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EEA Fisheries in the NW Atlantic, 1999.

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Catch by country

The EEA catch in the Northwest Atlantic in 1999 has been provisionally reported as 68,081 tonnes, a 33.4% increase over that for 1998 (see Table 1). Of that, 54,595 (or 80%) was caught by EU Member States. Spain, with 37,237 tonnes, was the major EEA fishing nation, contributing 55% to the EEA total and 68% to the EU total. Portugal, at 16,554 tonnes (24% and 30% of the EEA and EU totals respectively), Iceland, at 9,147 tonnes (13% of the EEA total) and Norway, at 4,339 tonnes (6% of the EEA total) were the only other countries making significant contributions to the total.

The EEA and EU catches represented only 3.7% and 2.9% respectively of the provisional total catch of 1.86 million tonnes from the Northwest Atlantic in 1999.

Country	1998	1999	% change 99/98
D	355	569	60.3
DK	550	235	-57.3
E	30,922	37,237	20.4
P	9,621	16,554	72.1
UK	332	-	-
EU-15	41,780	54,595	30.7
ISL	6,572	9,147	39.2
N	2,686	4,339	61.5
EEA	51,038	68,081	33.4

Table 1: EEA catches in the NW Atlantic, 1998-99 (tonnes)

Catch by major species.

Fish contributed 97% and 82% to the 1999 catches by the EU and EEA respectively.

As in 1998 the major species in the catches of EEA countries was the Greenland halibut (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*). The catch of this species was 14,788 tonnes, 22% of the total catch and a 22% increase on the 1998 catch. Spain was responsible for the major part of this catch (9,023 tonnes or 61% of the EEA total) followed by Portugal (3,994 tonnes, 27% of the total), Norway (1,356 tonnes, 9% of the total) and Germany (415 tonnes, 3% of the total).

The Northern prawn (*Pandalus borealis*), the only non-fish species to figure in the EEA catches, was the second most important species overall. The 1999 EEA catch of this species, at 12,122 tonnes, was a 53% increase over that for 1998. The two non-EU countries, Iceland and Norway, made the largest contribution to the total (9,147 and 2,975 tonnes respectively).



3-alpha code	Species	EU-15		EEA	
		1998	1999	1998	1999
	Total fishery products	41 780	54 595	51 038	68 081
ANG	American angler - <i>Lophius americanus</i>	284	-	284	-
ANT	Blue antimora - <i>Antimora rostrata</i>	25	24	25	24
CAA	Atlantic wolffish - <i>Anarhichas lupus</i>	4	-	4	-
CAT	Wolffishes (ns) - <i>Anarhichas</i> spp	611	985	611	985
COD	Atlantic cod - <i>Gadus morhua</i>	550	330	550	550
CRA	Marine crabs (ns) - <i>Brachyura</i>	40	-	40	-
DGX	Dogfishes (ns) - <i>Squalidae</i>	605	549	605	549
FIN	Finfishes (ns) - <i>Osteichthyes</i>	66	151	66	151
GHL	Greenland halibut - <i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	10 831	13432	12 170	14 788
GRO	Groundfishes (ns) - <i>Osteichthyes</i>	-	-	7	3
HAD	Haddock - <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	5	10	5	10
HAL	Atlantic halibut - <i>Hippoglossus platessoides</i>	89	149	89	149
HKR	Red hake - <i>Urophycis chuss</i>	1 218	1 427	1 218	1 427
HKW	White hake - <i>Urophycis tenuis</i>	487	426	487	426
PLA	American plaice - <i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>	1 494	2 181	1 494	2 181
PRA	Northern prawn - <i>Pandalus borealis</i>	1 665	1 491	7 911	12 122
RED	Atlantic redfishes - <i>Sebastes</i> spp	5 054	12 010	5 055	12 015
RHG	Roughhead grenadier - <i>Macrourus berglax</i>	7 140	7 004	7 140	7 004
RNG	Roundnose grenadier - <i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>	5	-	5	-
SHX	Large sharks (ns) - <i>Squaliformes</i>	4	-	4	-
SKA	Skates (ns) - <i>Raja</i> spp	9 216	11 559	9 216	11 559
SQI	Shortfin squid - <i>Illex illecebrosus</i>	4	-	4	-
WIT	Witch flounder - <i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	1 734	1 689	1 734	1 689
YEL	Yellowtail flounder - <i>Limanda ferruginea</i>	649	1 178	649	1 178

Table 2: Catches in the NW Atlantic, 1998-99 (tonnes)

EEA catches of Atlantic redfishes (*Sebastes* spp.) at 12,015 tonnes increased by 138% doubled in 1999 compared with 1998. Portugal (6,080 tonnes, 51% of the total) and Spain (5,776 tonnes, 48% of the total) were almost exclusively responsible for this catch.

Skates of the *Raja* species contributed 11,559 tonnes (17%) to the total catches, an increase of 25% over 1998. Spain (9,390 tonnes) and Portugal (2,169 tonnes) were the only countries recording catches of these species in 1999.

The Rough-head grenadier (*Macrourus berglax*) is a relatively new species to be reported in the catches from the Northwest Atlantic. Only two countries (Spain and Portugal) reported catches of this species in 1999 (5,705 and 1,299 tonnes respectively). The total catch was a 2% decrease compared with 1998.

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

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The catch statistics have been submitted by the national authorities of the EEA member countries under the terms of the Council Regulation (EC) no 2018/93. This requirement corresponds to the Stallant 21A and 21B questionnaires of FAO and NAFO (Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation).

The data for 1999 are provisional, submitted to Eurostat with a dead-line of 31 May 2000. The 1998 data are final and Eurostat gratefully acknowledges the collaboration of the NAFO Secretariat in compiling these data.

The member countries of the European Economic Area (EEA) are the members of the European Union (EU-15) plus Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein. 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.

Further information:

➤ Reference publications

Title European fisheries in figures
 Catalogue No CA-13-98-556-EN-S Price EUR 10

➤ Databases

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