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SPAIN IN THE WORLD AND IN THE EU

2023, sources: Eurostat and FAO

In 2023, Spain was the largest EU producer of both aquaculture products and fishery production.

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-27	Spain	% world	% EU-27
Catches	91.681	3.555	767	0,8%	22%
Aquaculture	136.140	1.043	243	0,2%	23%
Total	**227.821**	**4.598**	**1.010**	**0,5%**	**22%**

FISHING FLEET

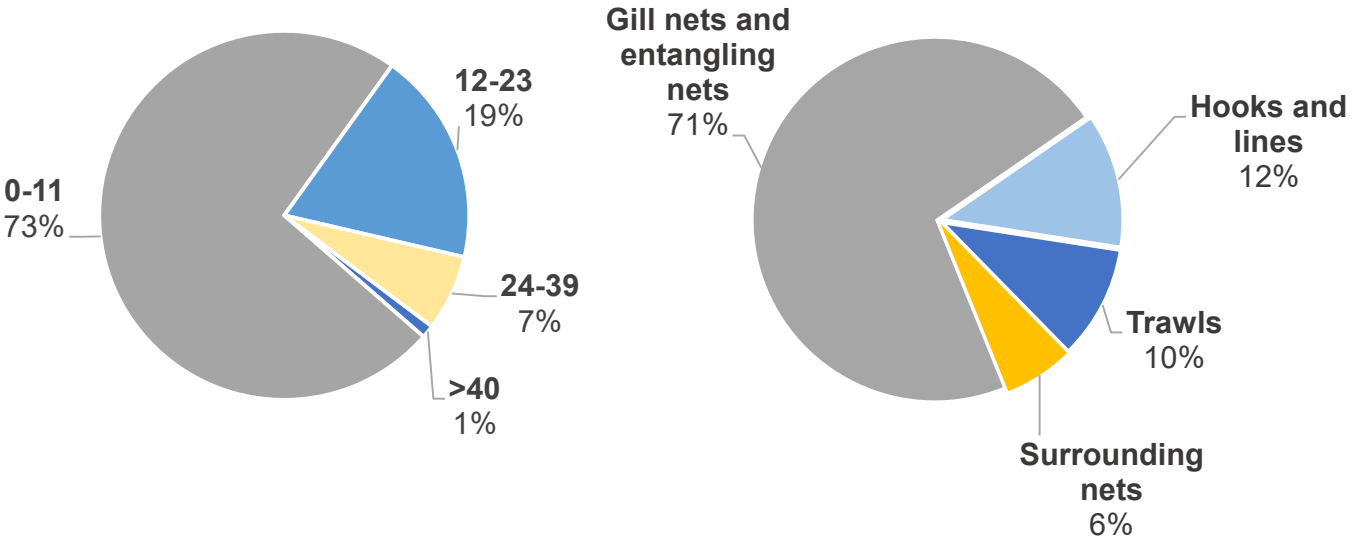
Fleet: 2024, source: EU fishing fleet register - Eurostat **Employment: 2023, source: JRC**

Vessels (2024)	Capacity (2024)	Power (2024)	
Number: 8.431	GT: 307.303	KW: 738.814	
TOTAL FTE: 21.172 (2023, source: JRC)			
0-11 m	**12-23 m**	**24-39 m**	**>40 m**
Jobs (FTE): 19%	Jobs (FTE): 28%	Jobs (FTE): 38%	Jobs (FTE): 14%

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

The Spanish fishing fleet by length and gear

(% of total number of vessels)



