



ATLANTIC COD (*GADUS MORHUA*)



Source : [Information system on commercial designations](#)

BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

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

Atlantic cod belongs to the family of Gadidae.

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

In the Western Atlantic Ocean, cod has a distribution from north of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and around both coasts of Greenland and the Labrador Sea; in the Eastern Atlantic, it is found from the Bay of Biscay north to the Arctic Ocean, including the Baltic Sea, the North Sea, Sea of the Hebrides, areas around Iceland and the Barents Sea.

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

- **Stocks and resource status/conservation measures** [\(Read more\)](#)

Minimum conservation size is established at 30 cm of total length in the fishing area Skagerrak and Kattegat, 35 cm in the Bay of Biscay area and 38 cm in the Baltic Sea.

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

The main fishing gears used are bottom trawls, longline, gillnets and hand line. Cod is also produced in aquaculture in net-cages.



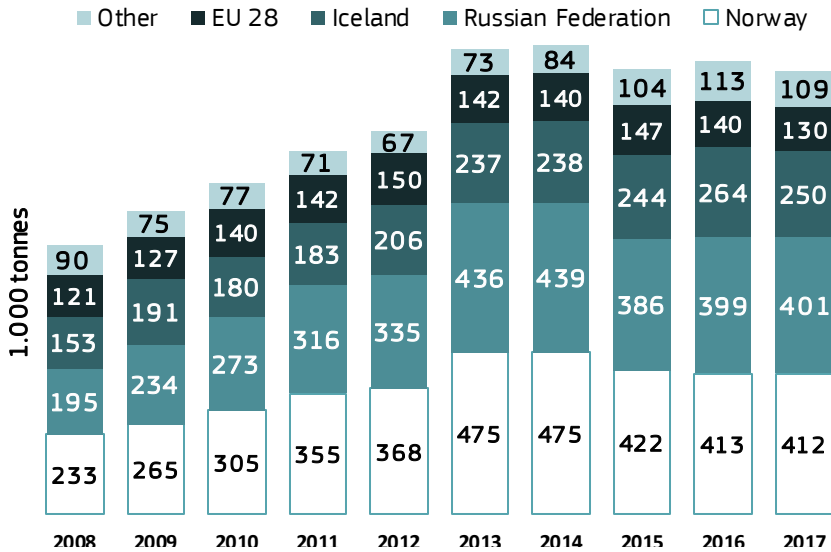
Atlantic cod



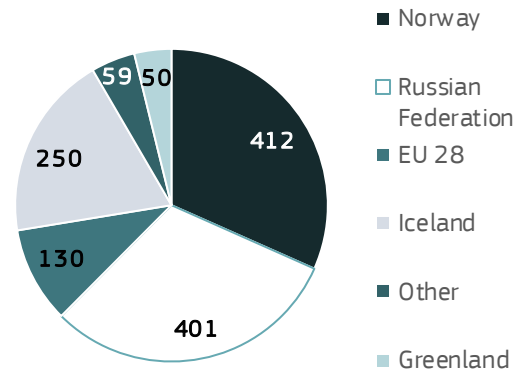
CATCHES

- The share of Atlantic cod in the world catches is **1,4%** (FAO, 2017).
- Catches have increased between 2008 and 2017 at both global and EU levels (respectively by +65% and +7%).

Evolution of world catches



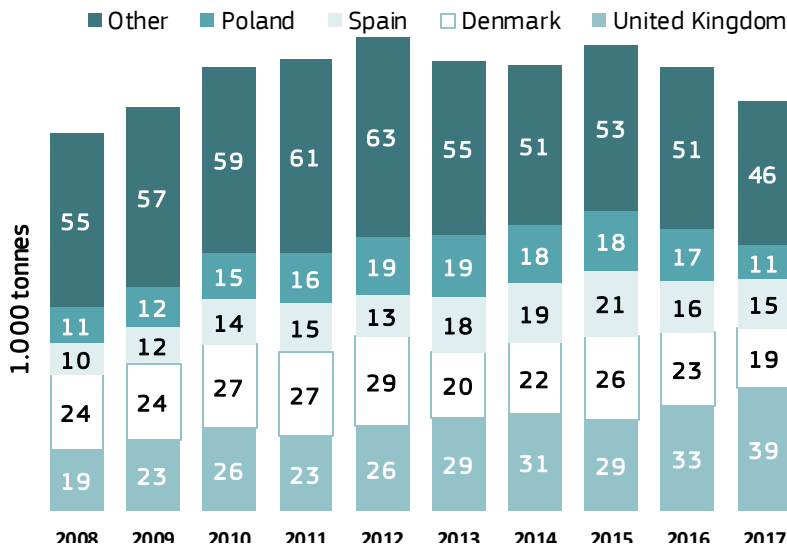
Catches (2017, 1.000 tonnes)



