

Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics 2022



September 2023

Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics 2022

Key Points

Sea fish and shellfish landings in 2022

The fishing industry value has increased from last year but hasn't returned to 2019, pre-pandemic levels. The value of landings has risen less than general inflation between 2019 and 2022:

- Scottish vessels landed 429 thousand tonnes of sea fish and shellfish with a gross value of £617 million in 2022. An increase of four per cent in the real value and a two per cent decrease in the tonnage compared to 2021.
- Compared to 2019, whilst there has been a nine per cent increase in the tonnage landed, the real value of these landings has fallen by five per cent.
- Scottish vessels landed 162 thousand tonnes of sea fish and shellfish worth £167 million abroad in 2022. Landings abroad make up 38 per cent of tonnage and 27 per cent by value.

Performance of each sector

The four per cent increase in real value landed by Scottish vessels between 2021 and 2022 was driven by demersal and shellfish species. The actual changes were:

- The real terms value of demersal landings increased by nine per cent.
- The real terms value of shellfish landings increased by five per cent.
- The real terms value of pelagic landings increased by one per cent.

The two per cent decrease in tonnage landed by Scottish vessels between 2021 and 2022 results from a decrease in shellfish and pelagic fish landings:

- Shellfish landings decreased seven per cent by tonnage and pelagic landings decreased by three per cent.
- Demersal landings increased by six per cent.

Key species

- Mackerel remained the most valuable species in 2022 worth £213 million, making up 35 per cent of the total value of Scottish vessels' landings.
- Monkfish was the most valuable demersal species and represented six per cent of the total value of Scottish vessels' landings.
- In 2022, 1,415 tonnes of creel Nephrops were landed by Scottish vessels with a value of £16 million. Eighteen thousand tonnes of trawled Nephrops were landed worth £67 million.

The Scottish fishing fleet

The number of active Scottish vessels has remained stable at 2,038, increasing by one per cent compared to 2013:

- The Scottish fleet is dominated by vessels that are ten metres and under in length with a total of 1,545 vessels falling into this category in 2022. There are 493 over 10 metre vessels.
- Compared to 2013, the ten metre and under fleet has increased by eight per cent while the over ten metre fleet has decreased by 17 per cent.
- The over 40 metre Scottish vessels make up just one per cent of the number of vessels but landed 45 per cent of all landings by value.

Employment on Scottish fishing vessels

- In 2022, 4,117 fishers were working on Scottish vessels, down 124 fishers compared to 2021.
- Since 2013, employment on Scottish vessels has fallen nine per cent.

Figure 1. Overview Statistics Infographic of Scottish landings, fleet and employment 2022

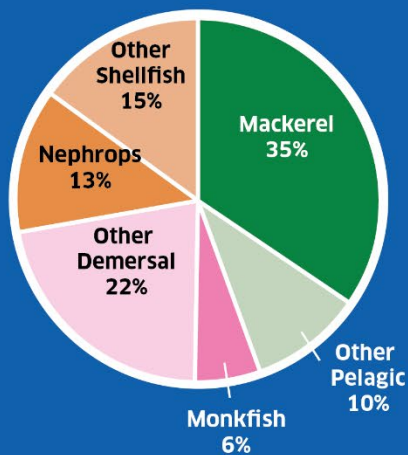
Scottish Sea Fisheries Overview Statistics 2022

Landings by Scottish registered vessels

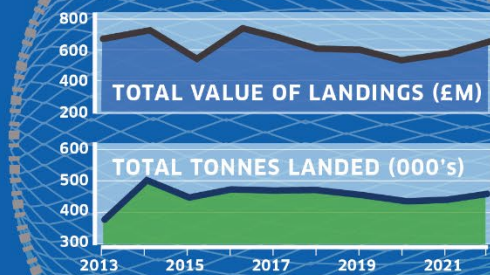
429,235 tonnes (↓2% decrease) worth £617 Million - (↑4% increase)



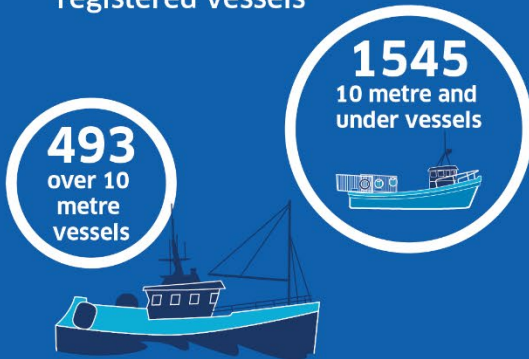
Three most valuable species % of total landed



Total Values & Landings



2,038 Active Scottish registered vessels



4,117 Fishers Employed



Contents

Key Points	1
Sea fish and shellfish landings in 2022	1
Performance of each sector	1
Key species	1
The Scottish fishing fleet	2
Employment on Scottish fishing vessels	2
1 Introduction	5
A National Statistics Publication for Scotland	5
2 Landings by Scottish vessels	5
2.1 Key species landed	6
2.2 Long term sector trends	9
2.3 Fish prices	10
2.4 Total Allowable Catches quota and uptake	11
2.5 Where Scottish vessels land their fish	12
2.6 Area of capture	13
3 Landings into Scotland	13
4 The Scottish fishing fleet	16
4.1 The size of the Scottish fleet	16
4.2 The performance of the Scottish fishing fleet	18
5 Employment	19
Supplementary Tables	21
Data and Methodology	23
Tell us what you think	24
Feedback survey	24
Enquiries	24
Join our mailing list	24
Future publications	24

1 Introduction

Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics is a National Statistics publication produced by the statistics team within the Scottish Government Marine Directorate to provide detailed information on the Scottish fishing industry. The statistics presented in this publication include the:

- Tonnage and value of all landings of sea fish and shellfish by Scottish vessels.
- All landings by any nationality of vessel into Scotland and the rest of the UK.
- Landings by UK vessels abroad.
- The size and characteristics of Scottish fishing vessels.
- Employment on Scottish vessels.

All landing tonnages are given in terms of live weight equivalent. Overall financial values in the publication text are provided in real terms (adjusted for inflation to 2022 prices). Most of the financial values in the supplementary tables are provided in nominal terms (not adjusted for inflation). Year on year percentage changes in financial values are calculated at 2022 prices to adjust for inflation.

A National Statistics Publication for Scotland

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. This provides assurance that these statistics are of the highest quality and meet user needs, and that they comply with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).



Further information on National Statistics is published by the [UK Statistics Authority](#).

2 Landings by Scottish vessels

In 2022, Scottish vessels landed 429 thousand tonnes of sea fish and shellfish with a gross value of £617 million (Table 8). Compared to 2021 there was an increase of four per cent in the real value of landings and a two per cent decrease in the tonnage landed. The increase in real value was driven mainly by demersal and shellfish species, although the value of pelagic species also increased.

In 2022, the higher fuel costs in response to the war in Ukraine looks to have led to Scottish vessels making less voyages to minimise costs (Table 27). Although this resulted in a small decrease in tonnage landed, the overall value landed increased due to market price increases.

Shellfish landed by Scottish vessels and included in this publication are crustaceans, molluscs and cephalopods. This includes species such as lobsters and crabs, which are commonly eaten in restaurants. The closure of the restaurant and hospitality sector in the UK and abroad during periods of 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19 adversely affected the

demersal and shellfish sector. In 2022, the higher fuel costs in response to the war in Ukraine also impacted these sectors, with the larger trawl and dredge vessels affected more than the less fuel intensive creel vessels.

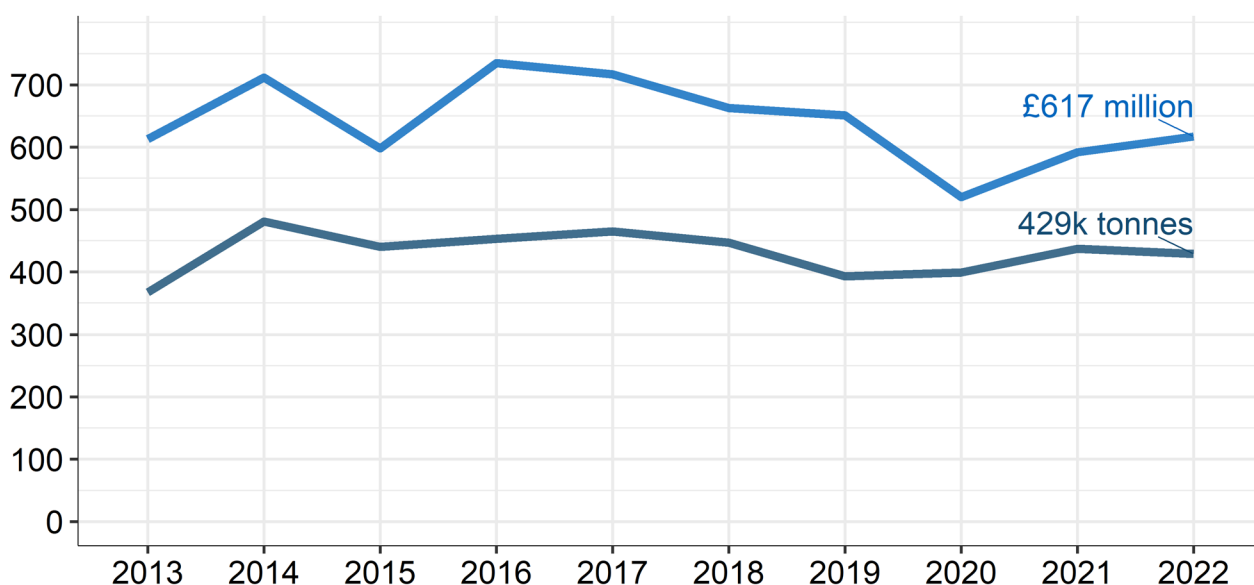
Demersal fish are those which live close to the seabed such as cod, haddock and monkfish. Reduction of quota allocation to Scotland for species such as cod has also negatively impacted the demersal sector.

