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CASE STUDY HORSE MACKEREL IN THE EU FOCUS ON SPAIN

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Horse mackerel in the EU (focus on Spain)

Catches of horse mackerel species reached 910.000 tonnes in 2024, representing 1% of the global catches. It is caught mainly by Namibia, Angola, and Morocco in the Southeast Atlantic and the Eastern Central Atlantic. EU catches reached 67.435 tonnes in 2024, mostly in the Northeast and Eastern Central Atlantic, mainly comprising catches by the Portuguese, Spanish, Lithuanian and Dutch fleets. In 2024, landings of horse mackerel in the EU reached 53.387 tonnes for a value of EUR 65 million, with Portugal accounting for 37% of the total value, followed by Spain (34%), and the Netherlands (16%). Extra-EU exports amounted to 48.338 tonnes for a value of EUR 77 million in 2025. They originated from the Netherlands, Ireland and Spain and were supplied mostly to Egypt and Cameroon. Extra-EU imports of horse mackerel are marginal (5.899 tonnes for a value of EUR 9,4 million in 2025), originating mainly from Norway, the United Kingdom, and Morocco. Due to the strong management measures implemented in 2023 and 2024 (reduced quota and fishing closure period), the national supply decreased (34% between 2022 and 2023) following the decline of the national catches and the decrease of Spanish imports from other MS. In 2025, following the allocation of quotas for direct fishing and the end of the national temporary closure, the Spanish trade of horse mackerel experienced a slight recovery. However, over the 2022-2025 period, imports decreased by 21% in volume (+33% in value) and exports decreased by 30% in volume (-19% in value). Spain is a major market for horse mackerel. Spanish apparent consumption of horse mackerel reached 10.016 tonnes LWE in 2023, equivalent to 0,208 kg LWE per capita, experiencing a 44% decline in one year following the stock management measures.

1.1. Biology, exploitation and management

Horse mackerel belongs to the genus *Trachurus* of the family Carangidae, which includes numerous species around the world. The most commercially important are Cape horse mackerel, Cunene horse mackerel, Mediterranean horse mackerel, and Atlantic horse mackerel. The latter, *Trachurus trachurus*, is the most commonly found in Europe, representing 5% of the volume of world catches in 2024.

Source: Scandinavian fishing yearbook

The Atlantic horse mackerel[1] is a benthopelagic demersal fish that lives in large schools on sandy bottoms of the continental shelf and slope between 100 and 200 meters; it can reach depth of 1.050 meters[2] during winter. It is more of a nocturnal hunter, returning to the depths during the day. This vertical migration is also coupled with seasonal migration: toward north in summer and returning in southern waters in winter when temperatures decrease. It feeds mainly on crustaceans (copepods, shrimps, etc.), small fish and squids.

The Atlantic horse mackerel is a slender dark blue fish with a darker back and silvery flanks. It has a large head with large eyes and is characterised by the presence of approximately 75 scutes on its lateral line[3]. Measuring between 30 cm and 40 cm, males reach sexual maturity at the age of 5 years (20 cm-length), while females reach it at 3 years (between 16 and 25 cm-length)[4]. The spawning period is long and varies according to the population: in the Northeast Atlantic, spawning occurs during spring, in the North Sea, stocks spawn in summer, while spawning season for Central and Southeast Atlantic goes from November to January. The Atlantic horse mackerel is predominantly fished during the spring and summer seasons.

Horse mackerel is mostly fished using pelagic trawls, but also seines, hooks, line and gillnets. EU fisheries catching horse mackerel are managed through TACs and quotas set according to the ICES agreements for seven stocks: JAX/4BC7D, JAX/2A-14, JAX/08C, JAX/09, JAX/34PRT, JAX/341PRT, and JAX/34SPN. A minimum catch size of 15 cm[5] is also enforced in all fishing areas.

In 2023, horse mackerel stocks were considered overexploited. Following ICES recommendations, EU banned direct fishing for horse mackerel and quotas were allocated exclusively for by-catches. In addition, Spain established a voluntary temporary closure of the horse mackerel fishery in the Bay of Biscay (JAX/08C) following ICES recommendations and the

[1] https://fish-commercial-names.ec.europa.eu/fish-names/species/trachurus-trachurus_en

[2] https://doris.ffessm.fr/Especes/Trachurus-trachurus-Chinchard-commun-921/(rOffset)/0

