



SQUID

(*Ommastrephidae, Loliginidae*)



© Scandinavian Fishing Year Book

BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

- **Species description** [\(1\)](#) [\(2\)](#)

The appellation squid covers a wide range of cephalopods. The main commercial species belong to the Ommastrephidae and Loliginidae families (*Illex* and *Loligo* genus). Squids are cephalopods in the superorder Decapodiformes with elongated bodies, large eyes, eight arms and two tentacles.

The main species caught at global level are Jumbo flying squid and Argentine shortfin squid.

- **Geographical distribution and habitat** [\(1\)](#) [\(2\)](#)

Squids are abundant species, among the most landed fishery products in the global seafood market. They have a worldwide distribution and can be found in all seas and oceans.

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

- **Stock and resource status/conservation measures**

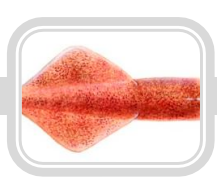
There is no conservation measure for squid species.

- **Production methods and fishing gears** [\(1\)](#) [\(2\)](#)

The main fishing gears used are the trawls. Other gears include beach-seines, gillnets, and trammel nets.

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

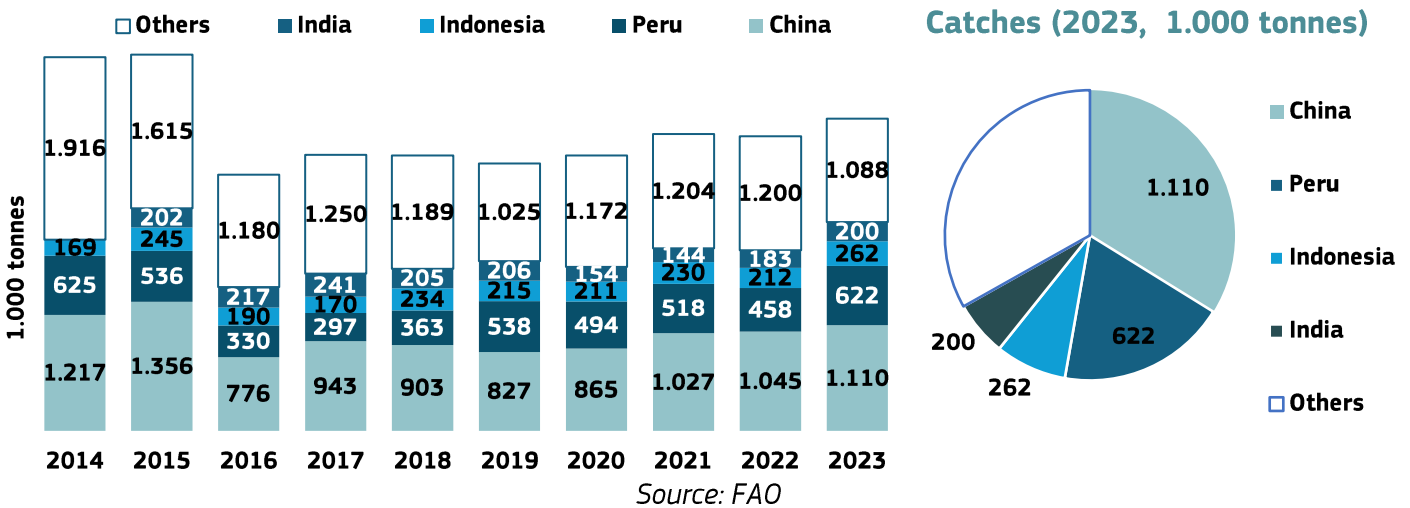
Squid



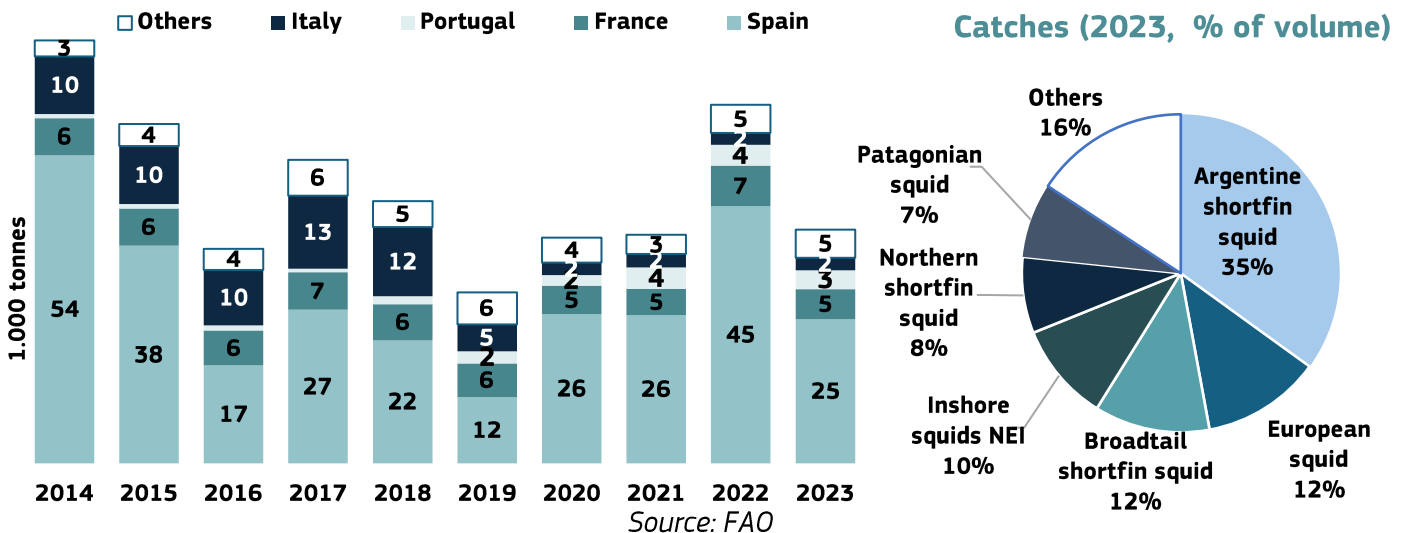
CATCHES

Evolution of world catches

- Squid (all species) catches reached over 3.200.000 tonnes in 2023, i.e. **3,5%** of the global catches. Jumbo squid catches amounted to 1.225.798 tonnes and this species was mainly caught by the Peruvian and Chinese fleets. The main squid producers were China and Peru, representing 53% of the global catches in 2023, followed by Indonesia, India, and Argentina (8%, 6%, and 5%, respectively). The EU catches represented 1% of the global captures in 2023. During the last decade (2014-2023), global squid catches decreased in 2016 (-32% in comparison to the previous year) and have progressively increased since (+22%).