The pelagic sector are species found mainly in shoals in midwater or near the surface of the sea such as herring and mackerel. This sector is seasonal and generally operates with larger vessels. It was largely unaffected by the impacts of Covid-19, increasing in tonnage and value from 2019. Annual changes in quota allocation for pelagic species have a big impact.

Scotland's commercial fishing industry comprises a significant proportion of the United Kingdom fishing industry. Landings by Scottish vessels accounted for 62 per cent of the value and 67 per cent of the tonnage of all landings by UK vessels in 2022 (Table 25a).

Chart 1. The real value of the fish landed by Scottish vessels has decreased from a high of £735 million in 2016, to a low of £520 million in 2020 due to the impacts of Covid-19. The value has since increased to £617 million in 2022.

Total tonnage and value (adjusted to 2022 prices) of all landings by Scottish vessels, 2013 to 2022.



Data source: Table 3.

As can be seen in Chart 1, the long term trend for the tonnage of the fish landed by Scottish vessels has been generally stable, at around 400 thousand tonnes, since 2015.

2.1 Key species landed

The four per cent increase in the real terms value of landings by Scottish vessels, to £617 million between 2021 and 2022, was driven by an increase in the value of demersal and shellfish species. The real terms value of demersal landings increased by nine per cent,

shellfish landings increased by five per cent and pelagic landings increased by one per cent compared to 2021.

The two per cent decrease in tonnage landed by Scottish vessels is attributed to an decrease in landings of shellfish and pelagic fish. Shellfish landings decreased by seven per cent by tonnage and pelagic landings decreased by three per cent. Demersal landings increased by six per cent.

Table 1. The real value of mackerel landings decreased by four per cent and tonnage decreased by six per cent between 2021 and 2022. The real value of Nephrops landings increased by 11 per cent but tonnage decreased by 14 per cent between 2021 and 2022.

Change in total tonnage and value of landings by Scottish vessels between 2021 and 2022.^{1,2,3}

Species	Tonnage 2022	Tonnage change from 2021 (percent)	Value (thousands of pounds) 2022	Value change from 2021 (percent)
Haddock	26,851	33	33,998	11
Monkfish	11,989	-5	35,078	-2
Cod	6,863	17	25,562	21
Whiting	8,879	-14	11,832	-20
Other demersal	28,240	-3	63,657	19
Total demersal	82,822	6	170,127	9
Mackerel	173,569	-6	213,306	-4
Herring	72,837	42	49,803	44
Other pelagic	47,005	-29	11,370	-26
Total pelagic	293,411	-3	274,479	1
Nephrops	19,302	-14	82,800	11
Scallops	16,675	-5	31,742	1
Edible crabs	7,670	-6	19,119	-1
Lobsters	1,176	-1	16,255	-14
Other shellfish	8,180	8	22,590	12
Total shellfish	53,003	-7	172,506	5
Total	429,235	-2	617,112	4

Mackerel remained the most valuable species with £213 million landed, accounting for 35 per cent of the total value of Scottish landings. The decrease in mackerel tonnage in 2022 is in line with a decrease in available quota. Quota is the share of the fish catch allowed to vessels. Scottish vessels' landings accounted for just over four fifths (81 per cent) of UK mackerel landings by tonnage and 87 per cent by value.

Scottish vessels commonly catch a wide variety of demersal species, including more than a dozen species with landings that are worth over £1 million annually (Table 8). Monkfish

¹ Values are based on 2022 prices and percentage changes reflect real changes after adjusting for inflation. The deflator applied can be found here: [GDP deflators at market prices, and money GDP June 2023 \(Quarterly National Accounts\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/gdp-deflators-at-market-prices-and-money-gdp-june-2023)

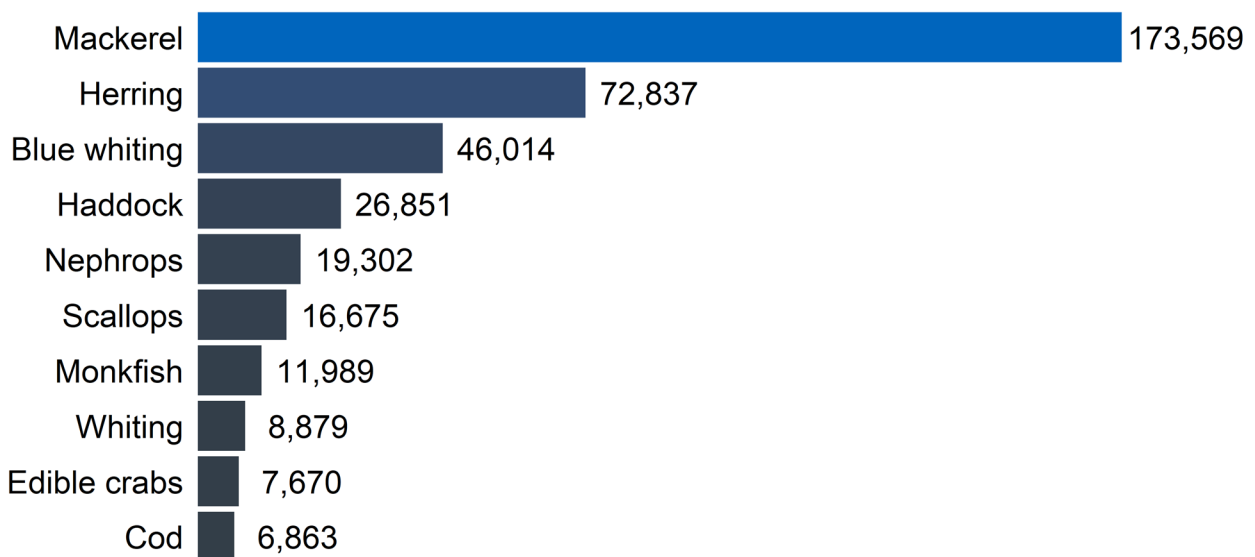
² Percentages are based on unrounded data and may differ from calculations using rounded data in tables.

³ Values may not sum to their respective totals due to rounding.

was the most valuable demersal species and represented six per cent of the total value of Scottish vessels' landings and 21 per cent of the value of demersal landings in 2022.

Chart 2. Mackerel is the most common fish species landed by Scottish vessels by weight. 174 thousand tonnes of mackerel were landed in 2022, more than double the next most common species by weight, herring.

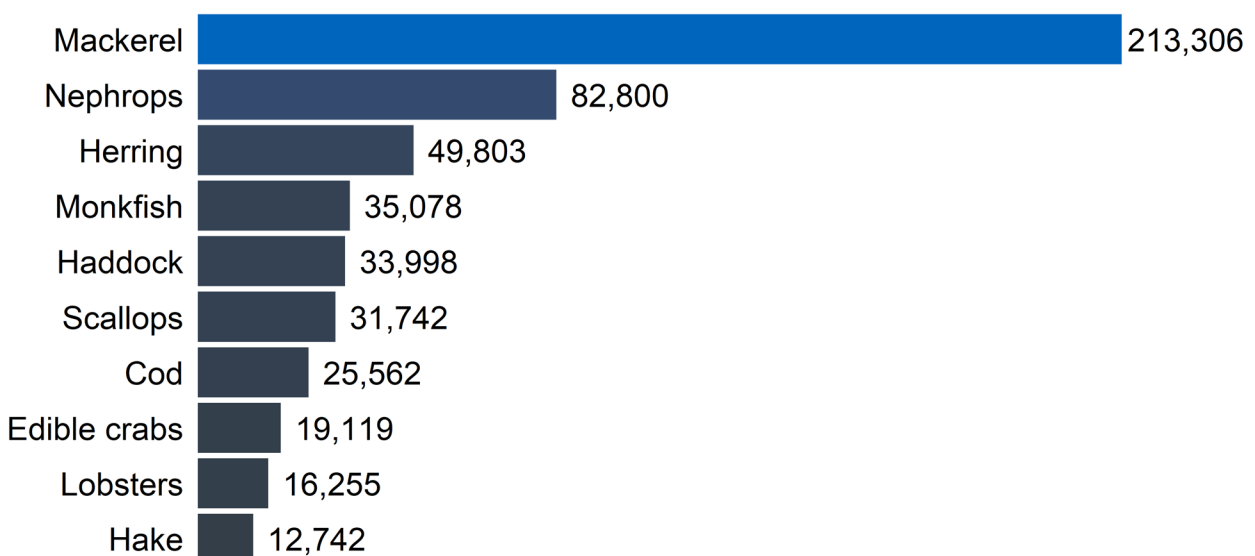
Scottish vessel's most commonly landed fish species by tonnes landed in the UK and abroad, 2022.



