

# 2021

## Sector Sustainability Update

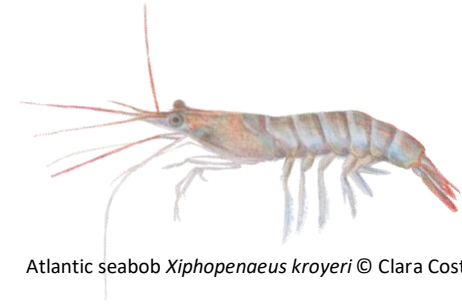


# SMALL SHRIMP

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## 2021 Sector Sustainability Update



Atlantic seabob *Xiphopenaeus kroyeri* © Clara Costa D'Elia

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### KEYWORDS

Target 75, certification, sustainability, seafood sectors, MSC, fishery improvement projects (FIPs), ASMI RFM

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# SUMMARY

## Production and trade

- **Small shrimp is a relatively small sector, with recent average annual production between 350,000 and 500,000 tonnes.**
- After reaching a peak in the mid-2000s at around 550,000 tonnes, small shrimp production has been decreasing since.
- About two-thirds of small shrimp is caught by the industrial sector, namely by bottom and shrimp trawls.
- Greenland (26 percent), Canada (16 percent), and Russia (11 percent) are the main producing countries, accounting for more than half (53 percent) of small shrimp production. Nearly 90 percent of small shrimp is captured in the North Atlantic and Pacific oceans.
- Northern prawn (*Pandalus borealis*) is by far from the most important species in this sector, accounting for more than half (52 percent) of global small shrimp production.
- Europe, China, and Japan are currently the largest importers of small shrimp. With combined imports in 2019 of about USD 2.4 billion, these three markets accounted for more than two-thirds of global small shrimp imports in 2019.

## T75 status and current strategy priorities

- Currently, **more than 75 percent** of global small shrimp production is already considered **sustainable or improving**. Almost all of this is from sustainable production, which is estimated to represent 75 percent of the total sector and comes mostly from MSC-certified small shrimp fisheries in the North Atlantic Ocean.
- SFP commends the industry on these achievements and recommends that they focus on maintaining this status and expanding to other fisheries.

## DISCLAIMER

This report was prepared with information from multiple sources, accessed in late September 2021. The report is not intended to be a comprehensive review of the sector, but rather a summary of progress against the Target 75 initiative, with some selected key highlights and improvement needs for the sector. The trade analysis is based on FAO bilateral trade data, which may not fully depict the full trade flows from the first exporter to the last end market of certain commodities. For more detailed information on seafood production, trade, or the status and attributes of particular certifications and improvement projects, the original and other more comprehensive sources should be consulted.

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Common shrimp fishing vessel in the North Sea © [RaBoe, Wikimedia](#)

# THE TARGET 75 INITIATIVE

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) applies a sectoral approach to its mission of making actionable information available to the supply chain, in order to leverage market forces to achieve improvements in fisheries. Seafood sectors may be defined in terms of the shared biological characteristics of harvested species, as well as their role in defined markets.

**In 2017, SFP launched the Target 75 (T75) initiative**, as a dedicated and concrete benchmark on the way to our ultimate goal of 100-percent sustainable seafood. **T75 aims to ensure that 75 percent of seafood (by volume) in 13 key sectors is either sustainable or making regular, verifiable improvements.** Together, these T75 sectors cover most of the main types of seafood consumed in North America and Europe, and a significant portion of what is consumed in Japan and Oceania.



# 1

## SMALL SHRIMP SECTOR

This sector comprises all shrimp/prawns that meet the criteria to be considered small shrimp. The sector consists primarily of **wild coldwater shrimp, often referred to as “salad” or “popcorn” shrimp.** This sector also includes small warmwater shrimp, such as seabobs, and a few additional small shrimp species, as their market usage is more similar to coldwater shrimp than warmwater shrimp.

Most small shrimp are sold prepared, preserved, or frozen, and are exported to the European and Asian (mostly China and Japan) markets.

More information on the definition and scope of this and other Target 75 sectors is available [here](#).



