



OYSTERS (OSTREIDAE)



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Magallana gigas

BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

- **Species description** ([Read more](#))

Oyster is the common name for many salt-water bivalve molluscs living in marine or brackish waters. Most are part of the family *Ostreoidea*.

The main species produced in Europe is *Crassostrea gigas*.

- **Geographical distribution and habitat** ([Read more](#))

Oysters have a worldwide distribution and can be found in all seas and oceans, from saltwaters to brackish waters.

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

- **Production methods and fishing gears** ([Read more](#))

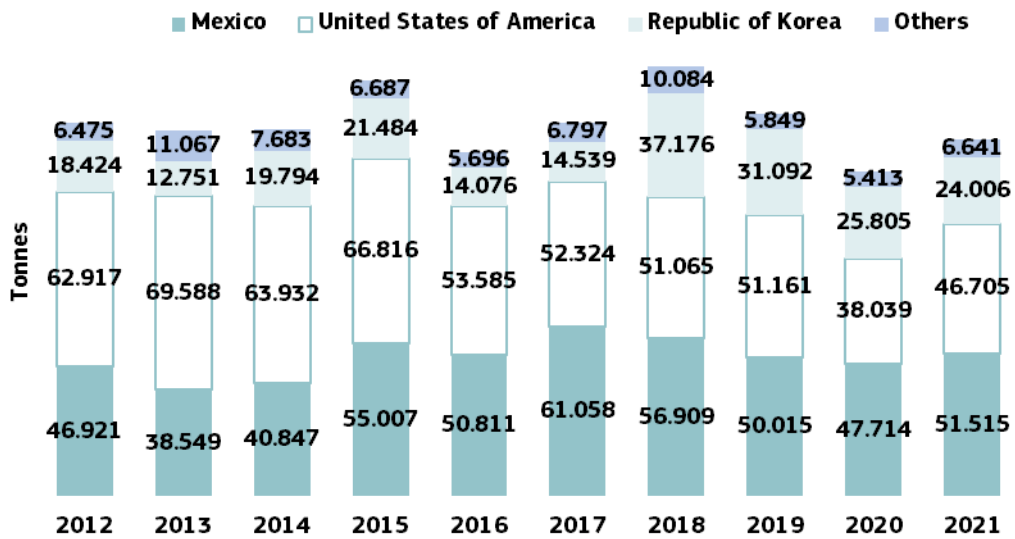
Oysters can be caught in the wild but are mainly farmed. The main fishing gears used are dredges and trawls.



CATCHES

Evolution of world catches

- Production of all oysters' species amounted to circa 128.867 tonnes in 2021, i.e. 0,1% of the total global fisheries production. The leading producers are Mexico (Gulf of Mexico) and the USA amounting to respectively 40% and 36% global production. In fact, most of the world's remaining wild capture of native oysters comes mainly from ecoregions on the East and Gulf coasts of North America (mainly Virginian to Southern Gulf of Mexico).

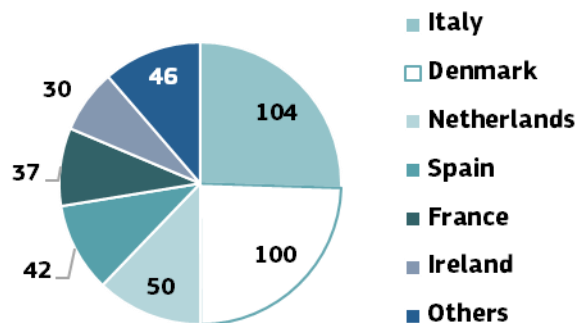


Source: FAO

Evolution of EU catches (tonnes)

- EU catches, which were above 10.000 tonnes at the end of the 1960s, followed then a decreasing trend to less than 1.000 tonnes since 2017. In 2021, EU catches amounted to 409 tonnes and represented only 0,3% of global oyster catches. The **European flat oyster** (*Ostrea edulis*) is the main caught species within the EU. It represented 71% of the total EU oyster catches in 2021. Italy, Denmark, and the Netherlands were the main producers. These countries produced 74% of the EU catches.

