

FAO Globefish Reports - European Fish Price Report December 2013

Globefish vient de mettre en ligne le rapport mensuel du mois de décembre 2013 sur les prix du poisson sur le marché européen et international. Ce rapport vise à fournir des indications sur les grandes tendances de prix. Ces Informations sont données à titre indicatif et doivent être utilisées uniquement pour la prévision des tendances à moyen et à long terme.

Extrait du rapport :

Groundfish (poissons de fonds)

From 1 January to 11 December 2013, **Alaska pollock (colin d'alaska)** catches in the **Russian** Far East region amounted to 1.527 million tonnes (1.7% lower compared with the same period in 2012). The TINRO-centre (Pacific Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography) has put forward recommendations that total catches in 2014 for the Russian Far East do not exceed 3.907 million tonnes. For the first quarter of 2014, the industrial quota would be 952 000 tonnes, of which 782 000 tonnes (82%) is for Alaska pollock, 77 000 tonnes (8%) for **herring (hareng)** and 24 000 tonnes (2.5%) for **cod (cabillaud)**. Exports of Alaska pollock, from January to October this year, increased by 4% compared with last year reaching a total of 690 900 tonnes. Good demand and steady growth of prices have been the main positive factors for the Russian fishing companies in the Far East. In terms of value, the average export price for Alaska pollock went up by 4% to USD 1.2/kg, compared with the same period last year. The domestic market is seeing prices tending higher mainly because of a lack of offers resulting from increased exports. Alaska pollock, headless >25 cm went up to RUB 55-57/kg (USD 1.68-1.74/kg) on the Vladivostok wholesale market.

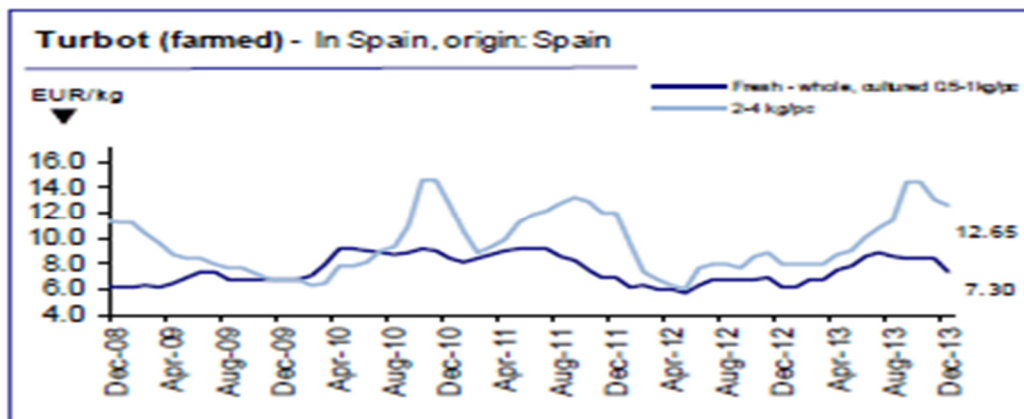
In November, the value of exports of **Norwegian cod (cabillaud; morue)**, **saithe (lieu noir)** and **haddock (Eglefin)** totalled NOK 886 million, corresponding to a 20% decrease on the same period last year and mainly attributable to a decline in Norwegian cod clipfish exports. However, the Norwegian Seafood Council explained that, at this time last year, exports were exceptionally high because to the large volume of clipfish stocks going to the EU, but under normal circumstances the figure for November is on a par with previous years.

Few sales activities are reported for **Barents Sea cod** this month. The market remains low but the cold winter may bring an increase in prices.

On 9 December, the **Norwegian** Directorate for Fisheries announced the transfer of 170 tonnes of **cod (morue)** quota for each of 89 trawler licenses, giving a total of 15 130 tonnes. The Norwegian government is transferring cod quota from the inshore fleet to the large trawlers and longliners in an effort to harvest its portion of the one million tonne cod quota in the **Barents Sea**, shared with Russia.