Northern shrimp on shrimp boat © NOAA FishWatch

## 2 SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

This report provides a quick summary update on progress so far for the [small shrimp sector](#) against the 75-percent goal, in terms of volume of production that is already considered as either sustainable or improving. The update also includes highlights on which sources of production had the most relevant changes, as well as the most recent trends in production and trade.

For the purposes of this analysis, we define a fishery as “sustainable” if it is Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)-certified or green-listed in SFP’s [Metrics](#) tool. We define a fishery as “improving” if it is certified by one of the following programs: MarinTrust, ASMI RFM, Iceland Responsible Fisheries, Fair Trade USA; if it is under full assessment in the MSC program; or if it is in a fishery improvement project (FIP) that is making good progress (i.e., with a progress rating of A, B, or C, or formed within the last 12 months but still unrated), using SFP’s [FIP Evaluation Tool](#).

Data on production refers to 2019 production and is from the [FAO FishstatJ](#) database. Status in terms of certifications and fishery, and FIPs refers to September 2021.



### 3 PRODUCTION

Small shrimp is a relatively small sector, with recent average annual production between 350,000 and 500,000 tonnes, virtually all from wild capture (FAO, 2021a). After reaching a peak in the mid-2000s, at around 550,000 tonnes, small shrimp production has been decreasing since (Figure 1) (FAO, 2021a). About two thirds of small shrimp is caught by the industrial sector, namely by bottom and shrimp trawls. In the artisanal sector, the majority of small shrimp is caught by small-scale seine and gillnets (Pauly et al., 2020).

Greenland (26 percent), Canada (16 percent), and Russia (11 percent) are the main producing countries, accounting for more than half (53 percent) of small shrimp production. Nearly 90 percent of small shrimp is captured in the North Atlantic and Pacific oceans, more specifically in the NW Atlantic (159,000 t in 2019; 42 percent of total sector production), NE Atlantic (113,000 t; 30 percent), NW Pacific (35,000 t; 9 percent), and WC Atlantic (24,000 t; 6 percent) (Figure 2) (FAO, 2021a).

Northern prawn (*Pandalus borealis*) is by far from the most important species in this sector, accounting for more than half (52 percent) of global small shrimp production. Other important species are *Pandalus shrimps nei*, Atlantic seabob, Common shrimp, Natantian decapods nei, and Ocean shrimp, together accounting for an additional 43 percent of small shrimp landings (Appendix IA). Time series analysis reveals a steady decline of Northern prawn landings since 2004 and stable landings for the remaining top species, with a recent sharp increase for *Pandalus shrimps nei* (Appendix IB) (FAO, 2021a).

Figure 1 | Time series of small shrimp production (area) and annual exports (bars)

