

EU-25 catches in NE Atlantic continue to decrease

Catches in the NE Atlantic by EU-25 Member States have decreased steadily by a total of 30% in the period 1995-2005. The combined catches of Iceland and Norway are at the same level in 2005 as in 1995 but in between have shown increases up to 25%.

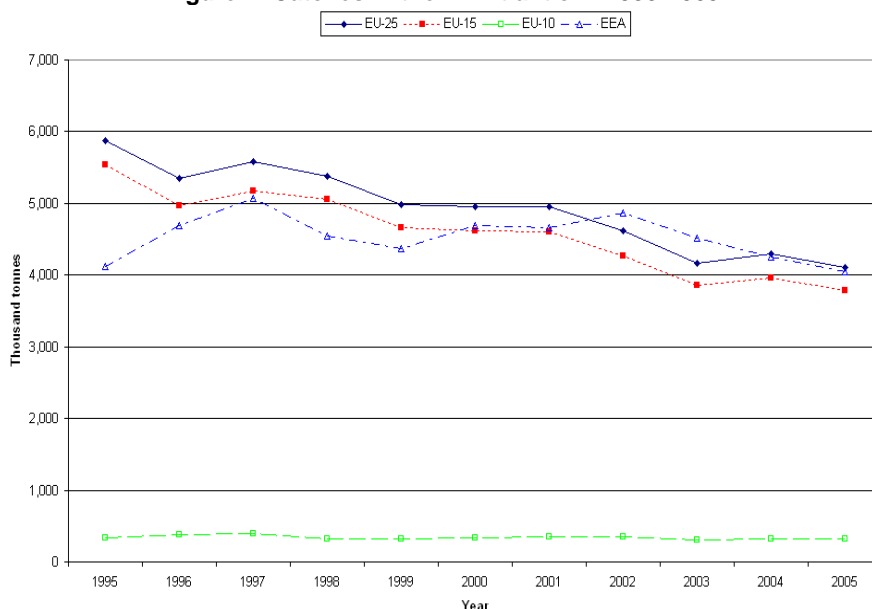
Denmark recorded the largest catch of the EU-25 in 2005, 22% of the total but a decrease of 55% on its catch in 1995.

The North Sea accounted for 29% of the EU-25 catch in the NE Atlantic in 2005 followed by the Baltic Sea with 23%.

Pelagic fish species dominated the catches of the EU-25 in 2005 with the Atlantic herring and the sprat to the fore.

EU-25 catches decreased by 30% in 1995-2005

Figure 1: Catches in the NE Atlantic in 1995-2005



Of the EU-25 countries Denmark (907 thousand tonnes) recorded the largest catch in 2005 – 22% of the total (see Table 1). This was followed by the United Kingdom (659 thousand tonnes, 16% of the EU-25 total), the Netherlands (429 thousand tonnes, 10%) and France (408 thousand tonnes, 10%).

The combined catches of Iceland and Norway in 2005 at 4.0 million tonnes were very close to that of the EU-25 (4.1 million tonnes).

Comparing the catches over the period 1995-2005 it will be seen that the EU-25 catches in the NE Atlantic have decreased in a regular fashion by a total of 30% from 5.9 million tonnes in 1995 to 4.1 million tonnes in 2005 (see Figure 1). This decrease was due almost entirely to the catches of the EU-15 Member States because the catches of the new Member States fishing in the region (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland) remained relatively stable at between 320 – 400 thousand tonnes throughout the period.

The combined catches of the EEA countries (Iceland and Norway) were lowest (at about 4.1 million tonnes) in 1995 and 2005 but in between showed two peaks, in 1997 (5.1 million tonnes) and 2002 (4.9 million tonnes).

Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

10/2007

Fisheries

Author

Franco ZAMPOGNA

Contents

EU-25 catches decreased by 30% in 1995-2005.....1

NE Atlantic is the EU-25's major source of fishery products. 2

Divisions III, IV and VII responsible for majority of catches..... 3

Pelagic species dominate EU-25 catches..... 6



Table 1 : Catches in the NE Atlantic in 1995, 2000 and 2005 (tonnes).