- Squid catches in the EU reached 40.861 tonnes in 2023. Catches of the Argentine shortfin squid represented 35% of the EU catches. Spain was by far the main producer, representing 62% of the EU catches, followed by France and Portugal (respectively 13% and 8% of the catches). During the last decade (2014-2023), EU squid catches have fluctuated, decreasing overall by 45% in relation to the decrease of the Spanish catches (-53%).



Squid



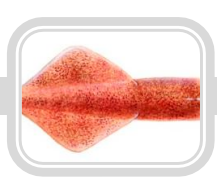
AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

- No aquaculture production of European squid has been developed.

PROCESSING

- There is no [PRODCOM](#) code referring to squid.

Squid



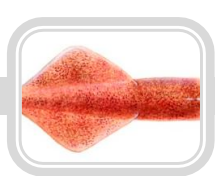
TRADE

- [Combined nomenclature](#)

EU trade of squid products (tonnes – 2024)

| CN code | Product | EU imports | EU exports |
|--------------|---|----------------|---------------|
| 03 07 42 20 | Squid "Loligo spp.", live, fresh or chilled | 3.900 | 49 |
| 03 07 42 30 | Squid "Ommastrephes spp., Nototodarus spp., Sepioteuthis spp.", live, fresh or chilled | 24 | 179 |
| 03 07 42 40 | European flying squid "Todarodes sagittatus", live, fresh or chilled | 8 | 13 |
| 03 07 43 31 | Squid "Loligo vulgaris", frozen | 26.316 | 165 |
| 03 07 43 33 | Squid "Loligo pealei", frozen | 4.292 | 55 |
| 03 07 43 35 | Squid "Loligo gahi", frozen | 73.024 | 4.247 |
| 03 07 43 38 | Squid "Loligo spp.", frozen (excl. "Loligo vulgaris, pealei and gahi") | 67.008 | 833 |
| 03 07 43 91 | Squid "Ommastrephes spp., Nototodarus spp., Sepioteuthis spp.", frozen (excl. "Ommastrephes sagittatus") | 9.118 | 217 |
| 03 07 43 92 | Squid "Illex spp.", frozen | 41.058 | 10.921 |
| 03 07 43 95 | European flying squid "Todarodes sagittatus, Ommastrephes sagittatus", frozen | 49 | 259 |
| 03 07 49 40 | Squid "Loligo spp.", smoked, dried, salted or in brine | 119 | 55 |
| 03 07 49 50 | Squid "Ommastrephes spp., Nototodarus spp., Sepioteuthis spp.", smoked, dried, salted or in brine (excl. "Ommastrephes sagittatus") | 0 | 1 |
| 03 07 49 60 | European flying squid "Todarodes sagittatus, Ommastrephes sagittatus", smoked, dried, salted or in brine | | 68 |
| Total | | 224.915 | 17.063 |

