



Last update: 17-10-2023

**IRELAND IN THE WORLD AND IN THE EU**

2021, sources: Eurostat and FAO

In 2021, Ireland ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the EU-27 in terms of fishery production and 7<sup>th</sup> in terms of aquaculture production.

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-27	Ireland	% world	% EU-27
Catches	92.164	3.591	234,1	0,25%	7%
Aquaculture	126.011	1.129	39,4	0,03%	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>218.175</b>	<b>4.720</b>	<b>273,5</b>	<b>0,13%</b>	<b>6%</b>

**FISHING FLEET**

Fleet: 2022, source: EU fishing fleet register - Eurostat

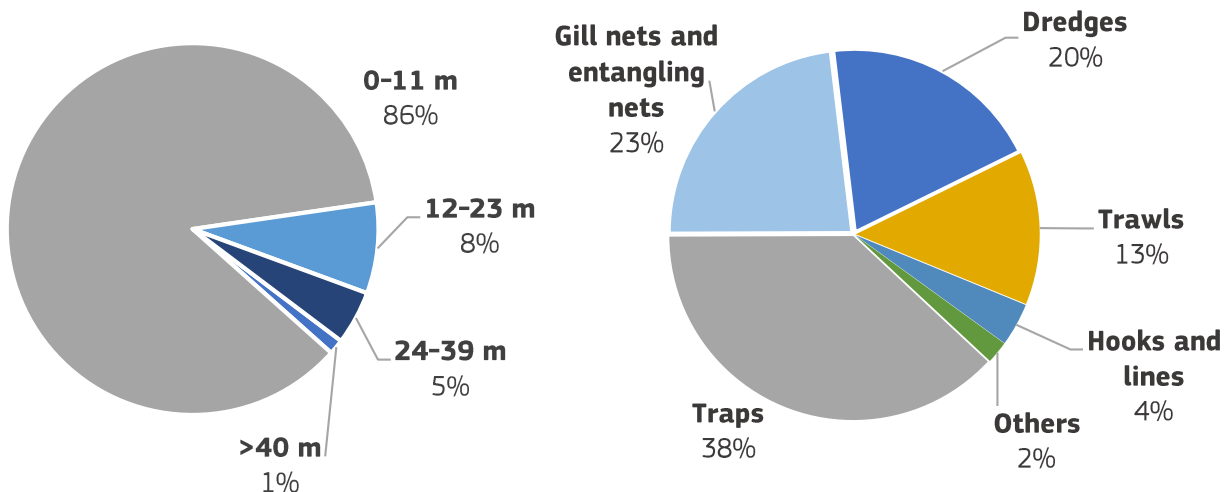
Employment: 2020, source: JRC

Vessels (2022)	Capacity (2022)	Power (2022)	
Number: 2.034	GT: 69.891	KW: 193.611	
TOTAL FTE: 2.684 (2020, source: JRC)			
0-11 m	12-23 m	24-39 m	>40 m
Jobs (FTE): 49%	Jobs (FTE): 23%	Jobs (FTE): 19%	Jobs (FTE): 9%

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

**The Irish fishing fleet by length and gear**

(% of total number of vessels)





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## LANDINGS

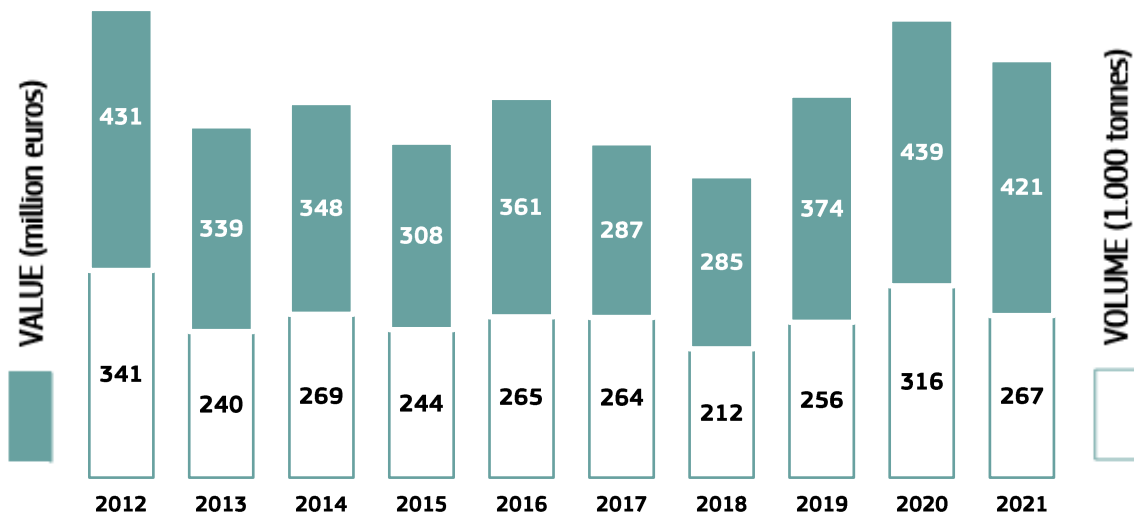
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat data.

