



Last update: 21-3-2022

IRELAND IN THE WORLD AND IN THE EU

2019, sources: Eurostat and FAO

In 2019, Ireland ranked 6th in the EU-28 (i.e. UK included) in terms of fishery production and 10th in terms of aquaculture production.

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-28	Ireland	% world	% EU-28
Catches	93.519	4.824	238	0,25%	4,9%
Aquaculture	120.104	1.367	35	0,03%	2,6%
Total	213.623	6.191	273	0,13%	4,4%

FISHING FLEET

Fleet: 2019, source: EU fishing fleet register - Eurostat

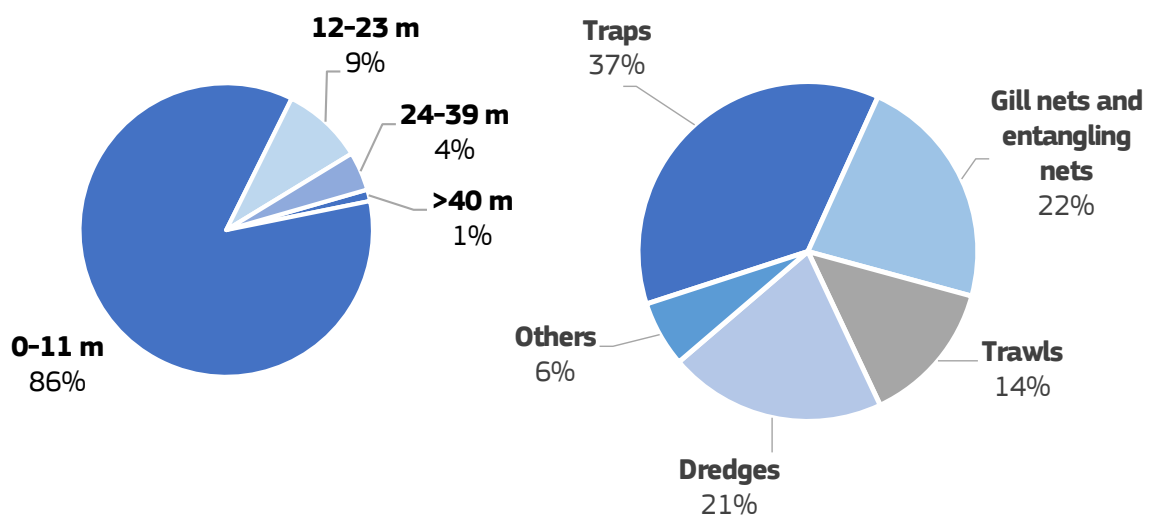
Employment: 2018, source: JRC

Vessels (2019)	Capacity (2019)	Power (2019)	
Number: 2.026	GT: 65.492	KW: 191.399	
TOTAL FTE: 2.745 (2018, source: JRC)			
0-11 m	12-23 m	24-39 m	>40 m
Jobs (FTE): 43%	Jobs (FTE): 27%	Jobs (FTE): 22%	Jobs (FTE): 8%

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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AQUACULTURE

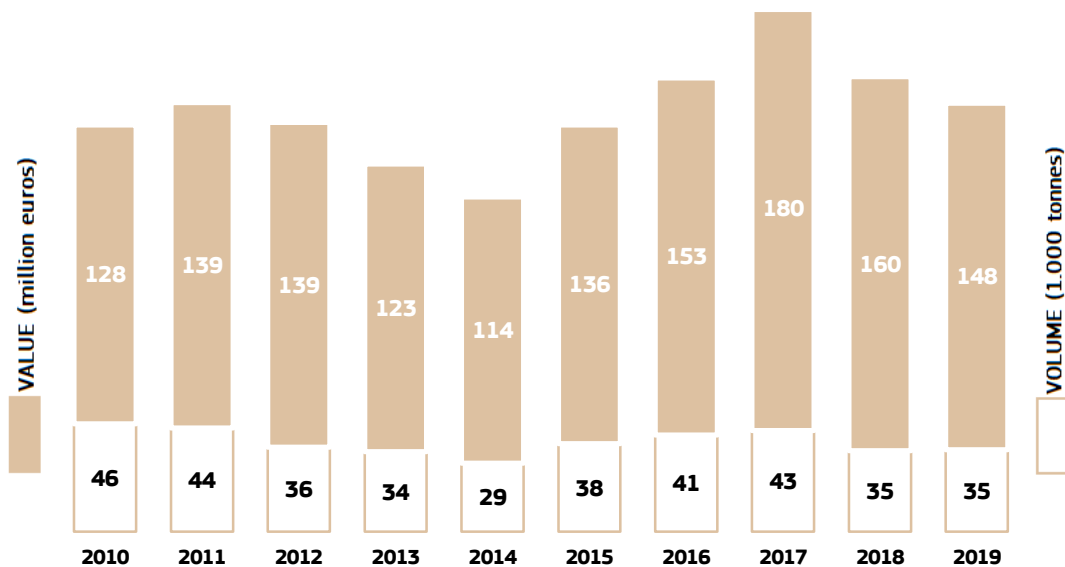
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat and FAO data.

