



STATISTICS IN FOCUS

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EUROPEAN UNION FISHING FLEET

1990-1995

1: Introduction

From data submitted by the national authorities to the European Commission, between 1991 and 1995 the European Union¹⁾ fishing fleet decreased from 101 337 to 93 809 vessels (-7.4%), from 2 084 to 2 024 tonnes (-2.9%) in terms of the Gross Tonnage and from 8 449 to 7 662 million watts (-9.3%) in terms of the power of the main engine (see Table 1 and Fig. 1).

Table 1: European Union Fishing Fleet: 1991-95

 Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Number of vessels	101 337	98 930	97 443	96 241	93 809
Total tonnage (000 tonnes)	2 084	2 019	1 991	2 085	2 024
Total power (10 ⁶ watts)	8 449	8 295	8 108	7 857	7 662

Source: Eurostat/DG XIV

2: The fishing fleets of EU Member States

The contribution of Member States to the total fleet is shown in table 2. Greece has the largest number of fishing vessels (20 328 in 1995, 22% of the total) in front of Spain (18 482 in 1995, 20% of the total). Three other Member States, Italy, Portugal and the UK contribute more than 10% to the total number. Looking at the contribution to the total tonnage and the total power of the fishing fleet, the picture is rather different. Spain makes the largest contribution (32% for tonnage, 21% for power in 1995) followed by Italy and the United Kingdom. Greece makes a much smaller contribution (only 6% for tonnage and 9% for power in 1995). This reflects the fact that the average size of fishing vessels in Greece (5.8 tonnes and 32 Kw engine power) is very much less than in Spain (35.5 tonnes and 88 Kw engine power).

¹⁾ In this report, European Community totals exclude Austria, Finland and Sweden. Comparable data on the structure of the fishing fleets of these countries prior to their accession to the EU are unavailable.

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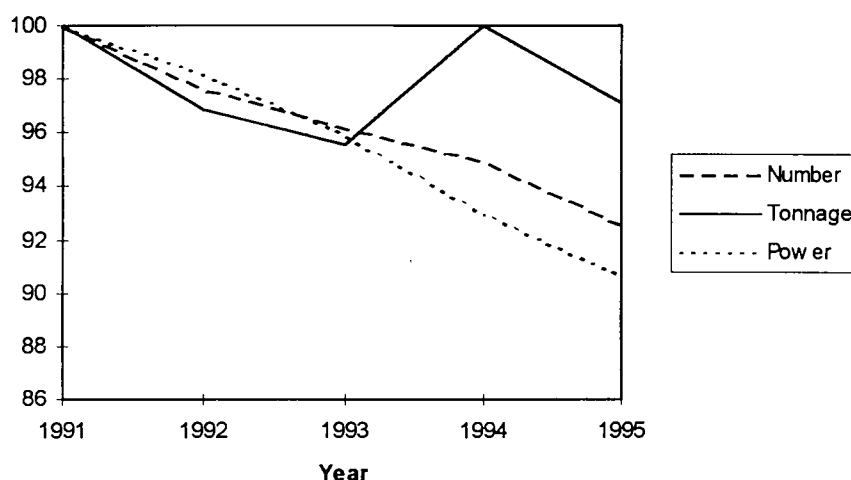
For further information please contact: D.Cross
Eurostat, L-2920 Luxembourg, tel. 4301-37249 Fax: 4301-37318

e-mail: david.cross@eurostat.cec.be

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Fig. 1: EU fishing fleet (1991 = 100)



Between 1991 and 1995 the reported number of fishing vessels decreased in all Member States except Denmark and Germany. The increase in the number of German vessels was due to the integration of the fishing fleet of the former DDR. However the resultant substantial increase in the number of smaller vessels was not reflected in a similar increase in the total tonnage or the total power of the fleet due to the withdrawal from the fleet of a relatively smaller number of larger vessels (see section 3 of this report). The increase in the number of Danish vessels is due entirely to the inclusion for the first time in the vessel file of vessels of less than 5 tonnes. Again the withdrawal from the fleet of a smaller number of larger vessels resulted in an overall decrease in the total tonnage and total power of the Danish fishing fleet.