	1995	2000	2005
EU-25	5,876,531	4,961,238	4,106,212
EU-15	5,545,223	4,621,881	3,784,313
EU-10	331,308	339,357	321,899
BE Belgium	35,120	29,296	24,073
DK Denmark	1,998,197	1,533,891	906,879
DE Germany	215,803	177,906	262,676
EE Estonia	92,411	96,267	81,064
ES Spain	392,860	417,420	335,064
FR France	448,807	491,476	408,791
IE Ireland	385,885	275,356	228,911
LV Latvia	63,127	80,329	93,605
LT Lithuania	45,556	19,584	17,878
NL Netherlands	434,003	336,329	429,242
PL Poland	130,214	143,177	129,352
PT Portugal	220,120	163,615	179,464
FI Finland	106,093	121,640	95,472
SE Sweden	402,657	337,081	254,939
UK United Kingdom	905,678	737,869	658,802
EEA	4,120,689	4,683,791	4,043,250
IS Iceland	1,615,129	1,990,441	1,653,992
NO Norway	2,505,559	2,693,350	2,389,258

Of the individual EU-25 Member States the largest decreases in catch between 1995 and 2005 were recorded by Lithuania (-61%) and Denmark (-55%). Other countries recording significant decreases in this

period were Ireland (41%) Sweden (36%), Belgium (32%) and the United Kingdom (28%). Only two countries recorded increased catches over the period: Latvia (+48%) and Germany (+22%).

NE Atlantic is the EU-25's major source of fishery products.

The NE Atlantic is a major fishing region for 15 of the EU-25 Member States. Only those Member States with coastal waters exclusively in the Mediterranean (Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta and Slovenia) do not fish in the NE Atlantic.

Indeed the region is the major source of EU-25 catches of fishery products. In 2005 it accounted for 76% of the catch from all the world's regions of 5.4 million tonnes (see Table 2). This is an increase of 3% over the situation in 1995. This increase is despite the fact, as noted above, that the EU-25's catch in the NE Atlantic has fallen by 30% in this period and is accounted for by the fact that the EU-25's catch in all other areas fell by

61% from 2.2 million tonnes in 1995 to 1.3 million tonnes in 2005.

For many of the Member States (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom) there has been very little change in the relative importance of the NE Atlantic. However, for others (Estonia, Spain, France, Latvia and Poland) the NE Atlantic has made a significantly increased contribution to the catches. Only in Ireland, Lithuania and the Netherlands has the NE Atlantic become less important: this due primarily in all cases to increased fishing activities in the Eastern Central Atlantic.

Table 2: Percentage of total catch taken from the NE Atlantic.

		1995	2005
EU-25		73	76
EU-15		77	78
EU-10		42	60
BE	Belgium	99	99
DK	Denmark	100	100
DE	Germany	90	91
EE	Estonia	70	81
ES	Spain	33	48
FR	France	66	84
IE	Ireland	99	87
LV	Latvia	42	62
LT	Lithuania	79	13
NL	Netherlands	99	78
PL	Poland	30	85
PT	Portugal	83	86
FI	Finland	69	72
SE	Sweden	100	100
UK	United Kingdom	100	100
EEA		99	100
IS	Iceland	99	100
NO	Norway	99	100

Divisions III, IV and VII responsible for majority of catches

In 2005 29% of the EU-25 catches were taken from the North Sea (ICES division IV) (see Table 3 and Figure 2). Other important fishing areas were the Baltic Sea (ICES Division III – 23%) and the waters East and West of Ireland (ICES Division VII – 18%). Only 5% was