Data source: Table 8.

Chart 3. Mackerel is the most common fish species landed by Scottish vessels by value. £213 million of mackerel were landed in 2022, more than double the next most common species by value, Nephrops.

Scottish vessel's highest value landed fish species by thousands of pounds landed in the UK and abroad, 2022.



Data Source: Table 8.

Nephrops are the most valuable shellfish stock and the only shellfish species currently subject to quota. Scottish vessels fish for Nephrops by creeling and by trawling. Creeled Nephrops are often caught and exported live. Creeled Nephrops represent a smaller tonnage of landings, but attract an average price per tonne four times that of trawled Nephrops. Some trawled Nephrops are sold whole but the majority are sold as tails for turning into scampi. In 2022, 1,415 tonnes of creeled Nephrops were landed by Scottish vessels with a value of £16 million⁴. Eighteen thousand tonnes of trawled Nephrops were landed worth £67 million. These data are presented in Table 30c.

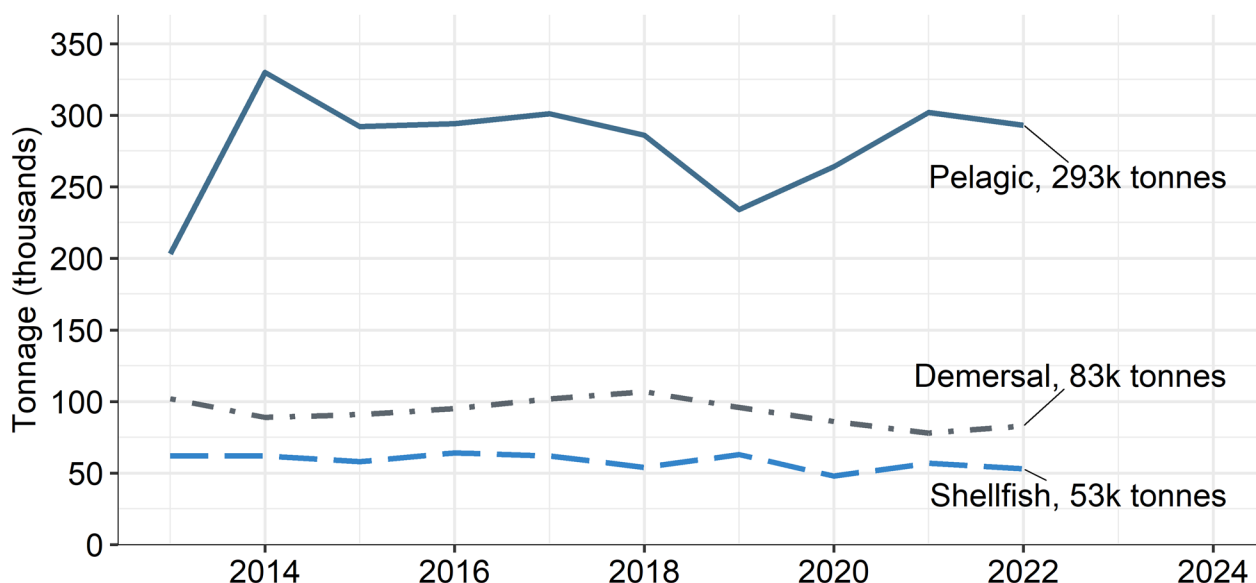
2.2 Long term sector trends

Over the past ten years 2013-2022, the tonnage of pelagic landings has increased by 45 per cent with real terms value increasing by 26 per cent. Pelagic landing tonnage is largely driven by the available quota (Tables 36a to 36d).

Compared to 2013, the tonnage of demersal landings fell by 19 per cent with real terms value decreasing by 14 per cent. Demersal landing tonnage is affected by available quotas, affecting some species, such as cod, more than others (Tables 36a to 36d). Over the period 2013 to 2022, the tonnage of shellfish landings fell by 15 per cent with real terms value decreasing by 12 per cent. It is uncertain whether the shellfish and demersal landings will return to 2019, pre-pandemic, levels in the near future.

Chart 4. Landings of pelagic species by Scottish vessels increased sharply from 203 tonnes in 2013 to 330 tonnes in 2014 before gradually decreasing to 234 tonnes in 2019. Pelagic landings then increased to 293 tonnes in 2022.

Tonnage of landings by Scottish vessels by species type, 2013 to 2022.

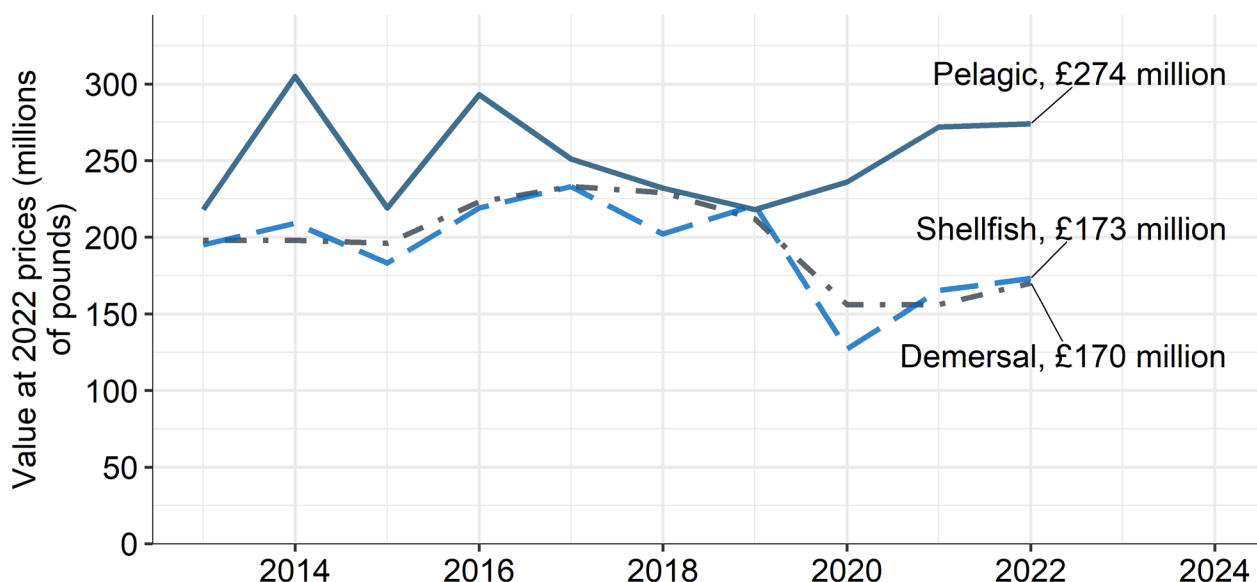


Data source: Table 3.

⁴ The values in Table 30c. Scottish vessels' landings by gear type are slightly lower than Table 8, because some Nephrops are also caught by demersal gear types. Other species may also be effected by this.

Chart 5. The real value of shellfish species landed by Scottish vessels increased from £195 million in 2013 to £233 million in 2017. The landed shellfish real value remained at similar levels until 2019 before decreasing sharply to £127 million in 2020. The real value of shellfish landings then increased to £173 million in 2022.

Value (adjusted to 2022 prices) of landings by Scottish vessels by species type, 2013 to 2022



Data source: Table 3.

2.3 Fish prices

Scottish vessels land a vast range of different species throughout the year and they all achieve different prices at auction. The price achieved will vary by species, individual market, supply, demand, seasonality and the condition of the fish. Table 2 shows the average price per tonne for a selection of species landed by Scottish vessels.

Mackerel is the highest value species for Scottish vessels yet has a much lower price per tonne than many other species. It is the vast tonnage of mackerel caught that leads to the value being so high.

