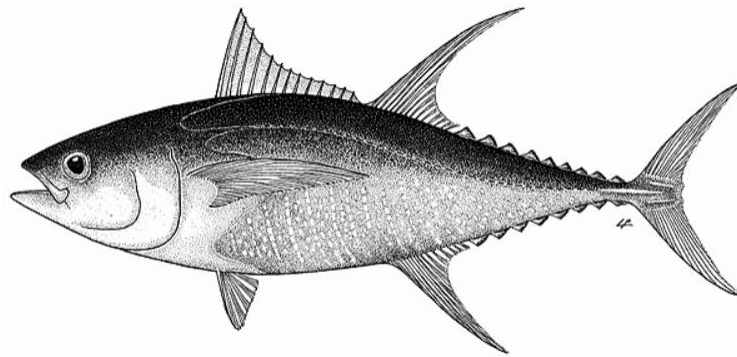




## YELLOWFIN TUNA (*THUNNUS ALBACARES*)



©FAO

### BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

- **Species description** ([Read more](#))

The yellowfin tuna is among the larger tuna species. It belongs to the family of *Scombridae*.

- **Geographical distribution and habitat** ([Read more](#))

Yellowfin tuna can be found in pelagic waters of tropical and subtropical oceans worldwide.

### RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

- **Stock and resource status/conservation measures** ([Read more](#))

TACs are adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) for tuna caught in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea and by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) for tuna caught in the Indian ocean.

- **Production methods and fishing gears** ([Read more](#))

The main fishing gears used are drifnets, gillnets and similar nets, hooks and lines, longlines, pots and traps, purse seines, seines, surrounding nets and lift nets, and troll lines.