[3] *Ibidem*

[4] Michèle Viette, Piero Giulio Giulianini, Enrico Antonio Ferrero, Reproductive biology of scad, *Trachurus mediterraneus* (Teleostei, Carangidae), from the Gulf of Trieste, *ICES Journal of Marine Science*, Volume 54, Issue 2, April 1997, Pages 267–272, https://doi.org/10.1006/jmsc.1996.0185

[5] https://fish-commercial-names.ec.europa.eu/fish-names/species/trachurus-trachurus_en

poor state of the stock[6]. The closure was extended to 2024[7] and made mandatory for two months. The Spanish government implemented a financial compensation for purse seiners and passive gears vessels whose activity depended on horse mackerel fishery. In 2025, following the stock recovery, ICES recommendations for TACs for the JAX/08C stock amounted to 10.324 tonnes and quotas for direct fisheries were allocated again[8].

1.2. Production

Global catches

The global production of horse mackerel reached 910.000 tonnes in 2024. It was mostly caught in the Eastern Central Atlantic (42%) and in the Southeast Atlantic (38%), and to a lesser extent in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (6%), Southwest Pacific (5%), and Northwest Atlantic (5%). The main caught species were Cape horse mackerel (22% of the total), Cunene horse mackerel (18%), Atlantic horse mackerel (5%), and the Mediterranean horse mackerel (3%). Jack and horse mackerel nei[9] accounted for 52% of the global catches in 2024. The main producers were Namibia (21%), Angola (16%), and Morocco (12%). EU catches accounted for 7% of the global catches of horse mackerel in 2024. Other important countries were Belize, Russia, Georgia, New Zealand, and India. Horse mackerel is not farmed in aquaculture.

Over the last decade (2015-2024), the global production of horse mackerel decreased by 17%, though with some interannual fluctuations, mostly due to Cape horse mackerel. The increase of Cunene horse mackerel and Mediterranean horse mackerel catches (respectively by 98% and 14%) did not balance the decrease of Cape horse mackerel catches (48%) and the decrease of Atlantic horse mackerel catches (58%).

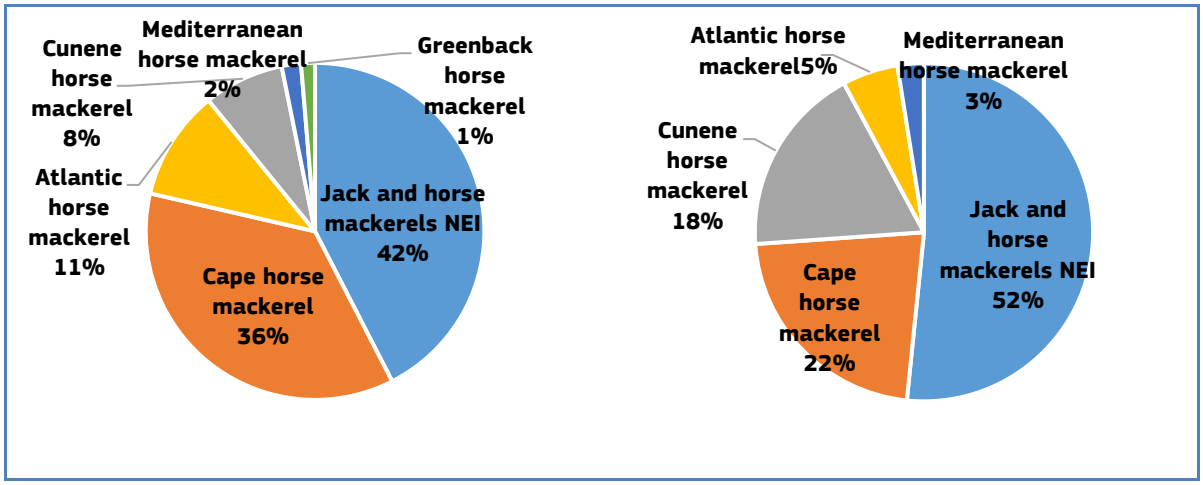
Table 1. **WORLD CATCHES OF HORSE MACKEREL SPECIES (volume in tonnes live weight)**