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LANDINGS

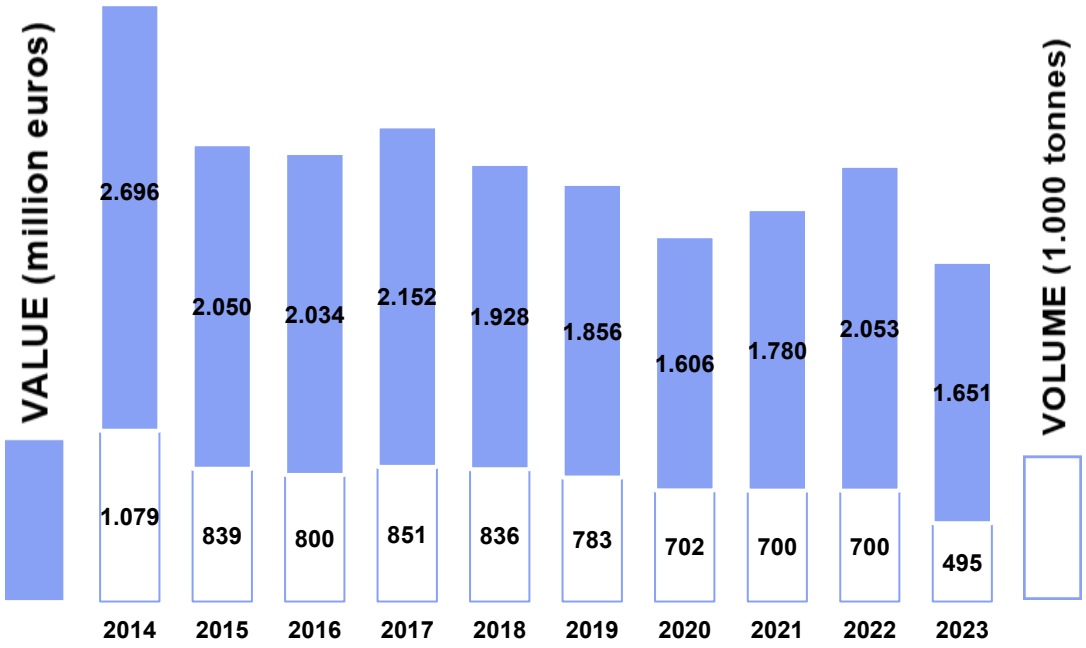
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat data

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.

In 2023, 53% of landings in Spain included frozen products, mainly whole/gutted and 47% included fresh products (mainly whole/gutted as well). The remaining quota included salted, smoked and cooked products. As for destination use, they were almost entirely for human consumption, with a small portion being destined for industrial use.

There are 332 fishing ports registered in Spain (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

	€				
HAKE	240	15%	69	14%	HAKE
SWORDFISH	138	8%	45	9%	ANCHOVY
ANCHOVY	91	5%	40	8%	MACKEREL
YELLOWFIN TUNA	81	5%	35	7%	SARDINE
MISCELLANEOUS SHRIMPS	77	5%	29	6%	YELLOWFIN TUNA
OTHERS	1025	62%	277	56%	OTHERS

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AQUACULTURE

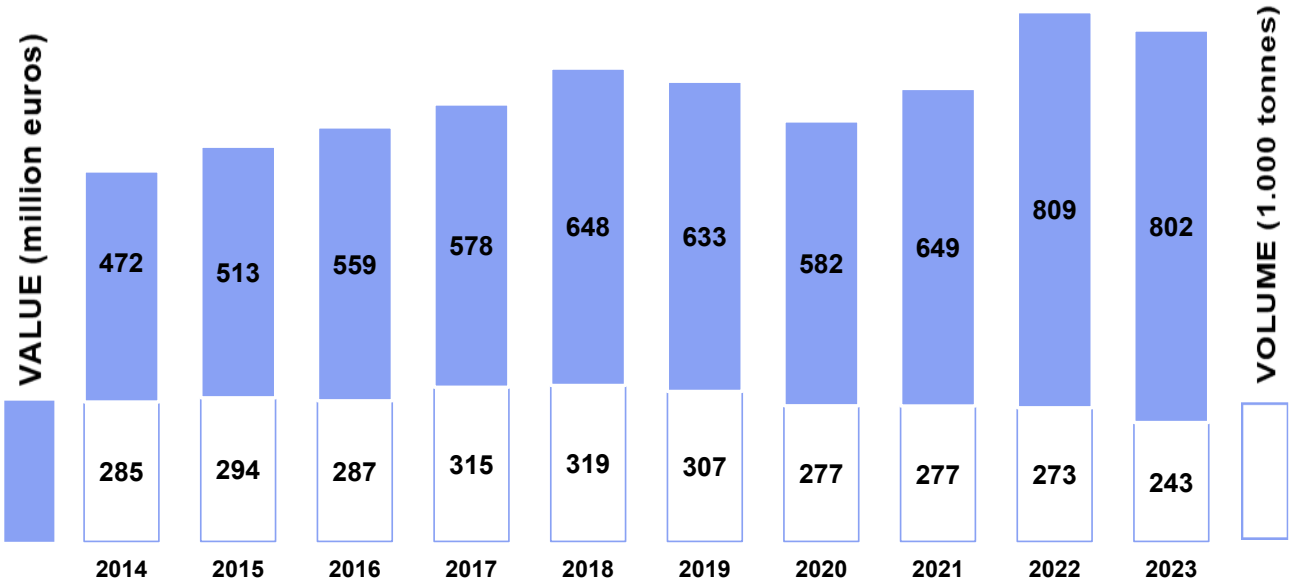
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat data