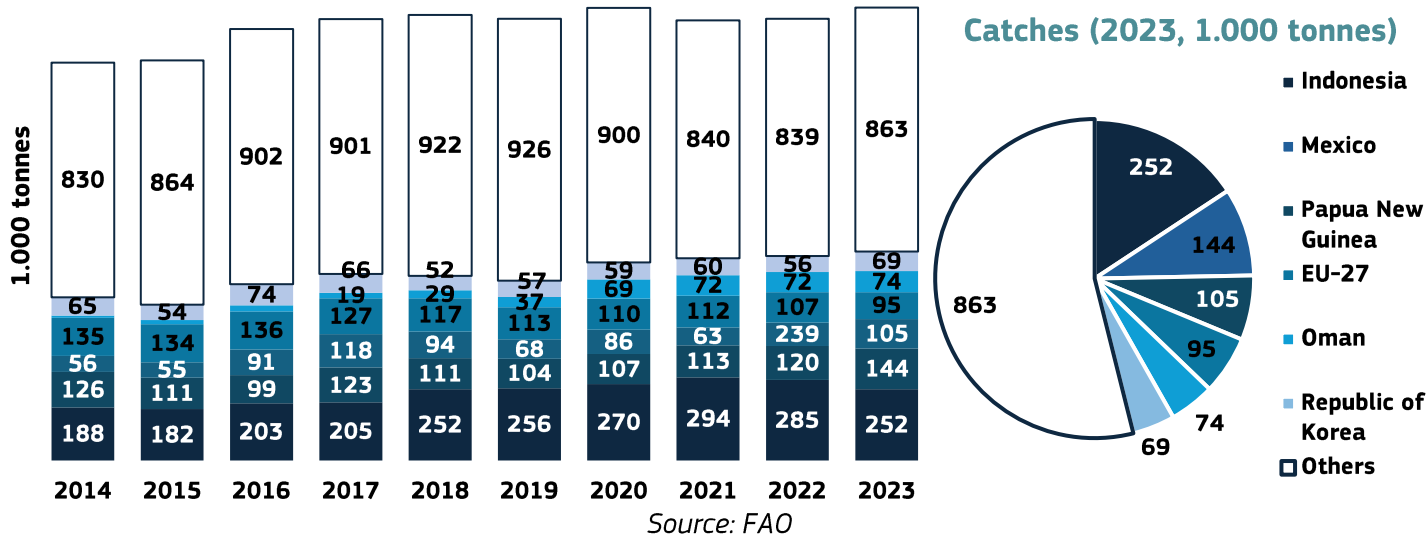


# CATCHES

## Evolution of world catches

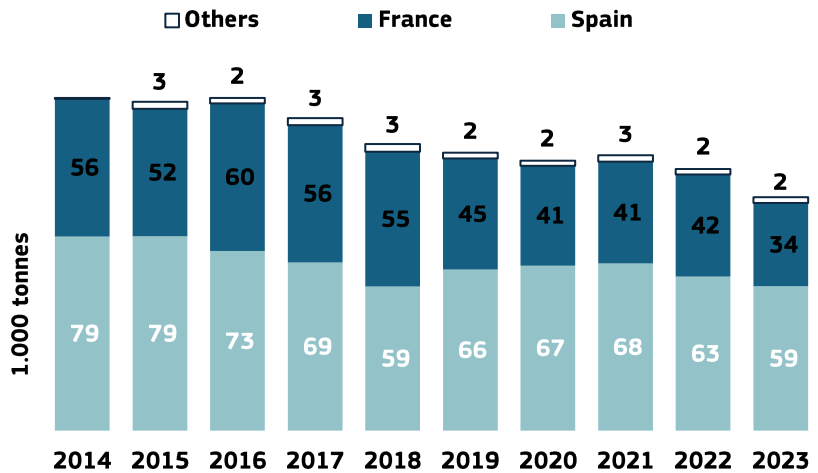
- The global catches of Yellowfin tuna have reached over 1,6 million tonnes in 2023, i.e. **1,7%** of the global catches. The top-3 producers, Indonesia, Mexico and Philippines accounted for 31% of the world catches in 2023.
- Over the last decade (2014-2023), the global production has increased by 14%, in relation to the increase of catches of Indonesia, Mexico and Papua New Guinea (+34%, +14%, and +88% respectively).

Legend: Others, South Korea, Oman, EU-27, Papua New Guinea, Mexico, Indonesia



## Evolution of EU catches

- In 2023, the EU provided **6%** of the global yellowfin tuna catches (vs. 10% in 2014). Unlike the global production, the EU production has significantly decreased by 30% over the last decade (2014-2023), in relation to the EU contribution to catch reduction scheme of Yellowfin tuna in the Indian Ocean. This occurs under the umbrella of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission in order to reduce overfishing of yellowfin tuna stock.



- Spanish and French distant water fleet represented almost all (98%) EU production in 2023. Catches are landed in third countries (first sales in France and Spain represent less than 1% of the catches in volume) and imported afterwards.



## AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

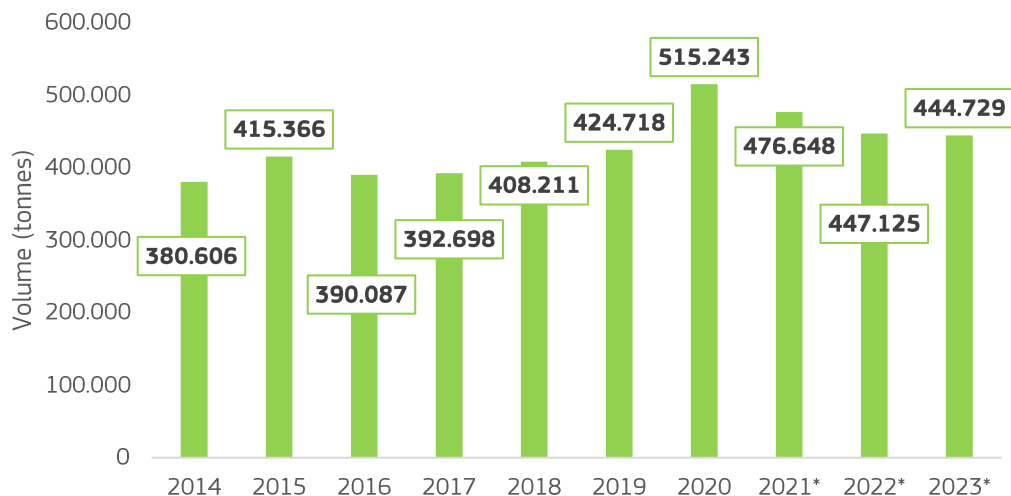
There is no commercial aquaculture production of yellowfin tuna

## PROCESSING

- Yellowfin tuna is mostly used by the canning industry. It is not possible to distinguish yellowfin tuna in canned tuna statistics. The following [PRODCOM](#) code refers mainly to skipjack and yellowfin tunas:
  - 10202540: Prepared or preserved tuna, skipjack and Atlantic bonito, whole or in pieces (excluding minced products and prepared meals and dishes).

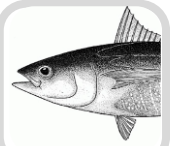
In 2023, the EU production of preserved tuna, skipjack and Atlantic bonito reached over 444.000 tonnes. Spain is by far the main producer at EU level, with a production over 306.000 tonnes, i.e. 69% of EU production, followed by Italy with 19% of EU production (over 82.500 tonnes).