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 2021, 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 177 fishing ports registered in Ireland (source: EU Master Data Register, 25 September 2023).

**Total landings.** Values are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2015)



### Main commercial species landed and % of total

2021, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes



Species	Value (million euros)	% of total	Volume (1,000 tonnes)	% of total
BLUE WHITING	78	18%	87	33%
MACKEREL	75	17%	56	21%
NORWAY LOBSTER	55	12%	19	7%
MONK	54	12%	15	6%
HAKE	46	10%	14	5%
OTHERS	136	31%	76	28%



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## AQUACULTURE

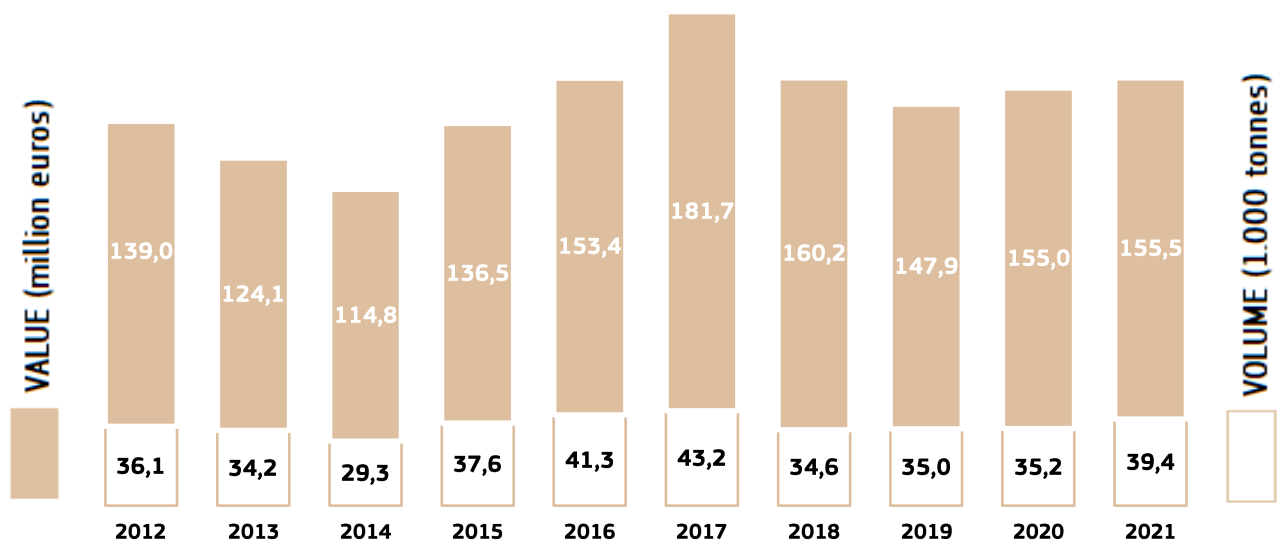
Sources: EUMOFA, based on EUROSTAT and FAO

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.