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, 93% of Spanish production occurred in marine waters, while the remaining 7% in freshwater. The following main production methods were used:

- 65% of production: off bottom in sea and brackish waters;
- 22% of production: cages in sea and brackish waters;
- 7% of production: tanks and raceways in freshwater;
- 1% of production: ponds in sea and brackish waters and a slight portion in freshwater (0,003%);

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

EUROPEAN SEABASS	200	25%	156	64%	MUSSEL *MYTILUS* SPP.
BLUEFIN TUNA	171	21%	24	10%	EUROPEAN SEABASS
MUSSEL *MYTILUS* SPP.	126	16%	18	7%	TROUT
TURBOT	84	10%	13	5%	GILTHEAD SEABREAM
TROUT	78	10%	11	4%	BLUEFIN TUNA
OTHERS	143	18%	21	9%	OTHERS

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PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

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

In Spain, **44 producer organisations (POs)** and **2 association 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 44 POs, 39 operate in the fishery sector and 5 in aquaculture. Both associations of POs are in the fishery sector.

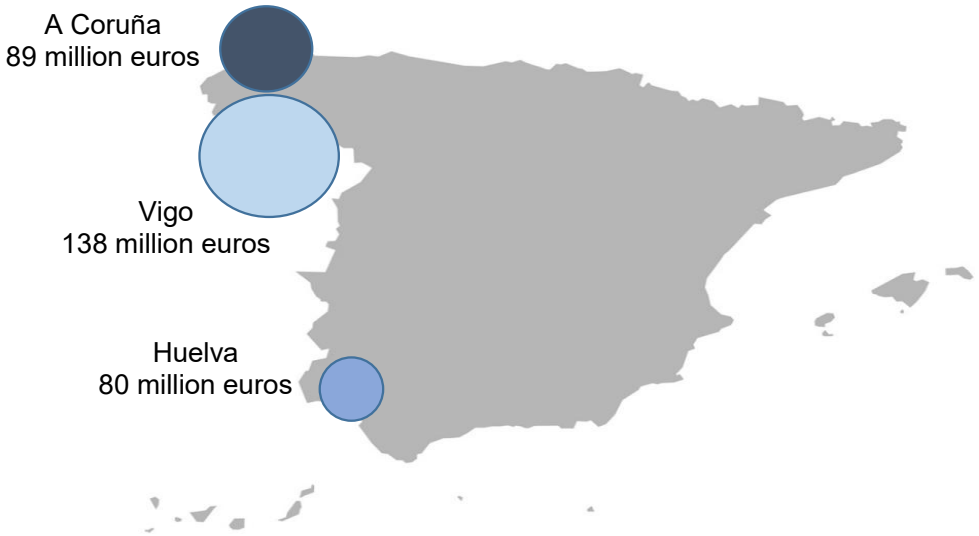
FIRST SALES

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 Spain, 201 places of sale were operating in 2025, of which 101 operating in the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast, 71 in the Mediterranean sea and 29 in outermost regions. In 2025, total first sales amounted to 368.447 tonnes and 1,43 billion euros.

The top-3 places of sale covered 18% and 21% 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)
Vigo	33.547	138	Monk, swordfish, other sharks
A Coruña	28.452	89	Hake, swordfish, Atlantic horse mackerel
Huelva	5.727	80	Miscellaneous shrimps, warmwater shrimps, deep-water rose shrimps

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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.