### EU production of prepared or preserved tuna, skipjack and Atlantic bonito



Source (EUROSTAT/PRODCOM)

\*) data for 2023, 2022 and 2021 was incomplete for Portugal and Bulgaria. Values from the previous available year were used to estimate the EU production.



## TRADE

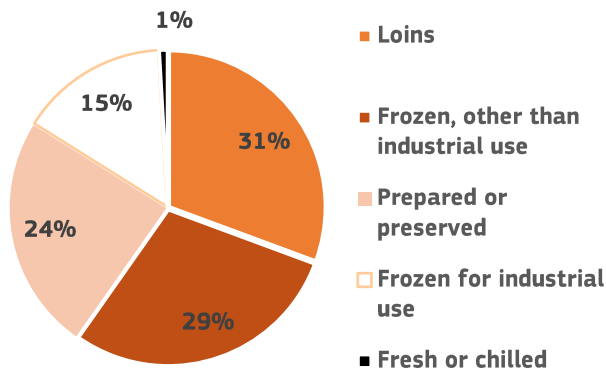
- Combined nomenclature ([Read more](#))

### EU-27 trade of yellowfin tuna products (tonnes - 2024)

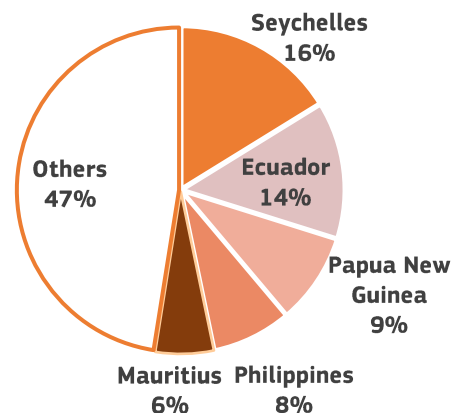
CN code	Product	EU imports	EU exports
03 02 32 10	Fresh or chilled yellowfin tunas " <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ", for industrial processing	0	8
03 02 32 90	Fresh or chilled yellowfin tunas " <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ", other	1.647	135
03 03 42 20	Frozen yellowfin tunas " <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ", for industrial processing	28.035	5.190
03 03 42 90	Frozen yellowfin tunas " <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ", other	53.708	18.025
16 04 14 31	Prepared or preserved yellowfin tuna " <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ", whole or in pieces, in vegetable oil	16.182	2.642
16 04 14 36	Fillets known as "loins" of yellowfin tuna " <i>Thunnus albacares</i> "	56.503	302
16 04 14 38	Prepared or preserved yellowfin tuna " <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ", whole or in pieces, other	28.366	769
<b>Total</b>		<b>184.441</b>	<b>27.070</b>

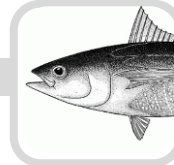
- Extra-EU imports** reached over 184.400 tonnes in 2024. 31% of EU imports concerned loins of tuna, while 29% of EU imports concerned frozen tuna (other than for industrial use) and 24% concerned prepared/preserved tuna. The main importers in the EU were Spain, Italy and France which were responsible of 95% of the EU imports in 2024 (56%, 28% and 12% respectively). EU suppliers were various, the most important in 2024 were Seychelles and Ecuador (16% and 14% of the EU imports). These imports include a large share of EU catches by distant water fleets that are landed in third countries and imported to the EU.

Imports by products type (2024, % in volume)



Main EU suppliers (2024, % in volume)

