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BRIEFING PAPER

Number 2788, 23 November 2020

UK Fisheries Statistics

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Summary

This briefing paper examines trends in the UK fisheries industry, including landings, employment, fleet size, trade, economic output and comparisons with EU countries.

The commercial fisheries industry in the UK is made up of three sectors: fishing (inshore and offshore fishing), aquaculture (fish farming) and fish processing (preparing fish for food consumption).

Economic output

In 2019, the fishing and aquaculture industry contributed £446 million to the UK economy in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA, which is similar to GDP). The sector accounted for 3.44% of the broader agricultural, forestry and fishing sector, and 0.02% of the UK's total GVA across all sectors.

In 2018, 61% of economic output from the fishing and aquaculture industry was generated in Scotland.

Employment and fleet size

The total number of fishers in the UK was around 12,000 in 2019, down from around 20,000 in the mid-1990s. In 2019, 45% of fishers were based in England, 40% in Scotland, 7% in Northern Ireland and 7% in Wales.

The number of fishing vessels in the UK fleet has fallen by 32% since 1996.

Landings

UK vessels land around 400,000 tonnes of fish each year in the UK, and between 200,000 and 300,000 tonnes abroad.

Landings by the UK fleet were down in 2019, around a 11% reduction on 2018. Reduced landings in pelagic fish account for much of this fall. The value of landings by the UK fleet has increased in recent years to just over £1 billion in 2018, although there was a small decrease in 2019 when landings were worth £987 million.

Trade

The UK is a net importer of fish and related products, with net imports of around 358,000 tonnes in 2019, worth £1.7 billion.

International comparisons

In 2019, the UK fleet had the second-largest total catch (in terms of landed weight) and the second-largest fleet size (in gross tonnage terms) compared with EU countries.

Fish processing

There were 353 fish processing sites in the UK in 2018, operated by 337 companies. Fish processing sites accounted for 19,179 full-time equivalent jobs in 2018. The fish processing industry is focused in Humberside and Grampian. Combined these two areas accounted for 53% of full-time equivalent jobs in the sector.

1. Fishing industry

1.1 UK fisheries sector

The commercial fisheries industry in the UK is made up of three sectors:

- the fishing industry, which encompasses the collection for human consumption of all wild aquatic life, including fish, crustaceans and molluscs.
- the aquaculture or aquafarming sector, which is the farming of aquatic life, including fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants such as seaweed.
- the fish processing industry, which is a food manufacturing industry that prepares and preserves fish for food consumption and animal feed.

Sections 3-5 of this paper focuses on the commercial fishing industry (the first listed above). Section 6 of this paper covers fish processing.

The fishing sector is very diverse, with both a significant inshore and offshore fleet. There are also differences in the size and type of fishing vessels across the devolved administrations.[1] Both EU quota species and non-quota species are important for different parts of the sector.[2] The management of fishing effort for non-quota species does not fall under the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Non-quota species include most shellfish, which is often high value and exported from the UK rather than consumed domestically.

Further details on UK fisheries can be found in the Library Briefings on Fisheries Management in the UK, The Fisheries Bill [HL] 2019-21, Fisheries and Brexit, and Fisheries and the future UK-EU relationship negotiations.

1.2 The fishing sector

The economic output of the **fishing and aquaculture sector** (comprising marine fishing, freshwater fishing and fish farming) amounted to **£446 million in 2019** in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA, which is similar to GDP).[3] The sector accounted for 3.44% of the broader agricultural, forestry and fishing sector, and **0.02% of the UK's total GVA** across all sectors. These figures were revised down by the Office for National Statistics in September 2020, due to a change in the way GVA for the sector is calculated.[4]

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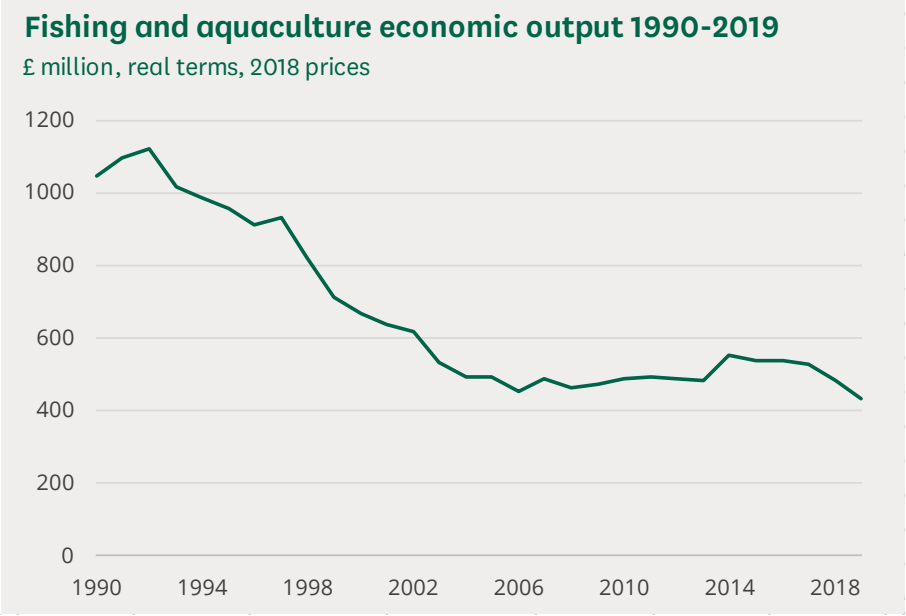
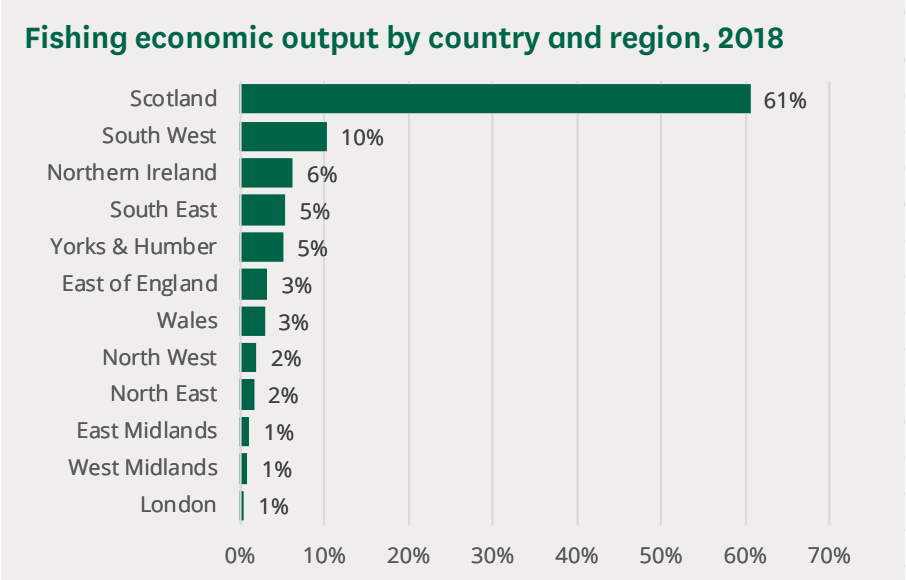
1 MMO, UK Sea Fisheries Statistics 2016, 28 September 2017
2 MMO, UK Sea Fisheries Statistics 2016, 28 September 2017
3 ONS dataset: GDP output approach – low-level aggregates, 30 September 2020 release: GVA £ million at current prices. Gross value added (GVA) measures the value of goods and services produced by an industry. GVA is a measure of economic output that is closely related to gross domestic product (GDP). GVA = GDP plus subsidies on products minus taxes on products (e.g. VAT).
4 As part of its annual 'Blue Book', which presents the UK national accounts, the ONS implemented some technical changes to how it calculates Gross Value Added data. For the fishing sector, changes to the deflator resulted in revised estimates for the value of current price GVA of the sector. These were lower than in previous years.

The following chart shows the economic output of the fishing and aquaculture sector between 1990-2019 in real terms (adjusted for inflation). GVA declined steadily between 1992-2006 and remained relatively stable until 2014. Output began declining again from 2016. Output in 2019 was 59% lower than 1990.



Source: ONS, 'GDP output approach – low level aggregates', series KL4Y, 30 September 2020 release

The following chart shows the relative economic output of the fishing and aquaculture industry by country and region in 2018. The fishing and aquaculture industry in Scotland contributed 61% of the UK industry total in 2018. The South West had the second highest output (10%) followed by Northern Ireland (6%).



Source: ONS, Regional gross value added (balanced) by industry, 19 December 2019. Includes aquaculture.

1.3 Businesses

In 2020, there were 3,705 fishing businesses registered in the UK.[5] This figure excludes small fishing businesses with no employees and turnover below the VAT threshold of £85,000 per year.

The fishing sector is characterised by a higher than average proportion of businesses with under 5 employees: 93% of businesses have fewer than 5 employees, compared to 78% in the UK economy as a whole. This is explained by the large number of vessels that are registered as businesses with their crew as the only employees.

Research conducted by Greenpeace into fishing businesses in England and Wales found that although there are many small businesses involved in the fishing industry, over two thirds of the UK's fishing quotas are controlled by 25 companies.[6]

1.4 Fishing fleet operating profit

A report by Seafish (a non-departmental public body representing the seafood industry) found the operating profit (i.e. income minus operating costs) of the UK fishing fleet was £240 million in 2019, up slightly from £238 million in 2018. The profitability of the fleet varied by type of vessel and waters fished: the North Sea and West of Scotland (NSWoS) demersal vessels saw large increases in average profit per vessel in 2019, while North Sea beam trawlers made a loss in 2018 and 2019. The highest average operating profit per vessel in 2019 was made by NSWoS demersal seiners, at £450,246, up from £373,742 in 2018; by contrast, North Sea beam trawlers over 300kW made an average operating loss per vessel of -£119,210, down from -£53,792 in 2018.[7]

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5 ONS, *Business activity, size and location*, 2020, via NOMIS database. Data excludes very small businesses with no employees and turnover below the VAT threshold of £85,000 a year.

