

29 May, 2015

Fishery Statistics
2014

Fish catches decreased by 17.1%
The annual price of fish landed increased by 19.1%

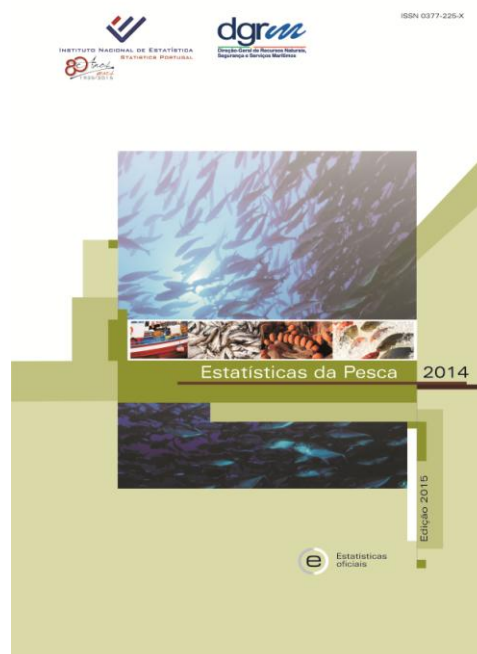
In 2014 the 119 890 tonnes of fresh and chilled fishery was the lowest volume of fish catches since the beginning of statistical records (1969), showing a decrease of 17.1% *vis-a-vis* 2013. In 2014 the landed fish price (2.02 €/kg) increased by 19.1% towards 2013, due to a significant valuation of the most captured species, like sardine, horse mackerel, tuna, silver scabbard fish, hake and octopus. The significant drop in quantities was compensated by the considerable rise in fish price.

International trade balance deficit of the fishery activity had a worsening of 44 million Euros, reaching 662.5 million Euros.

The execution rate of the Fisheries operational program 2007-2013 (PROMAR) in 2014 was 69.4%, due to the high execution rates achieved in the measures of suppression (temporary or definitive) of capacity and fishery activity (Axis 01).

Statistics Portugal joins the Fisherman's national day celebrations, by releasing the publication [Fisheries Statistics 2014](#).

This publication is organized into 9 chapters, including analysis of results and the corresponding data tables.



Fish fleet dropping for nine consecutive years

In 2014, 4 319 fishing vessels were authorized to operate, the lowest number since 2006, meaning a

reduction of the fishing effort with less capacity (GT) and power engine.

Catches of fresh and chilled fishery dropped by 17.1% but fish price increased by 19.1%

The 119 890 tonnes of fresh and chilled fishery caught in 2014 (-17.1% relatively to 2013) was the lowest volume of fish catches since 1969. On the contrary, the landed fish price in 2014 (2.02 €/kg) reached the highest value since the existence of statistical records, rising from 1.70 €/kg in 2013 to 2.02 €/kg in 2014 (+19.1%).

This reduction of catches resulted mainly from the fall in the quantity of sea fish captured (-19.2%) in the Mainland, especially sardine, tuna and mackerel, that dropped 42.8%, 21.2% and 20.8% respectively, and also from the decrease of tuna catches in Azores. The rise in price reflected a significant valuation of the most captured species, like sardine, horse mackerel, tuna, silver scabbard fish, hake and octopus.

Figure 1 >> Variation of fish quantities and prices of fish landed (1969-2014)

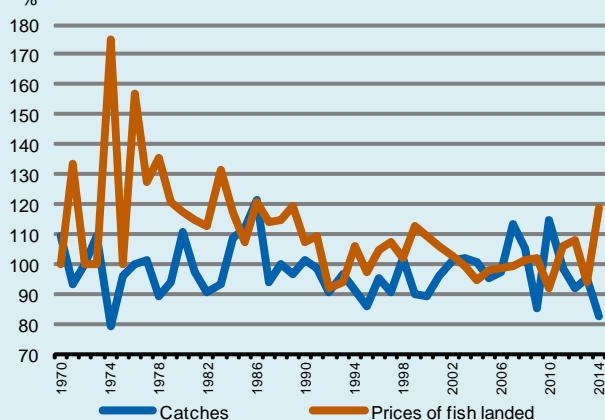
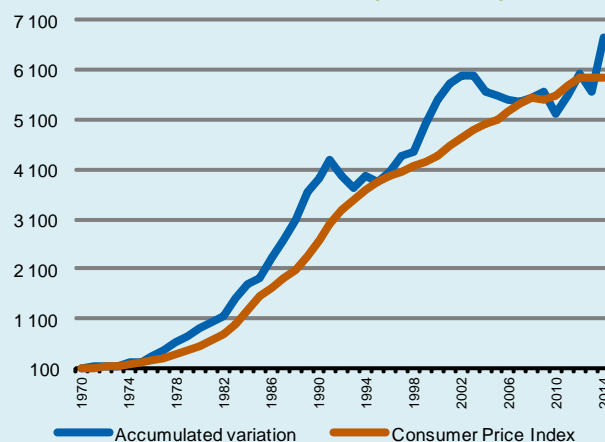