Lobsters have a high price per tonne yet a fairly low value compared to other main species. This is due to seasonality, lobster is not in season during several months of the year resulting in a lower tonnage landed throughout the year compared to other species. They are also considered a luxury food and tend to be purchased mainly by the hospitality sector.

Table 2. There is great variation in the prices achieved across the different species. Lobsters have the high price, at £13,827 per tonne in 2022, whereas herring has a low price, at £684 per tonne in 2022.

Change in price per tonne of selected species landed by Scottish vessels between 2021 and 2022⁵⁶⁷

Species	Price per tonne 2022 (pounds)	Price per tonne 2021 at 2022 prices (pounds)	Price per tonne change from 2021 (percent)
Mackerel	1,229	1,197	3
Nephrops	4,290	3,315	29
Herring	684	670	2
Monkfish	2,926	2,821	4
Haddock	1,266	1,506	-16
Scallops	1,904	1,803	6
Cod	3,725	3,615	3
Edible crabs	2,493	2,367	5
Lobsters	13,827	16,002	-14
Hake	2,564	2,399	7

2.4 Total Allowable Catches quota and uptake

Total Allowable Catches (TAC) are limits set at annual international negotiations for individual fish stocks and represent the maximum of each fish stock that can be caught. Up until 2020, while the UK was still a member of the European Union (EU) the majority of stocks were managed and fished only by EU member states. Member states access to management and fishing of stocks were based on a number of factors, including historic track record. The TACs for these stocks were set by the European Commission through internal negotiations between EU member states with an interest and based on independent scientific advice from ICES. The remaining stocks were managed and shared with other Coastal States: Norway, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Russia, with TACs for these set at separate negotiations. The amounts corresponding to this share, known as quotas, are shown at the UK and at the Scottish Producers Organisations' (POs) level in tables 36a to 36d.

Uptake of key commercial quota stocks by all Scottish vessels by tonnage and value landed are presented in table 37. In general, Scottish POs had high quota uptake in 2022 for key demersal and pelagic species. Uptake of mackerel stocks in the North Sea was 86 per cent and uptake of mackerel stocks in the West of Scotland exceeded quota⁸.

For demersal stocks, uptake in the North Sea was generally high with cod quota uptake at 99 per cent and monkfish at 94 per cent. West of Scotland cod has a nil quota and is

⁵ Values are based on 2022 prices and percentage changes reflect real changes after adjusting for inflation. The deflator applied can be found here: [GDP deflators at market prices, and money GDP June 2023 \(Quarterly National Accounts\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/gdp-deflators-at-market-prices-and-money-gdp-june-2023)

⁶ Percentages are based on unrounded data and may differ from calculations using rounded data in tables.

⁷ Values may not sum to their respective totals due to rounding.

⁸ Landings can exceed quota if POs or vessels 'carry over' some quota from a previous year into the next year, within agreed limits. There is also an allowance so that a country can exceed up to ten per cent of its quota on a particular stock and the excess is deducted from the following year's quota allocation.

managed as a bycatch. The Scottish quota reduction for cod of 65 per cent between 2019 and 2022 led to an increased pace of quota uptake, reflecting the importance of this species to the domestic fleet.

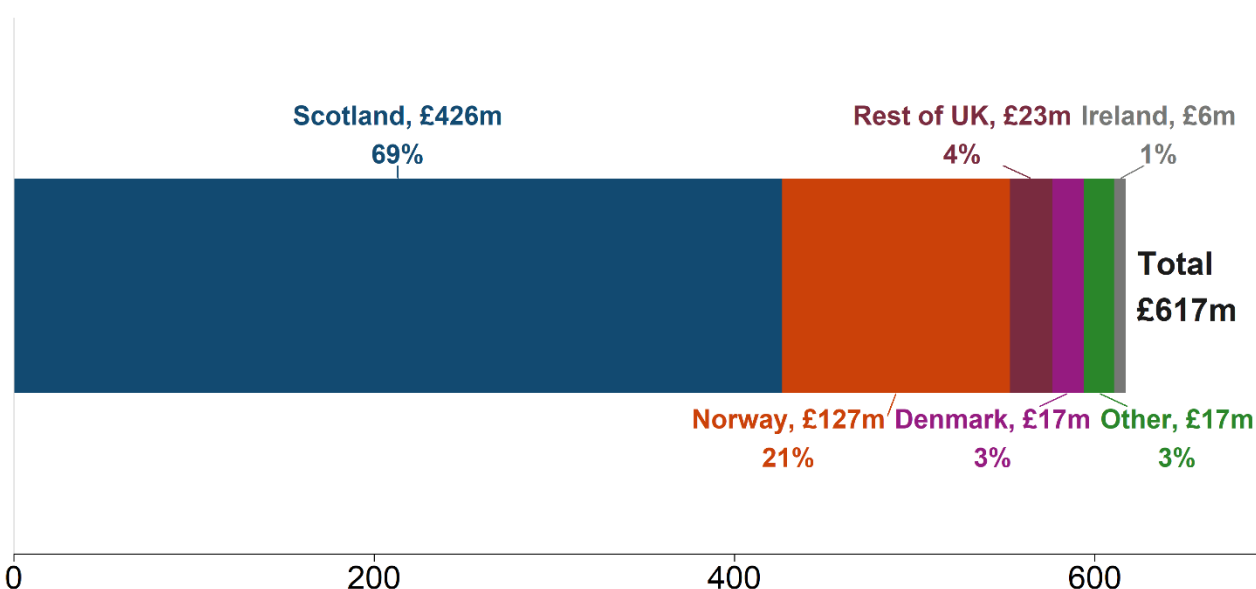
The only shellfish species subject to quota is Nephrops. In 2022, Scottish PO quota uptake for North Sea Nephrops was 81 per cent and for West Coast Nephrops it was 67 per cent. This is 10 percentage points down compared to 2021 for the North Sea and two percentage points up for the West Coast.

2.5 Where Scottish vessels land their fish

Scottish vessels land their catches into Scotland, the rest of the UK and several countries abroad. In 2022, Scottish vessels landed 162 thousand tonnes of sea fish and shellfish worth £167 million abroad.

Chart 6. Scottish vessels landed 69 per cent of their catch by value, worth £426 million in 2022, into Scotland. A further 21 per cent by value, worth £127 million in 2022, was landed into Norway.

Top countries Scottish vessels landed their catch into by value (millions of pounds), in 2022.



Data source: Table 4, Table 5, Table 8, Table 28.

Landings abroad accounted for 38 per cent of all landings by Scottish vessels by tonnage and 27 per cent by value. Of this, 87 per cent of the tonnage landed abroad was pelagic.

The main species landed abroad was mackerel, representing 68 per cent of the total value of fish landed abroad in 2022. There were 90 thousand tonnes of mackerel worth £113 million landed abroad, which is 52 per cent of the total tonnage and 53 per cent of the value of mackerel landed by Scottish vessels.

Norway is by far the largest destination for Scottish vessels' landings abroad, accounting for 21 per cent by value of all Scottish vessels' landings and 76 per cent by value of all landings abroad. In 2022, 81 per cent of the value of landings into Norway was for mackerel, amounting to 78 thousand tonnes with a value of £103 million.

2.6 Area of capture

Scottish vessels are most active in two main ICES areas⁹ : the Northern North Sea (ICES Area IVa) and the West Coast of Scotland (ICES Area VIa).

In 2022, 277 thousand tonnes of sea fish and shellfish with a value of £393 million were landed from the Northern North Sea (IVa), representing 65 per cent of the tonnage and 64 per cent of the value of all landings by Scottish vessels (Table 31).

Fourteen per cent of landings by Scottish vessels, by tonnage were caught in the West Coast of Scotland (VIa), providing 19 per cent of the total value of all Scottish landings. Area VII accounted for 11 per cent of the tonnage of all landings and six per cent of value.

3 Landings into Scotland

In 2022, 289 thousand tonnes of sea fish and shellfish with a value of £480 million were landed into Scotland. This represents a two per cent increase in tonnage and a four per cent increase in real terms value from 2021.

Pelagic species accounted for 50 per cent of the tonnage landed into Scotland whilst demersal species made up 36 per cent and shellfish species 14 per cent. By value, 41 per cent of landings into Scotland were demersal species, 31 per cent were shellfish and 28 per cent were pelagic species. The differences in shares by tonnage and value reflect the differences in average prices per tonne (for landings by Scottish vessels) across the species types: shellfish sell at relatively higher average prices per tonne, whilst pelagic species receive the lowest average prices per tonne (Table 26).