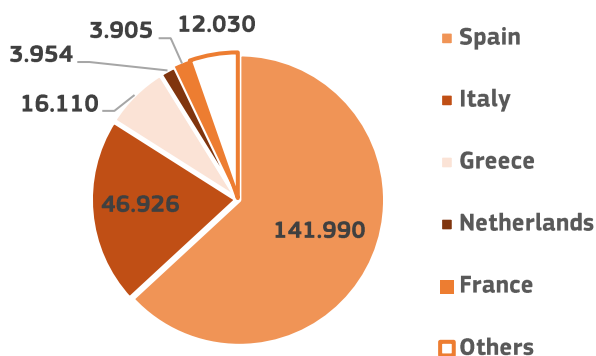
Source: EUMOFA



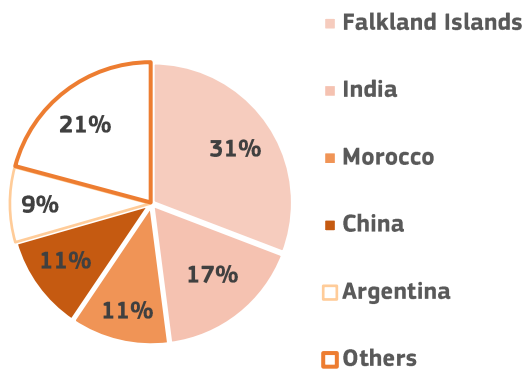
TRADE

- Extra-EU imports** almost reached 225.000 tonnes in 2024, of which 98% were frozen. In 2024, EU imports originated mostly from the Fakland Islands (31% of the volume imported; 69.302 tonnes) and to a lesser extent from India, Morroco and China (representing 17%, 11%, and 11%, respectively). The same year, the main importers within the EU were Spain (63% of the imported volume) and Italy (21%).

EU importers (2024, tonnes)



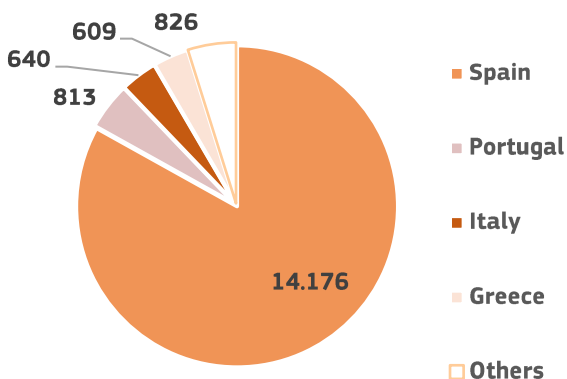
Main EU suppliers (2024, % in volume)



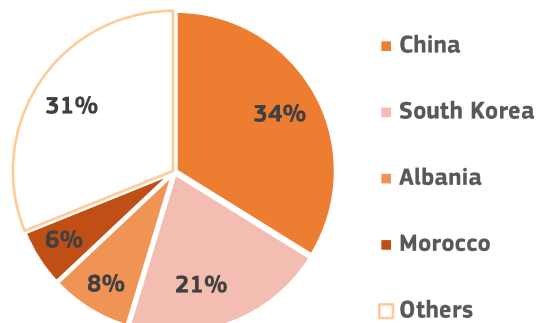
- Extra-EU exports:**

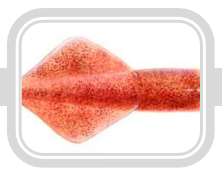
In 2024, export volumes of squid totaled 17.063 tonnes. Exports were made almost exclusively of frozen squids (98%). Spain was by far the first EU exporter, representing 83% of the exported volume. Other EU exporters included Portugal, Italy, and Greece, representing together 12% of the EU exported volume in 2024. China, South Korea, Albania and Morocco were the main destination markets, representing 69% of EU exports.

