A National Statistics publication for Scotland

The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND MARINE

Provisional Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics 2015

Provisional Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics provide an overview of the Scottish fishing fleet, fishermen employed and landings data. They are published to provide access to data as soon as possible. Due to time lags with regards to the input of landings and sale information, especially for shellfish, provisional statistics may not be complete.

Introduction

In 2015 the quantity of fish landed by Scottish registered vessels was 439,900 tonnes with a value of £437 million, a decrease of eight per cent and 15 per cent respectively since 2014.

The number of active Scottish registered fishing vessels in 2015 was 2,017, a decrease of one per cent from the previous year. The number of fishermen employed on Scottish fishing vessels was 4,828, a one per cent increase from 2014.

An infographic of this data and all tables present in this publication are available for download from the Provisional Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics website.

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Landings by Scottish registered vessels

The decrease in value of fish landings in 2015 was driven by a 12 per cent decrease in the quantity of pelagic landings. The value of pelagic landings decreased by 27 per cent. Shellfish landings decreased in value and volume and the demersal landings increased in volume, while the value remained stable:

- Pelagic – 27 per cent decrease in value, 12 per cent decrease in volume
- Demersal – value remained stable, two per cent increase in volume
- Shellfish – 11 per cent decrease in value, six per cent decrease in volume

Pelagic

The total value of pelagic landings in 2015 decreased by 27 per cent to £160 million. The volume of pelagic landings decreased by 12 per cent to 291,500 tonnes. Mackerel is the most valuable stock to the Scottish fleet worth £131 million and it accounted for 30 per cent of the total value of Scottish landings. The volume of mackerel landed by Scottish registered vessels in 2015 was 200,000 tonnes, 17 per cent lower than in 2014. Fifty six per cent of the mackerel landings by Scottish registered vessels was landed abroad. This is higher than the previous year's figures which saw 50 per cent of the volume of mackerel landed abroad. The average price of mackerel landed abroad decreased 17 per cent to £667 per tonne in 2015, whereas the average price of mackerel landed in to Scotland decreased 23 per cent to £635 per tonne.

In 2015, the volume of herring landed by Scottish vessels decreased by four per cent to 59,000 tonnes, although the value of herring increased by 15 per cent to £21 million, due to a 21 per cent rise in the average price to £363 per tonne.

Demersal

The total value of demersal landings in 2015 was £143 million, the same level as in 2014. The volume of landings increased two per cent to 90,700 tonnes. Haddock, monkfish and cod are the most valuable demersal stocks to the Scottish fleet. The value of haddock decreased 11 per cent in 2015 to £37 million, and the volume landed decreased ten per cent to 27,000 tonnes.

The value of monkfish landings increased six per cent to £26 million due to a 27 per cent increase in the volume landed, to 11,000 tonnes. The volume of cod landed in 2015 was five per cent higher than 2014, contributing to a two per cent increase in the value to £23 million.

The volume and value of landings of megrim, saithe and whiting in 2015 all fell compared to 2014, whereas the volume and value of hake, ling and plaice all increased. The value of hake landings was £16 million, a 15 per cent increase from 2014. This was due to an eight per cent increase in the volume landed and a seven per cent increase in the price per tonne. Both ling and plaice landings were valued at £5 million, a seven per cent and nine per cent increase from 2014 respectively. There was a 44 per cent increase in the volume of ‘other demersal’ species landed in 2015 and a 22 per cent increase in the value. This was mainly due to the increase in the volume of sand eels landed and an increase in the value of wrasse landed by Scottish vessels.

Shellfish

The total value of shellfish decreased by 11 per cent to £134 million, while volume of shellfish landed decreased six per cent to 57,600 tonnes. *Nephrops* (Norway Lobster/Langoustine) are the most valuable shellfish stock, accounting for 45 per cent of the value of shellfish landings, and they are the second most valuable stock overall to the Scottish fleet. In 2015, the total value of *Nephrops* decreased by 19 per cent to £61 million. This is due to a 20 per cent decrease in volume landed to 16,000 tonnes and a one per cent increase in average price to £3,688 per tonne.