The Portuguese fleet was the one to show the largest decrease in all three parameters (number, total tonnage and total power): -17%, -32% and -20% respectively. Relatively large decreases in total tonnage and total power were also seen in the Danish and Belgian fishing fleets. However, the differences between the change in total power and total tonnage for many of the remaining countries suggest that the tonnage of a vessel and its engine power are not directly related.

Table 2: EU fishing fleet by member state

Year	1991			1995		
	Number	Tonnage (000 t)	Power (10 ⁶ w)	Number	Tonnage (000 t)	Power (10 ⁶ w)
Belgique/Belgie	217	27	81	156	23	67
Danmark	3 725	118	496	5 181	97	405
Deutschland	1 845	77	177	2 406	79	171
Ellada	21 763	120	706	20 328	119	657
España	20 588	656	1 978	18 482	656	1 632
France	7 702	199	1 088	6 593	179	991
Ireland	1 422	52	182	1 355	58	190
Italia	16 887	269	1 516	16 352	261	1 516
Nederland	1 466	173	540	1 009	181	514
Portugal	14 818	183	493	12 180	124	399
UK	10 904	211	1 192	9 767	247	1 121
EU	101 337	2 084	8 449	93 809	2 024	7 662
Suomi/Finland	:	:	:	3 881	23	216
Sverige	:	:	:	2 514	51	267

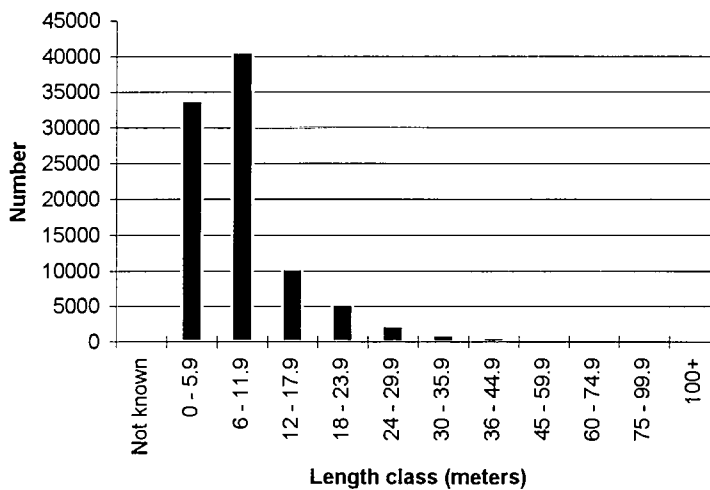
Source: Eurostat/DG XIV

3: Size of national fishing fleets by length classes.

Vessels of under 12m in length predominate in the European Union fishing fleet, making up 77% of the total in number in 1995 (see Fig. 3). This proportion has not changed significantly since 1991. The proportion of smaller vessels in individual Member States (see Table 3) varies considerably, ranging from very high (93% in Spain and 91% in Portugal) to very small (1% in Belgium and 21% in the Netherlands) in 1995. The only significant differences from the situation in 1991 are the increase from 56% to 77% in Denmark (due to the inclusion in the file of vessels less than 5 tonnes), the increase from 69% to 81% in Germany (due to the inclusion in the file of vessels from the former DDR) and the decreases in Italy (from 64% to 52%) and the Netherlands (from 37% to 21%).

Two countries, Italy and Spain, have between them over half of the EU's fishing vessels of more than 12 metres in length.

Fig. 2: Fishing fleet by EU Member States in 1995, by length class.