EU exporters (2024, tonnes)



Main destinations (2024, % in volume)

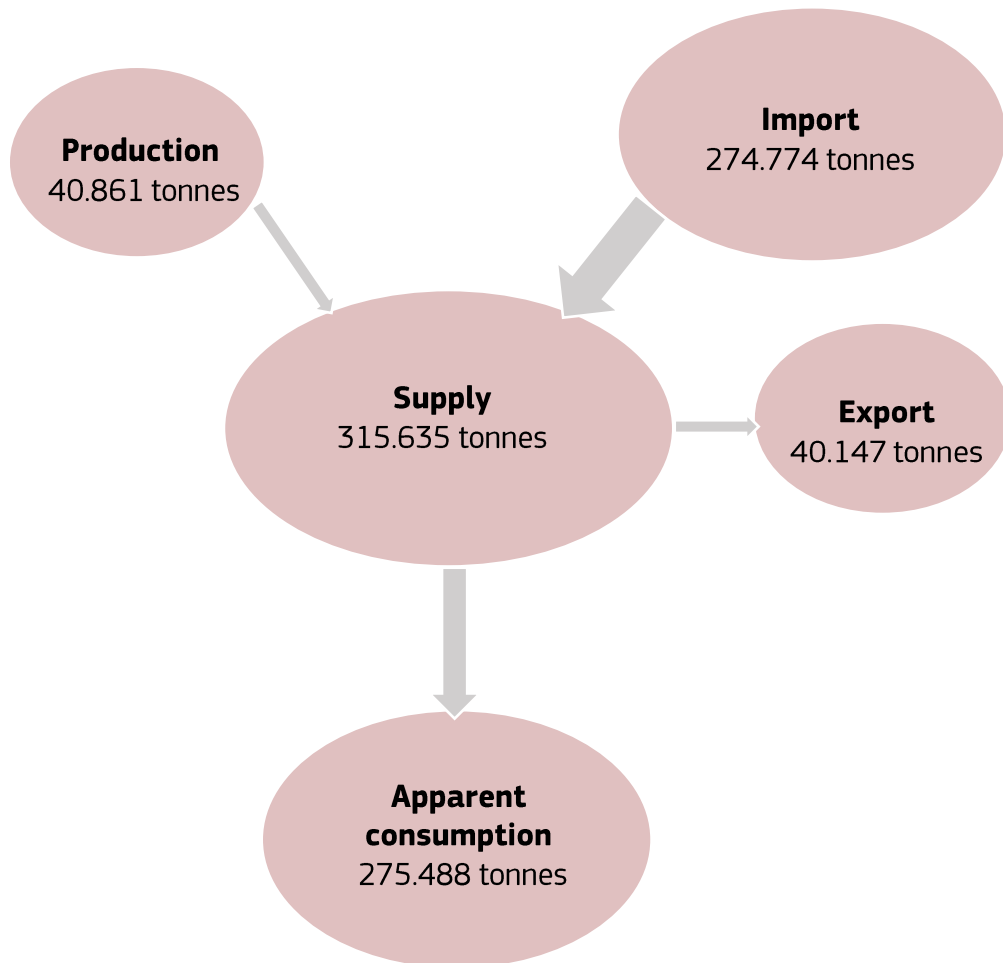




Supply balance

EU supply balance (2023¹) – Tonnes of live weight equivalent² – Squid

Data concern all squid species



Source: FAO/ EUROSTAT-COMEXT

¹ Supply balance is provided for the year 2023 (trade data for 2023 were taken into account). Detailed trade data provided in the slides 4 and 5 concern the year 2024.

² The [conversion factors](#) were used to convert net weight of imports and exports of fishery and aquaculture products into live weight equivalents.

Squid



PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

First-sale (whole)

First-sale prices are provided for the main EU producers (Spain, France and Italy). The vast majority of frozen first sales occurred in Spain and concerned Argentine shortfin squid. Data concern all species of squid.