Catches (2021, tonnes)



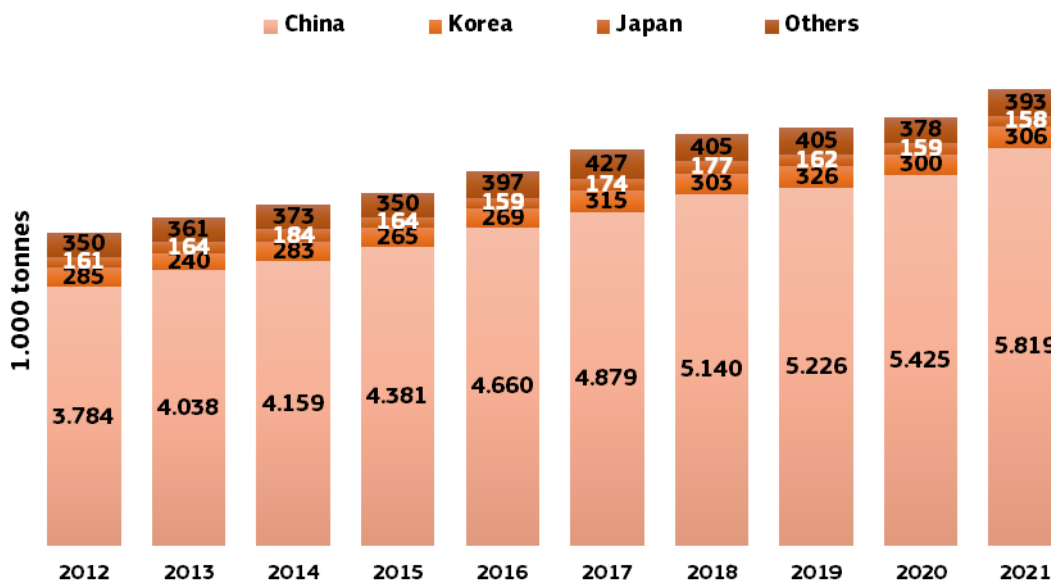
Source: FAO



AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

Evolution of world aquaculture production

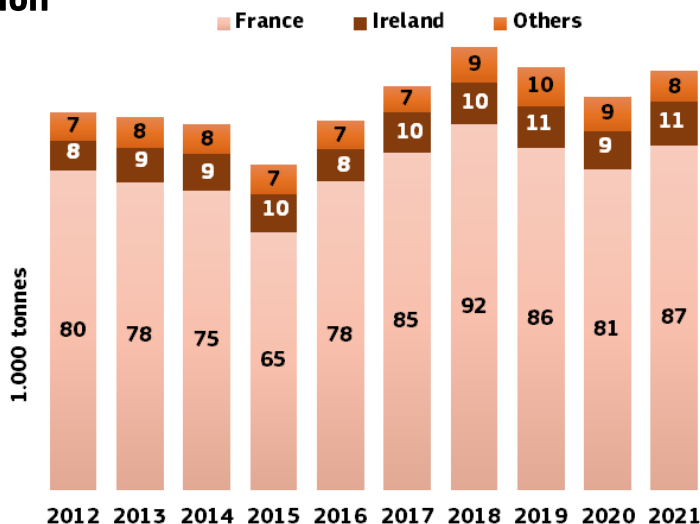
- The global production reached 6,7 million tonnes in 2021. From 2010 to 2019, the world oyster's production experienced an increase by **46%**, mostly attributable to Chinese production which provided 87% of the global production in 2021. Other major producers worldwide include to lesser extent the Republic of Korea (5%), Japan (2%), and the United States (2%).



Source: FAO

Evolution of EU aquaculture production

- With a total EU production of 105.469 tonnes, the EU provided only 2% of the global oyster's aquaculture in terms of volume in 2021. Although small, the EU production from aquaculture has increased by **11%** over the last decade (2012-2021).



Source: FAO

- The main species produced in the EU is the **Pacific cupped oyster** (*Magallana gigas*), with 97% of volumes in 2021. The same year, France alone represented 82% of EU production.



PROCESSING

- No significant processing activity exists for oysters. Yet canned and smoked oysters' industry is developed in Asia and America.