Source: Eurostat/DG XIV



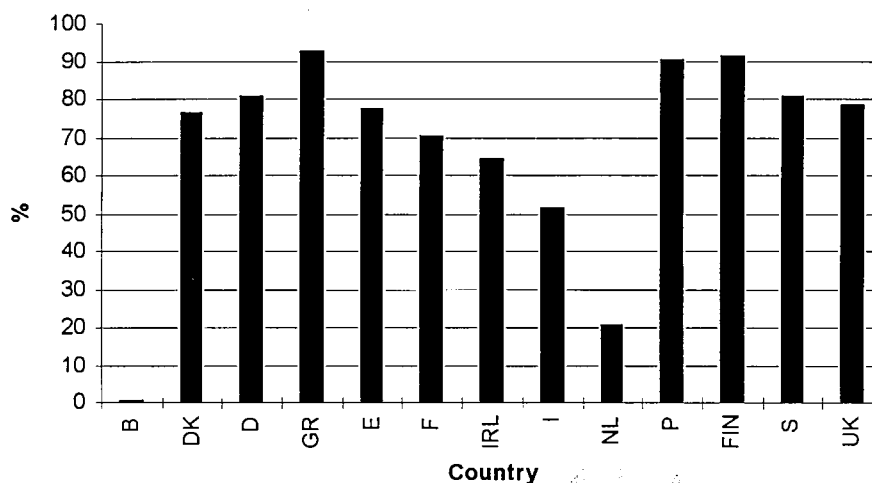
Table 3: EU fishing fleet by length class

(number of vessels)

Year eurostat	1991			1995		
	Less than 12 meters	12 metres and over	% less than 12 meters	Less than 12 meters.	12 metres and over	% less than 12 meters
Belgique/Belgie	4	213	2	1	155	1
Danmark	2 021	1 588	56	3 914	1 200	77
Deutschland	1 270	574	69	1 037	469	81
Ellada	20 244	1 499	93	18 961	1 355	93
España	15 674	4 906	76	14 515	3 963	78
France	5 605	2 097	73	4 692	1 901	71
Ireland	915	504	63	885	470	65
Italia	10 930	5 948	64	8 501	7 846	52
Nederland	544	920	37	213	793	21
Portugal	13 360	1 411	90	11 049	1 078	91
UK	8 558	2 346	78	7 738	2 023	79
EU	79 125	22 006	78	72 406	21 253	77
Suomi/Finland	:	:	:	3 575	306	92
Sverige	:	:	:	2 033	481	81

Source: Eurostat/DG XIV

Fig. 3: Percentage of EU fishing vessels under 12 metres in length in 1995



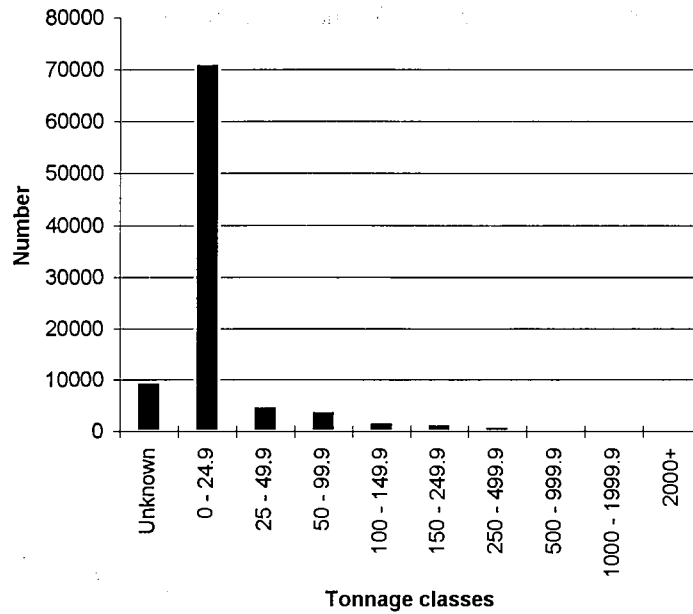
Source: Eurostat/DG XIV



4: Size of national fishing fleets by tonnage classes

Fig.4 shows that a very high proportion (84%) of the EU fishing vessels have a gross tonnage of less than 25 tonnes. (Note that the national authorities were not able to submit tonnage data for about 10% of the fishing fleet. A high proportion of these vessels are likely to be vessels of less than 25 tonnes.) Table 4 shows the breakdown of the national fishing fleets between vessels of less than 25 tonnes and those of 25 tonnes and over. With the exception of two Member States, Belgium and the Netherlands (with 4% and 31% respectively of vessels of less than 25 tonnes), all the national fleets have a high proportion of small vessels.