6 Greenpeace, *Revealed: the millionaires hoarding UK fishing rights*, 10 October 2018

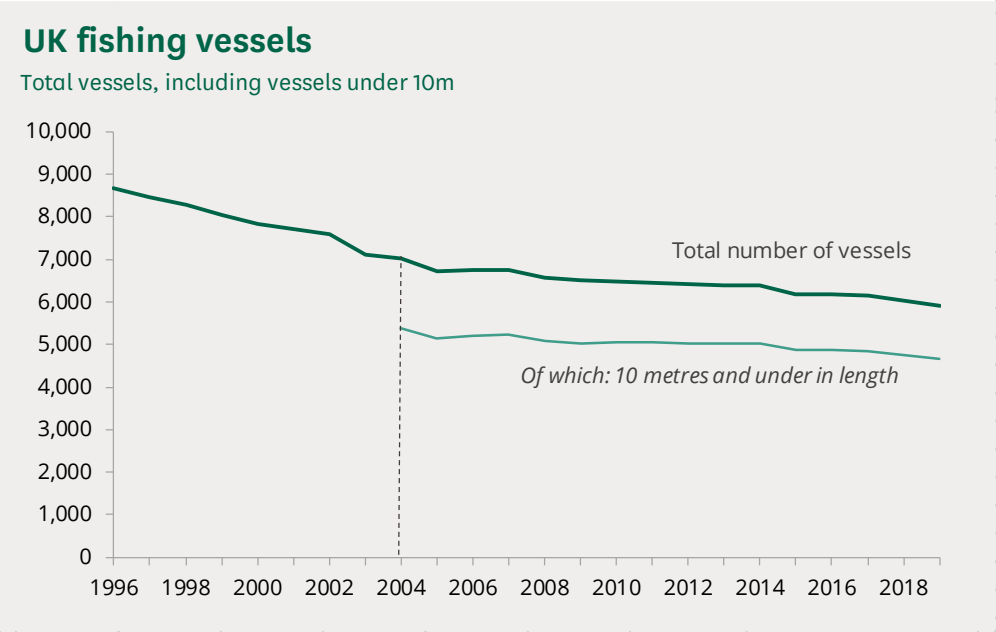
7 Seafish, *Economics of the UK fishing fleet 2019*, September 2020, pg. 34-35

2. Fleet size and employment

2.1 Fishing fleet and boat size

The size of the UK fishing fleet has declined since 1996, as shown in the chart below. At the end of 2019, the number of registered vessels stood at **5,911**, a 9% fall since 2009. Of these:

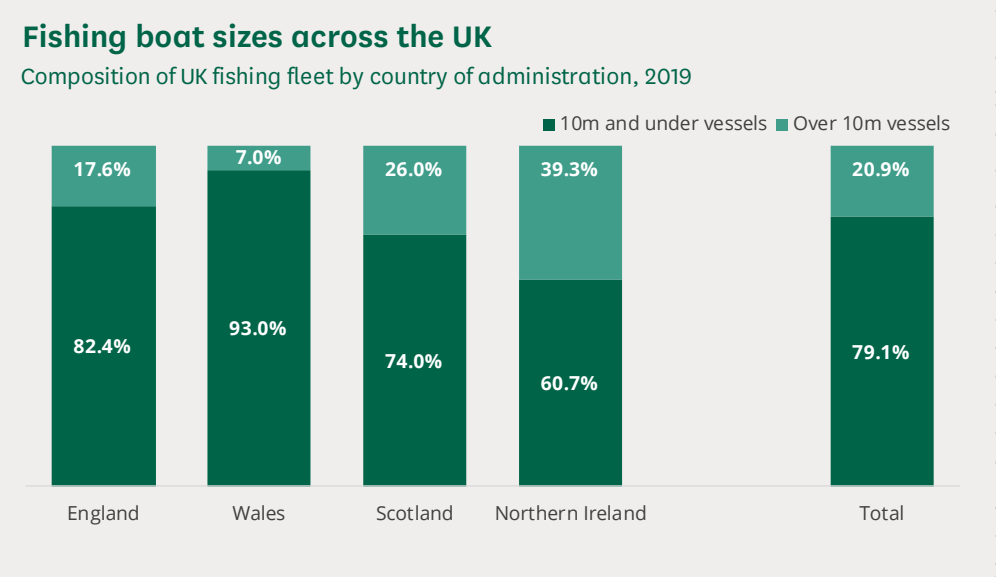
- 4,675 vessels (79%) are 10 metres or under in length (u-10m);
- 1,236 vessels (21%) are over 10 metres.



Source: Marine Management Organisation, *UK Sea Fisheries Statistics* (various years)

The above chart hides significant variation in the composition of the fishing fleet across the different parts of the UK. While u-10m vessels are the largest group in all parts of the UK, England has the largest number of u-10m vessels, 2,323, and Northern Ireland the smallest, 198. Scotland has the largest number of over 10m vessels, 549, and Wales the smallest, 29. The size of the vessels is reflected in the gross tonnage of each fleet: in 2019 it was 58,903 gross tonnes in England; 4,724 in Wales; 113,618 in Scotland and 18,605 in Northern Ireland.[8]

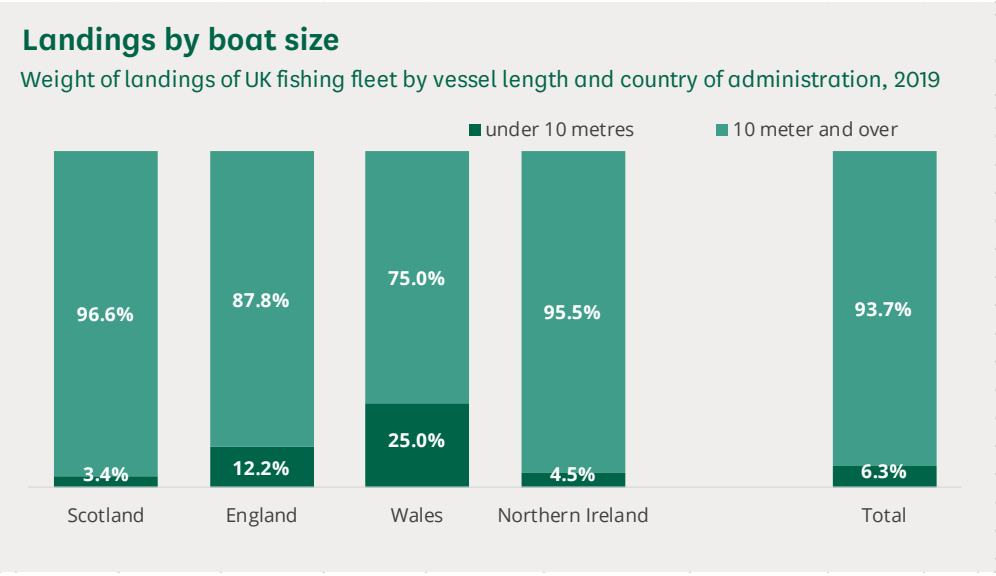
[8] Marine Management Organisation, *UK sea fisheries annual statistics 2019*, Table 1.2



Notes: vessels administered by UK Crown Dependencies or with no country of administration not included
Source: Marine Management Organisation, UK sea fisheries statistics, 2019, table 1.1

Landings by boat size

Despite the UK fleet being composed mainly of u-10m vessels, they only land around 6% of catch by weight. For example, in England the 1,699 u-10m vessels, just under 80% of the fleet, landed 12% of the total catch by weight (22,000 tonnes) in 2019. In Scotland the landings where overwhelmingly from larger vessels.[9]



Notes: vessels administered by UK Crown Dependencies not included
Source: Seafish, Economics of the UK fishing fleet, 2019, p14

[9] Seafish, *Economics of the UK fishing fleet, 2019*, p14

Box 1: International comparison - fleet size

At the end of December 2019, the number of vessels in the UK's fishing fleet was the seventh largest in the EU after Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Croatia and France. The UK's fishing fleet was second largest in the EU in terms of gross tonnage, after Spain. This latter measure is a better indicator of fishing capacity.[10]

Within EU Member States in the North East Atlantic area, there is significant variation in countries' average vessel weight. Some countries (including Lithuania and Belgium) have relatively few but very big boats, including super-trawlers (over 100 meters long), pushing up their average weight. The average vessel weight for UK boats is 38.0 tonnes, similar to that of Poland (39.1) and Spain (37.4).

2.2 Employment

The total number of fishers employed in the UK has fallen from just over 21,000 in 1970 to 12,043 in 2019. The chart below shows the total number of fishers in various years since 1970. The full data table including regional breakdown is provided in the appendix.

Seafish reported that there were 8,012 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs aboard UK fishing vessels in 2019, after accounting for hours worked.[11]

Number of fishers in the UK, 1970-2019

Source: Marine Management Organisation, *UK Sea Fisheries Statistics* (various years).

The number of fishers declined by 26,000 (55%) between 1948 and 1970. There was relatively little change in numbers between 1970 and the mid-nineties, but the downward trend subsequently resumed up until the early noughties. The number of fishers fell by 41% between 1988 and 2003. Since then the number of fishers has stabilised. It has remained around 12,000 since 2009. In 2019, 45% of fishers were based in England, 40% in Scotland, 7% in Northern Ireland and 7% in Wales.[12]

[10] Eurostat, fishing fleet by type of gear and engine power

[11] Seafish, UK Fishing Fleet 2019 statistics. Based on the MMO figures and data on hours worked by crew reported to Seafish by UK fishing vessel owners.

[12] Marine Management Organisation, *UK Sea Fisheries Statistics 2019*, Table 1.6

The following table shows the number of fishers based at each port in the UK in 2019. The largest UK port in terms of fishers was Newlyn in England, 917 fishers are based there accounting for 8% of the UK total and 17% of fishers in England. Milford Haven, the largest fishing port in Wales, has the second highest number of fishers in the UK (7%). Fraserburgh had the most fishers in Scotland, accounting for 7% of the UK total and 16% of fishers in Scotland. Kilkeel accounted for 55% of fishers in Northern Ireland and 4% of UK fishers.