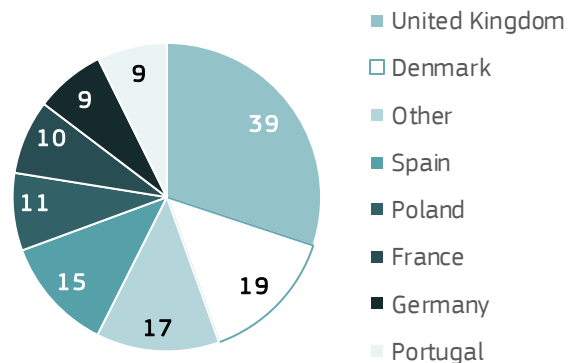
Source: FAO

Evolution of EU catches

- In 2017, the EU provided **10%** of the global Atlantic Cod catches (vs. 15% in 2008).



Catches (2017, 1.000 tonnes)



Source: FAO

Atlantic cod



AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

- Since 2013, the leader of Atlantic cod production (Norway) decreased its production, reaching less than half of tonnes in 2017 (492 tonnes, of which 375 from wild catches and 117 from raised juveniles). The Atlantic cod production is almost inexistent since 2015.
- EU aquaculture of Atlantic cod has stopped since 2009, as the UK, the only producer, stopped producing.

Countries	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Denmark	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iceland	1.502	1.805	1.317	877	893	482	310	74	59	29
Norway	18.052	20.924	21.240	15.273	10.033	3.770	1.386	5	450	492
UK	1.822	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	21.381	22.729	22.558	16.150	10.926	4.252	1.696	79	509	521

Source: FAO

Drop of cod production in Norway:

Cod production, which peaked at 21.240 tonnes in 2010, dropped steadily to 5 tonnes in 2015, before slightly rebounding to 492 tonnes in 2017. The initial optimism for cod farming was based on the trust that the major production challenges were solved and that low quotas and corresponding high prices for wild cod would prevail. But none of these assumptions proved to be true. Because of these issues, the cod farming industry did not have the strength to resist when the financial crises appeared in 2008, together with lower cod prices due to higher quotas for wild cod (source: NOFIMA).

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PROCESSING

- Atlantic cod is the main groundfish used by the EU processing industry to produce fish fillets in batter and fish fingers, dried and salted cod and prepared meals, fresh or frozen.
- The main processing activity for dried and salted cod is concentrated outside the EU (in Norway), almost exclusively for export purposes to the Portuguese, Spanish and Greek markets (source: EUROSTAT/PRODCOM).

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TRADE

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

EU trade of Atlantic cod products (tonnes - 2018)

CN code	Product	EU imports		EU exports	
		Intra-EU	Extra-EU	Intra-EU	Extra-EU
03 02 51 10	Cod of the species <i>Gadus morhua</i> , excluding livers and roes, fresh or chilled	57.573	72.911	75.069	2.093
03 03 63 10	Cod of the species <i>Gadus morhua</i> , excluding livers and roes, frozen	54.440	122.235	49.641	34.968
03 04 44 10*	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadus ogac</i> , <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>) and fish of the species <i>Boreogadus saida</i> , fillets, fresh or chilled	42.371	27.040	42.860	717
03 04 71 90*	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadus ogac</i>), fillets, frozen	71.482	149.508	164.315	5.568
03 04 95 25	Cod of the species <i>Gadus morhua</i> , other meat (whether or not minced), frozen	14.746	8.797	11.838	2.318
03 05 32 19*	Cod(<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadusogac</i>) and fish of the species <i>Boreogadussaida</i> , fillets, dried, salted or in brine, but not smoked	11.119	14.820	13.975	133
03 05 51 10*	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadus ogac</i> , <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>), other than edible fish offal, dried, unsalted	3.801	2.819	3.227	504
03 05 51 90*	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadus ogac</i> , <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>), other than edible fish offal, dried, salted	32.177	28.174	31.097	3.195
03 05 62 00*	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadus ogac</i> , <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>), other than edible fish offal, salted but not dried or smoked and in brine	47.184	48.420	48.834	96
16 04 19 92*	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadus ogac</i> , <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>), whole or in pieces, but not minced, prepared or preserved	14.834	66	13.967	2.779