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 2019, 99% of Irish production occurred in sea and brackish water and a small portion in freshwater. The following main production methods were used:

- 51% of production: off bottom in sea brackish water;
- 32% of production: in cages in sea and brackish water;
- 15% of production: on bottom in sea and brackish water;
- 2% 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
2019, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes



Species	Value (million euros)	% of total	Volume (1,000 tonnes)	% of total
SALMON	107	68%	15	44%
OYSTER	34	22%	11	32%
MUSSEL <i>MYTILUS</i> SPP.	15	9%	8	22%
OTHERS	2	1%	1	2%



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PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

Data as of 15-12-2021, source: DG MARE, [link](#)

In Ireland, **6 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 6 POs, 4 operate in the fishery sector, 1 operates in aquaculture and 1 in both the fishery and aquaculture sectors.

FIRST SALES

2017, 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 Ireland, first sales are generally done by contract rather than by auction.

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, 2.504 persons were employed in the Irish fish processing industry in 2019. The sector recorded a value added of 125,3 million euros, covering 2% of the value added of total manufacture of food products.

In 2020, the main products sold were "Frozen whole salt water fish" and "Frozen crustaceans, frozen flours, meals and pellets of crustaceans, fit for human consumption" (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

106 companies**Sales: 507 million euros**

(2019, source: Eurostat - SBS)



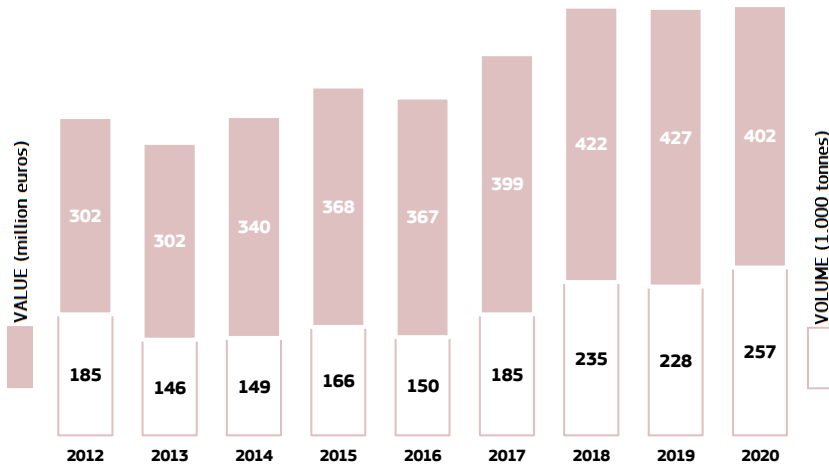
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IMPORT – EXPORT

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

IMPORT

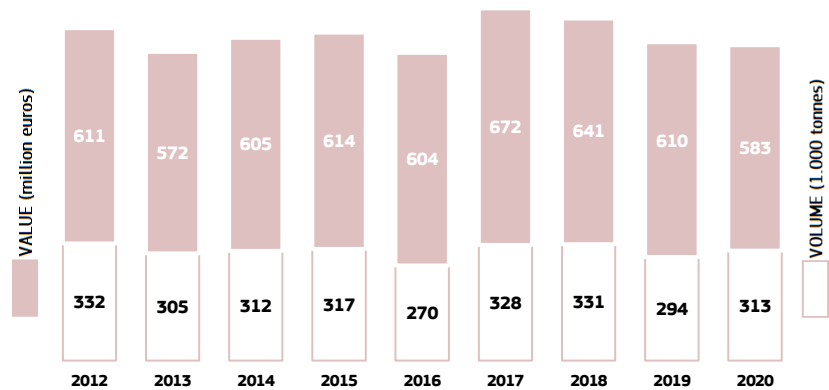
Main commercial species imported and % of total imports 2020, million euros (nominal value)



