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FRANCE IN THE WORLD AND IN THE EU

2023, sources: Eurostat and FAO

In 2023, France was EU's 2nd largest producer of aquaculture products and 3rd in fishery production.

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-27	France	% world	% EU-27
Catches	91.681	3.555	471	0,5%	13%
Aquaculture	136.140	1.043	187	0,1%	18%
Total	**227.821**	**4.598**	**658**	**0,3%**	**14%**

FISHING FLEET

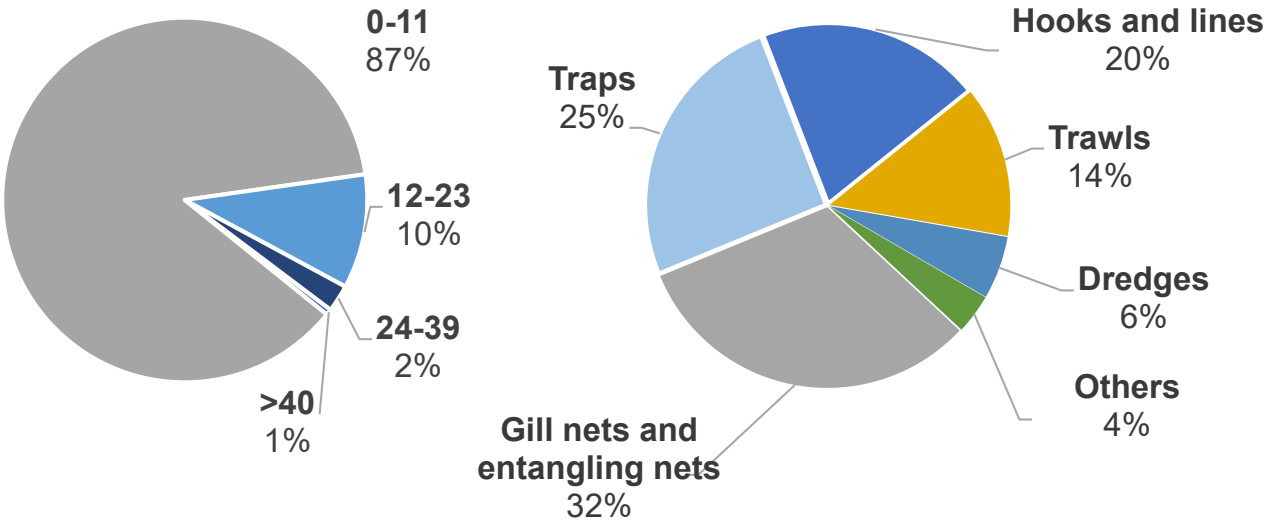
Fleet: 2024, source: EU fishing fleet register - Eurostat Employment: 2023, source: JRC

Vessels (2024)	Capacity (2024)	Power (2024)	
Number: 5.975	GT:152.454	KW: 915.436	
TOTAL FTE: 6.675 (2023, source: JRC)			
0-11 m	**12-23 m**	**24-39 m**	**>40 m**
Jobs (FTE): 44%	Jobs (FTE): 27%	Jobs (FTE): 19%	Jobs (FTE): 10%

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

The French fishing fleet by length and gear

(% of total number of vessels)