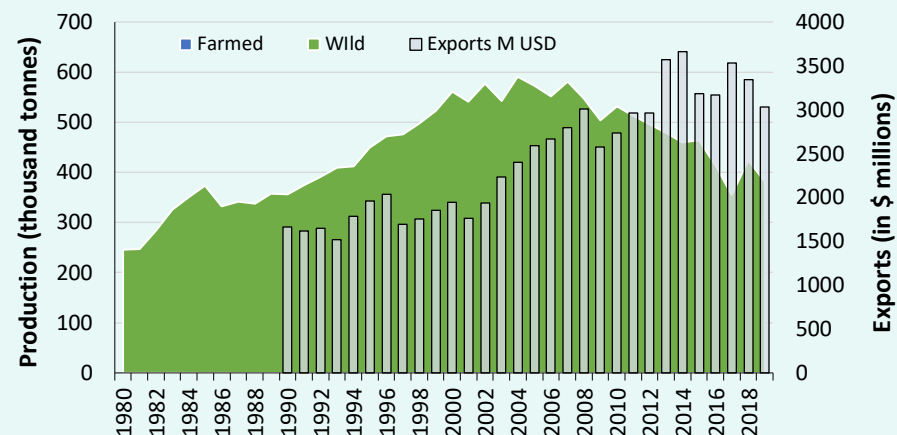
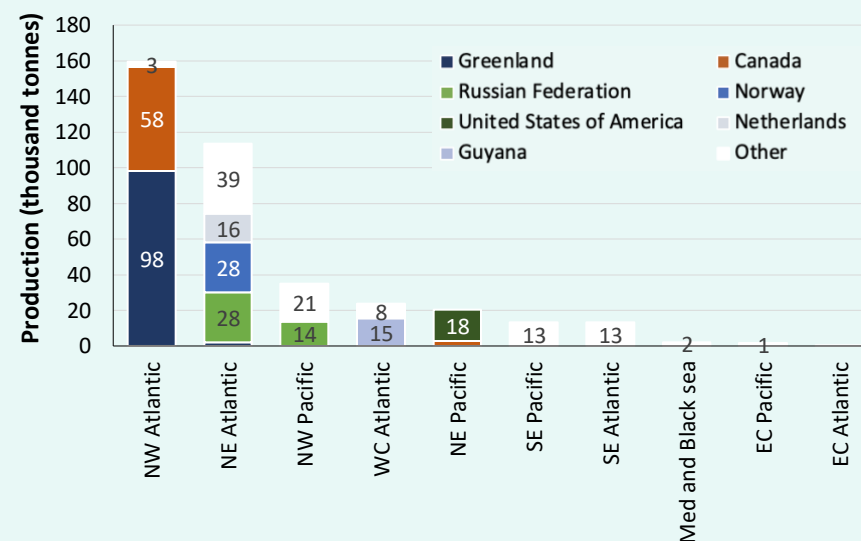
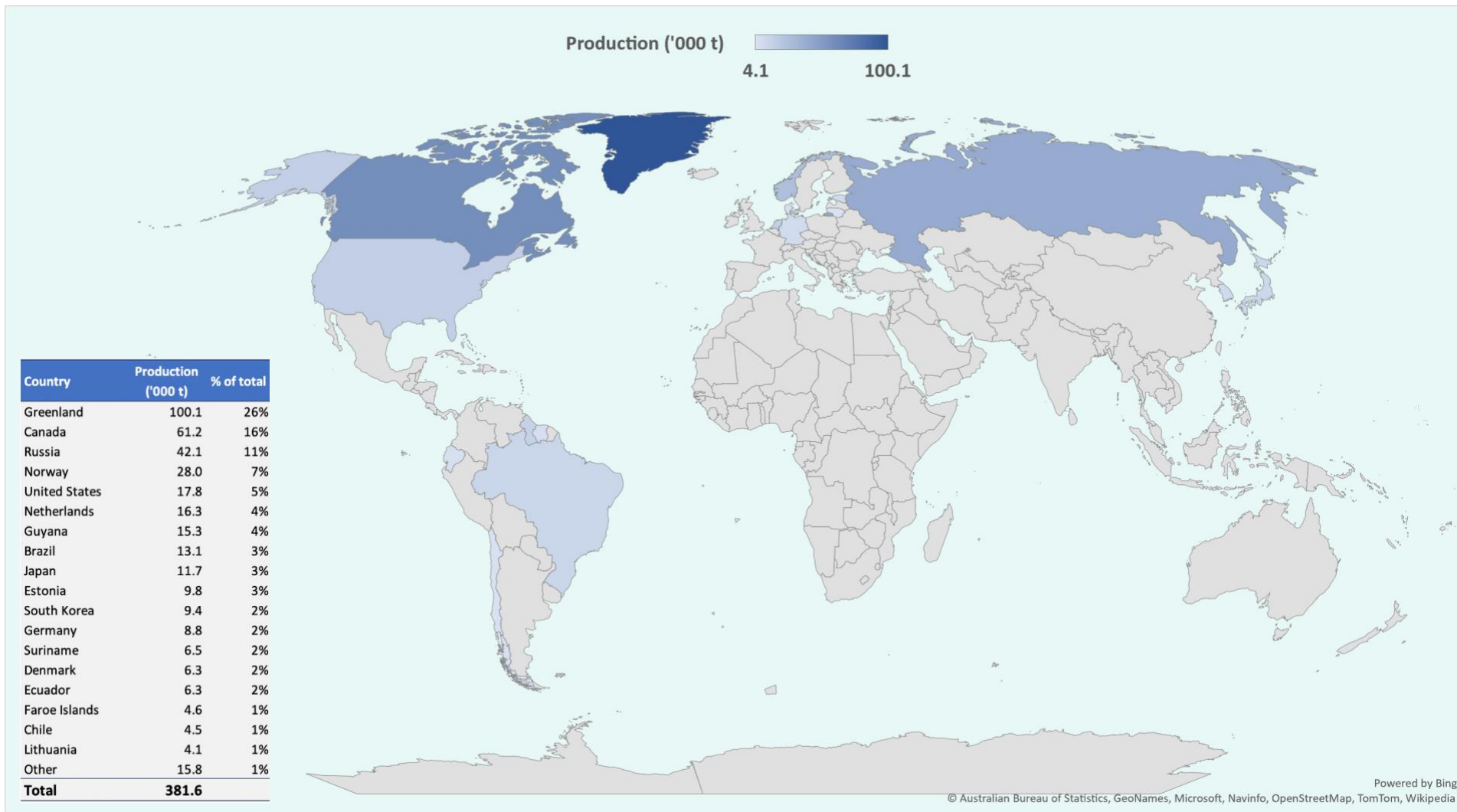