Fishers by port, 2019

Port	Country	Fishers	% Total	Port	Country	Fishers	% Total
Newlyn	England	917	8%	Campbeltown	Scotland	284	2%
Milford Haven	Wales	897	7%	Oban	Scotland	250	2%
North Shields	England	822	7%	Eyemouth	Scotland	217	2%
Fraserburgh	Scotland	797	7%	Lochinver	Scotland	208	2%
Plymouth	England	750	6%	Ullapool	Scotland	188	2%
Brixham	England	561	5%	Fleetwood	England	170	1%
Lowestoft	England	533	4%	Portree	Scotland	169	1%
Shetland	Scotland	501	4%	Portavogie	NI	165	1%
Hastings	England	485	4%	Buckie	Scotland	164	1%
Grimsby	England	482	4%	Anstruther	Scotland	153	1%
Ayr	Scotland	481	4%	Scrabster	Scotland	153	1%
Kilkeel	NI	450	4%	Ardglass	NI	146	1%
Poole	England	438	4%	Aberdeen	Scotland	119	1%
Peterhead	Scotland	394	3%	Mallaig	Scotland	86	1%
Stornoway	Scotland	350	3%	North Coast	NI	61	1%
Scarborough	England	319	3%	Kinlochbervie	Scotland	45	0%
Orkney	Scotland	288	2%				

Source: Marine Management Organisation, *UK Sea Fisheries Statistics* 2019

3. Trade and exports

The UK was a net exporter of fish in 1983 but has been a net importer since 1984. This is because imports grew faster than exports between 1984 and 2006. Since then, both imports and exports have remained relatively stable, despite year-on-year variation. **In 2019, the UK:**

- **Imported 854,300 tonnes of fish and related products (worth £3.6 billion)**, more than double the total in 1983; and
- **Exported 496,300 tonnes of fish and related products (worth £1.9 billion).**

This amounts to a trade deficit of -£1.7 billion.

It is estimated that between 60-80% of UK domestic landings are exported. Meanwhile, five species (cod, haddock, tuna, salmon and prawns) account for 60-80% of all fish consumption in the UK.[13] These species represent a significant proportion of the UK's fish imports.

In 2019, imports were highest for tuna (110,300 tonnes, 13% of all imports), cod (105,500 tonnes, 12%) and salmon (90,600 tonnes, 11%). In terms of value, shrimps and prawns were the biggest import category (£633 million, 17.4% of all imports), followed by salmon (£603 million,16.6%) and cod (£572 million, 15.7%).

Main exports were salmon (124,900 tonnes, 25.2% of all exports), mackerel (more than 62,200 tonnes, 12.5%) and herring (34,700 tonnes, 7%). Shellfish (all types combined) accounted for 16.4% of exports out of the UK by weight (81,400 tonnes), but more in terms of value, given their higher price per tonne on average than other sea fish. Value data for 2019 is not yet available, but in 2018, shellfish accounted for 16.4% of exports in terms of volume and 31.1% in terms of value. The highest value exports in 2019 were salmon (£639 million, 34.5% of all exports), nephrops (£108 million, 5.8%) and crabs (£99 million, 5.4%).[14]

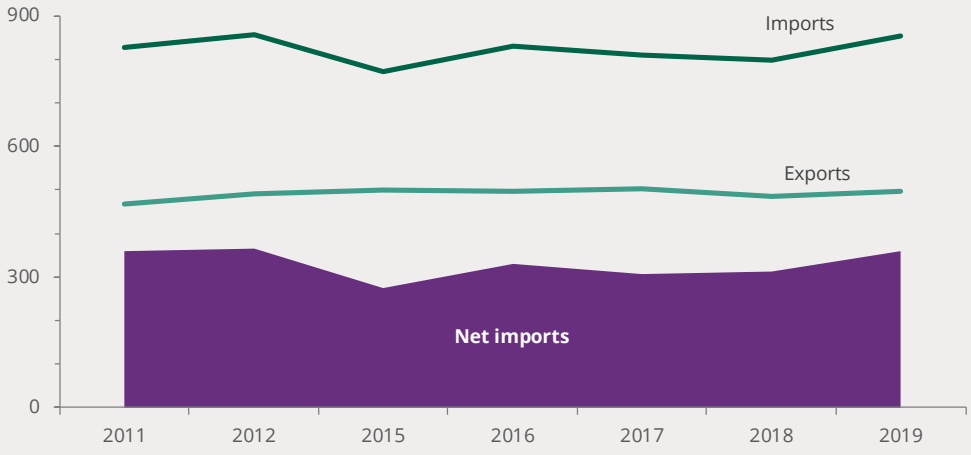
The chart below shows trends in imports and exports of fish and related products since 2011.

[13] Sarah Tetley, *Why the Big 5? Understanding UK Seafood Consumer Behaviour*, PhD thesis, University of Kent (2016); British Sea Fishing, 'The Big Five Fish Species'

[14] Marine Management Organisation, *UK Sea Fisheries Statistics 2019,* chapter 4. Value data for 2019 not yet available

Imports and exports of fish and related products

By landed weight, thousand tonnes



Source: Marine Management Organisation, *UK Sea Fisheries Statistics* , 2019

Which countries does the UK trade with?

The following table summarises the UK's trade in fish and related products in 2019.

In 2019, fish exports to the EU were worth £1.4 billion (67% of all UK fish exports from the UK by value). Fish imports from the EU were worth £1.2 billion (35% of all fish imports to the UK by value).

The trade surplus with the EU of £0.1 billion was more than outweighed by a deficit of -£1.6 billion with non-EU countries.

UK trade in fish, 2019 (£ millions)

	Exports	Imports	Balance
EU	1,367	1,228	140
Non-EU	660	2,248	-1,588
World	2,027	3,475	-1,448

Source: HMRC, UK Trade Info

The following table shows the UK's largest trading partners for fish and related products. The UK's biggest export destination for fish and fish products is France – exports to France were worth £561 million in 2019, 28% of all fish exports.

The UK's biggest import partner was Iceland, with £318 million worth of fish imports in 2019. The UK imported £283 million worth of fish products from China in 2019, 80% of which was frozen fish fillets.[15]

[15] All trade data is from the UK Trade Info database, downloaded in October 2020, using product code SITC 03 – 'Fish, crustaceans, molluscs & aq. inverts & preps thereof'

UK trade in fish by destination, 2019

Exports	£ millions	% of total	**Imports**	£ millions	% of total
France	561.1	27.7%	Iceland	318.0	9.1%
United States	314.1	15.5%	China	283.3	8.2%
Spain	197.3	9.7%	Germany	244.6	7.0%
Irish Republic	169.6	8.4%	Faroe Islands	239.1	6.9%
China	131.1	6.5%	Sweden	233.0	6.7%
Italy	104.2	5.1%	Vietnam	226.5	6.5%
Netherlands	77.2	3.8%	Denmark	192.3	5.5%
Germany	66.5	3.3%	Norway	158.9	4.6%
Belgium	40.0	2.0%	Netherlands	121.9	3.5%
South Korea	39.6	2.0%	India	104.3	3.0%
EU	**1,367.4**	**67.4%**	**EU**	**1,227.7**	**35.3%**
Non-EU	**659.9**	**32.6%**	**Non-EU**	**2,247.7**	**64.7%**
World	**2,027.3**	**100.0%**	**World**	**3,475.3**	**100.0%**

Source: HMRC, UK Trade Info

4. Landings

4.1 Fisheries management

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), coastal states have sovereign rights to explore and use the marine resources within their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), defined as extending up to 200 nautical miles (nm) from the country's coast (or, where this leads to overlap, the median line between sovereign coastlines). Before the EEZs were implemented in 1977 by Member States, five years after the UK joined the EU, territorial waters extended to 12nm. Currently Member States control up to 12nm, with some historical access to vessels from other Member States between 6-12nm.

The EU's Common Fisheries Policy sets out the rules applicable to commercial fisheries within in the EEZs of Member States. It sets total allowable catches (TAC) in each fishing area for each quota stock, which is then dividied between Member States using a fixed calculation based on share of historical fishing activity in that area, or so called "relative stabilty". This means that fishing boats from one Member State can fish in the waters of another EU Member State as long as they have quota allocated under relative stability.

Non-quota species, which are outside of the CFP, and include the majority of shellfish, are managed at UK level, through a licencing scheme and the use of byelaws to manage individual fisheries and fishing gear use.

Once the Brexit transition period is over on 1 January 2021, the UK will no longer be part of the CFP and will become an independent coastal state. As such the Government has full responsibility for managing fisheries in the UK's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 200 miles.[16] The UK Government will be responsible for setting TACs within its waters.

As fisheries management is devolved, each devolved administration (and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for England) is responsible for distributing fishing quotas to its licensed fishing vessels, within the allocation from the UK's overall TAC. A fisheries Concordat sets out a common agreed approach for all four nations to do this.

TACs are divided between vessels which must have a licence that entitles them to a share of fishing quota allocations (FQAs), based on historical fishing effort. There are separate pools for those vessels over 10 meters and for 10m and under vessels (u10m). Fishing quota can be bought, leased or borrowed independently of fishing licences, but all vessels using quota must also have a licence. Further details on UK fisheries can be found in the Library Briefings on Fisheries Management in the UK, The Fisheries Bill [HL] 2019-21, Fisheries and Brexit, and Fisheries and the future UK-EU relationship negotiations.

[16] Article 61(1) of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) states that: "The coastal State shall determine the allowable catch of the living resources in its exclusive economic zone."

4.2 Landings in the UK and abroad by UK vessels

The UK fishing fleet catches and lands different types of fish. Pelagic fish make up the largest part of their landings, while the volume of demersal fish landings has declined in recent years.

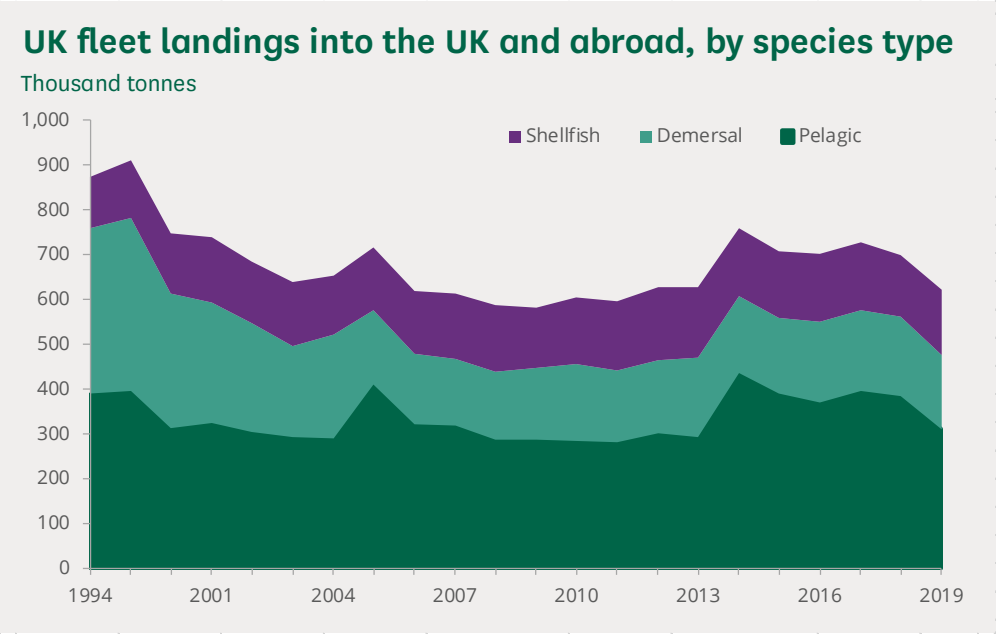
Box 2: Types of fish

Demersal: Refers to fish, such as cod, haddock, plaice and turbot, which live and feed primarily on or near the seabed, called the demersal zone. Commercial species are covered by fishing quota

Pelagic: This refers to fish that live above the sea floor, in the pelagic zone. Species include herring, sardine, mackerel and tuna. Commercial species are covered by fishing quota.