Figure 2 >> Accumulated variation of prices of fish landed and CPI (1969-2014)



The average price of fish landed shows some volatility, but its accumulated variation since the beginning of the time series (1969) was higher than the accumulated inflation.

Over this time series it stands out two periods of divergence between accumulated variation of fish landed prices and Consumer Price Index (CPI), mostly corresponding to a decrease in catches. In 2014 landed prices increased and drove away from CPI.

Fish prices variations when analyzed together with landed quantities variations, show that changes in quantities of caught fish nearly always caused symmetric variations of fish landed prices. This negative correlation has particularly widened over the last years of the series under analysis.

International trade balance deficit of the fishery activity had a worsening of 43.9 million, reaching 662.5 million Euros

International trade balance of the fishery activity presented a deficit of 662.5 million Euros, representing +7.1% towards 2013. "Frozen fish" is still the biggest part of imports, with 21.8% of total (23.0% in 2013). The transactions of "dried and salted fish" still represented the highest deficit in 2014, with 214.2 million Euros (+1.2% comparing to 2013).

As usual, only the trade balance for "canned fish" was favorable to Portugal in 2014, with a value of 50.4 million Euros. However, this surplus was lower (-12.9 million Euros) than the one achieved in 2013.

Fisheries possibilities increased 10% in 2014

Fishing possibilities for Portugal in EU waters increased by 10% towards 2013. Considering the overall species under capture restrictions, it is worth noticing the increase of quota for blue whiting (+114%), Atlantic mackerel (+28%), horse mackerel (+16%) and hake

(+15.0%). However, quota for ray and Norway lobster dropped once more (-10%).

The execution rate of the Fisheries operational program 2007-2013 (PROMAR) was 69%

After financial reprogramming (approved by Decision C (2015) 672 of 4 of February 2015), the EU endowment for the Fisheries operational program 2007-2013 (PROMAR) was 227 million Euros, with the investment forecasted in fisheries being around 422 million Euros.

The best performance occurred in Axis 01, with an execution rate of 93%, justified by the celerity in the measures of support to suppression (temporary or definitive) of the capacity of the fish fleet. However, other measures like technical assistance and general interest measures (collective actions, protection of flora and fauna, fishing ports, landing zones and shelter areas), facilitators of the expansion of the sector's productive capacity, execution rates were considerably lower.

Notes:

NOMINAL CATCH: Live weight corresponding approximately to the fish unloaded. It is normally determined by applying conversion factors.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE: Total of intra and extra community trade.

FISHING BOAT: A vessel that is capable of using a fishing method.

PEDESTRIAN FISHERMAN: Fisherman operating without a fishing boat.

GROSS TONNAGE (GT): A measure of the total volume of a vessel, determined in accordance with the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships of 1969 and expressed in a round figure.

LICENSED FISHERMAN: The professional engaged in the activity of fishing who is registered in a Port Authority or Maritime Delegation.

FISHING GROUND: A place where fishing operations are carried out thanks to good conditions, such as reasonable concentrations of fish and banks of fish or bivalves.

QUOTA: Part of the total authorized catch (TAC) divided according to different criteria such as countries, regions, fleets or vessels.

TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (TAC): A management measure that limits the total catch of a fishing resource in a specified area and period.

LANDING ZONE: The place on the coast where the catch is unloaded.

AREA OF REGISTRATION: The place in which the port authority or maritime delegation exercises its authority.

FISHING AREA: Area in which fish are caught.