The wholesale distribution in Spain is mainly structured through the Food Units of the Mercasa network: 24 wholesale markets, out of which 20 include a fish wholesale market. In 2021, total sales of these 20 markets amounted to 599.934 tonnes, for a value of 4,33 billion euros. The most important fish wholesale markets are Mercabarna (185.883 tonnes for a value of 1,50 billion euros) and Mercamadrid (151.424 tonnes for a value of 1,10 billion euros). (source: Mercasa Informe Anual 2021).

PROCESSING

According to Eurostat-SBS, 25.148 persons were employed in the Spanish fish processing industry in 2023. The sector recorded a value added of 1,2 billion euros, covering 5% of the value added of total manufacture of food products.

In 2024, the main products sold were “Crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates and seaweed, otherwise prepared or preserved” and “Molluscs (scallops, mussels, cuttle fish, squid and octopus), frozen, dried, salted or in brine” (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

573 companies
Net turnover: 8 billion euros
(2024, source: Eurostat - SBS)

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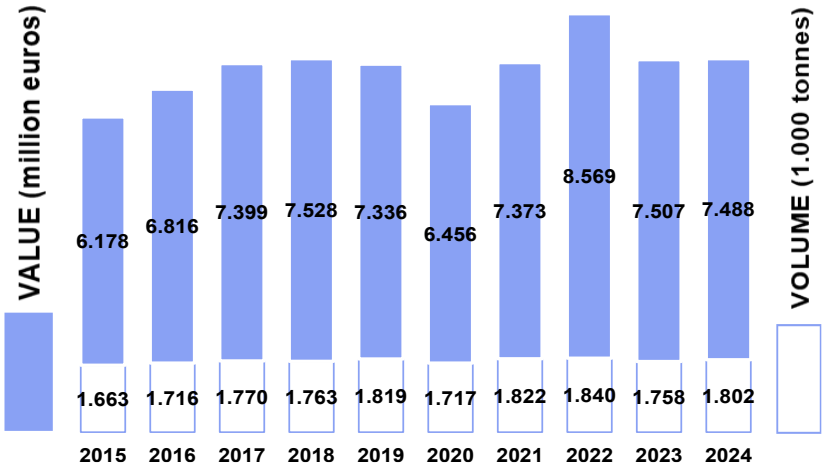
IMPORT – EXPORT

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat-COMEXT data

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

IMPORT

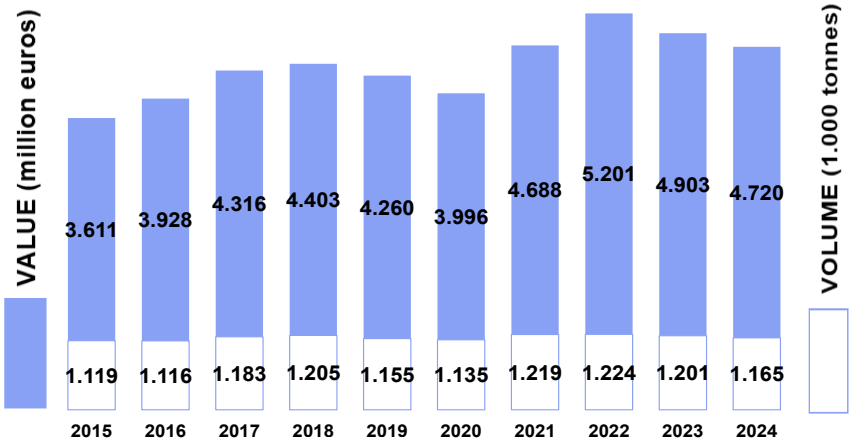


Main commercial species imported and % of total imports

2024, million euros (nominal value)

