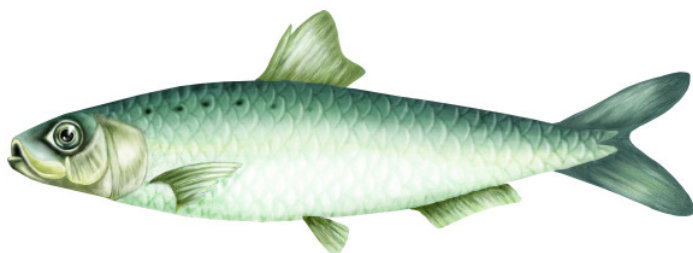


European Pilchard/Sardine



Biology facts

Depth Range	pelagic, 10-100 m
Max Age	15 years
Maturity Age	1-2 years
Max Size	27.5 cm
Prey	planktonic crustaceans, also larger organisms
Other	The European Pilchard or Sardine is found in the Northeast Atlantic: in the North Sea southward to Senegal, in the western Mediterranean, Adriatic, Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea. Sardine is an open water fish that forms schools.(Fishbase)

Fishery Facts

Latin Name	<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>
Fishing Method	purse seines, lightfishing, ring nets, drift gillnets, beach seines, pelagic trawls and bottom trawler at the french mediterranean coast (FAO).
Annual catch	901 427 t (FAO 1999), 944 012 t (FAO 2006)
Main fishing nations	Morocco 429 732 t and Spain 128 231 t (FAO 1999)
Certification	not certified

Important Facts

- There are few concerns with sardine fisheries with regard to stocks or fishing methods, aside from the lack of management.
- Over-fishing is a concern because stocks of Sardine in many areas are low. In the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Seas around the Atlantic coasts of Spain and Portugal, the abundance of Sardine continues to be low when compared to the mid-1980s (ICES 2005).

Spendenkonto

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- **Sardine in Iberian waters has been found to be important prey for several species of dolphin (ICES 2005). Declining stocks therefore are a serious concern.**
- **Stocks of sardine in the Adriatic have shown a persistent decline from 1975 to 2003 (FAO 2005). According to FAO, the North and Central sardine stocks of Morocco in 2005 were fully exploited; the Aegean Sea stock in 2004 was fully exploited.**
- **Other stocks are healthy and fishing pressure lower than in recent times.**
- **French trawlers in Northeast Atlantic appears to have an unusually high bycatch for a pelagic fishery.**

Main Sources

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