Shellfish: A collective term used for commercial molluscs (e.g. scallops, whelks and clams) and crustacea (lobster, crab, prawns and nephrops) fisheries. Other than for nephrops, fishing activity is usually inshore and is licenced rather than falling under the quota system.

The chart below (and table 2 in the appendix) provides a breakdown of the UK fleet's landed catch, showing landings by broad type of fish since 1994.



Source: Marine Management Organisation, *UK Sea Fisheries Statistics* (various years)

The largest species group fished by the UK fleet is **pelagic** fish. From a low point in 2011 (282,000 tonnes), landed catches of pelagic fish increased to 394,800 tonnes in 2017 (55% of the total landed catch by weight) before decreasing again to **311,000 tonnes in 2019** (50%).

Catches of **demersal** fish fell by two thirds from 456,700 tonnes in 1998 to a low of 148,800 in 2007. Landings have since increased to 182,300 tonnes in 2017 (25% of the total landed catch by weight),

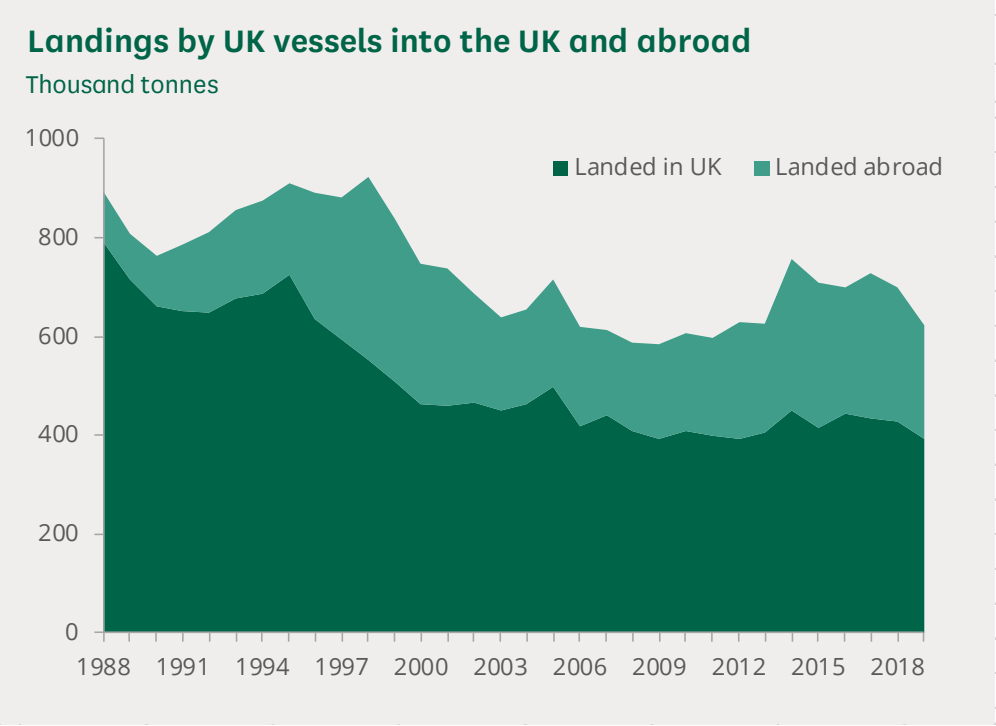
before decreasing again to **164,100 tonnes in 2019**, the lowest figure since 2012.

Shellfish catches were **146,800 tonnes** (24% of the total landed catch by weight). This was a 6% increase compared with 2018, the only type of fish to see an increased volume of landings.

In terms of value, shellfish has been the largest species group since 2017, worth £393 million in 2019. This was up from £375 million in 2018. Pelagic fish, whilst being the largest group in terms of weight, accounted for the lowest value (£247 million in 2019, down from £273 million in 2018). Demersal fish landings were worth £347 million, down from £355 million in 2018. Demersal fish had been the largest group in terms of value between 2013 and 2016.

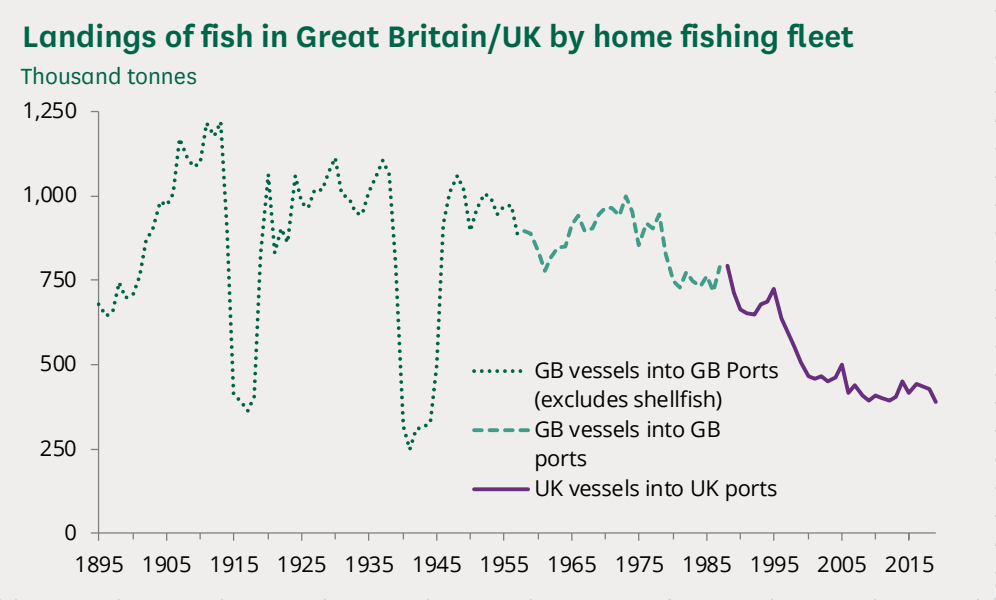
Fish landed in the UK and abroad

Most of these fish are landed in the UK, but a substantial proportion is landed at foreign ports. In 2019, the total weight of fish landed by UK vessels in the UK and abroad was 621,900 tonnes, of which 230,700 tonnes (37%) were landed abroad.



Source: Marine Management Organisation, *UK Sea Fisheries Statistics* (various years)

The chart above shows that the proportion of fish landed abroad has increased since the 1980s, while landings in the UK have decreased. This decrease is part of a longer-term trend: the amount of fish landed in Britain/ the UK by the home fishing fleet has seen an overall decline since 1895. The chart below and table 1 in the appendix show the long-term trend, displaying a clear pattern, despite breaks in the series and substantial variation.



Sources: B R Mitchell, *British Historical Statistics*;

OPCS, *Annual abstract of statistics* (various years);

Marine Management Organisation, *UK Sea Fisheries Statistics* (various years)

The tonnage of fish landed increased sharply from 553,000 tonnes in 1887 to 1.2 million tonnes in 1913. Following the disruption of the First World War, landings did not recover to their earlier levels, varying between 0.9 and 1.1 million tonnes in the period to 1938. Landings stayed around this level after 1945 until the early 1960s, when landings declined to below 0.8 million tonnes. They subsequently increased to peak at 1.0 million tonnes in 1973. Following this, landings had been in steady decline until they stabilised at around 0.4 million tonnes in 2009; the lowest levels of any years outside the two world wars. In 2019, UK vessels landed 391,200 tonnes of fish in the UK.

The context for UK long-term landings is an overall expansion in fishing activity and mechanization in the 19th and early 20th century, followed by a fall in catches in the wider North Atlantic since the 1950s. This fall was due to fishing stocks reducing at the same time that fishing effort tripled.[17] At the same time, a higher proportion of the overall catch was made up of more abundant low value stocks, as the availability of higher value species declined.[18] More recently there has been an increased focus on high value shellfish in part driven by loss of fish stocks and lack of quota, but also the availability of export markets. The stabilisation since 2009 coincides with reform of the CFP aimed at controlling fishing efforts and returning commercial stocks to sustainable levels by 2020.[19]

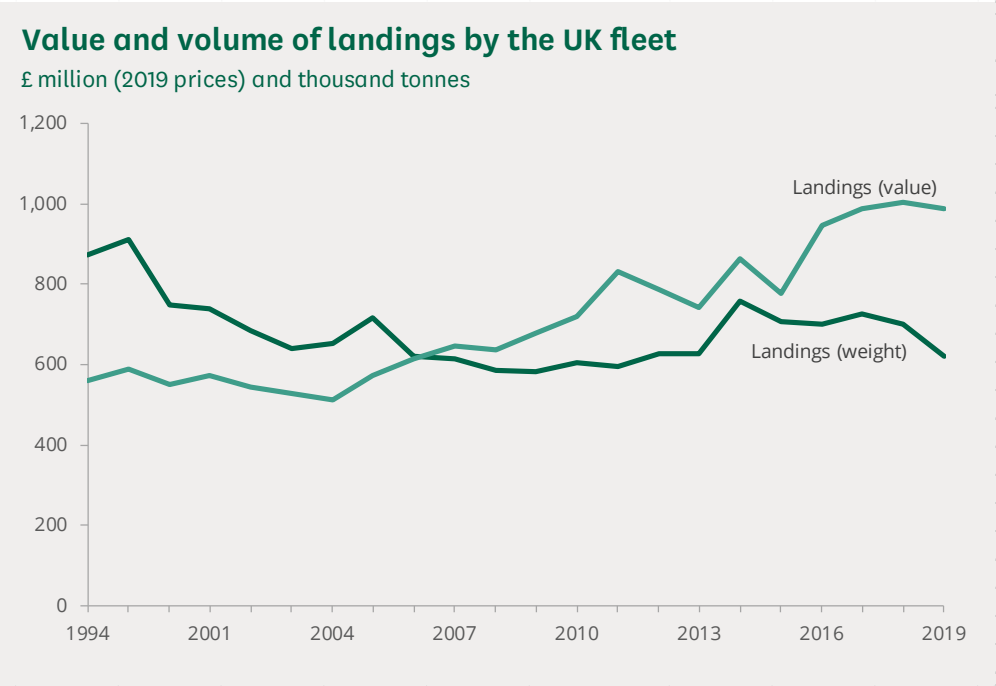
Despite the decrease in the weight of landings, the value of landings by the UK fleet continued to increase up until last year. The total value of landings was £987 million in 2019, a real term decrease of 3.4% on