Country	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Namibia	321.827	331.244	321.714	306.423	296.338	182.309	185.000	190.000	190.000	195.000
Angola	89.263	71.399	81.319	48.767	68.449	79.165	128.387	149.700	103.816	145.059
Morocco	41.616	41.609	31.329	24.783	28.687	30.943	33.801	44.301	71.269	107.066
Belize	37.442	36.679	49.315	77.216	82.357	69.630	76.400	76.400	76.400	76.400
EU-27	222.838	249.069	208.378	184.178	186.320	133.542	135.175	121.044	66.223	67.435
Russia	102.816	98.312	108.653	75.899	41.268	48.226	43.212	39.900	48.735	61.205
Georgia	600	9.607	17.676	51.950	69.993	55.145	50.005	57.003	59.625	56.150
New Zealand	44.505	38.965	48.015	48.313	43.134	37.356	45.723	38.630	44.927	45.357
India	36.510	39.936	51.964	49.010	48.365	38.434	42.842	35.413	40.176	41.201
Senegal	10.362	46.513	19.347	28.521	30.923	10.952	36.295	26.280	12.770	24.277
Mauritania	32.197	36.656	17.620	13.786	9.950	9.350	13.400	15.500	15.810	23.532
Others	155.557	119.792	144.579	96.093	101.824	95.622	103.797	83.352	68.116	67.257
World	**1.095.532**	**1.119.782**	**1.099.909**	**1.004.939**	**1.007.608**	**790.674**	**894.037**	**877.522**	**797.867**	**909.939**

Source: FAO.

6 https://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-2023-4312
7 https://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2024-9132
8 https://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2025-4686
9 Not elsewhere included.

Figure 1. **WORLD CATCHES OF HORSE MACKEREL BY SPECIES IN 2015 (left) AND 2024 (right) (% volume)**



Source: FAO.

EU catches

In 2024, the EU catches of horse mackerels reached 67.435 tonnes. Most of these catches occurred in the Northeast Atlantic (55%), caught almost exclusively by the Portuguese fleet (48%), the Spanish fleet (27%), and the Dutch fleet (17%) and in the Eastern Central Atlantic (32%), captured mainly by the Lithuanian (60%) and Dutch fleets (32%). The Mediterranean and Black Sea accounted for 13% of total EU catches, mostly caught by the Spanish fleet (49%), Greek, Croatian, and Italian fleets (respectively 15%, 14%, and 13% of the volume caught in this area). The Atlantic horse mackerel accounted for 60% of EU catches in 2024, Mediterranean horse mackerel for 7% and Jack and horse mackerels nei for 33%. The main EU producers were Portugal (26% of the total EU catch), Spain (22%), Lithuania (19%), and the Netherlands (18%). Over the last decade (2015-2024), EU catches of horse mackerel experienced a strong decrease (70%) due to the decrease of Atlantic horse mackerel catches (58%) and the decline of Cape horse mackerel catches (100%). Spanish catches experienced a significant decrease between 2022 and 2023 (37%) due to the national temporary closure of the horse mackerel fishery in the Bay of Biscay[10]. Spanish catches further decreased in 2024 (15% in one year) following the extension of the temporary closure of horse mackerel fishery[11].

Table 2. **EU CATCHES OF HORSE MACKERELS (volume in tonnes live weight)**

Country	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Portugal	23.214	2.207	22.048	16.029	17.019	14.086	16.861	18.036	17.688	17.708
Spain	**31.931**	**48.724**	**47.337**	**43.876**	**52.915**	**48.629**	**34.360**	**28.045**	**17.749**	**15.154**
Lithuania	32.993	43.637	21.566	13.310	24.795	20.797	16.033	16.417	12.203	12.865
Netherlands	40.487	30.343	21.867	31.004	32.017	20.372	24.606	23.659	10.528	11.826
Ireland	21.655	27.606	23.918	26.313	28.899	13.065	18.944	15.801	1.741	1.778
France	5.089	5.424	7.361	6.731	6.859	4.294	4.698	4.354	750	1.592
Others	67.469	91.128	64.281	46.915	23.816	12.300	19.674	14.731	5.565	6.511
EU-27	**222.838**	**249.069**	**208.378**	**184.178**	**186.320**	**133.542**	**135.175**	**121.044**	**66.223**	**67.435**

Source: FAO.