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LANDINGS

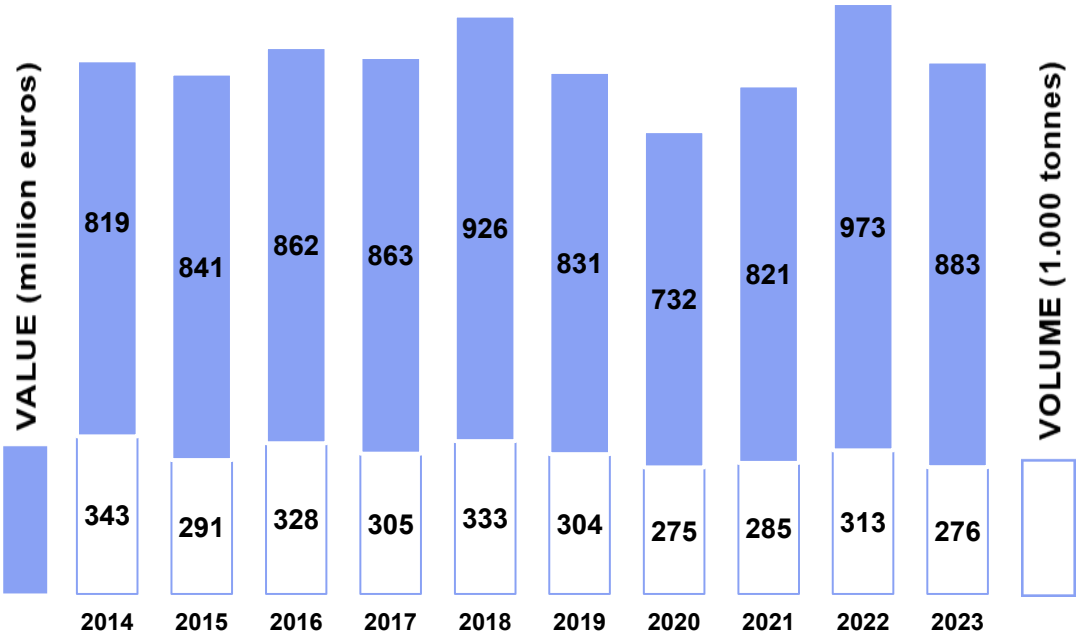
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat data

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.

French landings include almost entirely fresh whole/gutted products destined for human consumption (smaller quantities include waste, animal feed, bait, unknown uses and products destined for industrial uses).

There are 452 fishing ports registered in the country (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

	€				
SCALLOP	121,2	14%	49,8	18%	SEAWEED AND OTHER ALGAE (MOSTLY TANGLE)
MONK	60,7	7%	46,0	17%	SCALLOP
COMMON SOLE	56,,9	6%	22,6	8%	SARDINE
HAKE	43,4	5%	11,9	4%	HAKE
SQUID	42,6	5%	11,0	4%	MONK
OTHERS	558,3	63%	134,3	49%	OTHERS

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AQUACULTURE

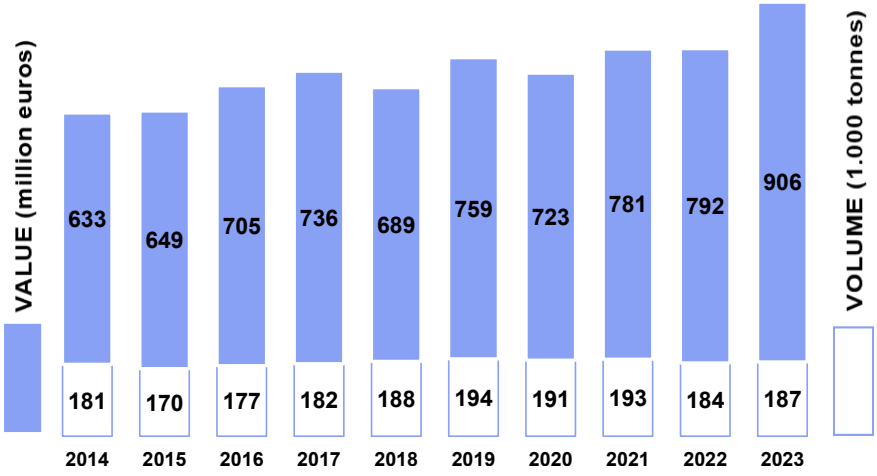
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat, FAO and FEAP data

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, 82% of the French production occurred in sea and brackish waters and 18% in freshwater. The following main production methods were used:

- 72% of production: off bottom in sea and brackish water;
- 12% of production: tanks and raceways in freshwater;
- 3% of production: on bottom in sea and brackish water;
- 3% of production: on cages in sea and brackish water (slight portion in freshwater);
- 0,1% of production: in ponds, almost entirely in freshwater (slight portion in sea and brackish water);
- 2% of production: in recirculation systems in freshwater;
- The rest (4%) was farmed using other methods in sea and brackish water for which no detail is available.

