

EU catches in NW Atlantic fall by 10% in 2001

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General situation in 2001

In 2001 European Union fishing vessels caught 56 074 tonnes of fishery products in the Northwest Atlantic, a 10% decrease on the 62 362 tonnes caught in 2000 (see table 1). The major causes of this decrease was a decrease in the catches of German and Spanish vessels.

As for many years, Spanish vessels were responsible for the major part (72%) of the EU catch.

The European Economic Area as a whole registered a slight increase in catches to 75 868 tonnes, thanks to an over three-fold increase in the catches by Norwegian vessels.

	2000	2001
DK	-	92
D	4 475	817
E	45 050	40 235
PT	12 837	14 930
EU-15	62 362	56 074
ISL	9 361	5 079
N	3 984	14 715
EEA	75 707	75 868

Table 1: EEA catches in the NW Atlantic, 2000 and 2001 (tonnes live weight)



Figure 1: EEA catches in the NW Atlantic, 1992-2001

Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

THEME 5 – 20/2002

FISHERIES

Contents

General situation in 2001..... 1

Longer term trends. 2

Cod no longer the major target species. 2



Longer term trends.

In 1968 the EEAs catch in the Northwest Atlantic reached an all-time high of 1.3 million tonnes. Thereafter the catch declined sharply to 116 thousand tonnes in 1983, about doubled in the following three years but then resumed the decline, albeit at a lower rate. This long-term decline in catches, largely due to the deteriorating state of the major fish stocks of the region, continued until the mid-1990s (see Fig. 1) when the EEA catch, at around 60 thousand tonnes, was less than 5% of that in the peak year of 1968. Strict management measures designed to encourage the recovery of the stocks have been established by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) and the general upward trend in catches over the last five years has accordingly been very modest.

Cod no longer the major target species.

In the 1960's cod (*Gadus morhua*) was the major target species for EEA fishing vessels. The average annual catch of this species was 980 000 tonnes - 86% of the total catch. In 2001, due to the serious situation of the cod stocks and a NAFO moratorium on directed fisheries for the species, the EEA reported catches of cod in the NW Atlantic was only 357 tonnes, a minute fraction of the catch in the 1960s and less than 1% of the total EEA catch in 2001.

3-alpha identifier	Species	EU-15		EEA	
		2000	2001	2000	2001
	Total fishery products	62 362	56 075	75 707	75 869
ANG	American angler - <i>Lophius americanus</i>	4	9	4	9
ANT	Blue antimora - <i>Antimora rostrata</i>	21	-	21	-
CAA	Atlantic wolffish (=Catfish) - <i>Anarhichas lupus</i>	2	7	2	7
CAT	Wolffishes (= Catfishes) n.e.i. - <i>Anarhichas</i> spp	581	926	581	927
COD	Atlantic cod - <i>Gadus morhua</i>	196	357	196	357
DGS	Picked (=Spiny) dogfish - <i>Squalus acanthias</i>	-	1	-	1
DGX	Dogfish sharks n.e.i. - Squalidae	494	691	494	691
FIN	Finfishes n.e.i. - Osteichthyes	70	74	73	74
FLX	Flatfishes n.e.i. - Pleuronectiformes	-	41	-	41
GHL	Greenland halibut - <i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	14 223	16 596	15 867	18 029
GRO	Groundfishes n.e.i. - Osteichthyes	-	-	7	-
HAD	Haddock - <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	12	23	12	23
HAL	Atlantic halibut - <i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>	125	183	125	183
HKR	Red hake - <i>Urophycis chuss</i>	1 594	2 028	1 594	2 028
HKS	Silver hake - <i>Merluccius bilinearis</i>	4	9	4	9
HKW	White hake - <i>Urophycis tenuis</i>	802	689	802	689
PLA	American plaice (= Long rough dab) - <i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>	1 836	1 792	1 836	1 792
PRA	Northern prawn - <i>Pandalus borealis</i>	1 677	1 397	13 255	19 753
REB	Beaked redfish - <i>Sebastes mentella</i>	-	22	-	22
RED	Atlantic redfishes - <i>Sebastes</i> spp	14 845	10 056	14 958	10 056
RHG	Roughhead grenadier - <i>Macrourus berglax</i>	8 493	1 714	8 493	1 715
RNG	Roundnose grenadier - <i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>	-	5 126	-	5 129
SKA	Skates - <i>Raja</i> spp	14 746	11 427	14 746	11 427
WIT	Witch flounder - <i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	1 709	1 934	1 709	1 934
YEL	Yellowtail flounder - <i>Limanda ferruginea</i>	928	973	928	973

Table 2: Species caught by EEA fishing vessels in the NW Atlantic: 2000 and 2001 (tonnes live weight).

The major species in the EEA catch in 2001 were the Northern prawn (19 753 tonnes), the Greenland halibut (18 029 tonnes), skates (11 427 tonnes) and Atlantic redfishes (10 056 tonnes). Spanish and Portuguese vessels largely targeted the finfish species while Norway and Iceland concentrated on the Northern prawn (see Table 3).

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The catch statistics have been submitted by the national authorities of the EEA member countries under the terms of Council Regulation (EC) no. 2018/93, subsequently modified by Commission Regulation (EC) no. 1636/2001. This requirement corresponds to the Statlant 21A and 21B questionnaires of FAO and NAFO. Eurostat gratefully acknowledges the cooperation of the national authorities, FAO and NAFO in compiling these data.

The data for 2001 are provisional, submitted to Eurostat with a deadline of 31 May 2002.

The member countries of the European Economic Area are the members of the European Union (EU-15) plus Iceland, Norway and Leichtenstein. The latter has no marine fisheries.

The data are expressed in the live weight equivalent of the landings. They are derived from the landed weight of the fishery products to which conversion factors have been applied. The data exclude all quantities caught but not landed.

	Greenland halibut GHL	Northern prawn PRA	Atlantic redfishes RED	Skates SKA
EU-15	16 597	1 397	10 055	11 427
DK	-	92	0	-
D	-	-	817	-
E	11 571	885	3 686	10 547
PT	5 026	420	5 552	880
ISL	14	5 065	-	-
N	1 419	13 291	-	-
EEA	18 030	19 753	10 055	11 427

Table 3: Major species caught by EEA vessels in the NW Atlantic in 2001 (tonnes live weight).

Further information:

➤ Reference publications

Title Fisheries - Yearbook 2001
 Catalogue No KS-AX-01-001-3A-C Price EUR 23.50

➤ Databases

NewCronos, Theme 5, Domain: FISH

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