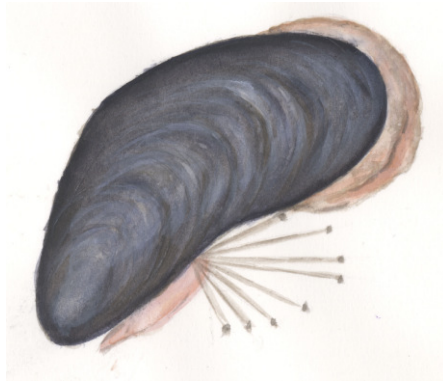


Mussel

(wild and farmed)



Biology facts

Depth Range	benthic
Max Age	24 years (Blue Shell)
Max Size	10 cm (Blue Shell) 15 cm (Mediterranean Shell)
Prey	Mussels feed by filtering particulate organic matter from the water column.
Other	Blue Shell is widely distributed in the boreal regions of the northern hemisphere, from the western border of the Kara Sea, south to the Mediterranean, North Carolina, California and Japan; it is absent from the high Arctic. Mediterranean Shell is distributed in the Mediterranean Sea

Fishery Facts

Latin Name	<i>Mytilus edulis</i> (Blue Shell) <i>Mytilus chilensis</i> (Chilean Blue Mussel) <i>Mytilus galloprovincialis</i> (Mediterranean Mussel)
Fishing Method	Netherlands and Germany Wadden Sea (North sea) Bottom culture (Blue Shell). Blue Shells and Mediterranean Mussels are farmed in bottom cultures. Desmussels are dredged from the seabed. Chilean Blue Mussels are farmed in semi-intensive systems in suspended systems - rafts and long lines.
Annual catch	Wild caught: 21 964 t (FAO 1999); Farm Production: 446 000 t (FAO 2002) (Blue Shell). Farm Production: 77 000 t (FAO 2004) (Chilean Blue Mussel) 819 t (FAO 1999) (Mediterranean Mussel)

Spendenkonto

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Main fishing nations Main farm production: Netherlands 100 800 and Germany 37 912 t (EU 1999) (Blue Shell)
 Main fishing nations: Denmark (96 215 t) and Canada (11 565 t) (FAO 1999) (Blue Shell)
 Italy (37 876 t) and Greece (15 860 t) (FAO 1999), Main farm production: China more than 663 000 t (mostly Mediterrean Mussel) (2002)

Main Concerns

- **Two main problems for the mussel industry can be linked closely to its future development: seed shortages and biotoxins that lead to long-term industry closures (Blue Shell)**
- **Dredging for seed mussels in the Wadden Sea (now Nature 2000 areas) destroyed most intertidal mussel beds until the 1990s, when restrictions were developed by authorities. The dredging of mussels can have strong negative impacts, for instance destroying the fauna and flora associated with the mussels bed or leading to a resuspension of bottom sediment which may cause oxygen depletion in parts of the fishery zones (Saier, Buschbaum and Reise 2001).**
- **The mussel fishery also lead to a lack of food for birds. In the Danish Wadden Sea a permit for mussel fishery was revoked because of lack of mussels for migratory birds (Common Wadden Sea Secretariat 2008).**
- **Spat for mussel cultivation of the Chilean Blue Mussel is collected from wild mussels (Mc Nevin & Associates 2006)**
- **There are a few incidences of disease outbreaks from Blue Mussel Farms.**

Main Sources

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/governance/consultations/consultation100507_background_en.pdf

http://www.fao.org/fishery/culturedspecies/Mytilus_edulis/en

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<http://www.globefish.org/index.php?id=4408>

http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/cr_seafoodwatch/content/media/MBA_SeafoodWatch_FarmedMussels.pdf

http://www.pedz.uni-mannheim.de/daten/edz-bn/gdf/01/pccp_de.pdf

<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/news/symposia/mussel%202008/bluemussels.html>

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