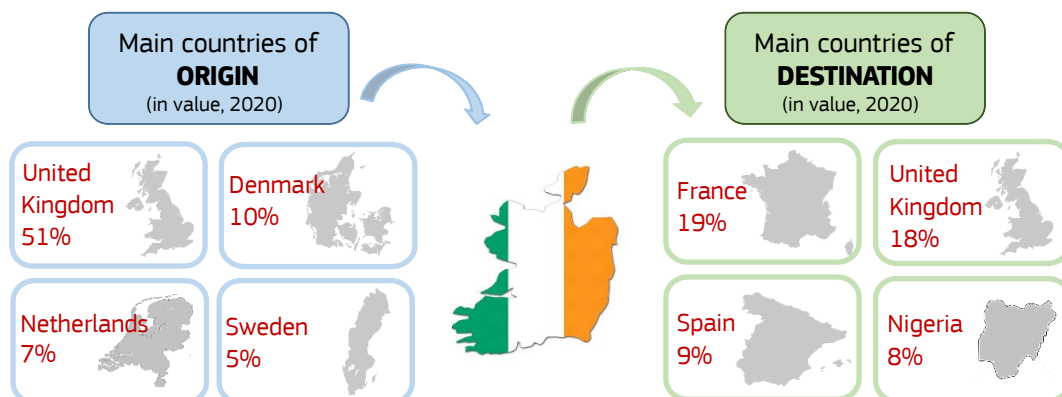
SALMON	76	18%
OTHER NON-FOOD USE	58	14%
OTHER PRODUCTS	36	9%
COD	35	8%
OTHER MARINE FISH	26	6%
OTHERS	193	45%

EXPORT

Main commercial species exported and % of total exports 2020, million euros (nominal value)



SALMON	113	18%
MACKEREL	99	16%
NORWAY LOBSTER	44	7%
ATLANTIC HORSE MACKEREL	39	6%
CRAB	36	6%
OTHERS	287	47%

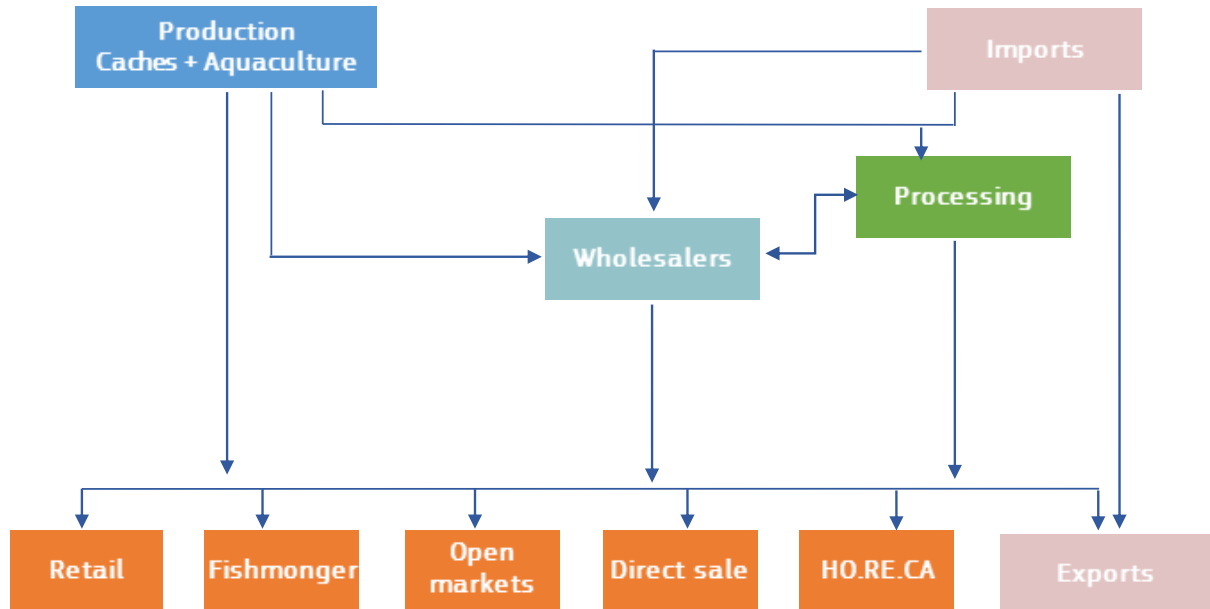




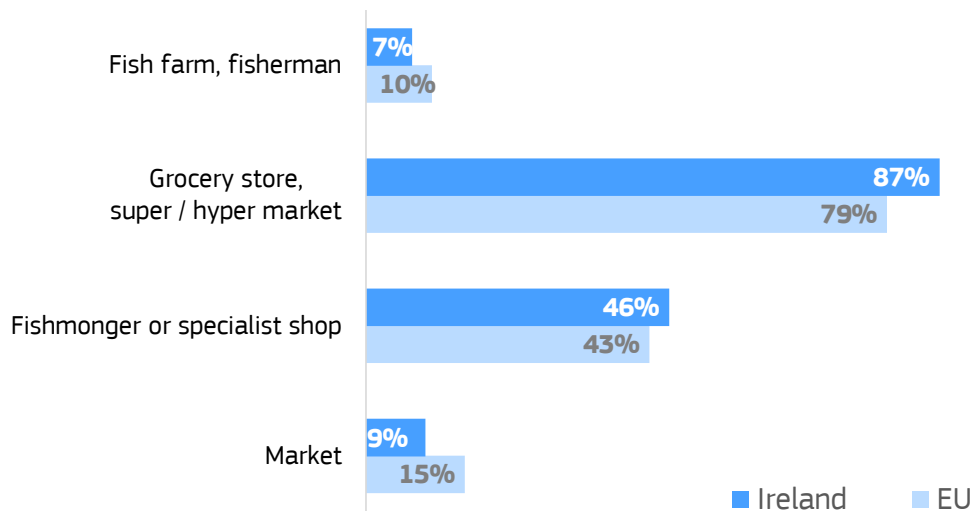
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DISTRIBUTION