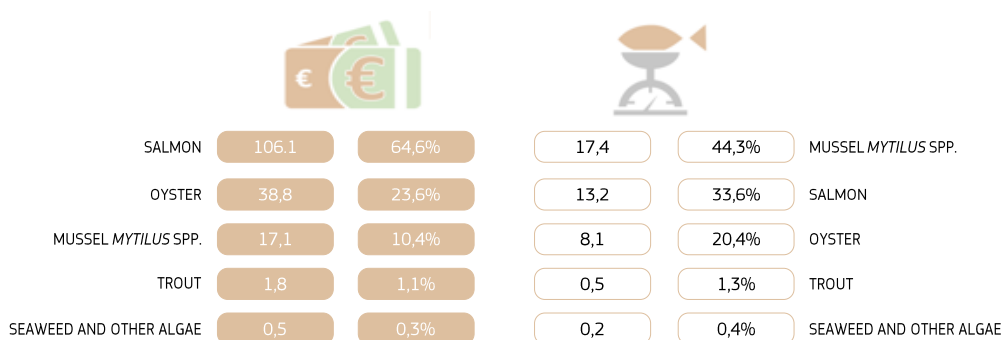
The majority of Irish production occurs in sea and brackish water, while only 1% takes place in freshwater. The following main production methods were used:

- 49% of production: off bottom in sea brackish water;
- 34% of production: in cages in sea and brackish water;
- 16% of production: on bottom in sea and brackish water;
- 1% of production: using ponds in freshwater.

**Total production.** Values are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2015)



**Main commercial species farmed and % of total**  
2021, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes





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## PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

Data as of 11-07-2023, source: DG MARE, [link](#)

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.

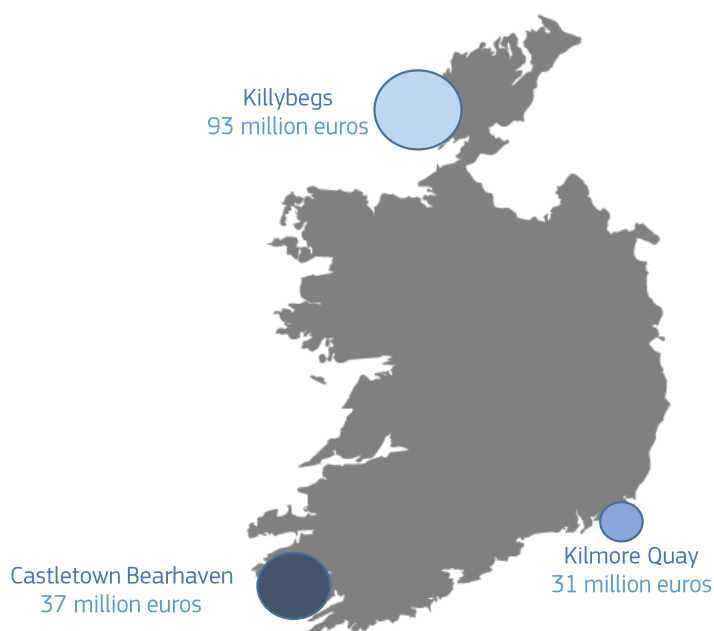
Of the 7 POs, 4 operate in the fishery sector, 1 operates in aquaculture and 2 in both the fishery and aquaculture sectors.

## FIRST SALES 2022, 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 2022, total first sales in Irish places of sale amounted to 176.426 tonnes and 285 million euros.

The top-3 places of sale covered 80% and 56% 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	113.940	93	Mackerel, Atlantic horse mackerel, blue whiting
Castletown Bearhaven	17.497	37	Norway lobster, mackerel, crab
Kilmore Quay	8.931	31	Norway lobster, crab, scallop



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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.

There are no structured wholesale markets in Ireland, but a number of 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, 2371 persons were employed in the Irish fish processing industry in 2020. The sector recorded a value added of 144,2 million euros.

In 2022, the main products sold were “Frozen whole salt water fish” and “Crustaceans frozen, dried, salted or in brine” (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

**107 companies**

**Sales: 483,1 million euros**

(2020, source: Eurostat - SBS)



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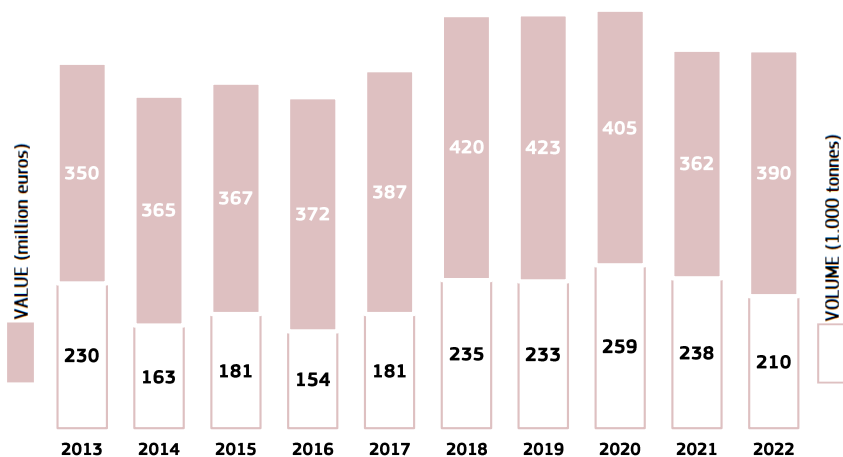
## IMPORT – EXPORT

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat-COMEXT data. Values in the bar charts are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2015).