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



Main commercial species farmed and % of total
2022, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes

OYSTER	514,7	56,8%	90,4	48,5%	OYSTER
TROUT	140,5	15,5%	54,5	29,2%	MUSSEL *MYTILUS* SPP.
MUSSEL *MYTILUS* SPP.	135,8	15,0%	27,7	14,8%	TROUT
GILTHEAD SEABREAM	23,7	2,6%	2,5	1,3%	GILTHEAD SEABREAM
EUROPEAN SEABASS	23,1	2,6%	2,3	1,3%	EUROPEAN SEABASS
OTHERS	67,8	7,5%	9,1	4,9%	OTHERS

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PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

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

In France, **20 producer organisations (POs)** and **2 associations of 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 20 POs, 16 operate in the fishery sector and 4 in aquaculture. The two associations of POs operate in the fishery sector.

FIRST SALES

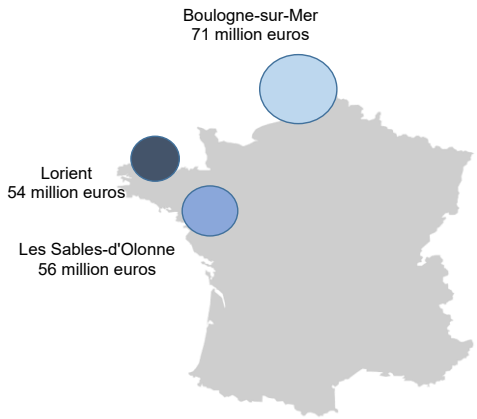
2025, source: EUMOFA

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 France there are 35 auction markets: they are responsible for gathering and transmitting sales notes to FranceAgriMer, thanks to the RIC (Réseau Inter-Criées: Auction markets network). Of these:

- 17 are in the Bay of Biscay and Iberian coast
- 13 are in the Celtic sea
- 4 are in the Mediterranean
- 1 is in the North sea

In 2025, total first sales in these auctions amounted to 246.030 tonnes and 781 million euros. The top-3 auctions covered 18% and 23% of total first sales, respectively in volume and value terms.



Top-3 auctions	Volume (tonnes)	Value (million euros)	Top-3 main commercial species (in value)
Boulogne-sur-Mer	25.599	71	Squid, cuttlefish, scallop
Les Sables-d'Olonne	6.759	56	Common sole, European seabass, cuttlefish
Lorient	11.797	54	Ling, monk, hake

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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 France, 11 wholesale market places ("marchés d'intérêt national" or MIN) are involved in sales of fishery and aquaculture products. About 100 fish wholesaling companies operate on these markets, out of which 42 are situated in the market of Paris-Rungis.

In 2019, Rungis sold 90.374 tonnes of fisheries and aquaculture products for a value of 889 million euros (source: https://www.rungisinternational.com). The "Réseau des nouvelles des marchés" (RNM) publishes daily, weekly and monthly price quotations on the wholesale market of Rungis (www.rnm.franceagrimer.fr).

PROCESSING

According to Eurostat-SBS, 12.957 persons were employed in the French fish processing industry in 2023. The sector recorded a value added of 792 million euros, covering 2% of the value added of total manufacture of food products.