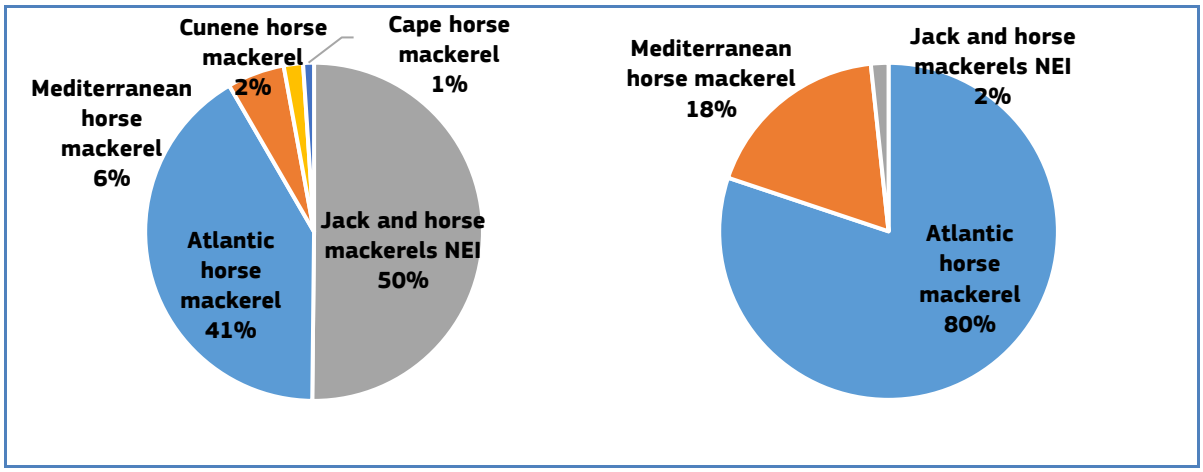
Spanish catches of horse mackerel amounted to 15.154 tonnes in 2024 - a 53% decrease compared to 2015. Catches of the Spanish fleet originated mainly from Northeastern Atlantic (66%) and from the Mediterranean and Black Sea (29%), and to a lesser extent from the Eastern Central Atlantic (5%). In 2024, the main caught species was the Atlantic horse mackerel (80% of the catches), followed by the Mediterranean horse mackerel (18%). Jack and horse mackerel nei accounted for 2% of the catches. The significant decrease of the Spanish catches was driven by the decline of jack and

[10] https://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-2023-4312

[11] https://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2024-9132

horse mackerel nei catches (98% since 2015) and the decrease of Atlantic horse catches (8%) that were not balanced by the 57% increase of Mediterranean horse mackerel catches.

Figure 2. **SPANISH CATCHES OF HORSE MACKERELS BY SPECIES IN 2015 (left) AND 2024 (right) (% volume)**



Source: FAO.

EU landings

In 2024[12], landings of horse mackerel in the EU amounted to EUR 78,9 million. Most of these landings occurred in Portugal and Spain (accounting respectively for 37% and 34% of the total value). Other main landing countries were the Netherlands (16% of the value) and to a lesser extent Italy (4%) and Greece (3%). Over the 2016-2024 period, EU landings declined by 50% in value, mostly because of decreased landings in value in Spain (15%), and in the Netherlands (83%). EU landings of horse mackerel were relatively stable in value until 2019, before decreasing in 2020 and peaking in 2021 at EUR 155 million. A strong decline was observed after 2021, in relation to landing decrease in all major MS except Portugal.

Table 3. **LANDINGS OF HORSE MACKEREL IN THE EU (value in 1.000 EUR)**

Country	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Evol. 2015/24
Portugal	22.662	19.971	19.500	21.428	23.573	19.611	26.294	27.211	25.836	24.293	7%
Spain	25.840	38.072	40.541	40.060	43.480	45.018	38.075	34.587	21.951	21.925	-15%
Netherlands	59.077	29.585	30.997	36.496	35.417	26.460	64.325	22.511	13.652	10.283	-83%
Italy	5.172	5.286	5.758	5.866	4.280	2.229	3.112	2.942	3.087	2.804	-46%
Greece	2.178	1.815	1.796	1.680	1.997	1.787	1.552	1.862	1.924	1.799	-17%
Ireland	11.787	15.695	22.162	11.504	13.310	9.370	15.966	19.534	1.986	1.354	-89%
France	2.600	3.485	3.417	3.250	3.930	2.766	3.870	4.707	1.095	1.190	-54%
Others	1.062	1.773	4.405	1.539	2.043	1.177	2.174	1.222	1.812	1.324	25%
Total	**130.378**	**115.682**	**128.576**	**121.824**	**128.031**	**108.418**	**155.369**	**114.576**	**71.343**	**64.973**	**-50%**

Source: EUMOFA based on Eurostat.

According to STECF annual economic report data base, **Spanish landings** amounted to EUR 21,8 million in 2023. Landings of horse mackerel in Spain increased by 16% between 2016 and 2020, before declining by 50% between 2020 and 2023. Horse mackerel were mainly landed by purse seiners with a length between 18 and 24 meters (29% of the Spanish horse mackerel landings in 2023); followed by demersal trawlers between, 24 and 40 meters (19%), purse seiners between 12 and 18 meters (19%), and purse seiners between 24 and 40 meters (19%).