### IMPORT

#### Main commercial species imported and % of total imports

2022, million euros (nominal value)

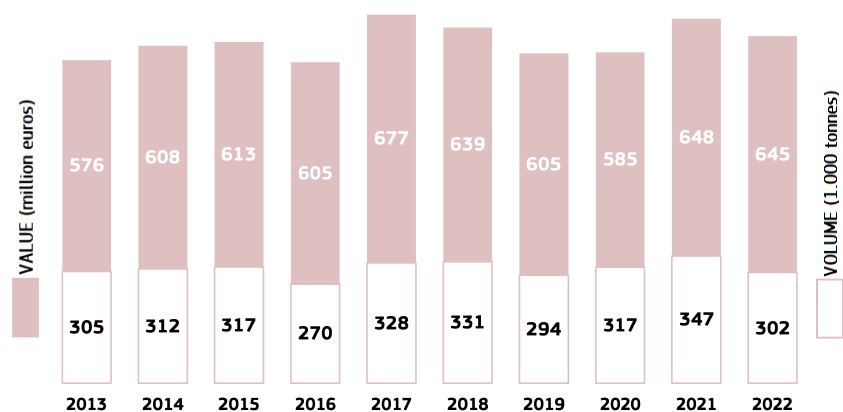


SALMON	106	24%
SHRIMPS (MOSTLY WARMWATER)	54	12%
COD	53	12%
TUNA (MOSTLY SKIPJACK)	27	6%
MACKEREL	14	3%
OTHERS	189	43%

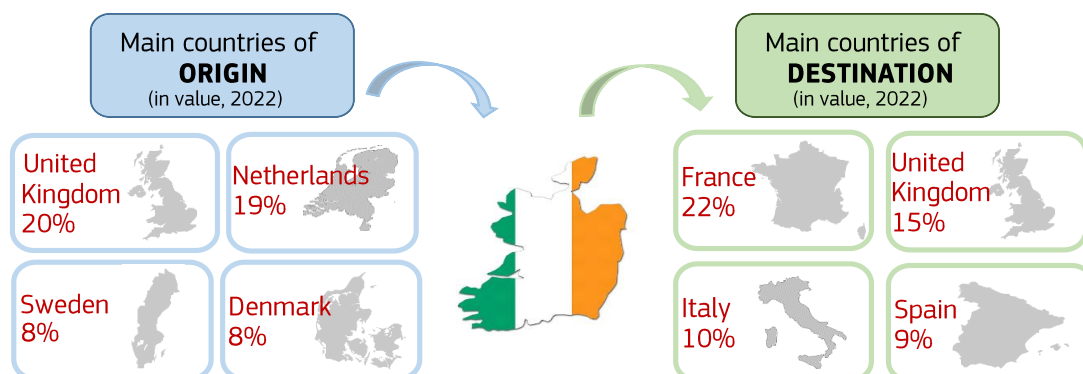
### EXPORT

#### Main commercial species exported and % of total exports

2022, million euros (nominal value)