In 2024, the main products sold were "Prepared meals and dishes based on fish, crustaceans and molluscs", "Fresh or chilled fish fillets and fish meat (including shark fins), whether or not minced" and "Fish fillets in batter or breadcrumbs including fish fingers (excluding prepared meals and dishes)" (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

381 companies
Net turnover: 6 billion euros
(2024, source: Eurostat - SBS)

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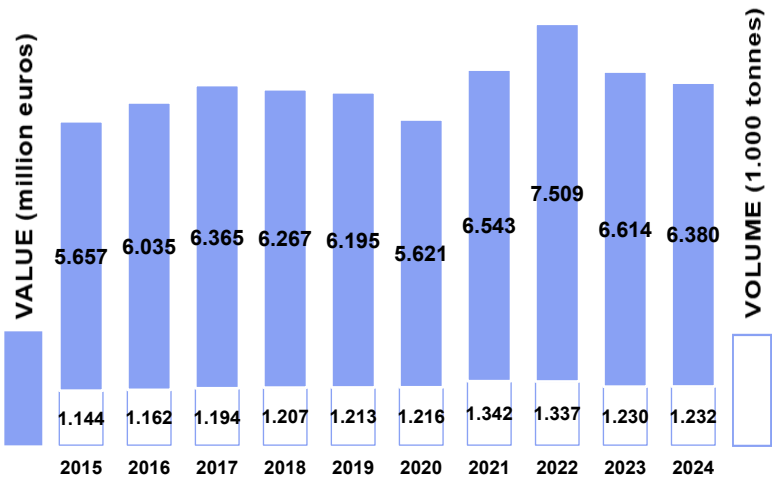
IMPORT – EXPORT

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat-COMEXT data
Values in the bar charts are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2020)

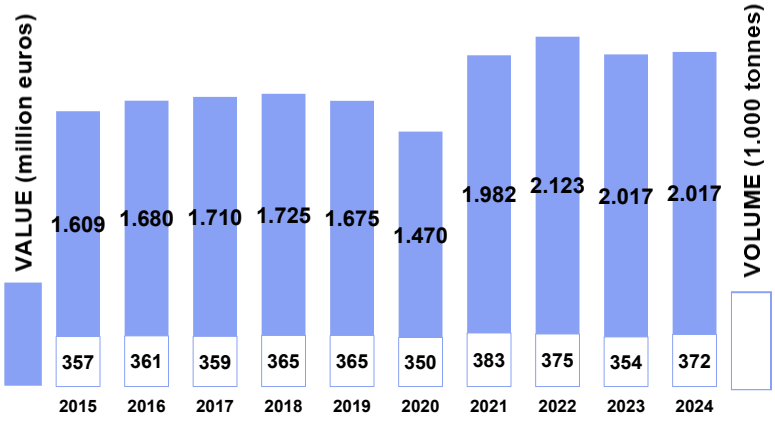
IMPORT



Main commercial species imported and % of total imports
2024, million euros (nominal value)

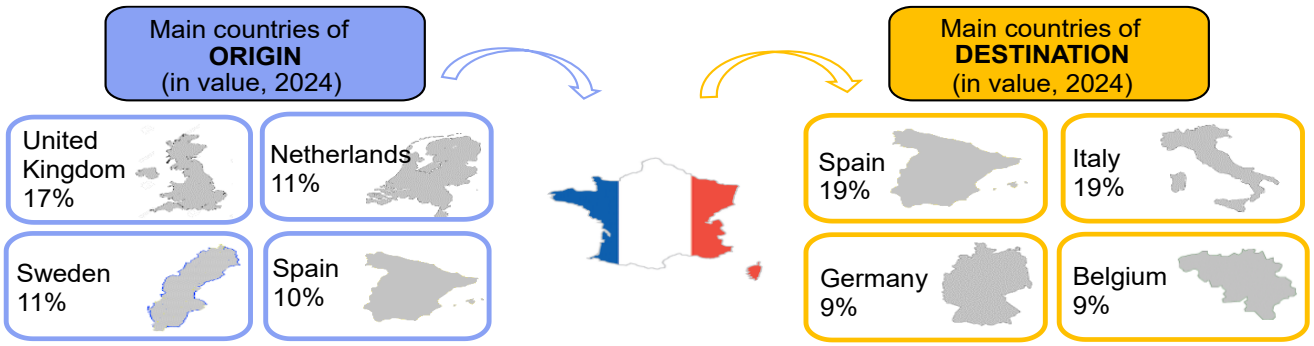
SALMON	1897	26%
SHRIMPS (MOSTLY WARMWATER)	772	11%
TUNA (MOSTLY SKIPJACK)	520	7%
COD	460	6%
SCALLOP	180	3%
OTHERS	3352	47%