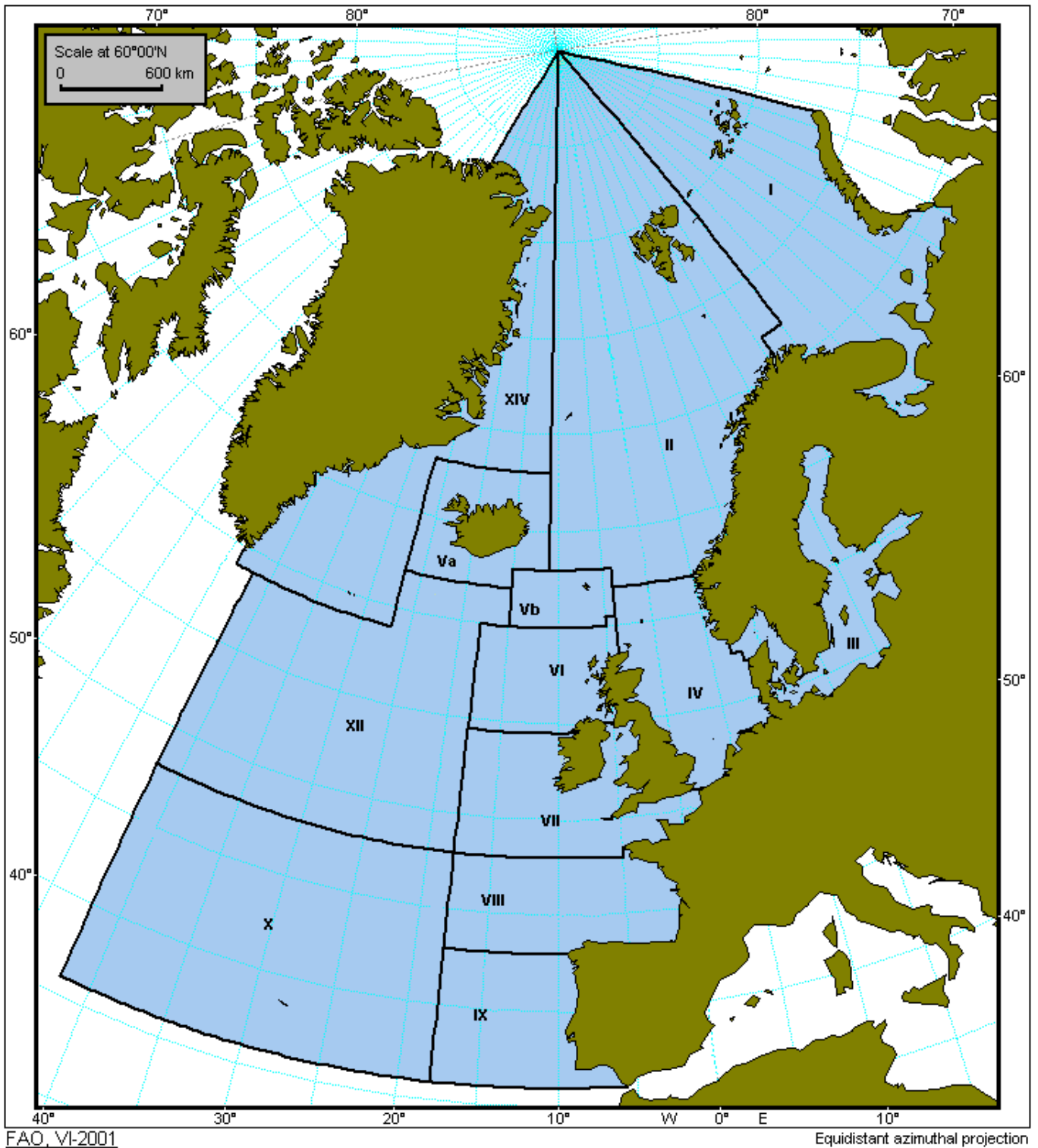
taken from distant waters (Ices divisions I, II, V and XIV).

The activities of the EU-10 Member States were very much concentrated in the Baltic Sea (ICES Division III) which accounted for 97% of the catch in 2005.