SALMON	116	16%
MACKEREL	96	13%
NORWAY LOBSTER	70	10%
CRAB	48	7%
OYSTER	43	6%
OTHERS	345	48%

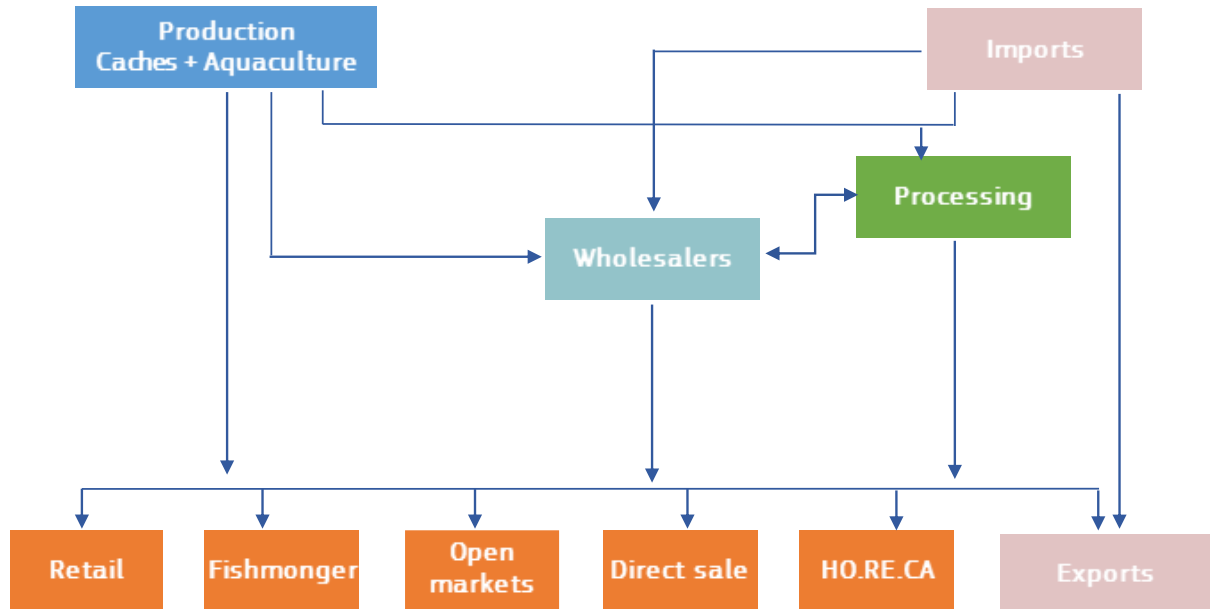




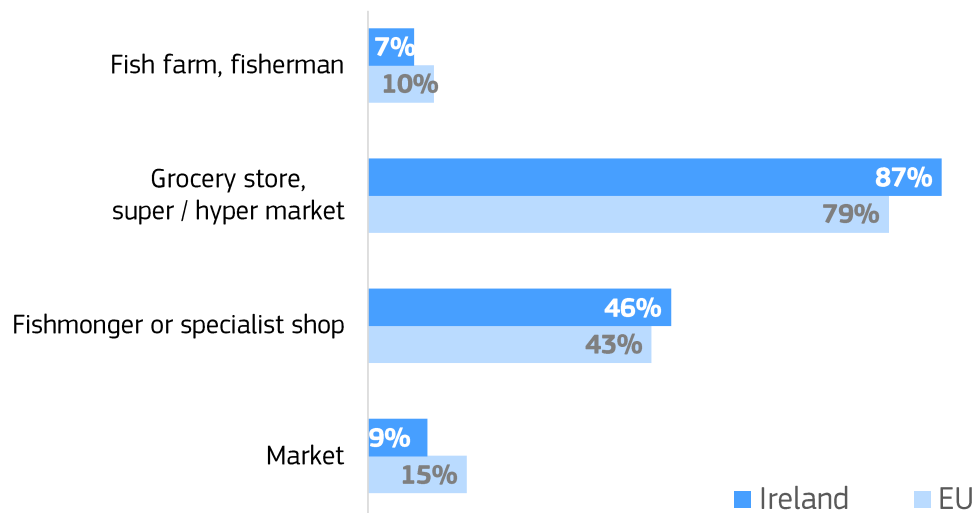
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# DISTRIBUTION

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



Consumer preferences on purchasing channels (source: Eurobarometer, 2021):





