ICES Data Centre

ICES Catch Statistics Fact Sheet

July 2023

ICES Official Catch Statistics

1 Background

The availability of fishery statistics of high quality is a prerequisite for securing a viable management of the marine resources.

ICES has published fishery statistics since 1904, beginning with data for 1903, and has, for many years, presented landings data in electronic form in the Eurostat/ICES database covering the period 1973 to the present.

The data sources are the national statistical offices, but in some countries, the collection and compilation of fishery statistics is handled by specialized organizations.

All catch statistics gathered since 1903 are available in an electronic form from ICES website. Data from 1950 are also supported by EUROSTAT and verified by ICES.

2 Dataset Overview

Due to historical reasons, the catch data available from ICES website are split into three datasets.

- ICES Historical Landings 1903-1949
- Historical Nominal Catches 1950-2010
- Official Nominal Catches 2006-2021

2.1 Quality assurance

The catch dataset 2006-2021 can be updated if contributing countries revise their data submissions. Historical datasets are only revised on special request.

Data presented in the datasets have not been corrected for non-reported catches, where these may have occurred. Therefore, in some cases, the data differ from those presented in ICES fish stock assessment working group reports.

3 Dataset notes

3.1 ICES Historical Landing 1903-1949

ICES Catch Statistics 1903-1949 are available from ICES website in form of archived data files in .xls and .csv format. The data are presented as landings per country per year per area per species. Comments and notes are included in the Excel dataset. A separate datasheet included into the archive provides more detailed notes about this data collection.

3.2 Historical Nominal Catches 1950-2010

The FishStatPlus-based dataset was prepared annually by ICES in cooperation with Eurostat. As the dataset can no longer be updated, and the program FishStatPlus is no longer supported by FAO, the dataset became historical in 2011. Data were extracted from the last available dataset in November 2011, and published on ICES page as an archive of datafiles in .xls and .csv format. The data are arranged as nominal catches in tonnes live weight per country per species per area and year. Area references are used as reported, and catches per area were not treated in any way. The archive includes file ICES.txt that provides notes to the dataset.

3.3 Official Nominal Catches 2006-2021

Nominal catches in the Northeast Atlantic are annually gathered from the national offices by ICES in cooperation with Eurostat and FAO. Official Nominal Catches dataset is updated every year, and is available from the ICES website as an archived dataset in .xlsx and .csv formats. Dataset in other formats can be supplied per request.

Catch statistics are presented as nominal catches in tonnes live weight per country per species per area and year. Catch figures cover data from all commercial, artisanal, and subsistence fisheries, and include recreational catches, where available. Aquaculture and discards data are **not** included to the dataset.

The **country** codes used in the dataset are the ISO alpha-2 codes extended with coding for the UK Channel Islands, Isle of Man, and Scotland.

Species codes are the FAO 3-alpha codes as in the ASFIS list of species.

As basis for the **area** codes, FAO fishing area definitions for the Northeast Atlantic were used (see ICES Maps and FAO area 27 for more details). Area-based catch data are provided for all area levels (sub-areas, divisions, sub-divisions) so that consistency between levels is preserved. That means that data extracted at any area level are the sum of the catches from lower levels and unspecified catches for this area. If the catches were reported for different levels of area hierarchy, the difference between the sum of lower area levels and the higher area level is assigned to the Area_NK codes. Compound area codes are used only by few countries, and aggregation with use for these codes should be made with caution. Detailed scheme for the area-aggregation rules is included in the dataset archive.

Catches are reported in tonnes live weight. Where available, decimal values are displayed.

For 2018-2021 data, Ireland and Latvia have reported catches in certain areas as **confidential**, following Eurostat guidelines on statistical confidentiality. These catches, as well as all related higher-level aggregations are marked as '0 c', and are not available. Further information can be obtained from the relevant national statistical offices.

Please note that the historical catch data by Scotland are a sub-set of the UK catches and should not be used for deriving totals. The subset is published on a separate sheet to avoid the summing errors.

At the slightest concern about quality of the data or the correctness of using the data, contact accessions@ices.dk for more information.

4 Acknowledgments and citation

4.1 Data Citation

Please acknowledge the relevant dataset when using the data:

ICES Historical Landings 1903-1949. Version dd-mm-yyyy. Accessed dd-mm-yyyy via https://ices.dk/marine-data/dataset-collections/Pages/Fish-catch-and-stock-assessment.aspx. ICES, Copenhagen.

Historical Nominal Catches 1950-2010. Version dd-mm-yyyy. Accessed dd-mm-yyyy via https://ices.dk/marine-data/dataset-collections/Pages/Fish-catch-and-stock-assessment.aspx. ICES, Copenhagen.

Official Nominal Catches 2006-2021. Version dd-mm-yyyy. Accessed dd-mm-yyyy via https://ices.dk/marine-data/dataset-collections/Pages/Fish-catch-and-stock-assessment.aspx. ICES, Copenhagen.

Catches by fishing area - north east Atlantic (from 2000 onwards), 2023. Statistical Office of the European Communities, EUROSTAT, Luxembourg.

Web : https://www.ices.dk/data/dataset-collections/Pages/Fish-catch-and-stock-assessment.aspx
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Please refer to the ICES Data policy for terms and conditions of data usage and rights.
https://ices.dk/data/guidelines-and-policy/Pages/ICES-data-policy.aspx

4.2 Acknowledgements

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