EXPORT



Main commercial species exported and % of total exports
2024, million euros (nominal value)

SALMON	376	17%
OYSTER	129	6%
FISH OIL	126	6%
MISCELLANEOUS SHRIMPS	95	4%
SCALLOP	79	3%
OTHERS	1467	65%



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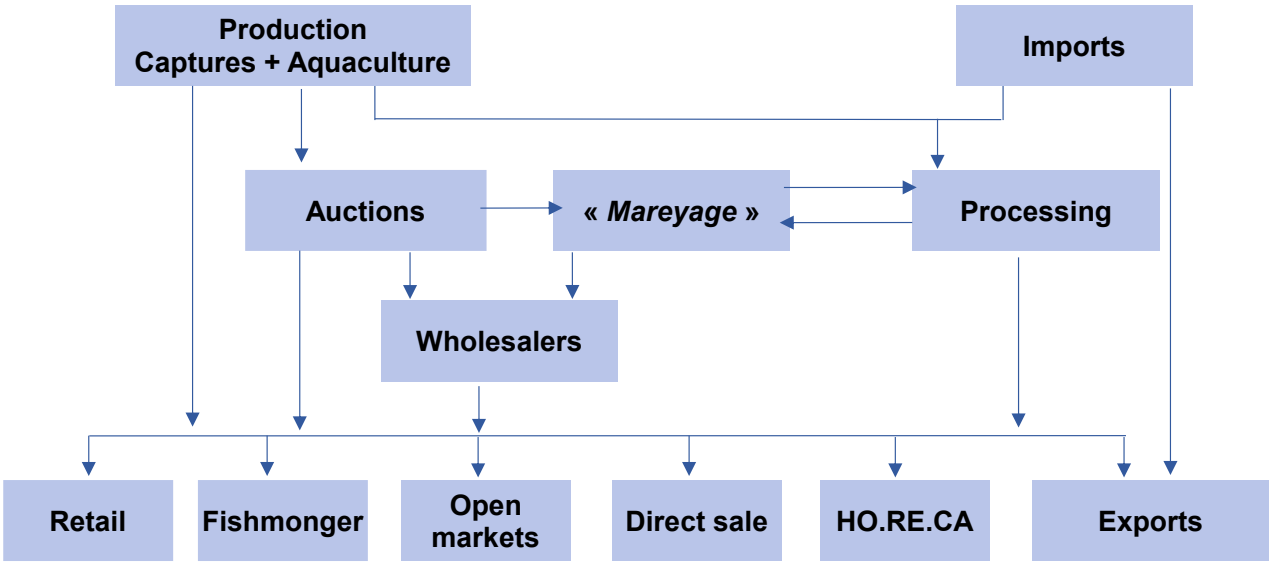
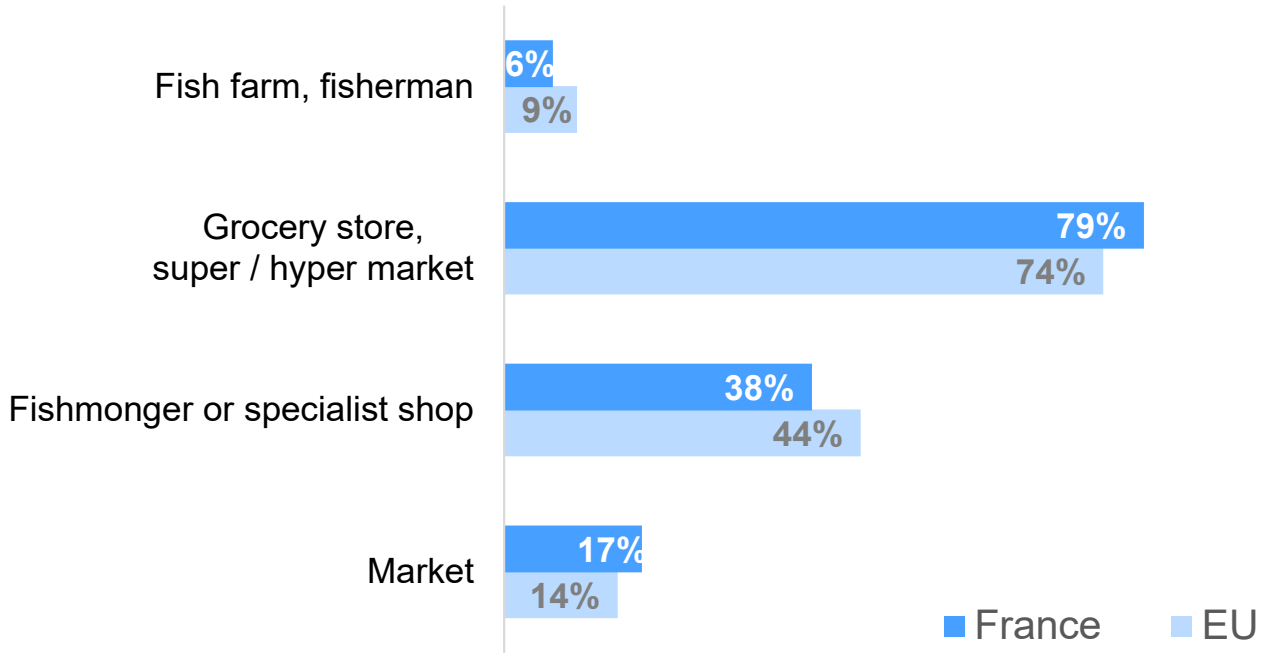
DISTRIBUTION