Fig. 4: Number of EU fishing vessels in 1995, by tonnage classes



Source: Eurostat/DG XIV



Table 4: EU fishing fleet by tonnage class

(number of vessels)

Year	1991			1995		
	Less than 25 tonnes	25 tonnes and over	% less than 25 t	Less than 25 tonnes	25 tonnes and over	% less than 25 t
Belgique/Belgie	8	209	4	7	149	4
Danmark	2 767	850	76	3 710	575	87
Deutschland	1 459	384	79	2 020	386	84
Ellada	16 541	828	95	17 601	774	96
España	16 862	3 725	81	11 615	3 628	76
France	6 154	1 548	79	5 130	1 456	78
Ireland	969	453	68	906	447	67
Italia	14 455	2 429	86	13 407	2 698	83
Nederland	679	787	46	313	695	31
Portugal	13 831	961	93	8 603	662	92
UK	9 335	1 569	85	7 847	1 715	82
EU	83 060	13 743	86	71 159	13 185	84
Suomi/Finland	:	:	:	3 473	170	95
Sverige	:	:	:	1 380	365	79

Source: Eurostat/DG XIV

5: Age structure of national fishing fleets.

Fig. 5 shows that there is a fairly even distribution of fishing vessels by age. About one third of the vessels are between 10 and 20 years old and one tenth are over 40 years of age.

Fig. 5: EU fishing fleet in 1995, by age classes.



Source: Eurostat/DG XIV



Table 5 shows the proportion of fishing vessels of less than 20 years of age on each of the Member States in 1991 and 1995. The outstanding feature is the relatively high proportion of vessels of less than 20 years of age in the French fleet in 1995 and the fact that this has increased significantly since 1991. Otherwise for the majority of countries the proportion was between 40 and 60% in 1995 and generally showed a slight decrease since 1991, indicating an increase in the average age of the fleet.

Table 5: EU fishing fleet by age class
(number of vessels)

Year	1991			1995		
	Less than 20 years	20 years and over	% less than 20 yrs	Less than 20 years	20 years and over	% less than 20 yrs
Belgique/Belgie	96	121	44	79	77	51
Danmark	1 510	2 035	43	2 074	2 661	44
Deutschland	862	876	50	1 178	1 087	52
Ellada	14 592	7 093	67	12 484	7 805	62
España	8 906	11 451	44	6 444	11 937	35
France	5 340	2 355	69	4 099	2 494	81
Ireland	721	684	51	524	820	39
Italia	8 741	7 613	53	7 410	8 447	47
Nederland	796	587	57	535	437	55
Portugal	5 378	4 804	53	4 299	4 463	49
UK	6 370	3 579	64	5 199	3 656	59
EU	53 312	41 198	56	44 325	43 884	50
Suomi/Finland	:	:	:	3 007	874	77
Sverige	:	:	:	1 406	1 075	57

Source: Eurostat/DG XIV



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In the first paragraph on page 1, "from 2 084 to 2 024 tonnes (-2.9%) in terms of Gross Tonnage" should be replaced by "from 2.084 to 2.024 million tonnes (-2.9%) in terms of Gross Tonnage".

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For further information please contact: D.Cross
Eurostat, L-2920 Luxembourg, tel. 4301-37249 Fax: 4301-37318

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Methodological note

These data were compiled from Eurostat's Statistical Register of EU Fishing vessels. This is updated annually from the administrative file established by the EU Commission's Directorate-General for Fisheries in application of Commission Regulation (CEE) no. 163/89 of 24 January 1989. The coverage of the administrative file was not complete in the earlier years of its existence, particularly as regards the smaller vessels.

The data refer to the situation on 31 December of the reference year.