Figures 1 and 2 show landings by all vessels into the eighteen Scottish port districts. The top three districts in Scotland by total tonnage landed were Peterhead (east coast), Shetland (northern island) and Scrabster (north-east coast). Peterhead is the single largest fishing port in the UK by tonnage and value of landing. Information on landings into all the Scottish districts can be found in table 32.

⁹ ICES is the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

Figure 2. Peterhead on the east coast of Scotland had the largest tonnage of landings, at 155 thousand tonnes in 2022.

Tonnage landed into Scotland by all vessels by district in 2022

Tonnage landed, by district, during 2022

Scottish Government (2023). Contains information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0

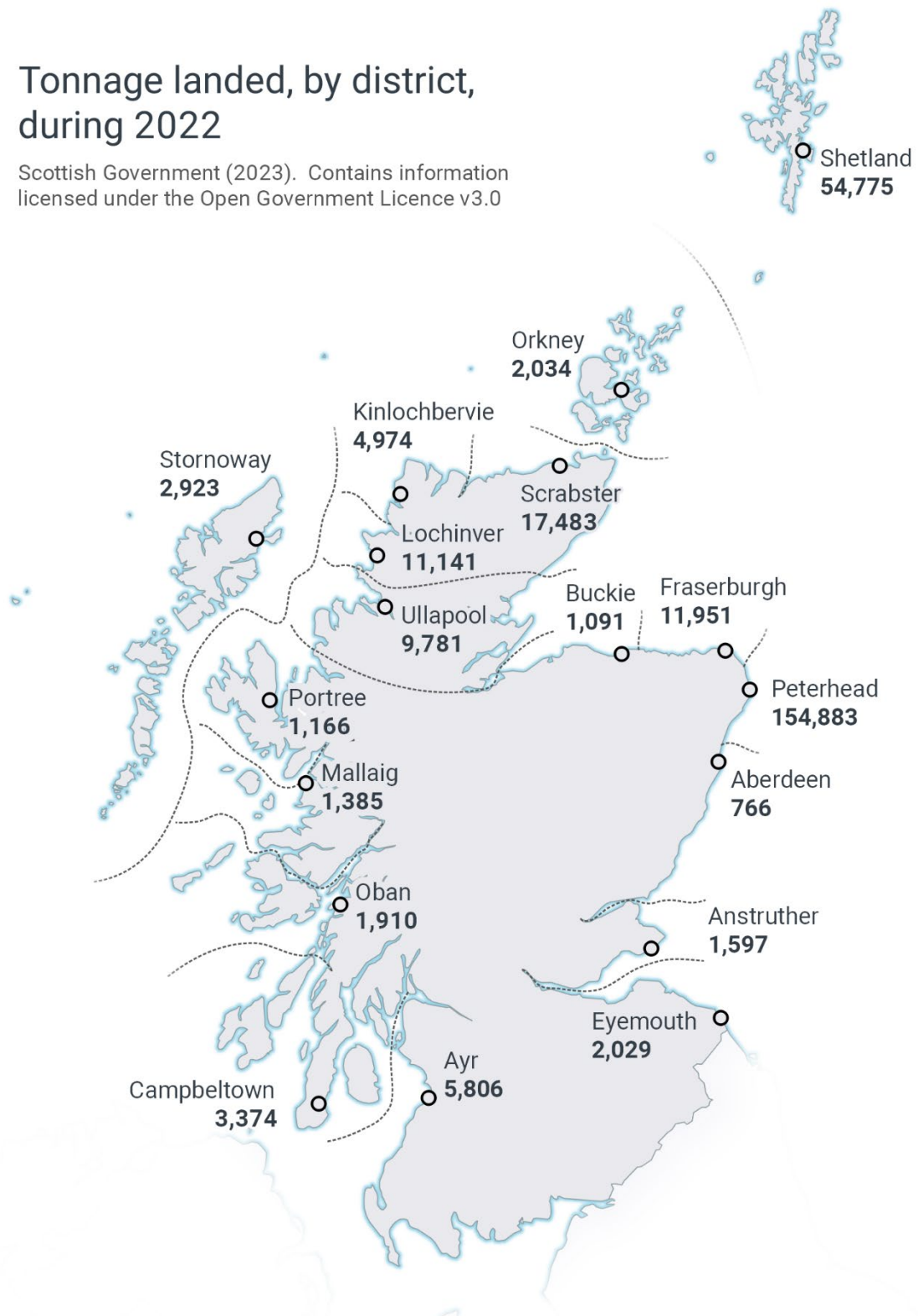
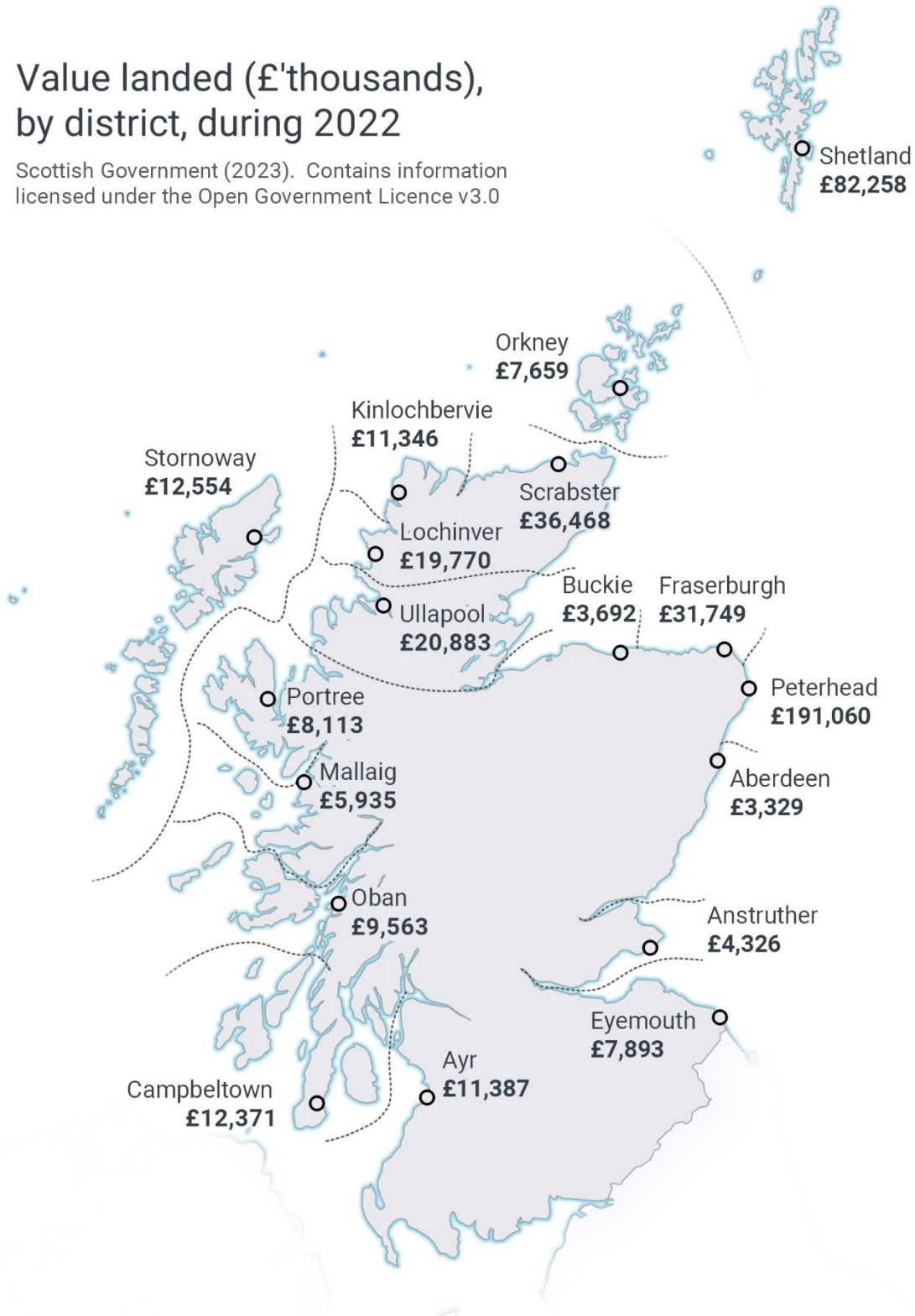


Figure 3. Peterhead on the east coast of Scotland had the largest value of landings, at £191 million in 2022.

Value (thousands of pounds) landed into Scotland by all vessels by district in 2022.

Value landed (£'thousands), by district, during 2022

Scottish Government (2023). Contains information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0



4 The Scottish fishing fleet

UK fishing vessels are required by law to be registered with the Registry of Shipping and Seamen (RSS), part of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. Fishing vessels must also have a licence that specifies conditions that must be adhered to. For the purpose of this publication, active vessels are those that are both registered and licensed as at 31st December of that year. Scottish-based vessels are those registered to a port in Scotland licensed and administered by a Scottish district. Each district contains a Marine Scotland Fishery Office which is responsible for administering the vessels and licences within that area. UK fishing vessel licences authorise the sea areas in which a vessel can fish and the species of fish that can be caught.