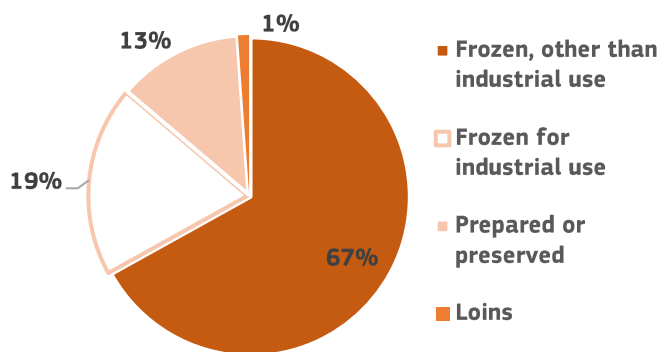




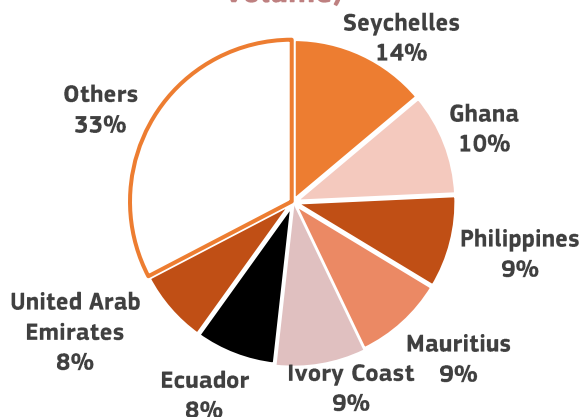
# TRADE

- Extra-EU exports** amounted to 27.070 tonnes in 2024. 86% of EU exports concerned frozen tuna, while only 13% concerned canned tuna, and 1% concerned loins of tuna. The top two markets were Seychelles and Ghana, which represented 24% of the EU exports. Other important export markets were Philippines, Mauritius, and Ivory Coast, representing 9% each. The main EU exporters were Spain, France, and Italy, accounting for 73%, 18%, and 7% of the EU exports, respectively.

**Exports by products type (2024, % in volume)**



**Main destinations (2024, % in volume)**

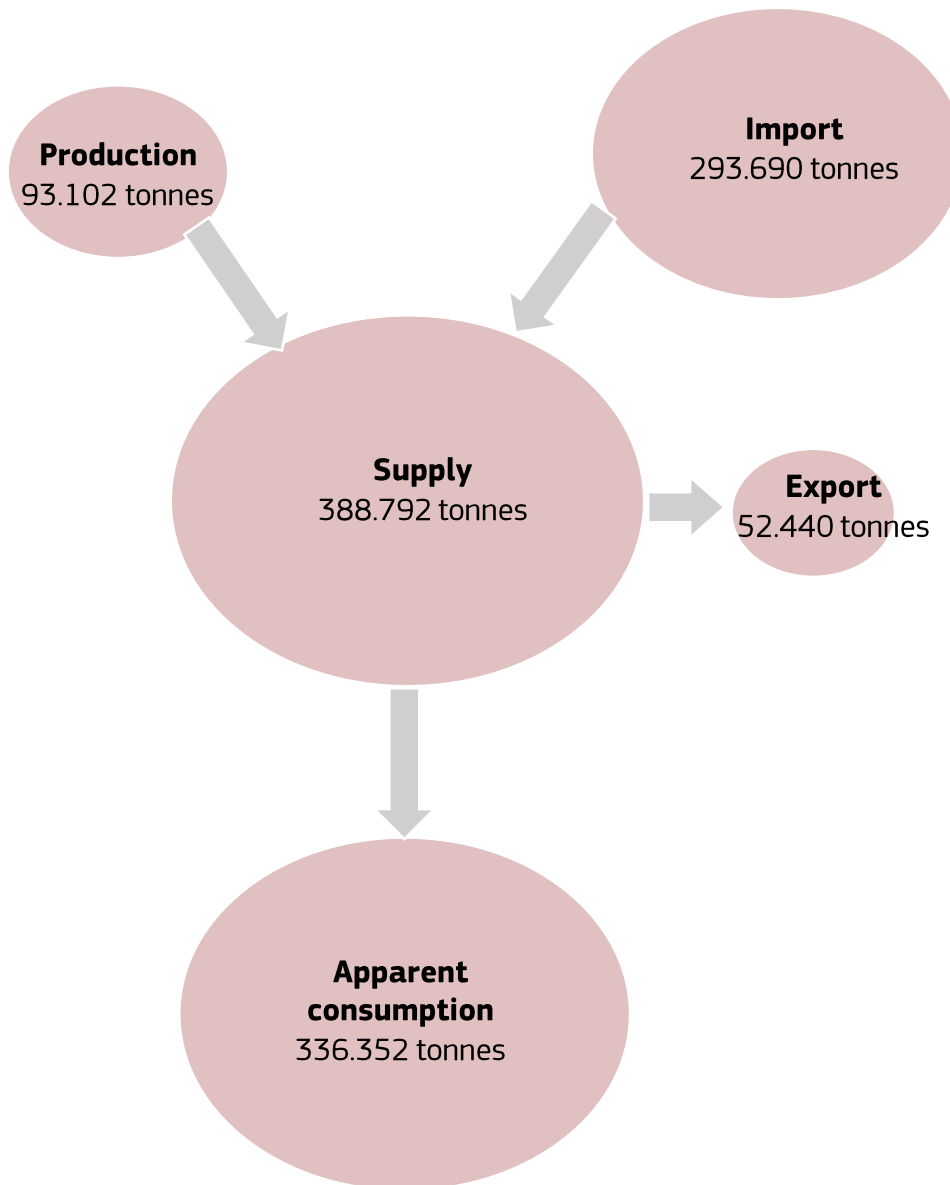


Source: EUROSTAT-COMEXT



## Supply balance

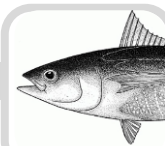
### EU supply balance (2023<sup>1</sup>) – Tonnes of live weight equivalent<sup>2</sup> – Yellowfin tuna



Source: FAO/ EUROSTAT-COMEXT

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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



## PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

### Wholesale (fresh)

Wholesale prices provided below refer to Spain, the leading market in the EU.