17 New Scientist, Complete collapse of North Atlantic fishing predicted, 18 February 2002

18 FAO, Review of the state of world fishery resources: marine fisheries, 1997

19 Paul G. Fernandes, Robin M. Cook, Reversal of Fish Stock Decline in the Northeast Atlantic, Current Biology, Volume 23, Issue 15, 2013

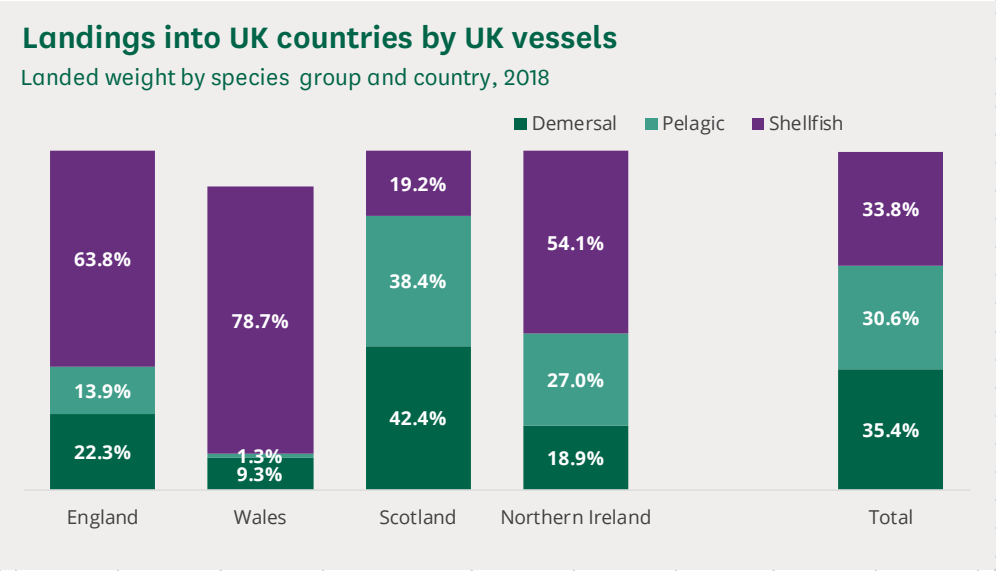
2018.[20] The chart below shows the trend in the real value of total landings by the UK fishing fleet, compared to the volume of total landings.



Source: Marine Management Organisation (MMO), UK Sea Fisheries Statistics, various editions and HoC Library calculations based on HM Treasury GDP deflator June 2020

4.3 Landings in different parts of the UK

There is substantial variation in the type of fish landed in different parts of the UK, reflecting differences in their fishing industries. The chart below shows the types of fish landed in different parts of the UK in 2019 (by ships from all parts of the UK).



Source: Marine Management Organisation, UK sea fisheries statistics, 2019, table 2.2a-d

[20] Marine Management Organisation (MMO), UK sea fisheries statistics, 2019; HM Treasury, GDP Deflator June 2020

Landings in Wales are mostly shellfish (such as crabs and scallops; 6,600 tonnes), while English landings also include a substantial proportion of demersal fish (12,700 tonnes). Scottish landings are split between pelagic and demersal fish, with some shellfish.

4.4 Fish caught by UK and EU member states in each other's waters

The UK's Marine Management Organisation has analysed the weight and value of fish caught (for subsequent landing) by the UK and the EU's member states (MS) in each other's EEZ waters in the North East Atlantic area. Comparative data is only available for the **period 2012-16**; during this time, it is estimated that:

- Vessels from **EU member states** landed an annual average of **739,000 tonnes** of fish (worth **£521 million** p.a.) from the **UK EEZ**, accounting for 35% of their NE Atlantic catch by tonnage (23% by value). For comparison, UK vessels landed 546,000 tonnes of fish in UK waters, worth £633 million;[21]
- **UK vessels** landed **94,000** tonnes of fish (worth **£106 million** p.a.) from **EU member states' EEZs**, accounting for 14% of their NE Atlantic catch by tonnage (13% by value).[22]

Historically, there is variation between different national fleets, with some Member States focusing on lower value stocks that the UK fishing fleet has not been particularly active in. More than 80% of shellfish by weight caught in the UK's EEZ was landed by UK boats, reflecting the fact that most shellfish are caught within the 12nm exclusion zone. Non-UK boats landed three-quarters of all pelagic fish and half of demersal fish by weight within UK waters. The top three fish landed from UK waters are Atlantic herring (26% of which was caught by UK vessels, and 74% by EU-27 vessels), Atlantic mackerel (57% UK vessels, 43% EU-27 vessels) and sandeels (1% UK vessels, 99% EU-27 vessels).[23]

The average value of fish caught by EU Member states from UK waters was £705 per tonne. The average value of fish caught from EU waters by UK vessels was £1,127 per tonne. The average value of fish caught by UK vessels in UK waters was £1,159 per tonne.

In 2019, UK vessels landed 502,000 tonnes of fish (worth £851 million) from UK waters, 81% of all their landings from North-East Atlantic waters (87% by value). They landed 91,000 tonnes of fish (£81 million) from EU waters, representing 15% of all landings from these waters (8% by value).[24]

[21] This means UK vessels catch fewer fish but they are of higher value than the fish caught by vessels from EU countries

[22] Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Exclusive Economic Zone Analysis: UK commercial sea fisheries landings by EEZ of capture 2012 to 2017, published as a supplement to the Marine Management Organisation UK sea fisheries annual statistics report 2017.

[23] Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Exclusive Economic Zone Analysis: UK commercial sea fisheries landings by EEZ of capture 2012 to 2019, p19

[24] Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Exclusive Economic Zone Analysis: UK commercial sea fisheries landings by EEZ of capture 2012 to 2019

Other than UK vessels, Dutch vessels catch the highest weight of fish in UK waters (237,000 tonnes and 8% of value). French vessels have the highest value of catch and third highest weight (121,000 tonnes and 14% of value).

The table below sets out the tonnage and value fished by the UK and other member states in their own and each other's EEZs.

UK and the EU's Other Member States (OMS) landed fish catches from each other's Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) (a) in the North East Atlantic (b)

by landed live weight tonnage and £ value

	Caught in UK EEZ					
	2019		2012-16 average			
Nationality of vessel	tonnes	£m	tonnes	%	£m	%
UK	502,000	851	546,000	42%	663	56%
OMS	..	..	739,000	58%	521	44%
of which: top five						
Denmark	..	..	237,000	18%	90	8%
Netherlands	..	..	177,000	14%	92	8%
France	..	..	120,000	9%	171	14%
Ireland	..	..	85,000	7%	*75*	6%
Germany	..	..	75,000	6%	*30*	3%

	Caught in OMS EEZs					
	2019		2012-16 average			
Nationality of vessel	tonnes	£m	tonnes	%	£m	%
UK	91,000	81	94,000	7%	106	6%
OMS	..	..	1,220,000	93%	1540	94%

	Total from EU EEZs (UK and OMS combined)					
	2019		2012-16 average			
Nationality of vessel	tonnes	£m	tonnes	%	£m	%
UK	593,000	932	640,000	25%	769	27%
OMS	..	..	1,959,000	75%	2,061	73%

Percent of **UK catch** from:	tonnes	£m	tonnes	£m
UK EEZ	85%	91%	85%	86%
OMS EEZ	15%	9%	15%	14%

Percent of **OMS catch** from:	tonnes	£m	tonnes	£m
UK EEZ	..	..	38%	25%
OMS EEZ	..	..	62%	75%

Note

'..' denotes figures not available

(a) EEZs cover waters 200 nautical miles from coast (or median line between coasts)

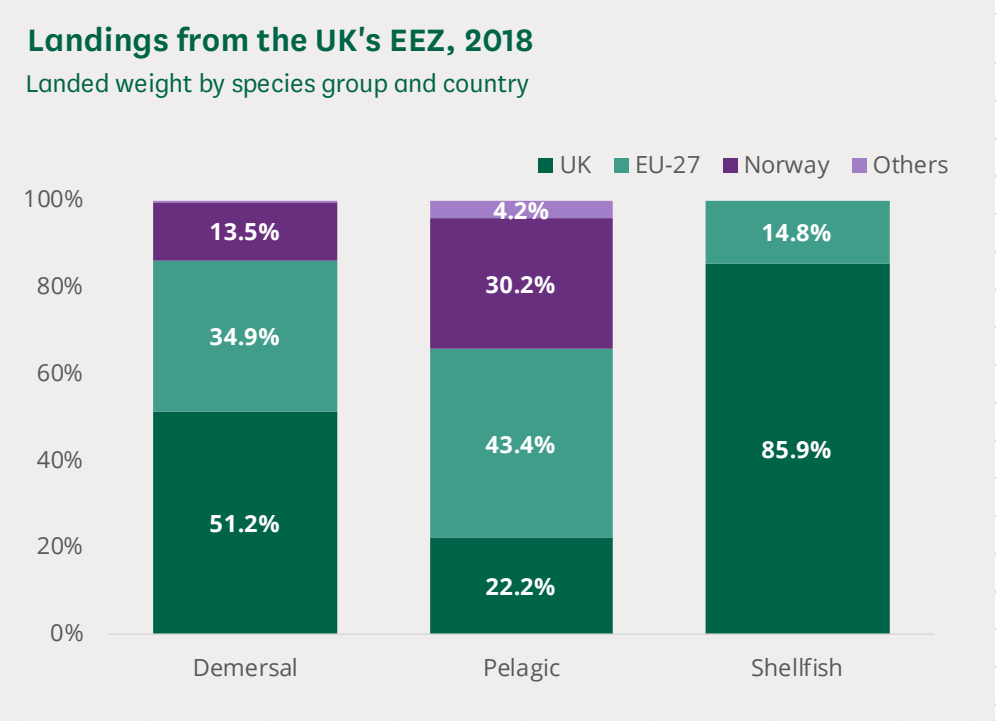
(b) Figures here only include fish caught and landed by EU member state vessels in EU EEZ waters in the North East Atlantic - they therefore do not count EU vessel activity in the Mediterranean, Black Sea or remote waters, or fish caught by third countries or in third-country waters.