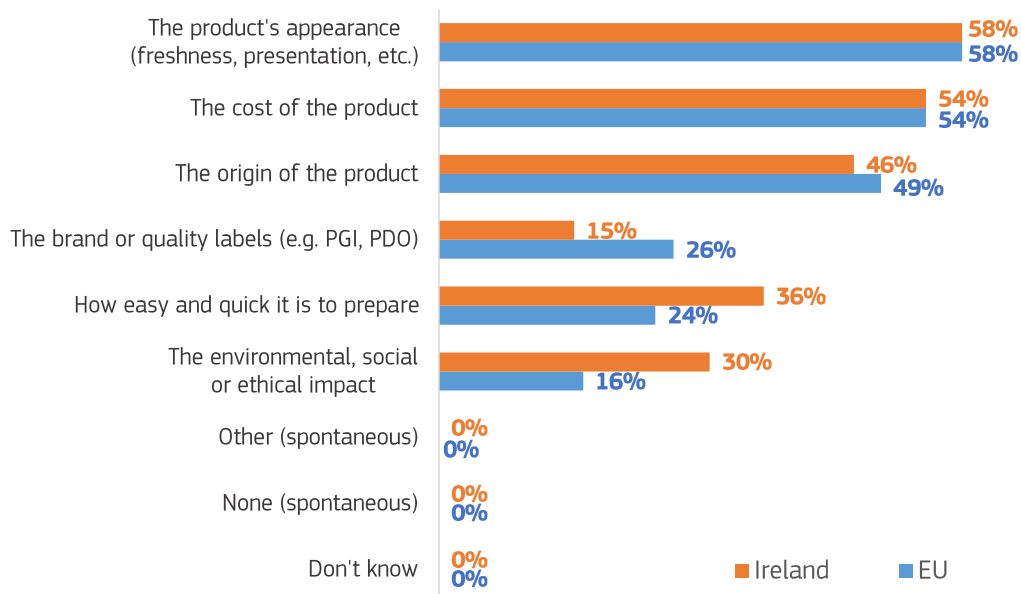
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## CONSUMPTION

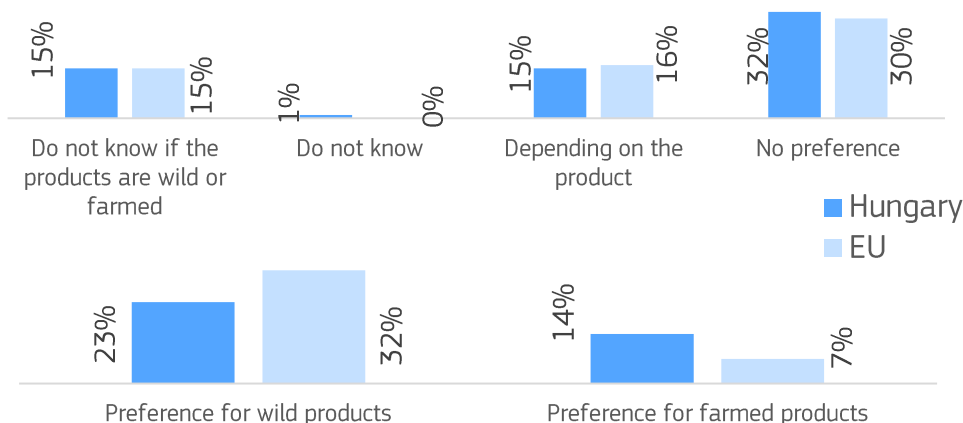
In 2021, apparent consumption was estimated at 14,56 kg per capita, with a consistent 23% drop compared with 2020. The most consumed species were mackerel, horse mackerel, cod, herring and salmon (source: EUMOFA). Regular consumers, namely those who eat fishery and aquaculture products at least once a month, mainly belong to age groups 40-54 and over 55. Young people (15-24) are less inclined to eat fish frequently in Ireland, as well as at EU-28 level. In this category, regular consumers cover 54% of the total, which is much lower than at EU level (67%, UK included). Irish consume especially fresh and smoked, salted or dried products; loose fish (73%) is more frequently consumed than at EU level (68%, UK included) (source: EUMOFA, "EU consumer habits regarding fishery and aquaculture products", 2017).

**14,56 kg**  
**per capita in live**  
**weight equivalent**  
(2021, source: EUMOFA)

### Purchasing factors (source: Eurobarometer, 2021)



### Preferences regarding wild or farmed product (source: Eurobarometer, 2021)







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## THE COUNTRY IN EUMOFA



### LANDINGS

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

They are available on a yearly basis and accessible through simple and advanced tables, 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 simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility.

Data at disaggregated level are also accessible, through a dedicated advanced table and the bulk download facility.

### 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 simple and advanced tables, 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 simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility.

### WHOLESALE

No data available

### 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 simple tables, 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 (click [here](#) for the full list).

Data are available on a monthly and yearly basis and accessible through simple tables and the bulk download facility.

Retail prices from online shops are also available [here](#), as collected via price-scraper.