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025* | Source |
|-----------------------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Spain - fresh | 5,70 | 6,97 | 6,44 | 8,41 | 7,66 | 5,56 | 4,57 | 6,56 | 7,27 | 6,14 | EUMOFA |
| Spain - frozen | n.a. | n.a. | 3,21 | 2,67 | 3,53 | 2,86 | 3,37 | 3,75 | 4,04 | 5,04 | EUMOFA |
| France - fresh | 9,48 | 9,48 | 10,43 | 9,98 | 9,57 | 10,51 | 11,25 | 10,92 | 9,97 | 10,31 | EUMOFA |
| Italy - fresh | 8,70 | 8,01 | 8,55 | 7,96 | 8,52 | 9,48 | 10,28 | 10,57 | 11,78 | 11,15 | EUMOFA |
| Italy - frozen | 7,44 | 7,29 | 5,72 | 4,73 | 2,88 | 4,06 | 4,75 | 3,32 | 4,59 | 5,39 | EUMOFA |

(*) From January to October 2025

Wholesale

Wholesale prices are reported for Rungis (France) and Mercamadrid (Madrid, Spain).

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025* | Source |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|
| France- fresh whole | 12,91 | 11,60 | 13,06 | 16,15 | 14,49 | 16,04 | 19,30 | 17,71 | 15,00 | 18,92 | Rungis (RNM) |
| France - frozen whole (imported) | 4,80 | 4,80 | 5,68 | 7,00 | 7,00 | 7,00 | 7,48 | 8,58 | 9,00 | 9,36 | Rungis (RNM) |
| Spain - fresh whole | 11,16 | 12,84 | 14,56 | 13,04 | 11,81 | 13,01 | 15,97 | 15,97 | 15,15 | 16,52 | Mercamadrid |
| Spain - frozen whole | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | 5,38 | 5,38 | 5,87 | 8,23 | 10,98 | 9,36 | 10,51 | Mercamadrid |

(*) From January to November 2024

Retail/Consumption

Retail prices are reported for France and Spain.

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024* | Source |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|---------------|
| France - fresh | 8,7 | 9,6 | 10,3 | 10,3 | 10,5 | 9,6 | 10,2 | 10,1 | 10,3 | FranceAgriMer |
| Spain - frozen | 7,44 | 7,82 | 7,95 | 8,31 | 8,81 | 8,87 | 9,87 | 10,85 | 10,81 | MAPA |
| Spain - canned | 6,59 | 6,87 | 7,78 | 8,07 | 8,01 | 7,99 | 8,66 | 9,03 | 9,56 | |

(*) Latest available year

Squid



PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

Data concern all squid species.

Extra-EU import (frozen)

EU imports from third countries concern mainly frozen squids from the species *Illex* spp., *Ommastrephes* spp. and *Loligo* spp. Main importers in 2024 were Spain and Italy.

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025* | Source |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|--------|
| Spain | 4,01 | 3,83 | 3,65 | 3,81 | 4,50 | 4,56 | 5,68 | 5,47 | 5,10 | 5,24 | EUMOFA |
| Italy | 4,9 | 5,43 | 5,18 | 5,6 | 5,92 | 6,19 | 7,59 | 7,38 | 6,72 | 7,11 | EUMOFA |

(*) From January to September 2025

Extra-EU export (frozen)

Spain was by far the main EU exporter of squids to third countries in 2024. Spanish exports are mainly composed of frozen squids from the species *Illex* spp., *Ommastrephes* spp. and *Loligo* spp.

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025* | Source |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|--------|
| Spain | 3,96 | 2,92 | 2,73 | 2,64 | 5,26 | 5,35 | 5,6 | 7,22 | 6,26 | 6,80 | EUMOFA |

(*) From January to September 2025

Squid



MARKETING

- National lists of commercial designations ([Read more](#))
- Information system on commercial designations and scientific names in all EU languages ([Read more](#))

CONSUMPTION

- 9th most consumed species in the EU (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2025 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Apparent consumption of squid (all species included) per capita in 2023: **0,61 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [Supply balance - 2023](#), EUMOFA)
- Nutritional value (Squid, nutrition values per serving 100g) ([1](#)) ([2](#))

| Nutrition values | Jumbo flying squid - <i>Dosidicus gigas</i> | Argentine shortfin squid - <i>Illex argentinus</i> |
|------------------|---|--|
| Energy (kcal) | 92 | 92 |
| Total fat (g) | 1,38 | 1,38 |
| Saturates (g) | 0,358 | 0,358 |
| Carbohydrate (g) | 3,08 | 3,08 |
| Sugars (g) | 0 | 0 |
| Protein (g) | 15,58 | 15,58 |
| Salt (mg) | 110 | 110 |