Source

Marine Management Organisation (MMO) *Exclusive Economic Zone Analysis: UK commercial sea fisheries landings by EEZ of capture, 2012 to 2017 (2012-16)* ; 2012 to 2019 (2019)

Norway, which is not part of the CFP, also has access to EU waters, as part of a bilateral fisheries agreement. This also allow EU vessels, including UK vessels, access to a number of stocks in Norwegian waters. Quota shares are agreed on a yearly basis.

The chart below shows the proportion of different types of fish landed by boats from the UK, the EU-27 and Norway.[25]



Note: not including fish landed by vessels from Faroe and other countries
Source: Dr Ian Napier, Fish Landings from the UK EEZ 2015-2018 (July 2020)

Fisheries flows

The fishing industry flows are complex, with vessels registered in one country often landing their catches at the closest ports in a different country. For example, the value of landings into Wales is almost evenly split between EU vessels, other UK vessels, and Welsh vessels.[26] The choice of port is based on a number of factors, including the fastest way to get fresh fish to EU export markets. Fish is also landed for processing in the UK before being exported.

The following table illustrates 'fisheries flows' involving the UK in 2019.

25 *Ibid*
26 Public Policy Institute for Wales, Implications of Brexit for Fishing Opportunities in Wales, 13 February 2018

International fisheries flows involving the UK, 2019

Foreign vessel landings into UK ports			UK vessel landings into foreign ports		
Vessel nationality	Tonnes	Proportion	Port nationality	Tonnes	Proportion
Total	**50,896**	**100%**	**Total**	**230,715**	**100%**
France	17,182	34%	Norway	83,015	36%
Norway	15,970	31%	Netherlands	46,081	20%
Ireland	5,306	10%	Ireland	45,465	20%
Belgium	4,219	8%	Denmark	45,220	20%
Spain	4,130	8%	Spain	3,023	1%
Denmark	1,791	4%	France	2,989	1%
Sweden	1,441	3%	Falkland Islands	2,667	1%
Germany	581	1%	South Africa	710	0%
Netherlands	275	1%	Germany	628	0%
			Iceland	448	0%

Source: Marine Management Organisation, UK sea fisheries statistics, 2019, table 2.15 and 2.16

In 2019, foreign-registered vessels landed 50,900 tonnes of fish in UK ports, 12% of all fish landed in the UK. The largest proportion of this fish (34%) was landed by vessels registered in France.

UK-registered vessels landed 230,700 tonnes of fish into non-UK ports, 37% of all fish landed by UK vessels. The largest share of this fish (36%) was landed in Norway.

In 2019, the UK had the largest catch among EU member states (617,300 tonnes), followed by Spain (559,400 tonnes) and France (525,100 tonnes). Among European nations, Iceland and Norway tend to have bigger catches, but data on their catches is not available for 2019.[27]

[27] Eurostat, catches in all fishing regions

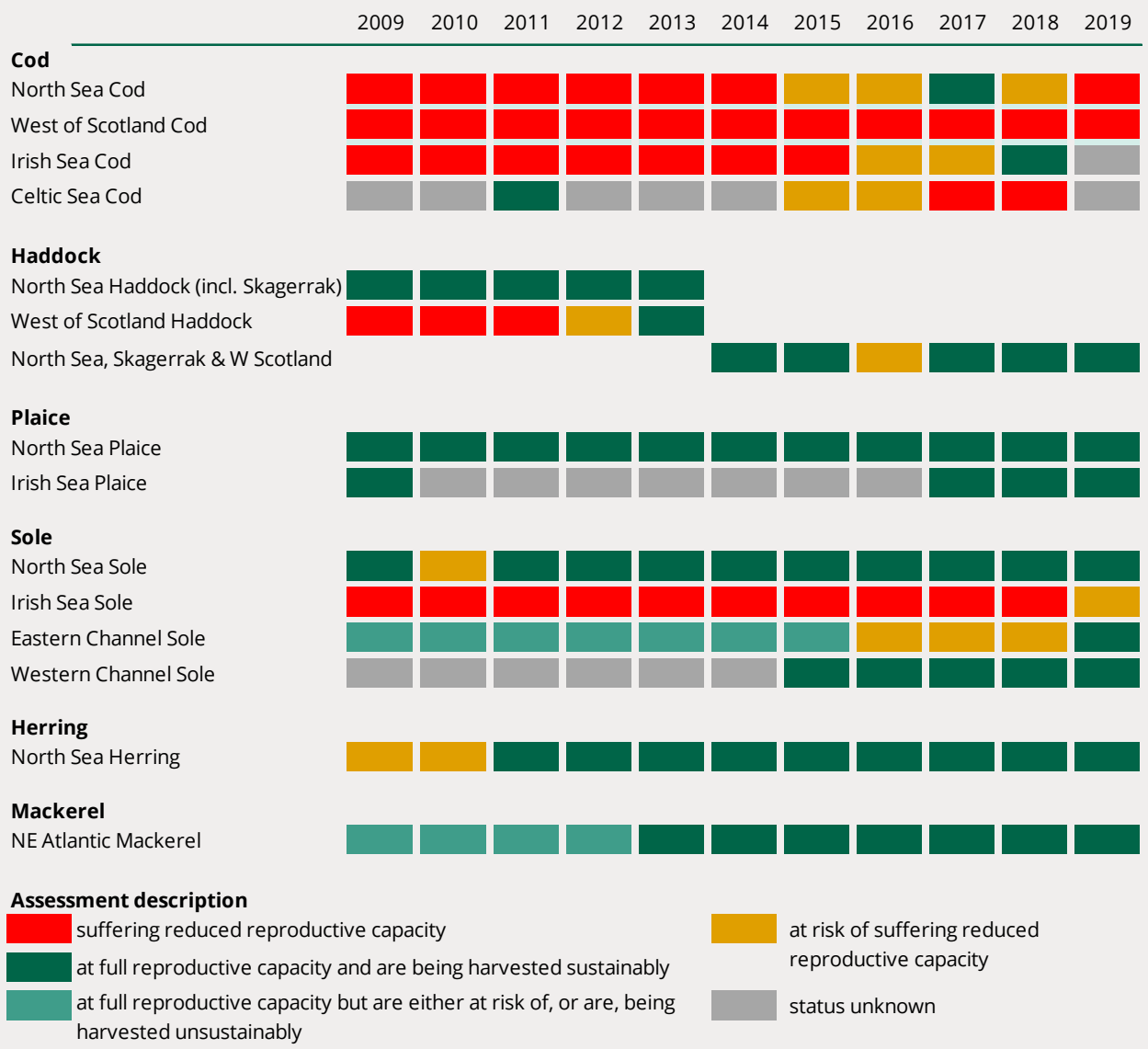
5. Fish stock trends

Each year the EU Council of Ministers sets a Total Allowable Catch for each fish stock and fishing area based on guidance from the Advisory Committee (ACOM) of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). This is then allocated as quotas to Member States in accordance with fixed percentages based on historic fishing rights. Since 2009 EU reforms of the CFP have aimed to set Total Allowable Catches at Maximum Sustainable Yields for all stocks by 2020. Whilst this has not been achieved, there has been some improvement in stocks being fished sustainably.

The chart below summarises the annual ACOM assessments of the state of the main UK fish stocks according to ICES definitions.[28]

[28] Fish stock is assessed in fishing zones, described in Annex A of the Main stocks and their level of exploitation report, and shown on this map of fishing areas produced by the European Commission

ICES assessments of main UK fish stocks



Source: Marine Management Organisation, UK Sea Fisheries Statistics, various editions

In summary the ICES assessment shows:

- Most cod stocks have been assessed as suffering reduced reproductive capacity, in most cases for most of the past ten years.
- Haddock stocks continued to be assessed as a single category and were harvested sustainably during the past three years.
- Most sole stocks were assessed as being harvested sustainably in 2019, except for Irish Sea sole, which was at risk of being harvested unsustainably. This was an improvement from the twelve years before, when it was suffering reduced reproductive capacity. In previous years, Eastern Channel sole had also been at risk of being harvested unsustainably.
- The assessments for plaice, mackerel and herring show they are at full reproductive capacity and being harvested sustainably.

5.1 Sea angling

There is no official data on the number of recreational fishers or the level of catches from this group. The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) asked sea anglers to keep diaries of what they caught and surveyed 12,000 residents to get a detailed picture of sea angling in the UK. Data for 2016 and 2017 have been published; data for 2018 and 2019 are expected later in 2020.

The study found that there were around 800,000 sea anglers in the UK (1.6% of the adult population).[29] Data from the diaries was used to estimate the total amount of fish caught by sea anglers for 68 species. The total number of fish caught was 49.7 million in 2016 and 54,5 million in 2017; 80% of these were released back into the sea. The most common fish caught were whiting, mackerel, dogfish and sea bass.[30] Of these, seabass recreational and commercial catches are restricted due to concerns about stock levels.

[29] Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), News: Sea angling contributes over £1.5bn to UK economy, 3 July 2020

[30] Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), Participation, catches and economic impact of sea anglers resident in the UK in 2016 and 2017, 3 July 2020

6. Fish processing industry

6.1 Description of the industry

The fish processing industry is a food manufacturing industry involved with the preparation and preservation of aquatic life for human consumption and animal feed.[31] Seafood is processed in the UK using fish caught and landed in UK waters and fish imported from the rest of the world.

Fish processing plants can be divided into three categories:

- primary processors (dealing with cutting, peeling, gutting and washing fish and shellfish),
- secondary processors (dealing with brining, smoking, freezing and canning) and
- mixed processors that do a mixture of these activities.[32]

Typically, fish processing plants are located near major fish ports, which means that fish can be prepared before transportation to consumers.

