



Marine Management Organisation

Provisional Statistics - UK fleet landings from other EU member states' waters: 2015

This release contains provisional estimates of landings of fish by the UK commercial fishing fleet from the exclusive economic zones of other EU member states in 2015. It is being released now in response to a request by Defra to publish management information provided to them for operational purposes. The figures are provisional and will be subject to revisions as further quality assurance is complete and as updated information are received and analysed. Due to their provisional nature these data are high level aggregations without further breakdown. It is planned that these provisional data will be followed by a more detailed final form statistical release as part of the [UK Sea Fisheries Statistics annual publication in September 2017](#).

Table 1 – Quantity and Value of Landings by UK Vessels 2015

	Total UK landings from Other Member States Exclusive Economic Zones	
	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (£'000)
2015	110,751	114,029
High Estimate:	148,507	168,923
Low Estimate:	94,050	90,373

UK Fisheries Administrations

Data Sources and Methodology:

Data on fishing activity is taken from the IFISH data system. This is a UK repository of key elements of the administrative data commercial fishermen are required to report under EU legislation to enable competent authorities to monitor and manage their activity. There are three key sources of data – the logbook of activity while at sea, the landing declaration recording the accurate weight of fish when landed, and sales notes created when the fish are first sold after landing. The first two of these are required from all fishermen operating vessels over 10 metres overall length, the sales notes information is required for sales by all licensed vessels irrespective of length. The data includes the species caught, weight and value of fish landed along with details of the vessel involved, where the fish was caught, and with what gear. These data are collected by the four fisheries administrations within the UK, checked and validated via standardised processes and collated into the IFISH repository holding complete data on activity by UK licensed commercial fishing activity.

All UK vessels submitting landings data either by log book or sales note record the ICES statistical rectangle of their catches. This is the lowest, broadly available unit of spatial reporting available for UK landings data. Those vessels using electronic logbooks record also if their catches were inside or outside EU waters. Furthermore, some vessels record if the EU waters were inside or outside the UK's exclusive economic zone. For those vessels that do not record whether they caught fish inside the EU or UK exclusive economic zones, the MMO has produced and applied a dataset of factors for each ICES statistical rectangles. These factors are derived from estimates of the surface area of each rectangle related to seas within each of the ICES statistical rectangles that is included within the exclusive economic zones of the UK, other member states, third countries or international waters, excluding any areas related to land. These factors based on sea surface area are then used to apportion the total landings by UK vessels recorded for each ICES rectangle between each of the categories described above. The surface area of ICES rectangles was determined using the definitions of national exclusive economic zones sourced from the [United Kingdom Hydrographic Office](#). An example of the way the factors work is if a UK vessel reported landings from a rectangle with a factor of 0.5 for the UK and 0.5 for other member states exclusive economic zone, we would apportion 50% of the catch to UK waters and 50% to other member state rectangles.

The estimates in table 1 have been produced with high and low bounds to illustrate the level of uncertainty inherent in the apportioning by surface area method used for those vessels for which lack definitive data on area of catch from a logbook. The high estimate is the sum of 100% of the UK's landings (including all those landings for which we know definitively that the catch was in other member state's waters) from rectangles where at least some of the waters are in the exclusive economic zone of the other member states. The low estimate is equivalent to that of the high estimate but summing only those UK landings from those rectangles with 100% of the waters in the exclusive economic zone of other member states, and it thus represents those landings for which we know definitively that the catch was in the other member states' waters.

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