Table3: Catches by division of the NE Atlantic in 2005 (tonnes)

ICES Division		EU-25	EU-15	EU-10	EEA	
					Iceland	Norway
Barents Sea	I	3,242	2,687	555	2,104	98,165
Norwegian Sea	II	137,212	133,997	3,215	181,930	1,077,690
Baltic	III	937,133	625,823	311,310	-	12,845
North Sea	IV	1,192,886	1,191,020	1,866	-	498,234
Iceland	VA	2,794	2,794	-	1,347,761	62,588
Faroes	VB	38,497	38,497	-	109,137	33,284
W of Scotland	VI	453,425	451,823	1,602	4,502	364,507
E & W of Ireland	VII	746,036	746,036	-	-	227,969
Bay of Biscay	VIII	289,828	289,828	-	-	-
Portuguese waters	IX	248,898	248,898	-	-	-
Azores Grounds	X	14,339	14,339	0	-	-
North of Azores	XII	27,699	26,882	817	6,112	7,465
E. Greenland	XIV	14,213	11,865	2,348	2,447	6,510
Unknown		8	8	0	-	-
Total		4,106,210	3784497	321,713	1,653,993	2,389,257

Figure 2: Statistical divisions of NE Atlantic.



Iceland caught 81% of its fishery products in the waters around the island (ICES Division VA) in 1995. The situation for Norway was rather similar with 45% and

20% respectively of the catch being taken to fishing areas adjacent to the coast-line (ICES Divisions II and IV).

Table 4: Main species caught in NE Atlantic in 2005 (tonnes) with percentage of total catch.

Species		Catch (t)	%
EU-25			
HER	Atlantic herring	829,755	20
SPR	European sprat	698,796	17
WHB	Blue whiting	455,396	11
EU-15			
HER	Atlantic herring	761,857	20
SPR	European sprat	495,901	13
WHB	Blue whiting	455,396	12
EU-10			
SPR	European sprat	202,895	63
HER	Atlantic herring	67,898	21
COD	Atlantic cod	21,439	7
BE Belgium			
PLE	European plaice	5,063	21
SOL	Common sole	4,383	18
COD	Atlantic cod	2,075	9
DK Denmark			
SPR	European sprat	329,799	36
HER	Atlantic herring	167,449	18
SAN	Sandeels	157,119	17
DE Germany			
HER	Atlantic herring	92,581	35
SPR	European sprat	28,974	11
WHB	Blue whiting	22,823	9
EE Estonia			
SPR	European sprat	55,285	68
HER	Herring	22,098	27
SWR	Red seaweeds	809	1
ES Spain			
WHB	Blue whiting	50,095	15
PIL	European pilchard	36,842	11
MAZ	Scomber mackerels nei	36,814	11
FR France			
HER	Atlantic herring	40,960	10
PIL	European pilchard	27,317	7
SCE	Gt. Atl. Scallop	26,944	7
IE Ireland			
WHB	Blue whiting	69,650	30
MAC	Atlantic mackerel	44,981	20
HOM	Atl. horse mackerel	33,926	15
LV Latvia			
SPR	European sprat	64,647	69
HER	Atlantic herring	22,202	24
COD	Atlantic cod	3,996	4
LT Lithuania			
SPR	European sprat	8,635	67
COD	Atlantic cod	2,993	23
PRA	Northern prawn	1,920	15

Table 4 (continued) : Main species caught in NE Atlantic in 2005 (tonnes) with percentage of total catch.