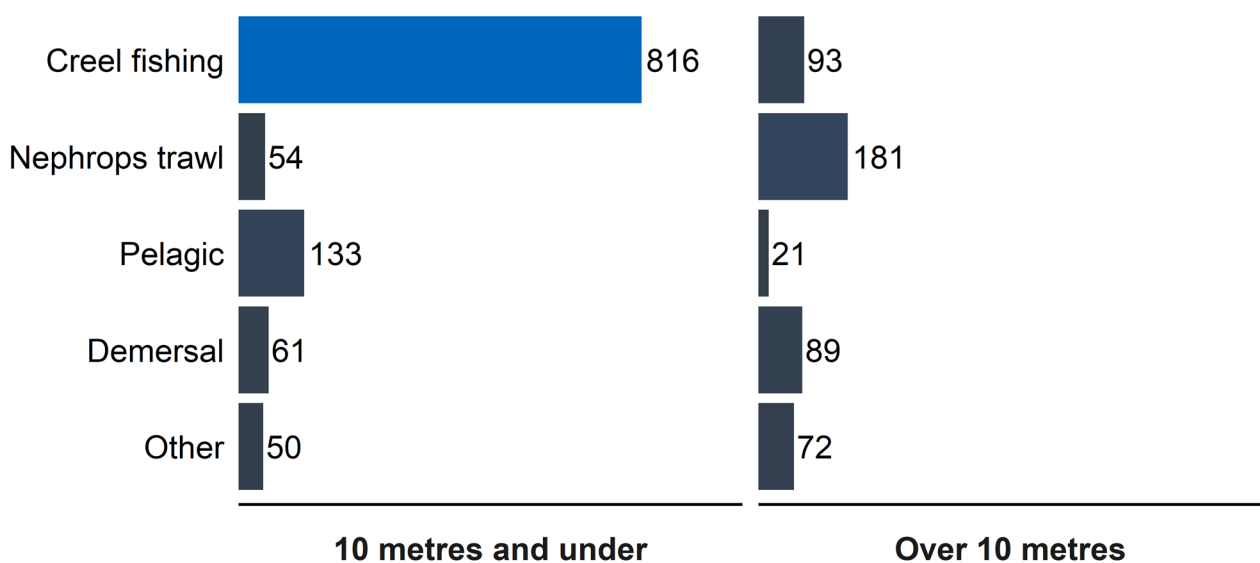
The capacity of fishing vessels in terms of gross registered tonnage and kilowatt engine power is also controlled through licences. With a finite amount of licence capacity in existence and no plans to make new capacity available, this restricts the total number and capacity of vessels in the UK fishing fleet. In order to licence new vessels, fishers must acquire existing licences from other previously licensed vessels. They also have the option of aggregating or disaggregating licence components to fit the requirements of the vessel in question.

4.1 The size of the Scottish fleet

The number of active Scottish based vessels has decreased to 2,038 vessels in 2022, a reduction of 44 vessels since 2021. The Scottish fleet is dominated by vessels that are ten metres and under in length with a total of 1,545 vessels falling into this category in 2022, accounting for 76 per cent of the Scottish fleet. There are 493 over 10 metre vessels.

Chart 7. Creel fishing was the main fishing method for most, 816 of the 10 metre and under vessels.

Number of active Scottish vessels by main fishing method and length, 2022.



Data source: Table 43.

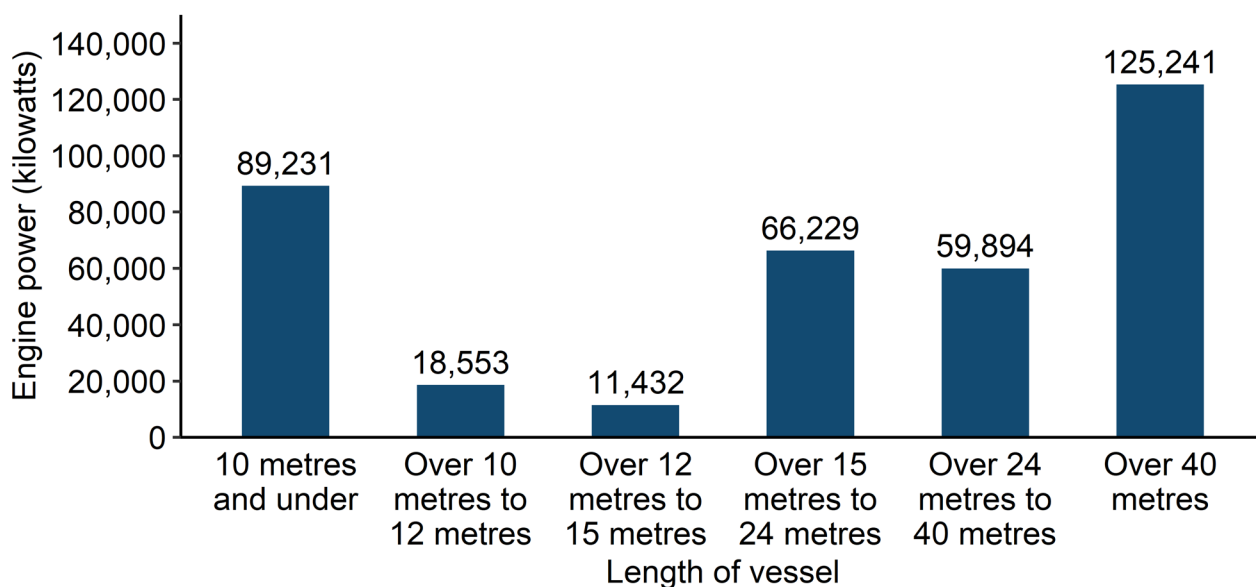
Chart 7 excludes active Scottish vessels that did not land any fish in 2022, these are recorded as non fishing in the tables. In 2022, there were 468 non fishing vessels, 431 were ten metres and under vessels.

The ten metre and under fleet mostly fish using creels (sometimes called pots), which are traps in the form of cages or baskets, typically baited and used to catch shellfish. Creels catch some shellfish species such as crabs, lobsters and Nephrops, but other species like scallops are predominantly caught through dredging. Nephrops is also caught through trawling. In 2022, 53 per cent of the 1,545 ten metre and under vessels were fishing mainly using creels.

Of the 493 over ten metre vessels, 70 per cent (346 vessels) mainly targeted shellfish, whilst 89 vessels (11 per cent) mainly targeted demersal species. Only 21 vessels mainly targeted pelagic species, with all 21 being trawlers. Creel fishing vessels and Nephrops trawlers form the majority of the over ten metre shellfish group, whilst trawlers dominate the demersal group (Table 41). Compared to 2013, the ten metre and under fleet has increased by 119 vessels (8 per cent) while the over ten metre fleet has decreased by 99 vessels (17 per cent).

Chart 8. The two vessel length categories with the largest total engine power in 2022 were the 10 metres and under vessels and the over 40 metre vessels.

Engine power (kilowatts) of Scottish vessels by length category, 2022.



Data source: Table 39c.

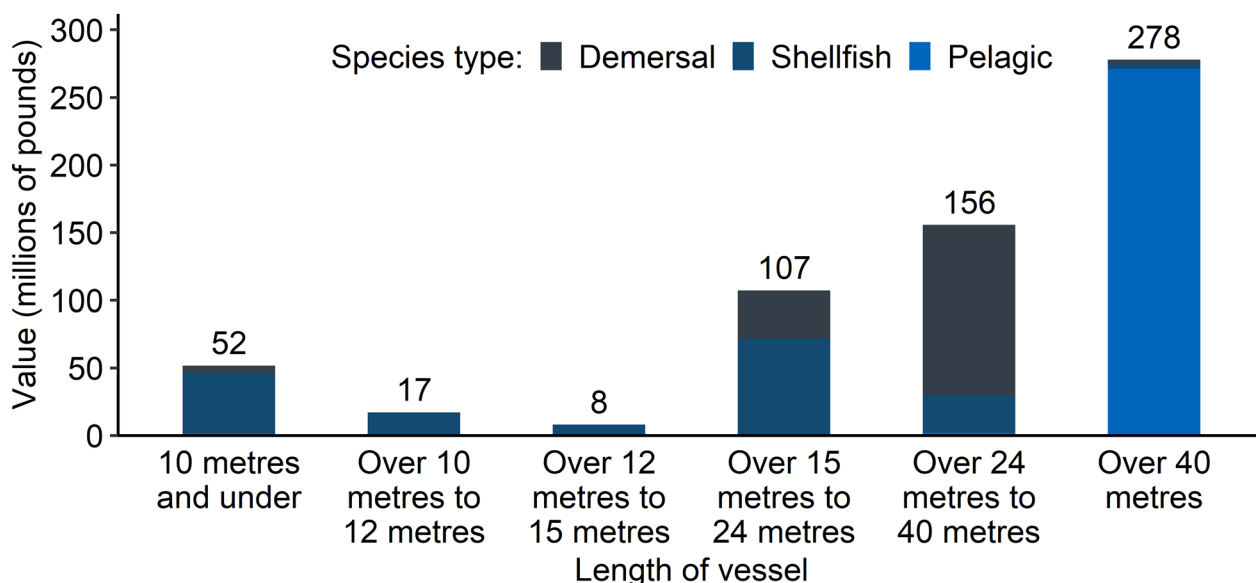
The total engine power of the Scottish fleet has remained broadly consistent at 371 thousand kW. The average power for the over 10 metre fleet as a whole was 571 kW per vessel compared to 58 kW per vessel for the 10 metres and under vessels.

