

## Extrait du rapport FAO Globefish – La tendance des prix des poissons en Europe

**Price information is indicative and should be used only for forecasting medium- and long-term trends.**

### Groundfish

According to the Norwegian Seafood Council, the skrei (spring cod) catches this season have reached record-highs, resulting in an all-time high export figure in addition to substantial sales on the domestic market. During the first quarter this year, 141 000 tonnes of cod, saithe and haddock were exported, representing a 22% increase over last year. In terms of value, exports amounted to NOK 3.4 billion (+30%). Never before have such high export figures been recorded. The total for all fresh codfish exports was 32 717 tonnes, corresponding to a 78% increase over last year's figure. The price increased by 5% (to NOK 0.39/kg), although in EUR this corresponded to a decrease of 5%.

Brazil remains the biggest market for clipfish, followed by Portugal. Salted fish exports increased by 22% to a total of 13 354 tonnes while at the same time the price rose by 10%. Portugal has bought 70% of all Norwegian salted fish so far this year, which was worth 11% more than last year.

On the Spanish market, prices for PBO *Merluccius productus* (hake) for the spring season have decreased, as have prices for Alaska pollock blocks.

During the first quarter of this year, the Russian market was characterized by sufficient volumes of domestically-caught cod, while catches of haddock and capelin have been low. Cod prices have been low and the market is sluggish. Buyers have not yet adjusted to the shift in prices. For example, frozen gutted cod (Russian catch) was at RUB 103-110/kg (EUR 2.10-2.25/kg). Meanwhile, the Russian Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service has imposed, from 1 January 2014, limits on imports of groundfish (cod, haddock, and halibut) and pelagic species (mackerel and herring) from Norway.

The European Union imported 46 156 tonnes of frozen surimi in 2013. Imports of pollock surimi increased to 25 162 tonnes (+34% from 2012), while cod-based surimi was nearly 90% more at 8 276 tonnes. Imports of other surimi from Asia dropped 42% to 12 719 tonnes because of a sharp decline in landings as well as an increase in demand for fresh fish and surimi in Southeast Asia (INFOFISH).

### Flatfish

In 2013, the EU imported 7 248 tonnes of turbot (*psetta maxima*, *scophthalmidae*), 37% less than in 2012. The Italian market was the number one importer in Europe with 1 734 tonnes (-14%), followed by Spain with 1 562 tonnes (-70%) and France with 1 124 tonnes (-24%).

## **Tuna**

Fishing in the Western and Central Pacific has continued at a moderately good level. There are good round fish inventories in Bangkok and thus skipjack prices have continued their decline, dropping to USD 1 150/tonne CFR.

In the Atlantic Ocean, catches have not improved since the reopening of the ICCAT exclusion zone on 1 March. Despite the poor fishing, skipjack prices have fallen to EUR 930/tonne ex vessel Abidjan. Yellowfin prices have also decreased to EUR 1 900/tonne.

Vessels in the Indian Ocean have continued to target mostly skipjack on FADs. Skipjack prices have continued to drop to EUR 750/tonne FOB Mahe. As local canneries are full, vessels are also transshipping their catches to other markets. Yellowfin prices have been holding firm at EUR 1 800/tonne FOB Mahe due to the low catches.

Fishing in the Eastern Pacific has slowed down. However, as canneries still have high inventories, prices of both skipjack and yellowfin have dropped to USD 1 150/tonne and USD 2 300/tonne ex vessel Manta respectively.

On the European market, skipjack prices have remained at the EUR 900/tonne CFR Spain level while yellowfin prices have continued to increase, to EUR 2 150/tonne CFR Spain, due to poor supply from the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. The market prices for cooked, double cleaned yellowfin loins have been maintained at USD 8 200/tonne DDP Italy.

## **Small Pelagics**

Total Norwegian exports of herring, mackerel and other pelagic fish decreased in value by 12.3% during this year's first quarter compared with last year. Reduced herring exports (-13%) are attributed to lower quotas but also to lower prices. In contrast, generally good demand for mackerel and increased landings in Norway has resulted in higher Norwegian exports.

According to [www.fishnet.ru](http://www.fishnet.ru), in 2014, the forecast for the Russian herring catch is estimated at 350 000 tonnes, of which only 35 000 tonnes will be Atlantic herring, while the main component will be Pacific herring caught in the Russian Far East. A shortage of 150 000 tonnes of herring is expected on the Russian market due to the decreased TAC for both Atlantic and Pacific herring.

On the wholesale market in Moscow, at the beginning of April, the Pacific herring (large and fat, >25 cm) price started to rise from its lowest point of RUB 28/kg (EUR 0.57/kg) to RUB 33/kg (EUR 0.67/kg).