Pacific cod prices continue to be on an upward trend this month, after a very long period of low prices, which boosted consumption. In Europe demand is increasing but supply is rather low.

Flatfish (poissons plats)



Farmed **turbot** sales have been particularly low in November in spite of good supply, and even oversupply of small-sized turbot below 1.0 kg. This factor and the approaching Christmas promotions have led to a price drop. Demand is expected to recover this month during the festive period. Farmers are reporting an increase in biomass as seawater temperatures continue to be good.

The **flatfish** market in general is reported to be stable.

Tuna (thon)

Fishing in the **Western and Central Pacific** has improved considerably following the lifting of the WCPFC FAD closure on 1 November, while demand in Bangkok has remained low thus causing the price of skipjack to slide further to USD 1 600/tonne CFR and lower.

Fishing has remained steady in the **Eastern Pacific** even with the second IATTC closure in place since 18 November and catches are expected to be at 2012 levels. Ecuadorian packers report a drop in orders from finished product buyers, especially those in the EU who were hoping for lower prices. The price of skipjack has dropped to USD 1 800/tonne ex vessel Manta as a result.

Good catches have been reported in the **Indian Ocean** during November, but with cold storage facilities at full capacity, the skipjack price has dropped further to EUR 1 050/tonne and yellowfin to EUR 1 925/tonne FOB Mahe. As the Indian Ocean canneries are full, purse seiners are transshipping their catches to other markets.

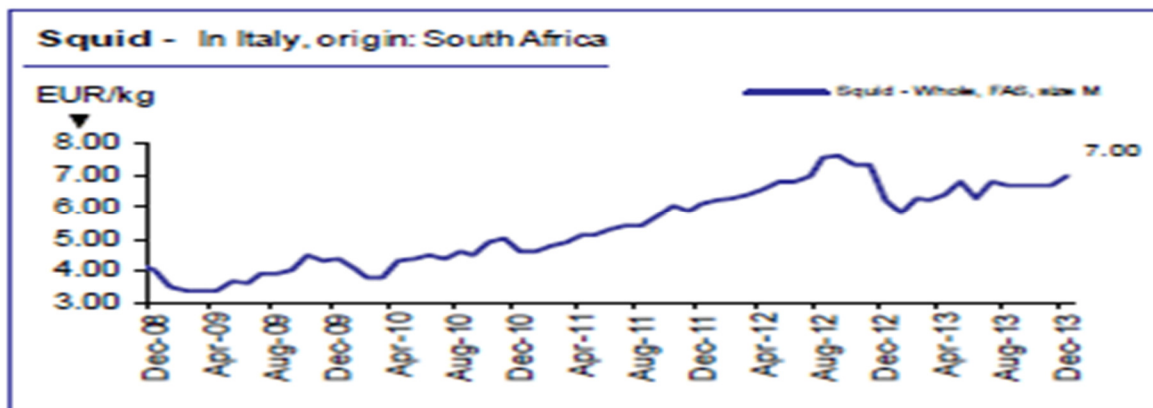
Catching in the **Atlantic Ocean** has slowed down but with low demand from local processors, the skipjack price has fallen further to EUR 1 100/tonne ex vessel Abidjan. Meanwhile the yellowfin price remains at EUR 2 000/tonne.

The good supply of fish from the Indian and Atlantic Oceans coupled with weak demand caused prices in **Europe** to move downwards to EUR 1 100/tonne CFR for skipjack and EUR 2 150/tonne CFR for yellowfin. The market price for cooked and double cleaned yellowfin loins was steady at about USD 8 500/tonne DDP Italy. The EU 2014 quota for cooked and cleaned tuna loins is expected to be filled before the

end of January because of high volumes already shipped from China, Philippines and Thailand.