Species		Catch (t)	%
NL Netherlands			
WHB	Blue whiting	128,368	30
HER	Atlantic herring	128,038	30
HOM	Atl. horse mackerel	67,810	16
PL Poland			
SPR	European sprat	74,328	57
HER	Atlantic herring	22,850	18
COD	Atlantic cod	13,846	11
PT Portugal			
PIL	European pilchard	67,377	38
HOM	Atl. horse mackerel	15,896	9
MAS	Chub mackerel	15,047	8
FI Finland			
HER	Atlantic herring	66,978	70
SPR	European sprat	17,894	19
FPE	European perch	3,415	4
SE Sweden			
SPR	European sprat	109,435	43
HER	Atlantic herring	105,615	41
COD	Atlantic cod	11,737	5
UK United Kingdom			
HER	Atlantic herring	130,839	20
MAC	Atlantic mackerel	126,603	19
WHB	Blue whiting	126,131	19
EEA			
HER	Atlantic herring	1,009,594	25
WHB	Blue whiting	1,004,486	25
CAP	Capelin	671,848	17
IS Iceland			
CAP	Capelin	604,509	37
WHB	Blue whiting	265,887	16
HER	Atlantic herring	261,445	16
NO Norway			
HER	Atlantic herring	748,149	31
WHB	Blue whiting	738,599	31
POK	Saithe (=Pollock)	230,574	10

Pelagic species dominate EU-25 catches

The Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus*), the European sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) and the blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*) – all pelagic species - dominated the EU-25 catches in the NE Atlantic in 2005. These three species alone were responsible for 49% of the total catch and were prominent in the catches of most of the individual EU Member States (see Table 4).

Most of the other species prominent in the catches by individual Member States were also pelagic species (e.g. European sardine [*Sardina pilchardus*], Atlantic mackerel [*Scorpaenopsis scorpaenoides*], Chub mackerel [*Scorpaenopsis japonicus*], Atlantic horse mackerel [*Trachurus trachurus*]). Traditional European demersal major food fish (e.g. Atlantic cod [*Gadus morhua*], European hake [*Merluccius merluccius*] and

European plaice [*Pleuronectes platessa*] were either absent or were well down the list of important species in most Member States.

The Atlantic herring and the blue whiting were also major contributors (over 50% of the total) to the catches of Iceland and Norway.

However the major difference was the importance in the Icelandic catches of another pelagic species, the capelin (*Mallotus villosus*).

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

EU Member States, Iceland and Norway submit annual catch statistics for the NE Atlantic to Eurostat under the terms of the Council Regulation no. 3880/91. The latest data available, submitted by 30 June 2006, are for the calendar year 2005.

The data for the total catches in 2005 for all fishing regions are not yet complete and thus some estimates (based on the data for 2004) have been used. The final data are not expected to be significantly different from these estimates.

The catches are expressed in the live weight equivalent of the landings. For molluscs this includes the weight of the shell.

The EU-15 Member States are Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom (Greece, Italy,

Luxembourg and Austria did not fish in the NE Atlantic in the period covered by this report, 1995 – 2005).

The EU-10 Member States (which acceded to the European Union in May 2004) are the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, and Slovakia Republic. Only Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland fished in the NE Atlantic in the period covered by this report.


The EU-25 Member States are the EU-15 and the EU-10 countries.

Bulgaria and Romania, which joined the EU on 1 January 2007, and the Candidate Countries (Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey) did not fish in the NE Atlantic in the period covered by this report.

The EEA countries concerned are Iceland and Norway.

Further information:

Data: [EUROSTAT Website/Home page/Agriculture and fisheries/Data](#)

 **Agriculture, forestry and fisheries**

 Agriculture

 Forestry

 **Fisheries**

 **Catches by fishing region**

Journalists can contact the media support service:

Bech Building Office A4/125
L - 2920 Luxembourg

Tel. (352) 4301 33408
Fax (352) 4301 35349

E-mail: eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu

European Statistical Data Support:

Eurostat set up with the members of the 'European statistical system' a network of support centres, which will exist in nearly all Member States as well as in some EFTA countries.

Their mission is to provide help and guidance to Internet users of European statistical data.

Contact details for this support network can be found on our Internet site: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

A list of worldwide sales outlets is available at the:

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

2, rue Mercier
L - 2985 Luxembourg

URL: <http://publications.europa.eu>
E-mail: info-info-opoce@ec.europa.eu

Eurostat wishes to express its gratitude for the valuable contribution made by David Cross .

E-mail: david@cross.lu