Most frequent price	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Source
Spain	n.a.	9,52	7,79	9,72	8,43	9,6	7,88	9,68	7,54	5,01	Mercamadrid

\*) From January to October 2025

### Retail/consumption (canned tuna)

Retail prices refer to fresh and canned tuna (not specific to yellowfin tuna) in France and Spain.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
France (fresh)	15,8	17,3	17,6	19,5	19,8	21,1	21,5	23	21,7	21,9	FranceAgriMer
France (canned)	7,9	7,9	8,1	8,6	9,1	9,3	9,5	9,9	10,9	10,8	FranceAgriMer
Spain (canned tuna)	7,19	7,31	7,7	8,03	8,14	8,09	8,19	9,37	10,05	10,09	MAPA

\*) Lates available year

### Extra-EU import

Import prices are presented for Spain, Italy and France, the most important importers of yellowfin tuna in the EU from extra-EU countries.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Source
Spain - frozen whole	1,95	2,27	2,39	2,23	2,77	2,31	3,08	2,78	2,60	2,73	EUMOFA
Spain - frozen for industrial uses	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,98	1,90	2,51	2,36	2,24	2,27	EUMOFA
Spain - prepared or preserved	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5,04	4,74	6,11	6,49	6,20	6,06	EUMOFA
Italy - frozen whole	2,67	2,79	3	3,04	4,22	2,35	2,72	3,35	2,58	2,88	EUMOFA
Italy - frozen for industrial uses	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2,99	2,64	3,04	3,56	2,91	n.a.	EUMOFA
Italy - prepared or preserved	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	6,12	5,92	6,91	6,62	6,49	6,50	EUMOFA
France - frozen whole	2,48	2,63	3,06	2,73	3,92	4,03	5,14	4,61	6,32	5,39	EUMOFA
France - prepared or preserved	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	4,81	4,54	6,00	5,84	7,70	7,29	EUMOFA

\*) From January to September 2025

## Yellowfin tuna



## PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

### Extra-EU export

Export prices refer to Spain, France and Italy, major exporters of yellowfin tuna in the EU.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Source
<b>Spain - frozen whole</b>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2,73	2,61	5,46	4,04	3,04	4,01	EUMOFA
<b>Spain - frozen for industrial uses</b>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,48	2,22	1,91	1,91	1,58	1,51	EUMOFA
<b>Spain - prepared or preserved</b>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10,58	11,23	12,05	13,19	13,57	13,54	EUMOFA
<b>France - frozen whole</b>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,52	18,43	21,92	5,69	7,59	8,90	EUMOFA
<b>France - prepared or preserved</b>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	14,58	8,94	10,96	14,66	12,56	10,71	EUMOFA
<b>Italy - prepared or preserved</b>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	9,36	13,39	9,79	12,20	12,24	12,77	EUMOFA

\*) From January to September 2025



## MARKETING

- National lists of commercial designations ([Read more](#))
- Information system on commercial designations and scientific names in all EU languages ([Read more](#))
- Applicable marketing standards ([Read more](#))
- In the EU, there are two names protected under **Protected Geographical Indication (PGI)** of prepared yellowfin tuna in Spain. They are:
  - PGI “**Mojama de Barbate**” in Spain
  - PGI “**Mojama de Isla Cristina**” in Spain.

## CONSUMPTION

- Tuna, all species combined, is the most consumed fish in EU (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2025 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Apparent consumption of tuna (all species included) per capita in 2023: **2,68 kg** live weight equivalent, mostly canned (source: [Supply balance – 2023](#), EUMOFA)
- Apparent consumption of yellowfin tuna per capita in 2023: **0,75 kg** live weight equivalent, mostly canned (source: [Supply balance – 2023](#), EUMOFA)
- Nutrition values (Yellowfin tuna, nutrition values per serving 100 g) ([Read more](#))

Nutrition values	Yellowfin tuna
Energy (kcal)	109
Total fat (g)	0,49
Saturates (g)	0,172
Carbohydrate (g)	0
Sugar (g)	0
Protein (g)	24,4
Salt (g)	112,5