Fishing nations from the **Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)** concluded their meeting on 6 December and agreed to reduce the longline bigeye tuna catch by 10-30% for foreign fishing nations, to freeze the entry of new purse seine and longline vessels to the fishery and to retain the four-month ban on the use of fish aggregating devices (FADs). However, many were disappointed that the meeting failed to go far enough in addressing the problems of overfishing and did not take sufficient conservation and sustainability measures. Last month, the **International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)** rejected pressure to increase quotas for bluefin tuna and decided to keep the Atlantic bluefin tuna quota for 2014 at same level as this year.

Cephalopods



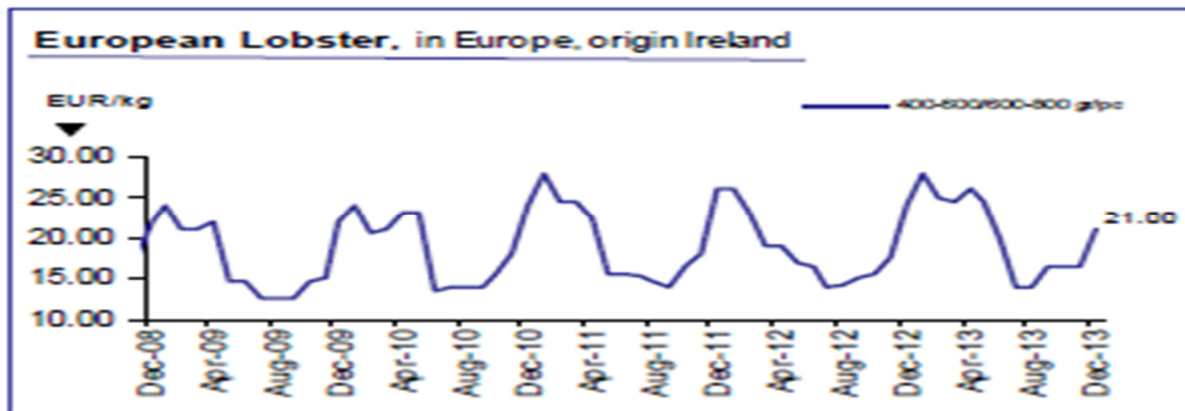
Squid catches continue to be appalling in **South Africa**. This has been the worst opening ever after the closed season. It is reported that the industry may appeal for state assistance as the situation is considered a disaster. With no catches, and no stock, prices are hypothetical, and probably at around last month's levels. There is also concern that, with the lack of supply to the market, customers will turn to alternative species and the market share of South African squid may be permanently eroded.

Giant squid landings in Peru and Chile remain very poor. Chile expects better landings in the coming days, while Peru has reduced the number of vessels targeting giant squid because the mahi mahi season has started and fishermen prefer to focus on this resource, as it provides more profitable returns. Demand for giant squid has not increased this month.

In **Morocco**, following an almost three-month biological fishing ban, **octopus** fishing resumed on 1 November and will last until 31 March 2014 in the southern zone (south of Boujdour). This is the most important area for octopus. The Secretary General of the Department of Marine Fisheries in Morocco indicated that the octopus stocks have recovered now and this should be maintained by good management practices. The overall quota has been set at 21 500 tonnes and is distributed as follows: offshore segment: 13 545 tonnes; coastal segment: 2 365 tonnes; artisanal segment (Dakhla stock): 5 590 tonnes. The recovery of octopus stocks has been achieved thanks to the cooperation of public and private stakeholders, and is supported by controls,

monitoring and traceability schemes, in particular by the use of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) by the coastal fleet.

Crustaceans



American lobster catches in Maine remained poor in the last few weeks. If the situation does not improve soon, live lobster prices may be high during the Christmas period. If live lobster prices are high, this would boost frozen sales.

Norway lobster is in the off season.

Demand for **European-caught crustaceans**, such as *Cancer pagurus* and *Homarus gammarus*, is rising in anticipation of the end-of-year festive season.