6.2 Businesses and turnover

There were 353 fish processing sites in the UK in 2018,[33] operated by 337 companies. There has been a considerable consolidation in the industry since 2008 when there were 560 fish processing sites. [34]

The fish processing industry has a much smaller than average proportion of businesses with less than five employees: 39% of fish processing businesses have 0-4 employees, compared to 93% for fishing businesses (section 2.2 above) and 78% for UK businesses overall. The processing industry is labour intensive and typically involves businesses with lots of employees.

Fish processing: businesses and employment, 2018

Businesses	337
Turnover	£3.1 billion
Employment	19,179

Sources: Turnover: ONS, Annual Business Survey 2018; Businesses and employment: Seafish, *UK Seafood Processing Labour*, April 2019.

In 2018 fish processing businesses had a turnover of around £3.1 billion.[35] In 2017 (the most recent year for which comparable data is available) the UK fish processing industry was the third largest in the

[31] It is defined as Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code 10.2.
[32] Seafish, *UK Seafood Processing Labour*, April 2019, pg. 19
[33] Sites that derived over 50% of their turnover from fish processing.
[34] Seafish, *UK Seafood Processing Labour*, April 2019, pg. 6
[35] ONS, Annual Business Survey 2018.

EU by turnover, according to the European Commission, with turnover of €3.9 billion, behind France (€4.6 billion) and Spain (€6.1 billion).[36]

6.3 Employment

In 2018 fish processing sites accounted for 19,179 full-time equivalent jobs.[37] Most of these (17,065, 89%) were in majority-sea fish processing sites. The remainder were in salmon and trout only processing sites. Depending on the type of processing, employment can vary through the year, for example increasing in the run up to Christmas.

The following table shows a breakdown of employment in fish processing by region in the UK. The table also shows the proportion of UK, EU and non-EU workers based on a sample of fish processing employers surveyed by Seafish.[38]

Employment in fish processing by region, 2018

Full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs and workforce nationality

			Nationality		
	Jobs (FTE)	% Total UK	% UK	% EU	% other
Humber	5,762	30%	67%	32%	1%
North England	1,147	6%	94%	6%	0%
South West England	1,222	6%	51%	48%	1%
South England, Midlands & Wales	1,757	9%	38%	56%	6%
Grampians	4,332	23%	30%	69%	1%
Highlands and Islands	1,291	7%	41%	59%	1%
Other Scotland	3,263	17%	57%	41%	2%
Northern Ireland	405	2%	67%	32%	1%
Total	19,179	100%	48%	51%	1%

Notes: Nationality proportions are based on employee numbers and are therefore not comparable to the FTE jobs reported in the table. Data is based on a survey conducted by Seafish covering around one third of employment in the sector. % EU means workers from other (non-UK) EU countries.
Source: Seafish, *UK Seafood Processing Labour Annual Report*, April 2019, Table 1, Figures 1,4 and 5.

The fish processing industry is focused in Humberside and Grampian. Combined these two areas accounted for 53% of full-time equivalent jobs in the fish processing sector. The industry in these areas is mainly concerned with sea-caught fish and shellfish from local ports.[39] In other areas, such as the Scottish Highlands, the fish processing industry is focused on farmed fish and shellfish.[40]

Just over half (51%) of surveyed workers in the fish processing industry in 2018 were from other (non-UK) EU countries. The Grampians had the highest proportion of EU workers (69%) and the North of England had the lowest (6%). Seafish says this can be explained by the types of

[36] European Commission, *Facts and figures on the common fisheries policy*, 2016, p 32
[37] Seafish, *UK Seafood Processing Labour*, April 2019.
[38] The sample represented 36% of FTE equivalents in the fish processing sector.
[39] Seafish, *UK Seafood Processing Labour* 2019, April 2019, pg. 11
[40] Seafish, *UK Seafood Processing Labour* 2019, April 2019, pg. 19

processing sites in the regions (along with other factors). Larger processing sites and pelagic processing sites are more likely to employ non-UK workers.

Appendix: data tables

Table 1: Landings of fish in Great Britain/UK by home fishing fleet

Thousand tonnes

Year	Quantity	Year	Quantity
1890	598	1975	842
1895	669	1980	748
1900	698	1985	762
1905	958	1990	622
1910	1,081	1995	726
1915	405	2000	465
1920	1,046	2005	499
1925	963	2010	408
1930	1,094	2011	400
1935	993	2012	394
1940	314	2013	405
1945	492	2014	449
1950	883	2015	416
1955	953	2016	446
1960	823	2017	435
1965	902	2018	429
1970	948	2019	391

Notes:

Data before 1958 excludes shellfish

Data before 1988 is for Great Britain vessels and ports; data from 1988 is for UK vessels and ports

Sources:

B R Mitchell, British Historical Statistics

OPCS, Annual abstract of statistics, various years

Defra, United Kingdom Sea Fisheries Statistics 2004, Table 3.3

Marine Management Organisation, UK Sea Fisheries Statistics (various years)

TABLE 2: FISH LANDINGS BY THE UK FLEET INTO THE UK AND ABROAD, BY VESSELS' COUNTRY OF ADMINISTRATION

Quantity (thousand tonnes)

	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
United Kingdom	**911.8**	**748.1**	**737.8**	**685.5**	**639.7**	**653.7**	**715.7**	**619.6**	**613.9**	**587.2**	**582.9**	**605.3**	**596.0**	**628.0**	**626.8**	**757.9**	**708.7**	**700.6**	**726.7**	**700.0**	**621.9**
Demersal	386.0	301.0	270.3	242.5	202.7	231.1	165.2	156.0	148.8	151.8	160.5	169.1	159.9	162.4	179.4	169.8	169.1	180.4	182.3	176.4	164.1
Pelagic	396.3	311.8	323.7	305.3	292.9	290.9	410.6	322.1	317.4	286.0	286.5	285.6	282.0	302.1	292.1	436.6	389.8	369.8	394.9	385.3	311.0
Shellfish	129.5	135.4	143.8	137.6	144.0	131.7	139.8	141.5	147.7	149.4	135.9	150.6	154.0	163.5	155.3	151.6	149.8	150.4	149.6	138.3	146.8
England and Wales	245.9	191.8	213.6	202.9	207.1	189.6	195.2	202.8	201.8	184.1	177.3	197.7	182.1	203.6	202.9	214.0	214.4	212.0	213.1	198.2	188.3
Demersal	117.2	82.7	79.9	72.8	64.2	64.5	61.5	58.9	56.3	48.9	54.0	60.5	63.0	64.7	74.8	79.1	75.8	82.5	77.8	65.8	65.2
Pelagic	59.3	37.1	54.8	55.5	60.8	58.2	58.7	74.7	80.3	66.9	72.4	77.3	61.8	71.1	59.8	66.2	68.5	65.2	67.1	64.2	55.0
Shellfish	69.4	72.0	78.8	74.6	82.0	66.9	74.9	69.2	65.2	68.2	50.9	59.9	57.3	67.7	68.3	68.7	70.1	64.3	68.1	68.2	68.1
England					189.2	175.2	174.2	185.7	189.8	167.1	165.4	184.4	169.9	189.9	193.1	202.1	203.3	202.0	200.7	187.1	179.9
Demersal					57.9	58.5	58.4	56.5	54.1	47.5	52.5	59.1	60.6	63.8	73.8	77.9	74.4	81.4	76.7	64.8	64.1
Pelagic					60.8	58.2	58.6	74.4	80.0	66.9	72.3	77.3	61.7	71.1	59.7	66.2	68.5	65.2	67.1	64.2	55.0
Shellfish					70.5	58.5	57.2	54.8	55.7	52.7	40.5	48.0	47.6	55.0	59.5	58.1	60.4	55.5	56.8	58.2	60.8
Wales					17.9	14.4	20.9	17.1	12.0	17.0	11.9	13.4	12.2	13.8	9.8	11.8	11.1	9.9	12.4	11.1	8.4
Demersal					6.4	6.0	3.1	2.4	2.2	1.4	1.5	1.4	2.5	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1
Pelagic					..	..	0.1	0.3	0.3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shellfish					11.5	8.4	17.7	14.4	9.6	15.5	10.3	11.9	9.6	12.8	8.8	10.6	9.7	8.8	11.3	10.0	7.3
Scotland	635.2	521.5	488.2	445.8	394.9	427.3	483.3	379.8	370.4	370.9	378.4	367.7	359.1	365.0	367.0	480.7	440.1	453.3	465.3	445.2	386.0
Demersal	257.0	208.7	180.4	159.0	129.8	159.7	99.8	94.2	89.3	99.7	103.6	106.0	94.8	95.8	102.1	88.7	90.8	95.4	101.7	107.3	96.1
Pelagic	327.5	260.7	254.3	234.6	212.2	212.8	328.3	226.0	214.2	206.9	205.4	189.2	192.3	199.7	202.6	330.4	291.5	294.4	301.4	284.6	227.8
Shellfish	50.7	52.1	53.6	52.1	52.9	54.8	55.3	59.6	66.9	64.3	69.4	72.5	72.1	69.5	62.3	61.6	57.8	63.6	62.2	53.3	62.1
Northern Ireland	27.9	30.4	32.0	33.5	35.0	34.1	35.3	35.5	39.6	30.1	24.9	37.7	47.1	51.6	49.4	57.3	47.9	28.5	43.4	52.0	43.3
Demersal	10.9	8.8	9.4	9.9	8.2	6.3	3.6	2.7	2.9	3.0	2.7	2.4	1.9	1.7	2.3	1.8	2.3	2.4	2.6	3.1	2.6
Pelagic	9.6	14.0	14.5	15.2	19.9	20.0	23.6	21.4	22.9	12.1	8.7	19.1	27.9	31.2	29.8	40.0	29.8	10.2	26.3	36.6	28.1
Shellfish	7.5	7.6	8.1	8.3	6.9	7.9	8.2	11.5	13.8	14.9	13.5	16.2	17.2	18.7	17.3	15.5	15.8	15.9	14.4	12.3	12.5
Islands	2.8	4.5	4.0	3.2	2.7	2.7	1.9	1.5	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.2	7.7	7.7	7.5	5.9	6.3	6.8	5.0	4.7	4.2
Demersal	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
Pelagic	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shellfish	1.9	3.7	3.3	2.5	2.2	2.1	1.5	1.3	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.9	7.5	7.6	7.4	5.7	6.1	6.6	4.8	4.6	4.0