SALMON	939	11%
SQUID	752	9%
OCTOPUS	681	8%
SKIPJACK TUNA	590	7%
SHRIMPS (MISCELLANEOUS SPECIES)	575	7%
OTHERS	5260	60%

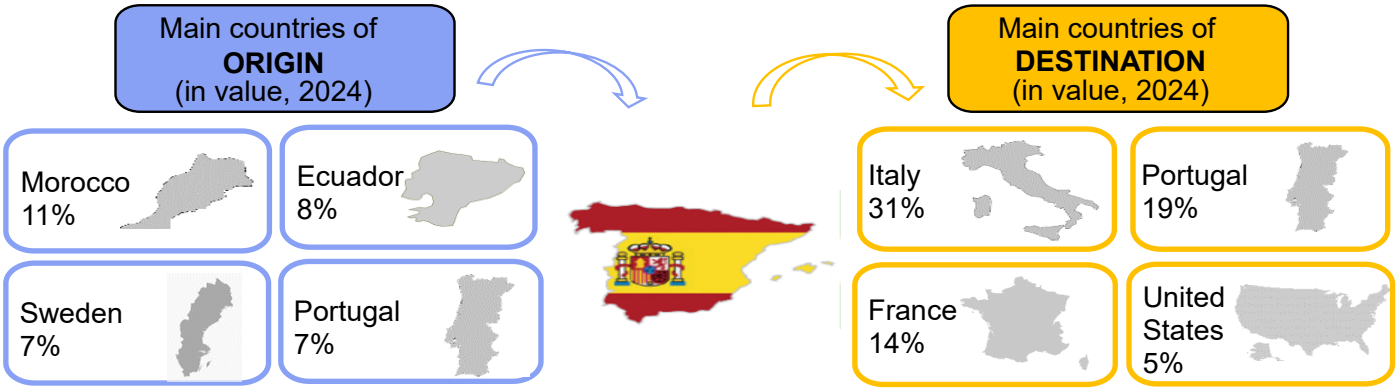
EXPORT



Main commercial species exported and % of total exports

2024, million euros (nominal value)

TUNA (MOSTLY SKIPJACK)	673	24%
OCTOPUS	554	10%
SQUID	460	8%
SHRIMPS (MISCELLANEOUS SPECIES)	292	5%
HAKE	287	5%
OTHERS	2633	47%