* *These products include other Cod species than *Gadus morhua*.*

- **Main extra-EU suppliers are:**

- for fresh whole products: Norway (58.053 tonnes) and Iceland (11.549 tonnes),
- for frozen whole products: Russia (61.169 tonnes), Norway (39.742 tonnes) and Greenland (15.938 tonnes),
- for frozen fillets: China (53.777 tonnes), Iceland (36.545 tonnes) and Russia (33.217 tonnes).

- **Main extra-EU destinations are:**

In 2018, 55% of exports concerned frozen cod, whole and in fillets. The main extra-EU destinations were Russia (94.385 tonnes) and China (35.779 tonnes).

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PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

First-sale (fresh whole/gutted)

First-sale prices are provided for the three main EU producers (the UK, Denmark, and Spain).

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
UK	2,28	2,39	2,42	2,31	2,45	2,63	2,53	2,66	2,68	EUMOFA
Denmark	2,25	2,43	2,31	2,49	2,45	2,50	2,75	3,19	3,32	EUMOFA
Spain	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2,70	2,89	3,32	3,74	EUMOFA

Wholesale

Wholesale prices are reported for Mercamadrid, major wholesale market in the EU.

Most frequent price	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
Cod filet, fresh	n.a.	9,41	9,11	9,07	10,2	9,72	9,84	9,27	9,05	Mercamadrid
Cod, frozen	n.a.	5,11	5,11	5,11	5,11	5,38	5,5	5,5	5,5	Mercamadrid

Retail/consumption

Retail prices refer to the UK, Denmark and France, which are among the major EU consumers of cod in the EU.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
UK	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	13,43	14,15	15,76	14,34	15,42	15,39	EUMOFA
Denmark	14,61	13,66	14,71	13,48	14,08	14,03	13,69	14,90	15,63	EUMOFA
France	14,31	14,62	14,58	14,27	13,74	14,36	15,04	15,42	15,53	EUMOFA

Import (frozen fillets)

Import prices are provided for the Netherlands, the UK and Spain, which are the main cod importers in the EU.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
UK	4,18	4,41	4,68	3,89	4,37	5,50	5,06	5,27	5,52	EUMOFA
Netherlands	3,99	4,34	4,56	3,66	4,00	4,71	4,94	5,03	5,16	EUMOFA
Spain	3,17	3,59	3,31	2,71	3,10	3,71	3,95	4,28	4,68	EUMOFA

Export (frozen fillets)

Export prices refer to the Netherlands, Germany and Poland, which are the main cod exporters in the EU.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
Netherlands	3,97	4,32	4,95	4,01	4,29	4,30	2,93	4,43	1,63	EUMOFA
Germany	4,42	4,67	4,92	4,23	4,62	5,22	5,64	5,82	5,96	EUMOFA
Poland	4,57	4,86	4,92	4,54	4,39	5,34	5,83	5,52	5,87	EUMOFA

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MARKETING ASPECTS

- Commercial designations in all EU official languages ([Read more](#))
- Common marketing standards ([Read more](#))

CONSUMPTION

- Second most consumed species in the EU after tuna (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2019 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Apparent consumption per capita in 2017: **2,31 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2019 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Nutritional value (Cod, North East Atlantic, fresh fillet, values per 100 g – source : NUTRAQUA/AQUIMER)

Nutritional value	Cod
kilo calories (kcal)	78
Kilojoule (kJ)	333
Water (g)	79,7
Ashes (g)	1,1
Proteins (g)	17,9
Carbohydrates (g)	0,8
Lipids (g)	0,4
Cholesterol (mv)	41,5
Omega 6 (mg)	25
Omega 3 (mg)	188
EPA (mg)	52
DHA (mg)	124