Source: Marine Management Organisations, UK Sea Fishery Statistics, various editions

TABLE 3: NUMBER OF FISHERS IN THE UK

	United Kingdom			England and Wales			Scotland			Northern Ireland		
Year	Regular	Part-time	**Total**	Regular	Part-time	**Total**	Regular	Part-time	**Total**	Regular	Part-time	**Total**
1938	39,380	8,444	**47,824**	26,062	2,949	**29,011**	12,976	4,939	**17,915**	342	556	**898**
1948	38,826	8,821	**47,647**	25,946	3,373	**29,319**	12,080	5,148	**17,228**	800	300	**1,100**
1960	22,007	6,247	**28,254**	12,712	3,646	**16,358**	8,795	2,451	**11,246**	500	150	**650**
1965	19,601	6,273	**25,874**	11,064	4,045	**15,109**	8,057	2,088	**10,145**	480	140	**620**
1970	17,480	3,963	**21,443**	9,424	2,382	**11,806**	7,656	1,441	**9,097**	400	140	**540**
1975	17,061	5,073	**22,134**	9,016	3,447	**12,463**	7,507	1,341	**8,848**	538	285	**823**
1976	16,830	5,740	**22,570**	8,730	4,149	**12,879**	7,560	1,306	**8,866**	540	285	**825**
1977	16,337	6,143	**22,480**	8,172	4,498	**12,670**	7,625	1,360	**8,985**	540	285	**825**
1978	16,467	6,418	**22,885**	8,064	4,755	**12,819**	7,863	1,378	**9,241**	540	285	**825**
1979	16,590	6,069	**22,659**	8,377	4,558	**12,935**	7,613	1,211	**8,824**	600	300	**900**
1980	16,796	6,513	**23,309**	8,455	5,135	**13,590**	7,561	1,138	**8,699**	780	240	**1,020**
1981	16,601	7,389	**23,990**	8,450	5,992	**14,442**	7,376	1,085	**8,461**	775	312	**1,087**
1982	16,346	6,665	**23,011**	8,258	5,465	**13,723**	7,247	937	**8,184**	841	263	**1,104**
1983	16,006	6,581	**22,587**	8,022	5,355	**13,377**	7,173	902	**8,075**	811	324	**1,135**
1984	16,104	5,765	**21,869**	8,142	4,571	**12,713**	7,198	899	**8,097**	764	295	**1,059**
1985	15,962	6,262	**22,224**	7,984	5,036	**13,020**	7,170	932	**8,102**	808	294	**1,102**
1986	16,906	5,728	**22,634**	8,801	4,461	**13,262**	7,244	992	**8,236**	861	275	**1,136**
1987	17,153	5,271	**22,424**	8,737	4,027	**12,764**	7,522	970	**8,492**	894	274	**1,168**
1988	17,095	5,225	**22,320**	8,467	4,039	**12,506**	7,672	891	**8,563**	956	295	**1,251**
1989							7,862	803	**8,665**	950	283	**1,233**
1990							7,550	766	**8,316**	1,050	316	**1,366**
1991							7,303	792	**8,095**	1,081	288	**1,369**
1992							7,181	865	**8,046**	1,036	296	**1,332**
1993							7,675	1,347	**9,022**	957	272	**1,229**
1994	15,640	5,063	**20,703**	7,542	3,425	**10,967**	7,160	1,410	**8,570**	938	228	**1,166**
1995	16,062	3,924	**19,986**	8,240	2,192	**10,432**	6,889	1,506	**8,395**	933	226	**1,159**
1996	15,371	3,673	**19,044**	7,867	2,130	**9,997**	6,689	1,395	**8,084**	815	148	**963**
1997	14,832	3,772	**18,604**	7,253	2,176	**9,429**	6,729	1,465	**8,194**	850	131	**981**
1998	14,436	3,453	**17,889**	7,149	1,962	**9,111**	6,395	1,376	**7,771**	892	115	**1,007**
1999	13,864	3,032	**16,896**	6,977	1,654	**8,631**	6,042	1,288	**7,330**	845	90	**935**
2000	12,399	3,250	**15,649**	6,193	1,868	**8,061**	5,594	1,308	**6,902**	612	74	**686**
2001	12,145	2,813	**14,958**	6,279	1,483	**7,762**	5,353	1,284	**6,637**	513	46	**559**
2002	11,442	2,763	**14,205**	6,505	1,382	**7,887**	4,369	1,338	**5,707**	568	43	**611**
2003	10,204	2,918	**13,122**	5,778	1,570	**7,348**	3,968	1,308	**5,276**	458	40	**498**
2004	11,023	2,430	**13,453**	6,364	1,195	**7,559**	4,124	1,151	**5,275**	535	84	**619**
2005	10,492	2,339	**12,831**	6,026	1,081	**7,107**	3,952	1,203	**5,155**	514	55	**569**
2006	10,358	2,576	**12,934**	5,702	1,414	**7,116**	4,109	1,096	**5,205**	547	66	**613**
2007	10,305	2,566	**12,871**	5,340	1,514	**6,854**	4,408	951	**5,359**	557	101	**658**
2008	10,028	2,586	**12,614**	4,911	1,686	**6,597**	4,585	807	**5,392**	532	93	**625**
2009	10,129	2,083	**12,212**	5,185	1,024	**6,209**	4,403	946	**5,349**	541	113	**654**
2010	10,172	2,531	**12,703**	5,380	1,509	**6,889**	4,257	909	**5,166**	535	113	**648**
2011	10,040	2,365	**12,405**	5,386	1,378	**6,764**	4,076	877	**4,953**	578	110	**688**
2012	10,283	2,162	**12,445**	5,877	1,067	**6,944**	3,752	941	**4,693**	654	154	**808**
2013	10,245	1,990	**12,235**	5,478	951	**6,429**	4,092	900	**4,992**	675	139	**814**
2014	9,772	2,073	**11,845**	5,109	1,108	**6,217**	3,980	816	**4,796**	683	149	**832**
2015	10,162	1,945	**12,107**	5,469	951	**6,420**	3,985	843	**4,828**	708	151	**859**
2016	9,468	2,289	**11,757**	4,934	1,125	**6,059**	3,834	989	**4,823**	700	175	**875**
2017	9,710	1,982	**11,692**	5,092	963	**6,055**	3,932	867	**4,799**	686	152	**838**
2018	9,588	2,373	**11,961**	4,870	1,380	**6,250**	4,032	825	**4,857**	686	168	**854**
2019	9,419	2,624	**12,043**	4,824	1,550	**6,374**	3,941	906	**4,847**	654	168	**822**

Note: No data is available between 1989 and 1993 because of absence of data for England & Wales.

Source: Marine Management Organisation, *UK Sea Fisheries Statistics (various years)*

TABLE 4: NUMBER OF VESSELS IN THE UK FISHING FLEET, BY COUNTRY OF ADMINISTRATION AND SIZE

	United Kingdom (a)			**England**			**Wales**			**Scotland**			**Northern Ireland**			**Islands** (b)		
		of which:			of which:			of which:			of which:			of which:			of which:	
At year end:	**Total**	10m & under	Over 10 metres	**Total**	10m & under	Over 10 metres	**Total**	10m & under	Over 10 metres	**Total**	10m & under	Over 10 metres	**Total**	10m & under	Over 10 metres	**Total**	10m & under	Over 10 metres
2004	**7,022**	5,394	1,628	**3,407**	2,746	661	**510**	457	53	**2,365**	1,628	737	**331**	195	136	**314**	282	32
2005	**6,716**	5,134	1,582	**3,218**	2,593	625	**496**	449	47	**2,266**	1,548	718	**332**	195	137	**298**	270	28
2006	**6,752**	5,203	1,549	**3,254**	2,645	609	**504**	465	39	**2,256**	1,545	711	**331**	194	137	**288**	260	28
2007	**6,763**	5,236	1,527	**3,307**	2,706	601	**509**	469	40	**2,240**	1,538	702	**336**	192	144	**278**	250	28
2008	**6,573**	5,077	1,496	**3,200**	2,635	565	**470**	436	34	**2,213**	1,505	708	**351**	204	147	**276**	247	29
2009	**6,500**	5,021	1,479	**3,169**	2,599	570	**481**	446	35	**2,193**	1,498	695	**370**	221	149	**270**	241	29
2010	**6,477**	5,047	1,430	**3,121**	2,569	552	**483**	442	41	**2,157**	1,491	666	**379**	232	147	**315**	291	24
2011	**6,444**	5,056	1,388	**3,120**	2,573	547	**465**	425	40	**2,094**	1,472	622	**379**	231	148	**327**	302	25
2012	**6,406**	5,032	1,374	**3,113**	2,562	551	**479**	440	39	**2,075**	1,468	607	**381**	232	149	**344**	319	25
2013	**6,399**	5,036	1,363	**3,156**	2,602	554	**477**	442	35	**2,047**	1,447	600	**379**	234	145	**318**	294	24
2014	**6,383**	5,026	1,357	**3,128**	2,573	555	**466**	426	40	**2,048**	1,458	590	**368**	225	143	**324**	299	25
2015	**6,187**	4,863	1,324	**3,139**	2,598	541	**444**	412	32	**2,007**	1,434	573	**349**	201	148	**209**	182	27
2016	**6,191**	4,876	1,315	**3,098**	2,569	529	**451**	419	32	**2,031**	1,456	575	**351**	202	149	**208**	181	27
2017	**6,148**	4,834	1,314	**3,034**	2,512	522	**450**	417	33	**2,069**	1,493	576	**338**	193	145	**204**	176	28
2018	**6,036**	4,760	1,276	**2,923**	2,409	514	**440**	410	30	**2,083**	1,527	556	**332**	194	138	**206**	173	33
2019	**5,911**	4,675	1,236	**2,819**	2,323	496	**414**	385	29	**2,109**	1,560	549	**326**	198	128	**200**	168	32

Source Marine Management Organisation (MMO), *UK Sea Fisheries Statistics* (various years)

Notes Breakdown by country of administration and vessel size available on a consistent basis from 2004.

(a) UK total includes Islands (see note b) plus a small number of registered vessels which are not administered by a port (and so do not appear in country breakdowns); typically new vessels or vessels that are changing administrations.

(b) Islands comprises Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man.

BRIEFING PAPER
Number 2788
20 November 2020

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