TRADE

- Combined nomenclature ([Read more](#))

Most of the oyster trade is intra-EU, and it mostly concerns live products. France and Ireland (the main producers) are the main intra- and extra-EU exporters of live oysters. Main importers of live oysters are France and Ireland, for products originating from Ireland and France, respectively.

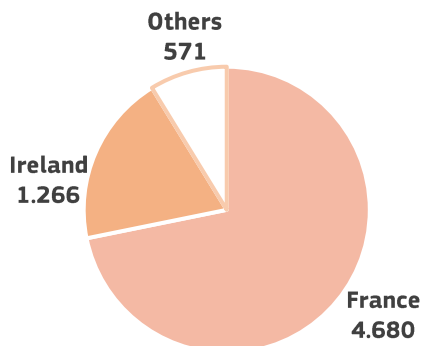
EU-27 trade of oyster products (tonnes - 2022)

CN code	Product	EU imports	EU exports
03 07 11 10	Flats oysters (of the genus <i>Ostrea</i>), live and weighing (shell included) not more than 40 g each	13	1.209
03 07 11 90	Other oysters, live	1.289	4.967
03 07 12 00	Oysters, even in shell, frozen	68	24
03 07 19 00	Oysters, even in shell, smoked, dried, salted or in brine	154	174
16 05 51 00	Oysters, prepared or preserved (excl. smoked)	43	142
Total		1.567	6.517

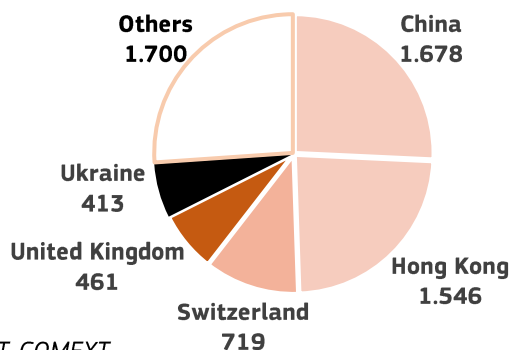
Extra-EU imports of oysters were not significant but marked a significant increase from 250 tonnes in 2019 to 1.567 tonnes in 2022, in relation to Brexit and the increase of imports from the UK (91% of the EU imports).

Extra-EU exports of oysters reached circa 6.517 tonnes, mainly from France and Ireland (together, they contributed to 91% of the EU exports). Main destinations were China, Hong Kong, and to lesser extent Switzerland.

EU exporters (2022, tonnes)



Main destinations (2022, tonnes)



