



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***More fish caught***

In 1998 550 million kg more fish was landed in Dutch fishing harbours by the European fishing industry than in 1997: a rise of 2%. Three-quarters of the unloaded fish was deep-frozen. The amount of plaice caught fell by 12%.

## ***Less plaice***

In terms of money value, flatfish are important for the Dutch fishing industry. In 1998 44 million kg of flatfish were landed, 12% less than in 1997. The amount of sole caught was 48% higher than in 1997, a total 17 million kg. In addition 2 million kg of turbot and 21 million kg of cod were caught. Just over one third of this amount was landed by non-Dutch fishing vessels.

## ***Deep-freezing***

Herring and Mackerel are suitable for freezing on board. Most of the fish landed in deep-frozen form is mackerel: just over 190 million kg in 1998, 16% down on the previous year. Deep-frozen herring rose to 125 million kg in 1998 after a sharp fall in 1997.

Compared with 1994 there has been a substantial shift towards freezing fish on board instead bringing it in fresh: in 1998 one quarter less fresh fish was landed, while deep-frozen fish was up 12%.

## ***Dutch-shrimp prices up***

Shrimp fishers had to contend with lower prices in 1997, but in 1998 prices were back at their level of 1994-1996. Dutch shrimps were sold for an average 5.95 guilders per kg last year. Sole prices were 25% down (16.85 guilders per kg) after a strong rise in 1997. Wholesalers paid 4.27 guilders for a kilo of plaice and 4.21 guilders for a kilo of cod.

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