[12] Last available year for horse mackerel landings

Demersal trawlers between 24 and 40 meters and those above 40 meters experienced strong declines of horse mackerel landings: respectively -64% and -80% in value between 2016 and 2023. It is worth noting that over the same period (2016-2023), the number of demersal trawlers between 24 and 40 meters decreased by 26 (from 277 to 251 vessels) and the number of demersal trawlers over 40 meters by 6 (from 46 to 40)[13]. Over the same period, landings from purse seiners between 18 and 24 meters increased by 2%, and landings from purse seiners between 6 and 12 meters rose by 32%. Horse mackerel landings from the latter fleet segment accounted for almost a third of the overall landing value of the segment in 2023.

Table 4. **SPANISH LANDINGS OF HORSE MACKEREL PER FLEET SEGMENT (value in 1.000 EUR)**

Fleet segment	Landings in 2016 (1.000 EUR)	Landings in 2023 (1.000 EUR)	Evol 2023/2016	Share of horse mackerel landings over total fleet landings
Purse seiners 18-24 meters	6.021	6.165	+2%	9%
Demersal trawlers and/or demersal seiners 24-40 meters	11.754	4.257	-64%	2%
Purse seiners 12-18 meters	4.792	4.220	-12%	13%
Purse seiners 24-40 meters	4.680	3.236	-31%	4%
Demersal trawlers and/or demersal seiners 18-24 meters	1.384	1.285	-7%	1%
Demersal trawlers and/or demersal seiners >40 meters	6.456	1.146	-82%	1%
Demersal trawlers and/or demersal seiners 12-18 meters	356	440	24%	1%
Purse seiners 10-12 meters	599	353	-41%	17%
Purse seiners 6-12 meters	183	241	+32%	31%
Others	1.494	496	-67%	0%
Total	**37.719**	**21.839**	**-42%**	**1%**

Source: STECF.

1.3. First sales in the EU

In 2025, reported first sales of horse mackerel in EU countries amounted to a volume of 54.652 tonnes and a value of EUR 73,8 million[14]. The main countries in terms of first sales volume and value were by far Spain (39% of total volume and 40% of total value), Portugal (24% of total volume and 27% of the value), and Ireland (27% of the volume and 24% of the value). All first sales consist of whole fresh products, and more precisely of fresh **Atlantic horse mackerel** (88% of the total value; 88% of the total volume), and to a lesser extent of fresh **Mediterranean horse mackerel** (8% in value and 6% in volume) and **jack and horse mackerel nei** (4% of total value and 6% of total volume). In 2025, first sales rose by 65% in volume compared to 2024, however they declined by 44% since 2016, in relation with the fluctuation of Atlantic horse mackerel first sales. Over the period (2016-2025), average first sale prices of Mediterranean horse mackerel were higher than those of Atlantic horse mackerel. In 2025, they reached respectively 1,65 EUR/kg and 1,35 EUR/kg in nominal terms. Since 2022, first sale prices of Atlantic horse mackerel increased by 17% in relation with the volume decrease, while those of Mediterranean horse mackerel increased by 5%.

In 2025, the most important places of sale reported for horse mackerel in volume terms were: Killybegs in Ireland (23% of the EU first sale volume); Peniche and Sesimbra in Portugal (8% and 5%), and A Coruña and Ponte de Porto in Spain (7% and 3% of the EU volume, respectively).

In **Spain**, over the 2022-2025 period, first sales peaked in 2022 and 2025 at 25.634 tonnes and 21.790 tonnes respectively and dropped at approximately 16.000 and 15.000 tonnes in 2023 and 2024, in relation with the national closure of the targeted fishery in 2023 and 2024. First sale prices increased by 11% between 2022 and 2023, and by 15% between 2022 and 2024, before stabilising in 2025 following the increase of first sale in volume. Spanish monthly