Scallops are the second most valuable shellfish stock to the Scottish fleet, making up 25 per cent of the value of shellfish landings. The volume of scallops landed in 2015 decreased three per cent to 16,000 tonnes. However, the value of scallops increased one per cent to £33 million, due to a four per cent increase in the average price to £2,082 per tonne.

Scottish fishing fleet and employment

Scottish fishing fleet

The number of active Scottish registered fishing vessels in 2015 was 2,017, a decrease of 13 vessels from 2014.

During 2015, the number of over 10 metre vessels fell to 565, 18 less vessels than the previous year. The shellfish sector makes up 64 per cent of the over 10 metre fleet and had a decrease of five vessels, to 363 vessels. The two other over 10 metre vessel groups also had a decrease in the number of vessels, with the pelagic sector decreasing by one vessel and the demersal sector decreasing by 12 vessels.

There were 1,452 10 metre and under vessels in the Scottish fleet, an increase of five vessels from 2014. Creel fishing was the only 10 metre and under vessel group to have an increase in the number of vessels with 12 vessels coming into the creel fishing sector. The *Nephrops* trawl sector had a decrease of six vessels and the other 10 metre and under vessels decreased by one vessel.

Employment

In 2015, the number of fishermen employed on Scottish fishing vessels was 4,828. This represents an increase of 32 (one per cent) compared to 2014. Both the number of regularly employed and irregularly employed fishermen increased, to 3,985 (less than one per cent) and 792 (four per cent) respectively. There was a four per cent decrease in the number of crofters to 51.

Fish Quota Uptake

Uptake of quota was high for the major pelagic fish stocks; West of Scotland mackerel was over 102 per cent, while North Sea mackerel exceeded 96 per cent. North Sea Herring was over 101 per cent and West of Scotland herring was over 90 per cent uptake.

Quota uptake was 97 per cent and above for the key demersal fish stocks in the North Sea, with the exception of North Sea haddock (above 83 per cent), North Sea plaice (above 66 per cent) and North Sea megrim (above 53 per cent). The reason for the lower uptake of North Sea haddock in 2015 was due to larger haddock not being as prevalent in 2015 as they have been in previous years. West of Scotland quota uptake for haddock (area VIb), whiting, saithe and monkfish was over 96 per cent, while haddock (areas VIa, Vb) uptake was over 90 per cent.

In 2015, quota uptake for North Sea *Nephrops* was 64 per cent, while uptake for West of Scotland *Nephrops* was just under 76 per cent. In comparison to 2014, uptake for North Sea *Nephrops* was 17 percentage points lower and West of Scotland *Nephrops* was half a percentage point lower. This was due to a decrease in quota and a decrease in landings for both areas.

Tables

Table 1 : Landings by Scottish registered vessels 2005-2015 by species type

	Tonnes landed (000's)				Value of landings (£m)			
Year	Demersal	Pelagic	Shellfish	Total	Demersal	Pelagic	Shellfish	Total
2005	99.7	328.1	55.3	483.1	123	114	112	349
2006	94.1	225.8	59.3	379.2	136	92	140	368
2007	89.2	213.4	66.9	369.5	130	91	163	383
2008	99.7	206.9	64.9	371.5	139	101	155	396
2009	103.5	205.0	69.4	377.9	149	151	143	443
2010	105.9	189.2	72.5	367.6	152	129	153	434
2011	94.7	192.3	72.1	359.1	153	184	163	500
2012	95.7	199.8	69.5	365.0	143	166	157	466
2013	102.0	202.7	62.3	367.0	139	153	137	430
2014	88.7	330.5	61.5	480.7	143	220	151	514
2015 (p)	90.7	291.5	57.6	439.9	143	160	134	437