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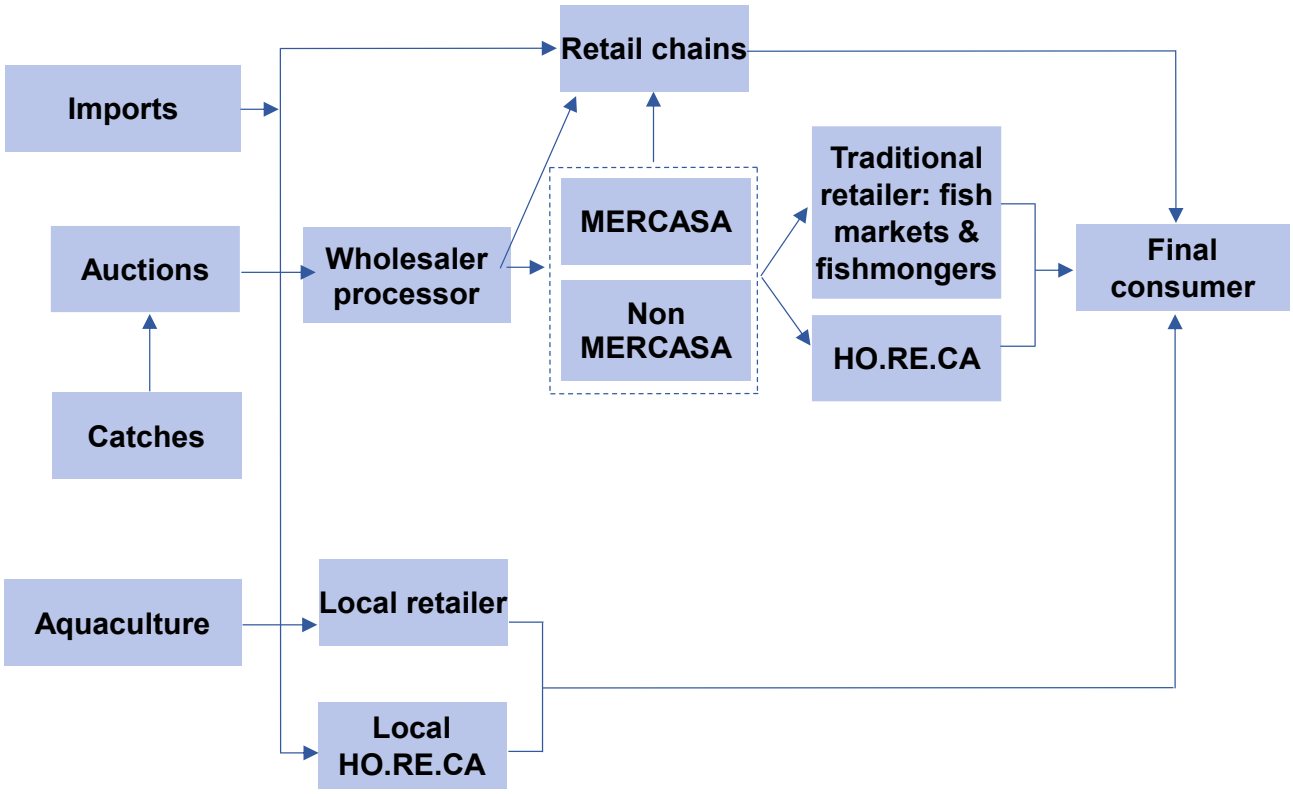
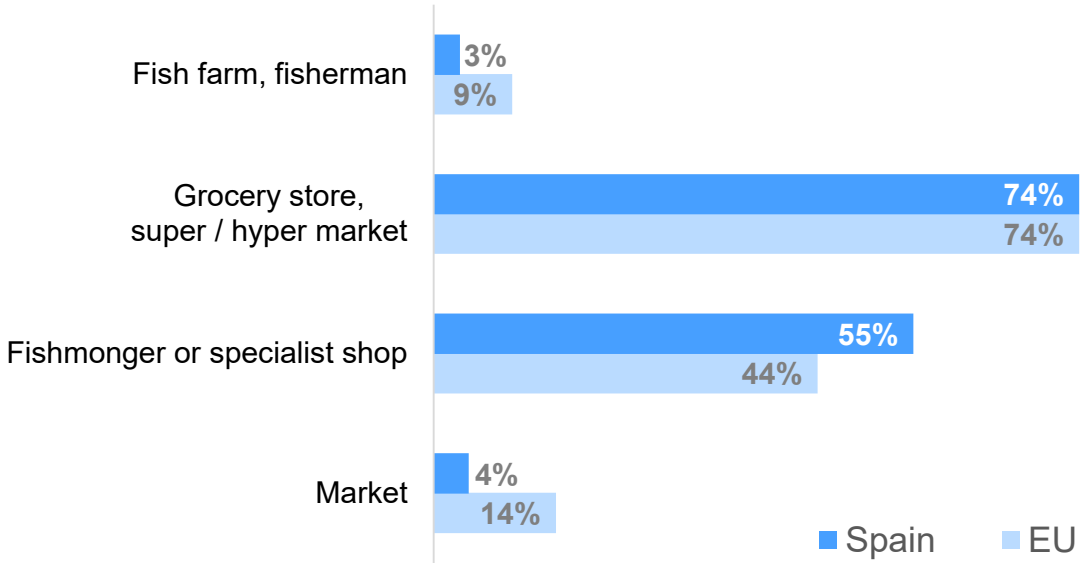
DISTRIBUTION

The supply chain of fisheries and aquaculture products in Spain (source: IDES, University of Cantabria):



MERCASA: Public owned network of food wholesale markets located in all provinces, providing infrastructures to private wholesalers.

