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Staidrimh**

Central
Statistics
Office

Standard Report on Methods and Quality for Fish Landings

Standard Report on Methods and Quality for Fish Landings

This documentation applies to the reporting period:

2019

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CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE

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1 Overview

The statistics on fish landings are compiled from administrative microdata obtained from the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA). The statistical release on fish landings contains data on landings by: Irish vessels to Irish ports; Irish vessels to foreign ports; and foreign vessels to Irish ports.

2 General Information

2.1 Statistical Category

Fish landings data were provided by the SFPA and categorised according to vessel nationality, landing port and country, species, and catch zone by the CSO.

2.2 Area of Activity

Environment statistics and accounts.

2.3 Organisational Unit Responsible, Persons to Contact

Directorate: Statistical Systems Coordination Unit

Division: The Environment and Climate Division of the CSO is responsible for compiling and publishing data on fish landings.

Head of Division: Gerry Brady

For queries on the release, please contact:

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2.4 Objectives and Purpose; History

Data on fish landings are important for environmental, social and economic purposes. The data are classified according to vessel registration nationality, geographical location of landings, catch zone, and species. The data provide insights into: trends in catches of total fish biomass, zones from which fish are taken, the volume of different species landed, and the economic value of fish landings. The CSO previously published an annual fishery statistics release. Fish landings by Irish vessels covering the period 1990 to 2004 were included in these releases, see <http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/agricultureandfishing/fisherystatistics-discontinued/>.

2.5 Periodicity

Fish landings data will be published annually by the CSO. Data are transmitted on a monthly basis to the SFPA, who then submit annual reports to Eurostat.

2.6 Client

Not applicable.

2.7 Users

National and international users of statistics on fish landings include the government, the media, and the public.

2.8 Legal basis

National reporting of fish landings data is done on a voluntary basis. The data are compiled by the SFPA on the basis of a legal reporting obligation to Eurostat on fish landings.

3 Statistical Concepts, Methods

3.1 Subject of the Statistics

The SFPA is responsible for collating all sea-fisheries data, particularly domestic and foreign landings by Irish vessels. Irish fishing vessels of 10 metres or longer are required to complete a logbook. Fishing vessels of less than 10 metres are not generally required to complete a fishing logbook, so landing statistics are gathered using sales notes and gatherers documents.

Aquaculture and angling are not included in this release.

3.2 Units of Observation/Collection Units/Units of Presentation

The data are presented as tonnes of live weight. These data are calculated using the weight of fish landed at port, which is multiplied by a conversion factor depending on species. Landed fish may be whole, gutted and headed or filleted, and so the landed weight may differ from the weight of the fish as it was taken from the sea.

3.3 Data Sources

The data were obtained by the CSO from the SFPA. Data at annual level were obtained for 2007 to 2019. Monthly data for landings by Irish vessels into Ireland were also received from the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority for 2003 to 2019.

3.4 Reporting Unit/Respondents

Not applicable.

3.5 Type of Survey/Process

Not applicable.

3.6 Characteristics of the Sample/Process

Not applicable.

3.7 Survey Technique/Data Transfer

Not applicable.

3.8 Questionnaire (including explanations)

Not applicable.

3.9 Participation in the Survey

Not applicable.

3.10 Characteristics of the Survey/Process and its Results

The results are published on the CSO website.

3.11 Classifications used

The data have been classified into landings by Irish and foreign vessels, to Irish and foreign ports, with a breakdown by country and county. International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) standardise the division of sea areas for statistical analysis. Each ICES statistical rectangles is '30 min latitude by 1 degree longitude' in size, which is approximately 30 nautical miles by 30 nautical miles. A number of rectangles are amalgamated to create ICES areas. The ICES areas have been further aggregated by the CSO to show meaningful areas for fish landings relating to Ireland.

3.12 Regional Breakdown of Results

The SFPA microdata included the name of the harbour that the fish were landed into. The CSO has grouped these together to show data for the main harbours in Ireland. Irish ports have also been aggregated at county level. Landings by Irish vessels into foreign ports have been aggregated to country level.

4 Production of the Statistics, Data Processing, Quality Assurance

4.1 Data Capture

The data are based on fishing logbooks, sales notes, and gatherers documents (see section 3.1).

4.2 Coding

Not applicable.

4.3 Data Editing

Not applicable.

4.4 Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

Where values are missing or far outside of the normal range of values, imputed values are calculated for tonnage, value, and unit value.

4.5 Grossing and Weighting

Not applicable.

4.6 Computation of Outputs, Estimation Methods Used

Not applicable.

4.7 Other Quality Assurance Techniques Used

The results have been compared with statistics published by the SFPA, Eurostat, and OECD.

5 Quality

5.1 Relevance

Data on fish landings are important for national environmental, social and economic purposes. The data are classified according to country of vessel registration and geographical location, and can be used to evaluate environmental and economic policy over time. Trends in landings of different fish species can also be used to examine the effects of policy and demand on landings, and potentially the effects of fish take (and other, external factors, such as climate change) on fish populations.

5.2 Accuracy and Reliability

Landings data were provided by the SFPA.

5.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

Future releases will be published with a time-lag of around six months.

5.4 Coherence

Data are reviewed in relation to amounts from previous years to assess consistency.

5.5 Comparability

Not applicable.

5.6 Accessibility and Clarity

5.6.1 Assistance to Users, Special Analyses

Background notes are provided with each release on the CSO website.

5.6.2 Revisions

All data are subject to revisions. There are mostly small differences between the official SFPA figures and those published in this release. If the causes of these differences are identified then the CSO will amend these figures as necessary, e.g. estimation method for unusually low or high or missing unit values.

5.6.3 Publications

The release is available on the CSO website.

5.6.4 Confidentiality

All confidential data are treated in accordance with Part V of the Statistics Act 1993.