(p): provisional

Table 2 : Landings by Scottish registered vessels of main species 2014-2015

	2014			2015 (p)		
Species	Tonnes landed (000's)	Value (£m)	Price (£) per tonne	Tonnes landed (000's)	Value (£m)	Price (£) per tonne
Cod	11	22	2,025	12	23	1,969
Haddock	30	42	1,381	27	37	1,361
Hake	6	14	2,233	7	16	2,388
Ling	4	4	1,237	4	5	1,301
Megrim	2	6	2,603	2	5	2,476
Monks or Anglers	9	25	2,830	11	26	2,362
Plaice	4	4	955	5	5	972
Saithe	8	8	901	8	7	873
Whiting	9	10	1,111	8	9	1,068
Other demersal	5	9	1,725	7	11	1,467
Herring	61	18	301	59	21	363
Mackerel	239	195	813	200	131	653
Other pelagic	30	7	233	33	8	253
Edible crabs	11	14	1,284	10	12	1,249
Lobsters	1	12	10,259	1	11	10,533
Nephrops (Norway Lobster)	20	75	3,656	16	61	3,688
Queen scallops	7	3	462	9	5	558
Scallops	16	33	1,994	16	33	2,082
Squid	2	7	2,911	1	4	3,150
Velvet crabs	2	4	2,488	1	4	2,533
Other shellfish	2	3	1,532	2	4	1,578

(p): provisional

Table 3a : Mackerel landings by Scottish registered vessels by country of landing 2014-2015

	Tonnes landed (000's)				Value (£m)				Price (£ per tonne)			
	Scotland	Rest UK	Abroad	Total	Scotland	Rest UK	Abroad	Total	Scotland	Rest UK	Abroad	Total
2014	120.5	<0.01	118.9	239.5	99	<0.01	96	195	821	980	806	813
2015 (p)	87.4	<0.01	112.5	199.9	56	<0.01	75	131	635	1,124	667	653
% change	-28%	-31%	-5%	-17%	-44%	-21%	-22%	-33%	-23%	15%	-17%	-20%

Table 3b: Percentage of mackerel landed into Scotland, Rest of UK and Abroad 2014-2015

	Percentage of tonnes landed				Percentage of value landed			
	Scotland	Rest UK	Abroad	Total	Scotland	Rest UK	Abroad	Total
2014	50%	<0.01%	50%	100%	51%	<0.01%	49%	100%
2015 (p)	44%	<0.01%	56%	100%	43%	<0.01%	57%	100%

(p): provisional

Table 4 : Active Scottish registered vessels by main fishing method, 31st December 2007 to 2015

	10m & under				Over 10m													Total
					Pelagic				Demersal					Shellfish			Total	
	Nephrops trawl	Creel fishing	Other	Total	Purse seine	Pelagic trawl	Other	Total	Trawl	Seine	Lines	Other	Total	Nephrops trawl	Other	Total		
2007	95	1,292	107	1,494	5	17	-	22	241	35	9	9	294	172	209	381	697	2,191
2008	86	1,296	110	1,492	4	20	-	24	234	35	14	12	295	188	206	394	713	2,205
2009	81	1,288	114	1,483	4	21	-	25	214	37	15	8	274	194	198	392	691	2,174
2010	79	1,292	114	1,485	4	20	-	24	199	33	14	10	256	190	195	385	665	2,150
2011	80	1,285	105	1,470	4	20	-	24	179	28	15	7	229	177	195	372	625	2,095
2012	80	1,266	102	1,448	4	20	-	24	166	25	15	9	215	171	188	359	598	2,046
2013	70	1,254	102	1,426	3	20	-	23	163	23	13	5	204	171	196	367	594	2,020
2014	75	1,266	106	1,447	2	19	-	21	154	24	12	4	194	167	201	368	583	2,030
2015 (p)	69	1,278	105	1,452	2	18	-	20	145	22	11	4	182	159	204	363	565	2,017