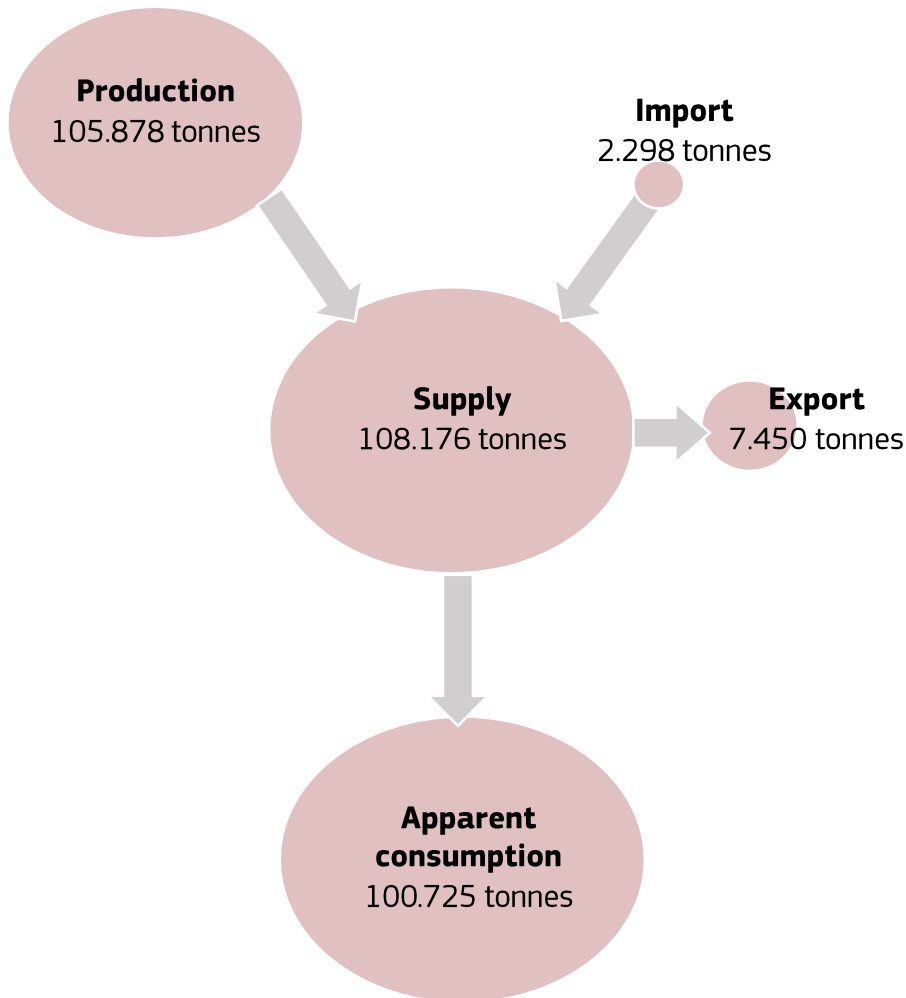
Source: EUROSTAT-COMEXT



Oysters

Supply balance

EU supply balance (2021¹) – Tonnes of live weight equivalent² – Oysters



Source: FAO/ EUROSTAT-COMEXT

¹ Supply balance is provided for the year 2021 (trade data for 2021 were taken into account). Detailed trade data provided in the slide 4 concern the year 2022.

² The [conversion factors](#) were used to convert net weight of imports and exports of fishery and aquaculture products into live weight equivalents.

Oysters



PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

Ex-farm (live/fresh - Farmed)

Ex-farm prices are presented for France and Ireland, the main EU producers.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Source
France	4,59	6,43	6,56	6,41	4,09	4,63	4,42	4,99	EUMOFA
Ireland	4,63	4,11	4,42	4,38	4,41	4,38	4,10	4,84	EUMOFA

Wholesale (live/fresh)

Wholesale prices are presented for Mercabarna (Barcelona, Spain) and Rungis (Paris, France).

Average price	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
Spain	11,55	12,37	12,43	11,79	11,83	12,80	13,42	14,42	n.a.	18,60	Mercabarna
France	6,67	6,67	6,67	6,67	6,67	6,67	6,32	7,17	7,05	7,49	Rungis (RNM)

(*) From January to November 2023

Retail/consumption (live/fresh)

Retail prices refer to France, major consumer country in the EU.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Source
France	9,35	9,37	8,88	8,41	8,36	8,68	8,61	8,49	8,66	8,90	FranceAgriMer

Import (live/fresh)

Prices are provided for the main EU importer, France.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
France	9,00	n.a.	12,80	10,41	11,70	11,87	2,47	2,99	3,51	4,23	EUMOFA

(*) From January to August 2023

Export (live/fresh)

Extra-EU export prices refer to fresh/live oysters in France and Ireland, the two main exporters in the EU.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
France	8,83	8,50	8,41	8,48	8,81	8,76	8,79	8,66	9,75	10,44	EUMOFA
Ireland	6,62	8,40	7,90	8,27	8,66	8,59	8,01	8,09	8,91	8,72	EUMOFA

(*) From January to August 2023

Oysters



MARKETING

- National lists of commercial designations ([Read more](#))
- Information system on commercial designations and scientific names in all EU languages ([Read more](#))
- In the EU, there is one name protected under **Protected Geographical Indication** (PGI) for fresh oysters: PGI “**Huîtres Marennes Oléron**” in France.

CONSUMPTION

- Nutrition values (Oyster – *Magallana gigas*, nutrition values per serving 100 g) ([Read more](#))

Nutrition values	Oyster
Energy (kcal)	81
Total fat (g)	2,3
Saturates (g)	0,51
Carbohydrate (g)	4,95
Protein (g)	9,45
Salt (mg)	265