The supply chain of fisheries and aquaculture products in France (source: FranceAgriMer):



"*Mareyage*" plays an essential role in the promotion of fishery products, representing the link between upstream and downstream of the seafood industry. It consists in buying fish from the coasts, preparing them (sorting, removing viscera or heads, cutting fillets), packaging them, transporting them and reselling them to a wholesaler or retail trader (fishmonger, restaurant, supermarket).

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



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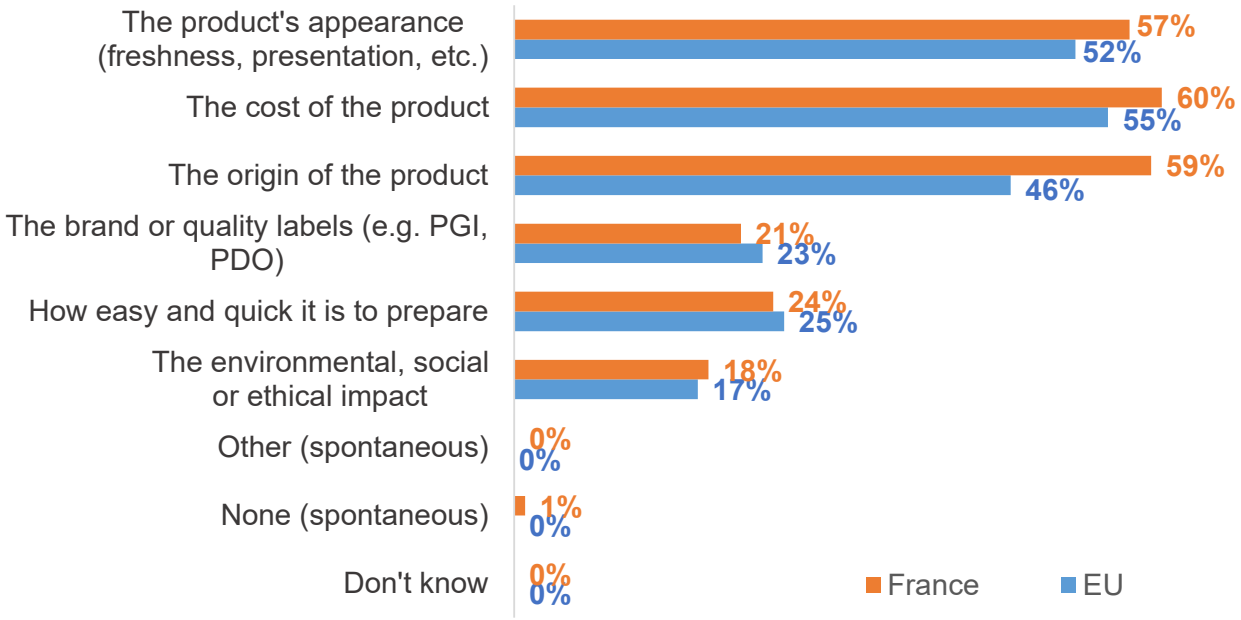
CONSUMPTION