(p): provisional

Table 5 : Number of fishermen employed on Scottish registered vessels, 2007 to 2015

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (p)
Regularly employed	4,408	4,585	4,403	4,257	4,067	3,752	4,092	3,980	3,985
Irregularly employed	951	807	946	909	877	941	847	763	792
Crofters	65	56	60	52	52	54	53	53	51
Total	5,424	5,448	5,409	5,218	4,996	4,747	4,992	4,796	4,828

(p): provisional

Table 6 : UK quotas and uptake in 2015

Species	UK Quota (tonnes)	Uptake (tonnes)	% Uptake
COD			
North Sea	14,862	14,818	99.7
West of Scotland VIb	45	18	40.0
West of Scotland VIa, Vb	0	169	-
HADDOCK			
North Sea	30,977	25,824	83.4
West of Scotland VIb	2,104	2,052	97.5
West of Scotland VIa, Vb	3,385	3,052	90.2
West of Scotland VIa (of which)	706	455	64.4
WHITING			
North Sea	10,154	9,998	98.5
West of Scotland	168	168	99.9
SAITHE			
North Sea	8,970	8,924	99.5
West of Scotland	3,392	3,286	96.9
PLAICE			
North Sea	25,936	17,304	66.7
West of Scotland	388	56	14.3
MEGRIM			
North Sea	2,199	1,172	53.3
West of Scotland	1,375	643	46.8
MONKFISH			
North Sea	9,087	8,887	97.8
West of Scotland	2,117	2,085	98.5
NEPHROPS			
North Sea	10,873	6,959	64.0
West of Scotland	15,522	11,744	75.7
HERRING			
North Sea	66,893	68,055	101.7
West of Scotland	16,910	15,260	90.2
MACKEREL			
North Sea	5,791	5,567	96.1
West of Scotland	237,094	242,411	102.2

Background Information

1. The Provisional Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics 2015 can be accessed at: http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Agriculture-Fisheries/provisionalfishstats

2. The main source for Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics is Marine Scotland's FIN (Fisheries Information Network) administrative data base containing information on sea fishing activity and catch details, including sales details from Registered Buyers and Sellers (RBS), input by Marine Scotland Compliance, based on information supplied by fishing vessels, buyers and sellers. Where necessary, this is supplemented by information from the equivalent "Rest of UK" administrative system, FAD, using data held in the UK data warehouse, IFISH. FIN holds details of all fish landings into Scotland and landings abroad by Scottish based vessels.

   Voyage and landings information is supplied by skippers who, for vessels over 10 metres, are required by EU legislation to maintain logbooks and provide landings declarations. Although this EU legislation does not require vessels of 10 metres and under to provide this information; in Scotland they provide equivalent information on the FISH1 forms. Data on first sales of fish, which provides information on the value of landings, is provided by fish buyers and sellers under EU legislation on the Register of Buyers and Sellers. Information is collated and entered at port offices and then transmitted to the FIN central server.

3. Data on employment within the Scottish fishing fleet is collated by Marine Scotland in an annual survey distributed to port offices in each of the 18 Scottish fishing districts. The total burden on all respondents for this small survey is estimated to total no more than £1 thousand each year, based on information obtained from each office on the time taken to complete the return and the grades of staff involved.

4. The Sea Fisheries Data Team will regularly update certain management information such as levels of quota uptake and fish prices on their web site – which can be accessed at: http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Agriculture-Fisheries/Datasets

5. Further information on Agriculture and Fisheries statistics within Scotland can be accessed at: http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Agriculture-Fisheries

6. National statistics are produced by professionally independent statistical staff – more information on the standards of National statistics in Scotland can be accessed at: http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About

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How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:
☐ are available either through the Interactive Marine Planning or using on the ICES rectangle webpage on the Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics website
☐ may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact fisheriesstatistics@gov.scot for further information.

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