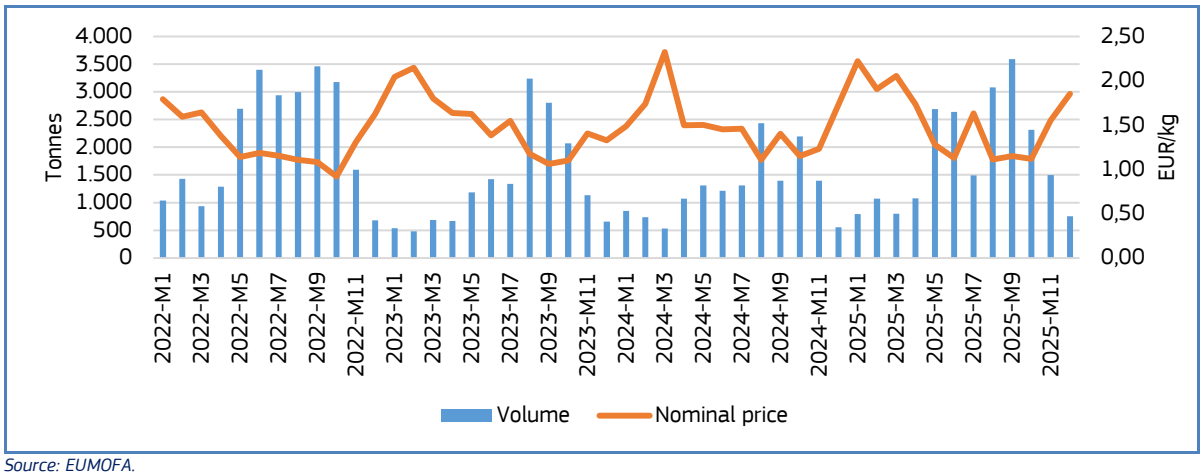
[13] STECF

[14] Source: EUMOFA.

first sales of horse mackerel peaked at 3.590 tonnes in September 2025 and reached their lowest level at 480 tonnes in February 2023.

Spanish first sales of horse mackerel show a strong seasonality in Spain with larger volumes in late spring, summer, and early autumn, with around 70% of the first sales occurring between May and October. Monthly nominal prices of horse mackerel fluctuated between 0,92 and 2,33 EUR/kg, showing a strong correlation with first sale volumes with peaking prices when volumes are at their lowest levels, and low prices during the high-volume season.

Figure 3. **FIRST SALES OF HORSE MACKEREL IN SPAIN (volume in tonnes net weight and price in EUR/kg)**



Source: EUMOFA.

1.4. Import – Export

In the Combined Nomenclature used for registering EU import-export data, horse mackerels are specifically reported whole live/fresh or frozen[15].

In 2025, the EU-27 imported 5.899 tonnes of horse mackerel at a value of EUR 9,4 million. Frozen Atlantic horse mackerel accounted for 91% of the imported volume, while frozen horse and jack mackerel nei accounted for 3% and fresh Atlantic horse mackerel for 1% of the imported volume. Horse mackerel was provided to the EU market by Norway (45% of the imported value of horse mackerel), the United Kingdom (23% of the imported value), and Morocco (19%). The Netherlands were by far the main entry point in the EU market accounting for 67% of the horse mackerel extra-EU imports value, followed by Spain which accounted for 23% of the extra-EU imported value.

In the same year, EU horse mackerel exports to third countries were much higher and amounted to 48.338 tonnes at a value of EUR 77,4 million. Frozen Atlantic horse mackerel accounted for 90% of the total extra-EU export value, followed by fresh horse and jack mackerel nei (4% of the exported value), fresh Atlantic horse mackerel (3%), and frozen horse and jack mackerel nei (2%). The main destinations for horse mackerel in value terms were by far Egypt (38% of the value) and Cameroon (24%). The Netherlands were by far the main EU exporter of horse mackerel to third countries (48% of the exported value), followed by Ireland (23%) and Spain (16%).

Spanish imports of horse mackerel from EU and non-EU countries amounted to 7.025 tonnes and EUR 17 million in 2025. Fresh horse mackerel accounted for 36% of the imported volume and 72% of the imported value, while frozen horse mackerel accounted for 64% of the volume and 28% of the value. Fresh horse mackerel originated mainly from Greece (58% of the imported value in 2025), followed by Portugal (24% of the value), and France (12% of the value). Portugal, Morocco, and the Netherlands were the main suppliers of frozen horse mackerel, accounting respectively for 45%, 36%, and 10% of the imported value in 2025. Spanish imports increased progressively since 2020, reaching their highest volume in 2025, mainly driven by the decrease of the national catches and the fishery closure. Overall, imports increased by 22% in volume between 2020 and 2025. Over the same period, nominal prices increased: by 137% (96% in real terms), reaching 2,45 EUR/kg in 2025.