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



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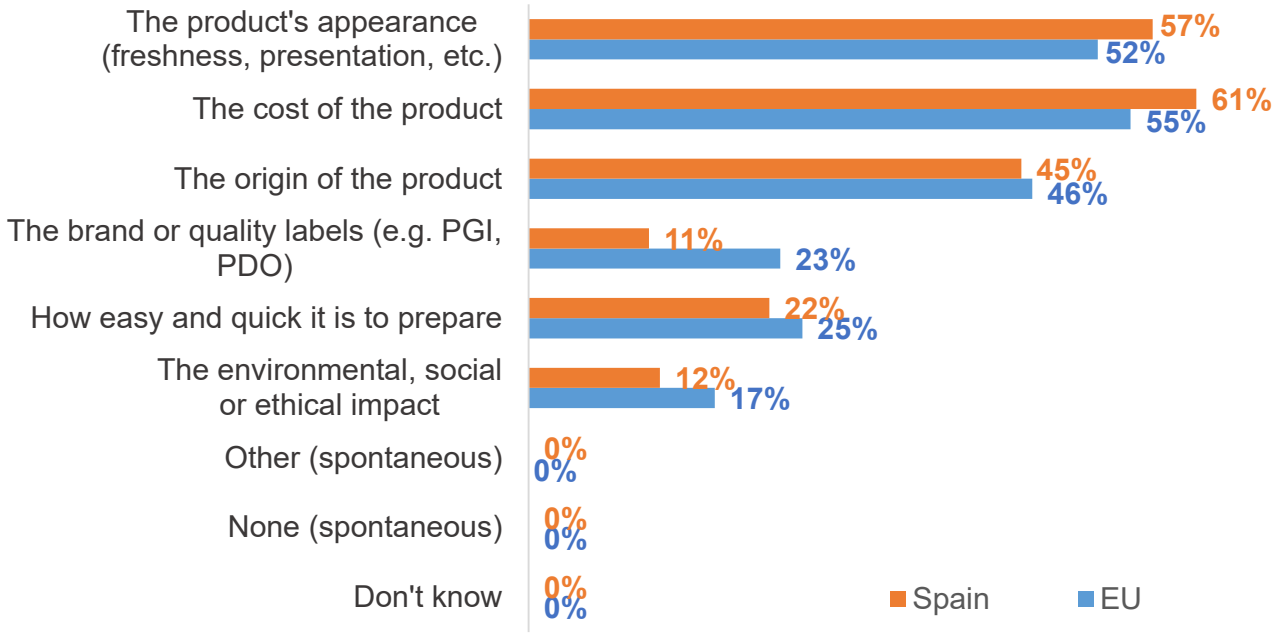
CONSUMPTION

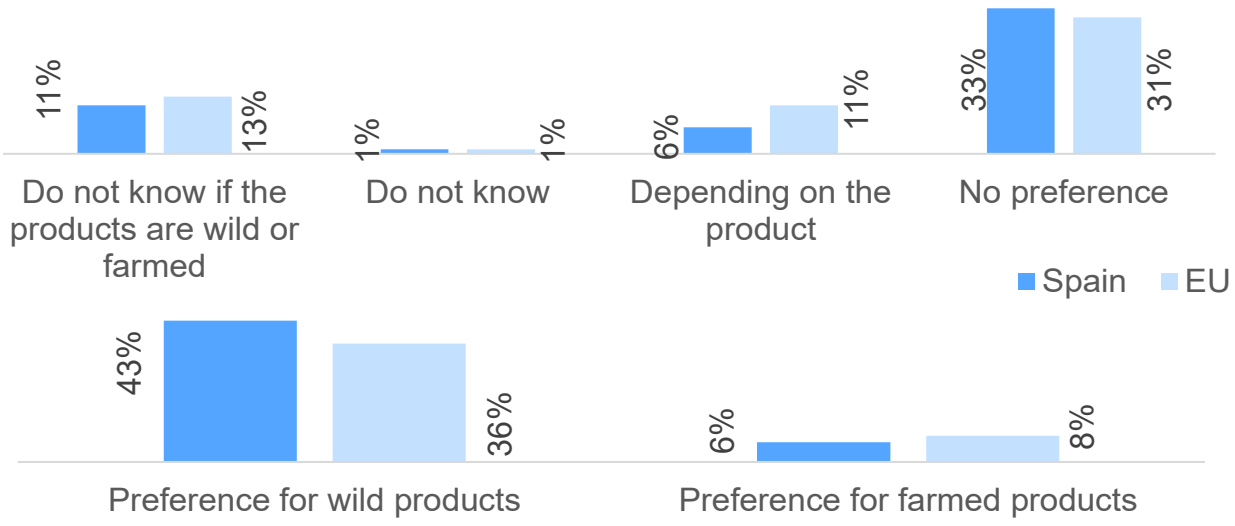
In 2023, apparent consumption was estimated at 40,68 kg per capita, a 3% decrease compared with 2022. The most consumed species were hake, cod, salmon, mussel and yellowfin tuna (source: EUMOFA).

40,68 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. 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 Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación (MAPA) on a weekly and monthly basis. Weekly data are monitored for a selection of 84 main commercial species and 201 places of sale. Monthly data cover all species sold in Spanish places of sale. Both are accessible through dashboards, as well as through 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 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. Retail prices from online shops are also available, as collected via price-scraper.