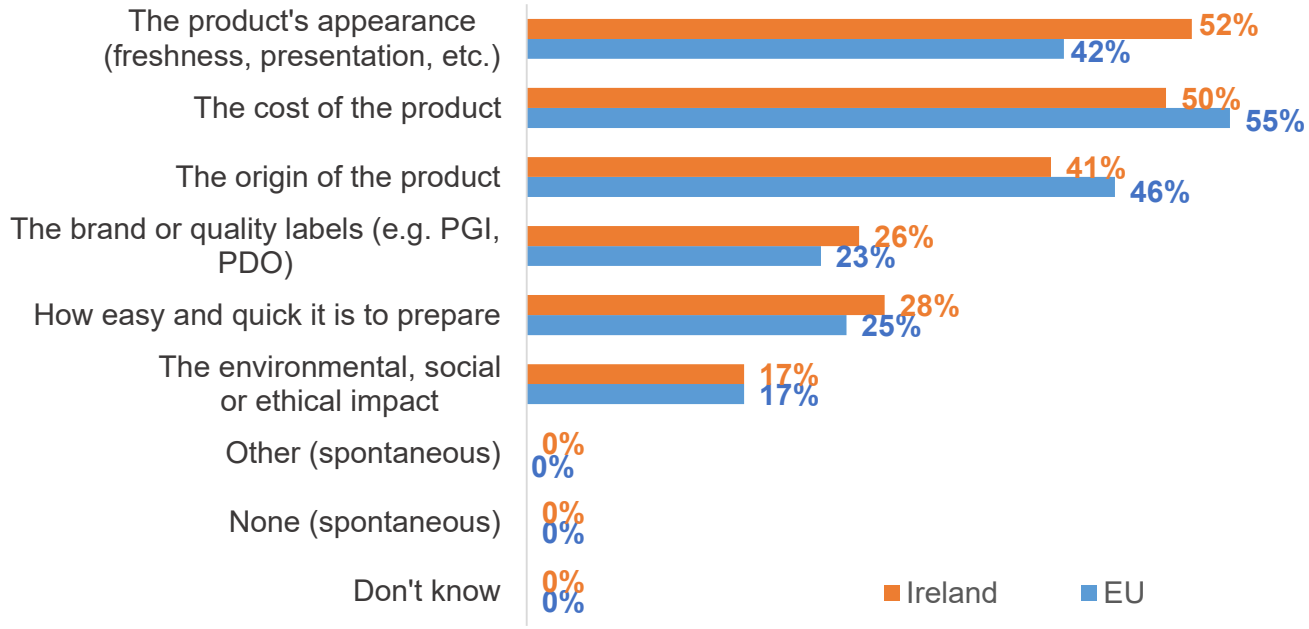


Last update: 07-04-2026

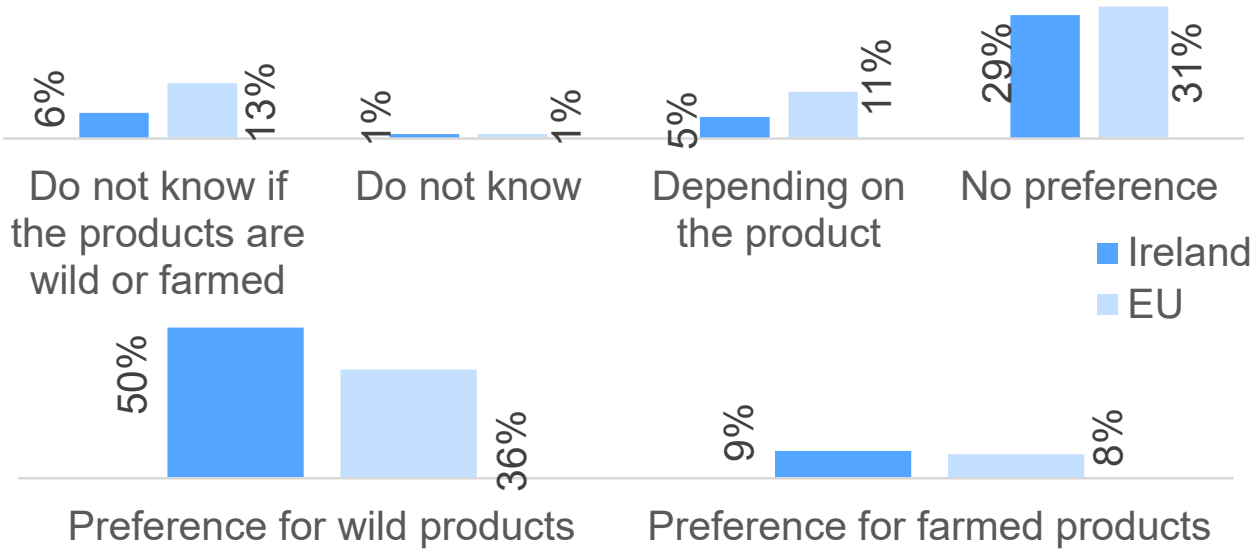
CONSUMPTION

The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority could not provide estimates, but EUMOFA has estimated that the average per capita apparent consumption over the last three years has been around 20,00 kg LWE.

Purchasing factors (source: Eurobarometer, 2024)



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



Last update: 07-04-2026

THE COUNTRY IN EUMOFA

LANDINGS

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – Fishery and integrated with SFPA data.

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 Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority of Ireland on a monthly basis, and cover all species sold in Irish 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 7 main commercial species + the item “Others”, aggregating all other species.

Data are available on a monthly and yearly basis and accessible through dashboards and the bulk download facility. Retail prices from online shops are also available, as collected via price-scraper.