4.2 The performance of the Scottish fishing fleet

In 2022, Scottish fishing vessels landed 429 thousand tonnes of sea fish and shellfish with a gross value of £617 million. Chart 9 shows the total value achieved by each length category as well as the split between demersal, pelagic and shellfish species landed.

Chart 9. The over 40 metre vessel length category had the highest value of landings. These vessels landed in total £278 million in 2022 with 98 per cent being pelagic species.

Value of fish and shellfish landed by Scottish vessels by length category, 2022.



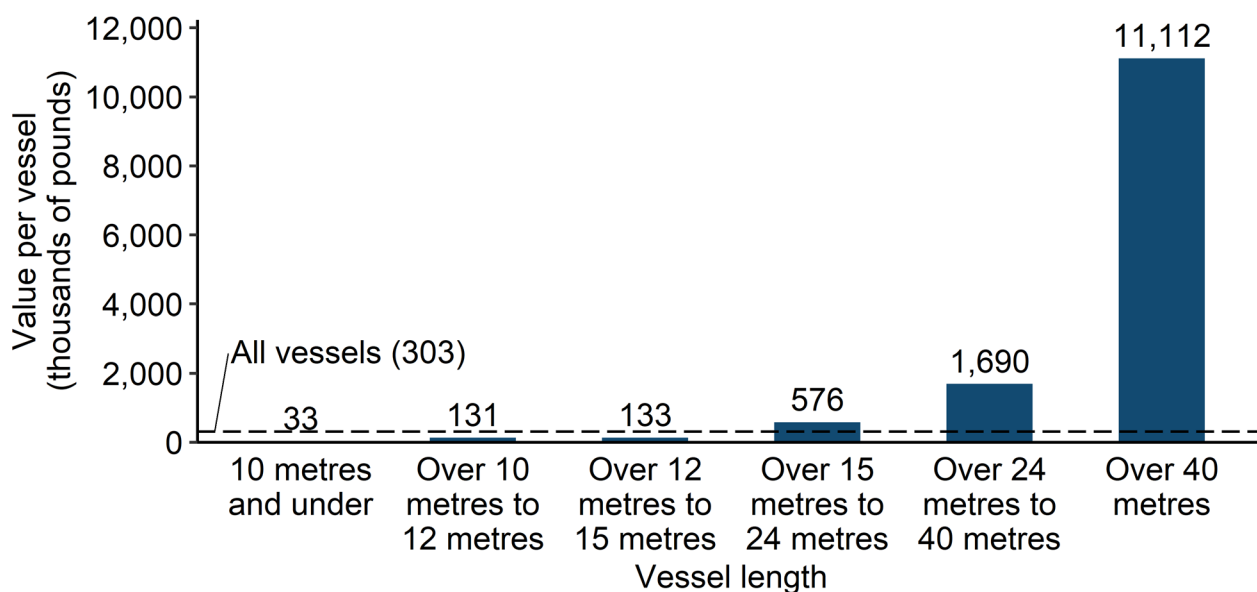
Data source: Table 29.

The over 40 metre vessels are the large pelagic vessels which land the majority of the mackerel, Scotland's most valuable species. The over 15 metre to 40 metre vessels catch a mix of different species whilst the 10 metre and under vessels mostly land shellfish. In 2022, the 10 metre and under Scottish vessels landed £52 million worth of fish and shellfish with 87 per cent being shellfish.

The 10 metres and under vessels landed below average, landing an average of just £33 thousand per vessel despite being the 4th most valuable length category. This is due to the fleet being made up of a large number of vessels which are restricted in the amount they can catch due to their size.

Chart 10. The over 40 metre Scottish vessels landed the highest value of fish and shellfish per vessel, landing an average of £11 million per vessel in 2022. This is well above the average of all vessels which was £303 thousand per vessel.

Average value landed per Scottish vessel (in thousands of pounds) by length category, 2022



Data source: Tables 29 and 38a.

5 Employment

In 2022, 4,117 fishers were working on Scottish vessels, representing 0.2 per cent of the total Scottish labour force¹⁰. The number of fishers working on Scottish vessels fell by three per cent (down 124 fishers) between 2021 and 2022 (Table 44 and Chart 11).

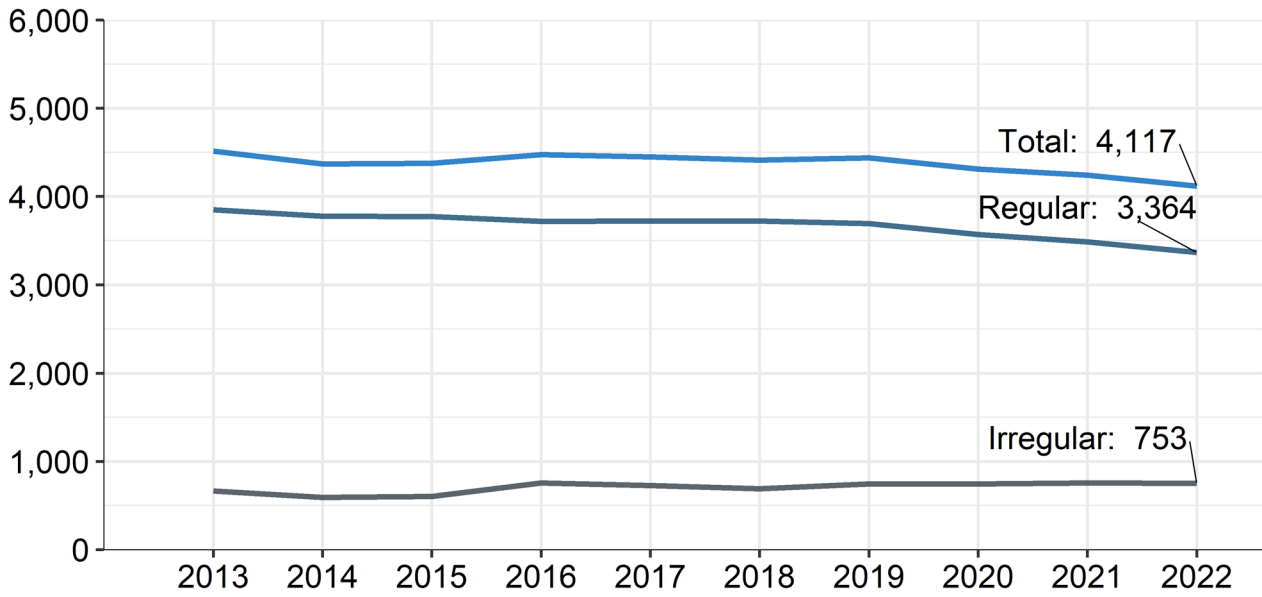
Although employment in the fishing fleet is a small percentage of total employment in Scotland, employment in fishing accounts for a higher percentage of employment in island communities (Shetland five per cent, Orkney two per cent, Na h-Eileanan Siar two per cent) and in Argyll and Bute (one per cent) (Table 46).

Fraserburgh is the district with the largest number of fishers (760) accounting for 18 per cent of the total in 2022. It is also the district with the largest number of fishers who work regularly, with 664 regularly employed fishers. Shetland had the most irregular fishers (188), accounting for 25 per cent of the total fishers in this category.

¹⁰ Figures for the Scottish labour force come from the Annual Population Survey 2022 by ONS.

Chart 11. Since 2013, employment on Scottish fishing vessels has fallen by nine per cent. There was a 13 per cent decrease in regular employment whilst irregular employment increased by 13 per cent since 2013.

Number of fishers working on Scottish vessels, 2013 to 2022.



Data source: Table 44.