In March, Iceland, Norway and the Faroe Islands reached an agreement with the EU and set the total blue whiting quota at 1.2 million tonnes. This is a considerable

increase from the 643 000 tonne TAC last year, but the stock is in a good condition and this quota is still well within the latest recommendations from the scientists.

## **Cephalopods**

EU squid imports in 2013 decreased by 5% compared with the previous year and totalled 260 529 tonnes. Spain accounted for 37% of total EU imports (although imports decreased by 17%) and Italy for 32% (with an increase of almost 10%). Major suppliers were Spain, Falkland Islands, China, India and Thailand. South Africa saw its exports to the EU decrease by 34% in 2013.

In 2013 the volume of octopus imported by the European Union increased by 10% compared with 2012 to reach 124 691 tonnes (of which 113 761 tonnes were frozen/dried/salted/in brine, 9 315 tonnes were live/fresh/chilled and 1 615 tonnes were prepared and preserved products).

However, in terms of value, imports dropped by almost 24%. Italy accounted for 39% of total EU imports and Spain 35%.

**Morocco became by far the number one supplier to the EU in 2013 with 41 442 tonnes, corresponding to a remarkable 80% increase over the 2012 figure.**

## **Crustaceans**

The new Norway lobster season has just started and demand is reported to be good on all markets.

Last year, Canadian lobster (*Homarus americanus*) fishermen were unsatisfied with the low-side prices of the spring season. This year, this situation is not likely to be repeated. Indeed, stocks in Europe are lower compared with 2013 and the North American market for tails is reported to be short of products.

Consequently, demand is expected to be high at the beginning of the new season (on 1 May) and prices are estimated by Canadian producers to be higher than last year.

## **Shrimp**

Vannamei prices have decreased in the last few weeks, both at raw material level and at export level. The market is preparing for some adjustments.

Demand from the European market and the Japanese market also remains weak. In Thailand, the shrimp shortage of previous months has forced some processors to close or to lower their capacity.

In 2013 the European Union imported 752 400 tonnes of shrimp (569 850 tonnes in terms of extra-EU trade). This corresponds to a slight decrease of 4% in volume compared with the previous year. However, with an average import unit value of EUR 6.38/kg (EUR 6.00/kg in 2012), total imports increased slightly in value.

Ecuador remained the number one supplier to the EU in 2013 with an 11% market share, although the volume of its exports to Europe decreased by 10% compared with 2012 as Ecuador focused on other markets during the shortage period.

India consolidated its position as second supplier to the EU with almost a 10% increase of its shrimp exports in volume, just before Greenland and Argentina.

## **Bivalves**

The French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) indicates that in March this year the average consumer price for medium-caliber cupped oyster was at EUR 9.71/dozen, after it crossed the threshold of EUR 10/dozen in February.

On the French market this month, there is a predominance of Irish and Spanish mussels because of a lack of Bouchot and Dutch mussels following the close of the production season. Irish organic mussels are in demand to fill the gap left by lower supplies of *Mytilus edulis* while waiting for the next season. In 2013, France was the world number one importer of mussels with 52 180 tonnes (-5% on 2012 figures) followed by Italy with 42 150 tonnes, mainly of Dutch and Spanish origin.

## **Freshwater Fish**

After following a general downward trend for the past few years, freshwater fish prices have risen steadily over recent months. In some cases the increase has been extreme and very rapid.

Heavy losses for pangasius farming companies in Viet Nam in the last three years have resulted in a substantial decrease in farming. Previously, pangasius farming had been characterized for years by overproduction and downward pressure on prices, with farmers losing money.

Prices are not likely to decrease until the next harvest in June and it is not yet clear whether they will go down at all in the summer. The fact that there are now much fewer small farmers, with production largely owned by the factories, may allow for better control of prices. In 2013, the export value of pangasius from Viet Nam to the EU, the major market, declined by nearly 10% compared with 2012.

## **Seabass/Seabream/Meagre**

Early signs in 2014 suggest an improved price situation this year for seabass and seabream producers, as a result of high demand and strong sales of large-sized bream in the first quarter of 2014 decreasing the availability of bream in the market. In March 2014, prices for Greek-produced bass and bream on the Italian market were higher than has been seen since the early 2000s. More stable, stronger prices for bream in the coming months is expected due to decreasing supply.

**DOWNLOAD REPORT:-** [Download this report here](#)

Source : <http://www.thefishsite.com/reports/?id=3740#sthash.FNpN7QEU.dpuf> (23/04/2014)