[15] 03024510 - Fresh or chilled Atlantic horse mackerel "Trachurus trachurus"
03024590 - Fresh or chilled jack and horse mackerel "Trachurus spp." "(excl. Atlantic horse mackerel and Chilean jack mackerel)
03035510 - Frozen Atlantic horse mackerel "Trachurus trachurus"
03035590 - Frozen jack and horse mackerel "Trachurus spp." "(excl. Atlantic horse mackerel and Chilean jack mackerel)

Table 5. **Evolution of SPANISH IMPORTS OF HORSE MACKEREL FROM EU AND NON-EU COUNTRIES (tonnes, 1.000 EUR, nominal price in EUR/kg)**

Product		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Evol. 2025/2020
Fresh	Value	3.322	6.014	6.913	4.445	9.132	12.422	274%
	Volume	1.773	3.144	3.527	2.128	2.877	2.517	42%
	Price	**1,87**	**1,91**	**1,96**	**2,09**	**3,17**	**4,94**	**118%***
Frozen	Value	2.641	4.488	6.022	4.514	3.309	4.818	82%
	Volume	3.982	5.147	5.345	5.196	3.186	4.507	13%
	Price	**0,66**	**0,87**	**1,13**	**0,87**	**1,04**	**1,07**	**33%***

Source: EUMOFA elaboration of Eurostat-COMEXT data.
**Price evolutions are given on real terms (using the GDP deflator (base=2020).*

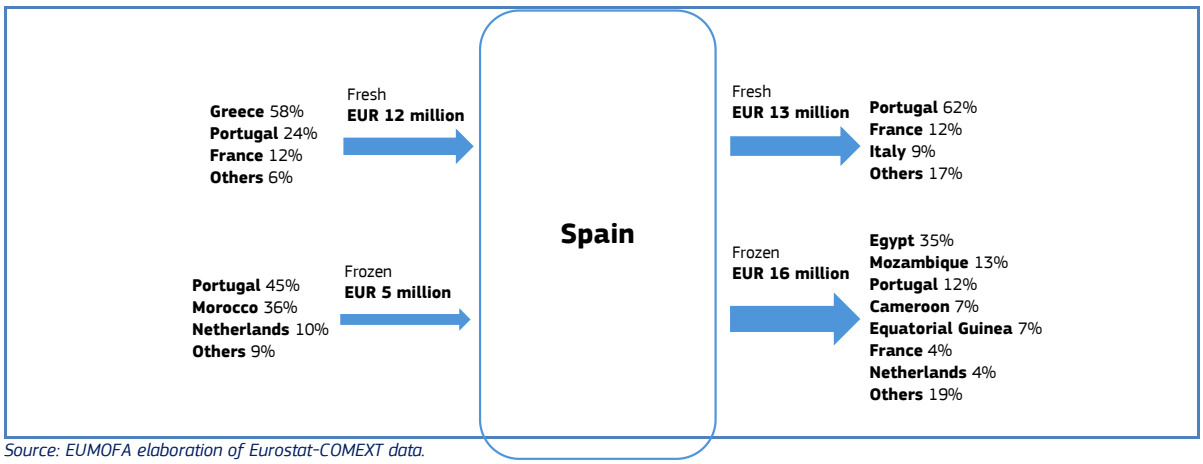
The same year, **Spanish exports** of horse mackerel to EU and non-EU countries amounted to 15.074 tonnes and EUR 29 million. Frozen horse mackerel accounted for 70% of the exports in volume (55% of the value), while fresh exports represented 30% of the exported volume (45% of the value). Egypt was the main destination for exports of frozen horse mackerel in 2025 (35% of the value), followed to a lesser extent by Mozambique and Portugal (respectively 13% and 12% of the exported frozen value). Fresh horse mackerel were mostly exported to Portugal (63% of the value), as well as to France (12% of the value), and Italy (9% of the value). Exports experienced a significant decrease in volume between 2022 and 2023 (36% for fresh exports and 28% for frozen exports) driven by the decline of the national supply. Exports reached their lowest in 2024 (12.577 tonnes exported) before increasing again in 2025 (20% in one year, reaching 4.476 tonnes for fresh exports and 10.598 tonnes for frozen exports). Nominal prices of horse mackerel exports increased over the period: 54% for fresh exports (28% in real terms) and 44% for frozen exports (19% in real terms, reaching their highest value in 2025 at 2,37 EUR/kg for fresh horse mackerel and 1,48 EUR/kg for frozen horse mackerel.