Supplementary Tables

The following supplementary tables are available alongside this publication in Excel format. These can be downloaded here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-sea-fisheries-statistics-2022/documents/>

- Table 1: Change in total tonnage and value in real terms of landings by Scottish vessels between 2021 and 2022.
- Table 2: Change in price per tonne in real terms of selected species landed by Scottish vessels between 2021 and 2022.
- Table 3: Landings by Scottish vessels in real terms by species type 2013 to 2022.

- Table 4: Tonnage and value of landings by Scottish vessels into Scotland by main species 2018 to 2022.
- Table 5: Tonnage and value of landings by Scottish vessels into the rest of the UK by main species 2018 to 2022.
- Table 6: Tonnage and value of landings by Scottish vessels into all of the UK by main species 2018 to 2022.
- Table 7: Tonnage and value of landings by Scottish vessels abroad by main species 2018 to 2022.
- Table 8: Tonnage and value of all landings by Scottish vessels anywhere by main species 2018 to 2022.

- Table 9: Tonnage and value of landings by rest of the UK vessels into Scotland by main species 2018 to 2022.
- Table 10: Tonnage and value of landings by rest of the UK vessels into the rest of the UK by main species 2018 to 2022.
- Table 11: Tonnage and value of landings by rest of the UK vessels into all of the UK by main species 2018 to 2022.
- Table 12: Tonnage and value of landings by rest of the UK vessels abroad by main species 2018 to 2022.
- Table 13: Tonnage and value of landings by rest of the UK vessels anywhere by main species 2018 to 2022.

- Table 14: Tonnage and value of landings by all UK vessels into Scotland by main species 2018 to 2022.
- Table 15: Tonnage and value of landings by all UK vessels into the rest of the UK by main species 2018 to 2022.
- Table 16: Tonnage and value of landings by all UK vessels into all of the UK by main species 2018 to 2022.
- Table 17: Tonnage and value of landings by all UK vessels abroad by main species 2018 to 2022.
- Table 18: Tonnage and value of landings by all UK vessels anywhere by main species 2018 to 2022.

- Table 19: Tonnage and value of landings by foreign vessels into Scotland by main species 2018 to 2022.
- Table 20: Tonnage and value of landings by foreign vessels into the rest of the UK by main species 2018 to 2022.
- Table 21: Tonnage and value of landings by foreign vessels into all of the UK by main species 2018 to 2022.

- Table 22: Tonnage and value of landings by all vessels into Scotland by main species 2018 to 2022.
- Table 23: Tonnage and value of landings by all vessels into the rest of the UK by main species 2018 to 2022.
- Table 24: Tonnage and value of landings by all vessels into all of the UK by main species 2018 to 2022.
- Table 25a: Landings by Scottish vessels anywhere as a percentage of landings by all UK vessels, by species type 2018 to 2022.
- Table 25b: Landings by Scottish vessels into Scotland as a percentage of landings by all Scottish vessels, by species type 2018 to 2022.
- Table 25c: Landings by Scottish vessels into the rest of the UK as a percentage of all landings by Scottish vessels, by species type 2018 to 2022.
- Table 25d: Landings by Scottish vessels into the whole of the UK as a percentage of all landings by Scottish vessels, by species type 2018 to 2022.
- Table 25e: Landings by Scottish vessels abroad as a percentage of all landings by Scottish vessels, by species type 2018 to 2022.
- Table 25f: Landings by all vessels into Scotland as a percentage of all landings into the UK, by species type 2018 to 2022.
- Table 25g: Landings into Scotland by Scottish vessels as a percentage of all landings into Scotland, by species type 2018 to 2022.
- Table 25h: Landings into Scotland by rest of UK vessels as a percentage of all landings into Scotland, by species type 2018 to 2022.
- Table 25i: Landings into Scotland by all UK vessels as a percentage of all landings into Scotland, by species type 2018 to 2022.
- Table 25j: Landings into Scotland by foreign vessels as a percentage of all landings into Scotland, by species type 2018 to 2022.
- Table 26: Value and price per tonne in real terms of the main species landed by Scottish vessels 2018 to 2022.
- Table 27: Number of voyages and tonnage and value of landings by Scottish vessels by landing district 2018 to 2022.
- Table 28: Tonnage and value of landings by Scottish vessels abroad by country of landing and species type 2018 to 2022.
- Table 29: Tonnage and value of landings by Scottish vessels by main species and vessel length group 2022.
- Table 30a: Tonnage and value of landings by Scottish vessels anywhere by Demersal gear type by main species 2022.
- Table 30b: Tonnage and value of landings by Scottish vessels anywhere by Pelagic gear type by main species 2022.
- Table 30c: Tonnage and value of landings by Scottish vessels anywhere by Shellfish gear type by main species 2022.
- Table 31: Tonnage and value of all landings by Scottish vessels by ICES area and main species 2022.
- Table 32: Tonnage and value of all landings into Scotland by district and main species 2018 to 2022.
- Table 33: Tonnage and value of all landings into Scottish local authorities 2018 to 2022.
- Table 34: Tonnage and value of all landings into Scotland by main species 2018 to 2022.

- Table 35: Tonnage and value of landings into Scotland by foreign vessels by species type by nationality 2018 to 2022.
- Table 36a: Total allowable catches, UK and Scottish quota and uptake for the North Sea 2018 to 2022.
- Table 36b: Total allowable catches, UK and Scottish quota and uptake for the West of Scotland 2018 to 2022.
- Table 36c: Total allowable catches, UK and Scottish quota and uptake for Area VII 2018 to 2022.
- Table 36d: Total allowable catches, UK and Scottish quota and uptake for Other areas 2018 to 2022.
- Table 37: Tonnage and value of landings of key commercial stocks by Scottish vessels 2018 to 2022.
- Table 38a: Number of active Scottish registered vessels by length group as at 31st December 2013 to 2022.
- Table 38b: Tonnage of active Scottish registered vessels by length group as at 31st December 2013 to 2022.
- Table 38c: Engine power (kilowatts) of active Scottish registered vessels by length group as at 31st December 2013 to 2022.
- Table 39a: Number of active Scottish registered vessels by length group and age group as at 31st December 2022.
- Table 39b: Tonnage of active Scottish registered vessels by length group and age group as at 31st December 2022.
- Table 39c: Engine power of active Scottish registered vessels by length group and age group as at 31st December 2022.
- Table 40: Number of active Scottish registered vessels by district and length group as at 31st December 2022.
- Table 41: Number of active Scottish registered vessels by main fishing method as at 31st December 2018 to 2022.
- Table 42: Number of active Scottish registered vessels by district and main fishing method as at 31st December 2022.
- Table 43: Number of active Scottish registered vessels by main fishing method and length group as at 31st December 2022.
- Table 44: Number of fishers employed on Scottish registered vessels 2013 to 2022.
- Table 45: Number of fishers employed on Scottish registered vessels by district 2022.
- Table 46: Number of fishers employed on Scottish registered vessels by local authority 2022.

Data and Methodology

All tables presented here and in previous publications are available for download from the Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics publications section of the Scottish Government website¹¹.

¹¹ Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics Publications: [Sea fisheries statistics - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Spatial information on fish and shellfish caught by Scottish vessels is available on [Marine Scotland interactive maps](#) and [Marine Scotland Data Publications](#). Links to map layers and data are available from the [fishing activity data and statistics page](#). This also includes [experimental gridded data from Scottish under-12m vessels](#) based on daily latitude and longitude positions provided by fishers.

Additional landings which were previously excluded, due to missing or incorrect information on the source database, have been included in this publication. The value of landings with missing sales information has also been calculated based on average prices. These changes do not affect the overall trends but results in large changes to the tonnage and value of mackerel landings in Norway in 2018 and the value of mackerel landings into Denmark in 2020 (Table 7, Table 17, Table 27, Table 28).

More information about the data and methodology used to produce the Scottish sea fisheries statistics publication is provided in a stand-alone technical manual. This also includes a glossary of terms. The technical manual can be found here: [Scottish sea fisheries statistics: technical manual - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Tell us what you think

We are always interested to hear from our users about how our statistics are used, and how they can be improved.

Feedback survey

We'd appreciate it if you would complete our short [feedback survey](#) on this publication.

Enquiries

For enquiries about this publication please contact:

Venetia Haynes,

Marine Analytical Unit,

e-mail: MarineAnalyticalUnit@gov.scot

For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

Office of the Chief Statistician

e-mail: statistics.enquiries@gov.scot

Join our mailing list

If you would like to receive notification about statistical publications, or find out about consultations on our statistics please join the [ScotStat mailing list](#).

Future publications

Details of future publications can be found on our [forthcoming publications](#) page.



© Crown copyright 2023



This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3 or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at www.gov.scot

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-83521-363-6 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, September 2023

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA
PPDAS1338422 (09/23)

W W W . g o v . s c o t