Shrimp (crevettes)

In **India**, after confirmation of the presence of early mortality syndrome (EMS), probably resulting from intensive farming practices by some farmers, the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) announced on 21 November a temporary halt for shrimp farming from end of November until February, in order to prevent and control the spread of the disease. The notification was a surprise to farmers and exporters and controversy over this decision has resulted in the authority of the MPEDA being called into question. Therefore, Indian shrimp hatcheries may not observe the farming holiday.

In **Thailand**, signs of recovery from EMS are apparent in most of the farming areas and the survival rate of shrimp in ponds continues to improve. Farmers are following the advice of practising lower density stocking. Industry sources, meanwhile, predict a 20% increase in 2014 production, compared with the estimated production of 250 000 tonnes in 2013.

Our correspondent in **Indonesia** reports that the government has become very strict regarding shrimp imports in order to prevent EMS and any other shrimp-related diseases.

Supply for **vannamei** remains tight worldwide with resultant high prices. A small decrease of FOB prices has been seen currently as the seasonal demand for both the Christmas holiday and the Chinese New Year is over but in general prices remain high

because of supply constraints. Price levels for next year will depend on end-of-year consumption.

The **Argentine red shrimp** fishery in national jurisdiction waters closed in mid-November and catches reached a record high level for 2013. The significant increase in exports from Argentina to non-traditional markets, coupled with a general sharp price increase for vannamei on all markets, had pushed Argentine *Pleoticus muelleri* prices up. However, the recent slowdown in demand from Asian markets, as well as the increase in tariff rates for imports into the European Union from 1 January 2014 from 4.2% to 12%, caused prices to decline at origin, although this was limited by the small amount of available stock. Stocks are relatively good at destinations and prices for the Christmas period are quite stable. End-of-year sales and stocks remaining after this period will have a major influence on 2014 first-quarter prices.

Bivalves (mollusques bivalves)

As usual at this time of year, more than 50% of **French oyster (huitre)** production will be consumed during the upcoming festive season. However, this year's supply is limited as a result of both spat mortality and the more recent problems of adult oyster mortality. Spat mortality is a problem that first appeared in 2008, but has improved this year, while adult mortality has brought about losses of almost 40% in recent months. Despite the reduction in supply, experts report that stocks will be sufficient to cover the seasonal peak in consumption. The difference with past years is that the retail sector has reduced promotion campaigns a month or two before Christmas. Prices remain high but will not increase further at retail level because of consumer resistance to paying more for luxury items.

On the **French market**, Dutch **mussels (moules)**, as well as Bouchot, Irish and Spanish mussels are available but Dutch mussels are the most plentiful. In Chile, mussel production has started slowly. Farmers are expecting to harvest mainly in December, which is six weeks later compared with last year.

Volumes of **scallop (pétoncle)** harvested in **Peru** are decreasing and consequently price of raw material is going up. Producers are expecting a rapid reaction from key markets, such as France and USA, as the season is anticipated to finish in February.

Freshwater Fish (poissons d'eau douce)

Prices of fresh **Nile perch (perche)** fillets are on an upward trend on the European market.

In **Hungary**, prices of **live carp (carpe)** have started to decrease with the beginning of the traditional pre- Christmas sale period.

Seabass/Seabream (bar / Dorade)

Despite the large demand boost in the run-up to Christmas, prices for **seabass** and **seabream** have not moved as expected and, in fact, most producers reported weaker prices during the month. The seasonal demand surge is less than anticipated and supply remains ample for current needs. Although many producers now have reduced

significantly their biomass holdings over the last few months, remaining supplies should still be able to cover demand over the next semester although some firming of prices is to be expected.

The financial results published for the first nine months of the year for producers show weaker margins and results. Volumes were up slightly, but average prices down almost 5% compared with the previous year. Higher feed costs also contributed to the weaker results. Further consolidation of the sector is to be expected with private equity investors now looking towards economies of scale and cost reductions as well as volume growth in the long term.

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