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



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





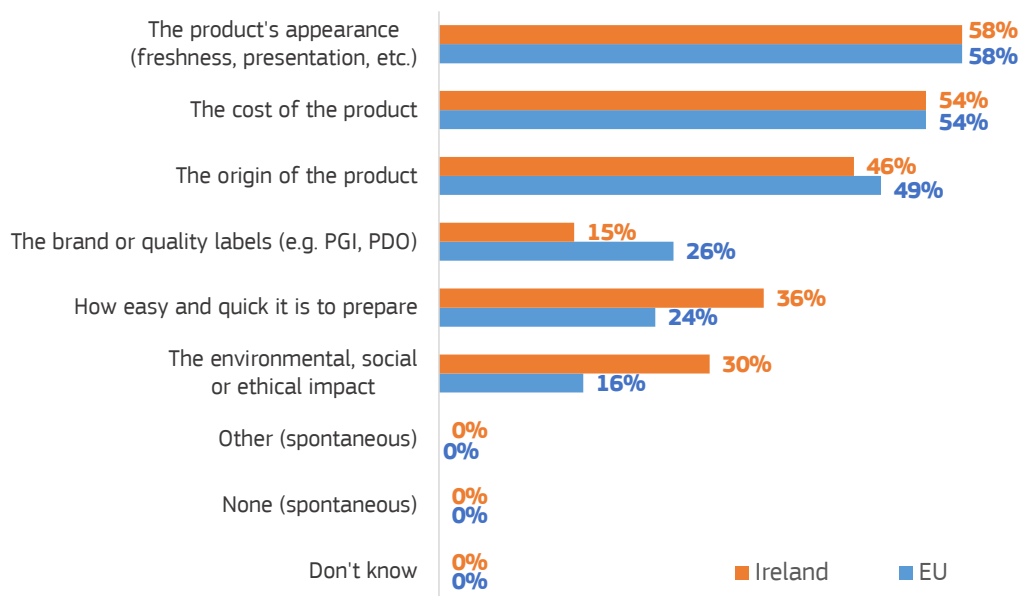
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CONSUMPTION

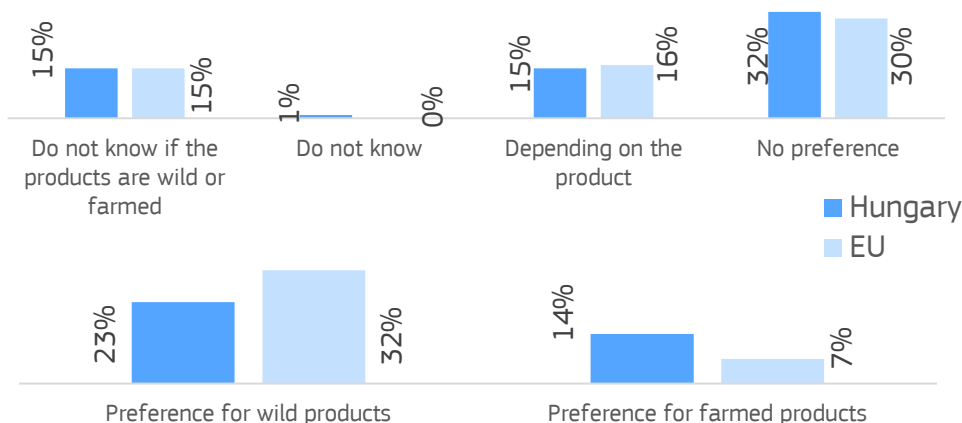
In 2019, apparent consumption was estimated at 25,5 kg per capita, with a 2% increase compared with 2018. The most consumed species were mackerel, horse mackerel, cod, herring and salmon (source: EUMOFA). Regular consumers, namely those who eat fishery and aquaculture products at least once a month, 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).

25,5 kg
per capita in live
weight equivalent
(2019, 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 SFP 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

No data available

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

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.

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. Moreover, average weekly prices are accessible through simple and advanced tables, and through the bulk download facility.