Table 6. **Evolution of SPANISH EXPORTS OF HORSE MACKEREL TO EU AND NON-EU COUNTRIES (tonnes, 1.000 EUR, nominal price in EUR/kg)**

Product		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Evol. 2025/2020
Fresh	Value	12.979	11.211	10.107	7.132	7.645	12.802	-1%
	Volume	7.005	4.964	4.161	2.670	2.860	4.476	-36%
	Price	**1,85**	**2,26**	**2,43**	**2,67**	**2,67**	**2,86**	**28%***
Frozen	Value	32.892	31.182	25.086	17.303	12.424	15.729	-52%
	Volume	31.920	25.809	17.410	12.486	9.718	10.598	-67%
	Price	**1,03**	**1,21**	**1,44**	**1,39**	**1,28**	**1,48**	**19%***

Source: EUMOFA elaboration of Eurostat-COMEXT data.
** Price evolutions are given on real terms (using the GDP deflator (base=2020).*

Figure 4. **THE SPANISH HORSE MACKEREL TRADE MARKET IN 2025, IN VALUE**



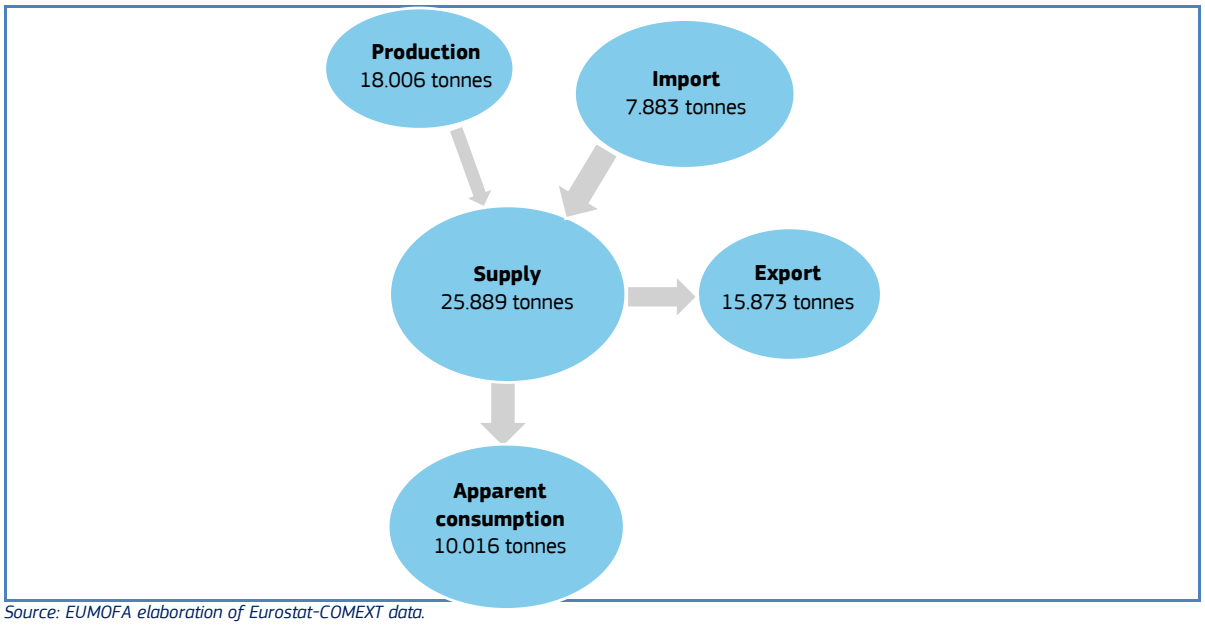
Source: EUMOFA elaboration of Eurostat-COMEXT data.

1.5. Consumption

Apparent consumption of horse mackerel (Atlantic horse mackerel and other species of horse mackerel) at EU level was estimated at 76.724 tonnes LWE in 2023, equivalent to 0,171 kg LWE per capita. Supply reached 128.753 LWE tonnes of which 92% originated from EU catches and 8% was imported. Exports represented 40% of the overall supply.

Spain is a major consumption market for horse mackerel in the EU; the apparent consumption of horse mackerel and other species of horse mackerel was estimated at 10.016 tonnes LWE in 2023, equivalent to 0,208 kg LWE per capita. Horse mackerel is much appreciated by Spanish consumers for its flavor and its cheap price. It can be consumed grilled, fried (for the smaller fish), marinated, cooked or salted/dried (in the Azores especially).The Spanish apparent consumption of horse mackerel experienced a 44% decrease in one year between 2022 and 2023, in relation with the decline of the national supply (34%) following management measures and the closure of horse mackerel fishery in the Bay of Biscay.

Figure 5. **APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF HORSE MACKEREL IN SPAIN IN 2023 (LWE)**



Source: EUMOFA elaboration of Eurostat-COMEXT data.
**data concern Atlantic horse mackerel and other species of horse mackerel.*

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