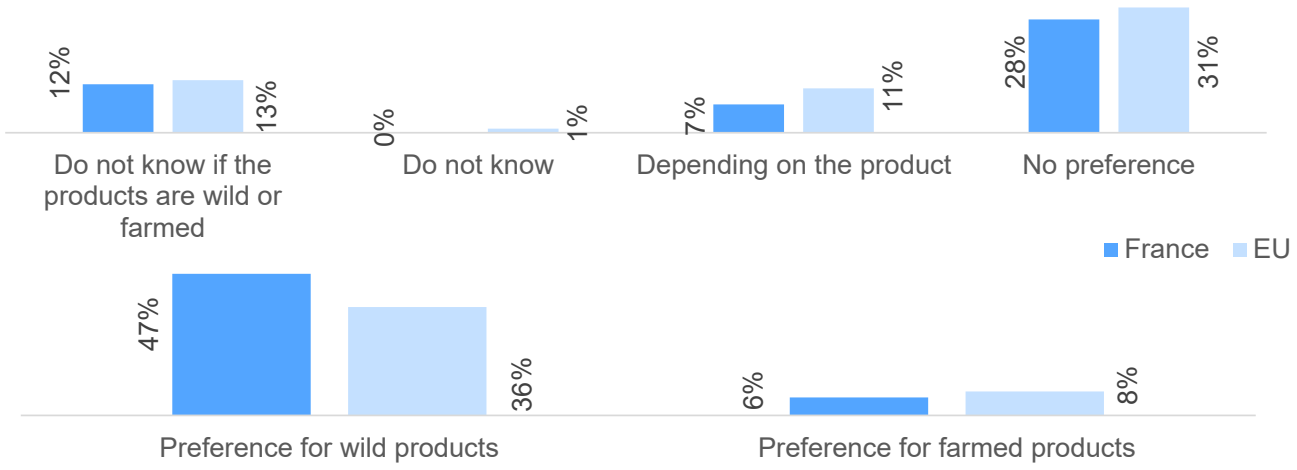
In 2023, apparent consumption was estimated at 32,14 kg per capita, a slight 1% decrease compared with 2022. The most consumed species were salmon, cod, Alaska pollock and skipjack tuna (source: EUMOFA).

32,14 kg
per capita in live weight equivalent
(2023, source: EUMOFA)

Purchasing factors (source: Eurobarometer, 2024)



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



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THE COUNTRY IN EUMOFA

LANDINGS

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – Fishery. 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 and FEAP 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 FranceAgriMer on a weekly and monthly basis. Weekly data are monitored for a selection of 14 main commercial species and 17 auctions. Monthly data cover all species sold in the 35 French auctions. Both are accessible through dashboards, as well as through the bulk download facility. As for monthly first sales, data at disaggregated level are also accessible, through dashboards and the bulk download facility.

WHOLESALE

Prices are collected from FranceAgriMer on a weekly basis. Data cover sales in the Rungis market of a selection of 14 main commercial species.

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 10 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.

Moreover, retail prices of a selection of 11 main commercial species are collected on a weekly basis from FranceAgriMer. Retail prices from online shops are also available, as collected via price-scraper.