Figure 2 | Small shrimp production by FAO major fishing area and main producing country in 2019





**Figure 3 |** The top small shrimp producing countries in 2019 (97 percent of total catches)



Source: FAO FishstatJ (FAO 2021a)

## 4 TRADE STATISTICS

Small shrimp is a relatively important seafood commodity in terms of international trade, with recorded average annual trade of about USD 3.2 billion. Global small shrimp exports have been increasing in general, but not as significantly as in other seafood sectors (Figure 1) (FAO, 2021b).

As expected, coldwater countries lead the small shrimp exports, with European countries accounting for about two-thirds of total exports by value in 2019. Other important non-EU exporters are Canada (10 percent), Ecuador (7 percent), and China (2 percent) (Table 2) (FAO, 2021c). Recent annual exports have been decreasing for Ecuador and Canada, as opposed to Denmark and Greenland, where annual imports have been increasing (Appendix IC).

Europe, China, and Japan are currently the largest importers for this commodity. With combined imports in 2019 of about USD 2.4 billion, these three markets accounted for more than two-thirds of global small shrimp imports in 2019 (Table 2) (FAO 2021c). China is also the country with the largest growth in small shrimp imports over the last decade (FAO 2021b).

In terms of bilateral trade flows, most European small shrimp is exported to other European countries (i.e., stays in the European market). For Canada, the most important importer is China, followed by Europe. The United States is the main market for Ecuadorian small shrimp, while Japan is the main importer from Russia and China (Table 2) (FAO, 2021c).

**Table 2 |** Main small shrimp exporters in 2019 and their top trade partners, by percentage of each country's total exports.

Source: FAO 2021c

Exporter	Importer													Total 2019 exports (USD million)	% of total exports
	EU / EEA / UK	China	Japan	United States	Morocco	Russia	Albania	Viet Nam	Taiwan	Ukraine	Thailand	Greenland	Other		
Netherlands	77%	5%	0%	0%	16%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	598.9	20%
Denmark	66%	18%	2%	0%	2%	4%	2%	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	580.4	19%
Greenland	61%	21%	7%	0%	0%	6%	2%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	367.2	12%
Canada	30%	43%	7%	7%	3%	0%	2%	1%	0%	3%	2%	0%	2%	315.5	10%
Ecuador	25%	23%	0%	41%	0%	2%	0%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	215.2	7%
Russia	12%	28%	51%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	2%	0%	5%	122.7	4%
Belgium	96%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	103.2	3%
Germany	92%	0%	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	81.5	3%
Iceland	98%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	72.4	2%
China	1%	0%	70%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	22%	0%	0%	0%	6%	69.4	2%
Estonia	88%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	53.7	2%
France	96%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	49.3	2%
Other	53%	2%	7%	10%	0%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	21%	408.0	13%
% of total	59%	15%	7%	5%	4%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	4%		

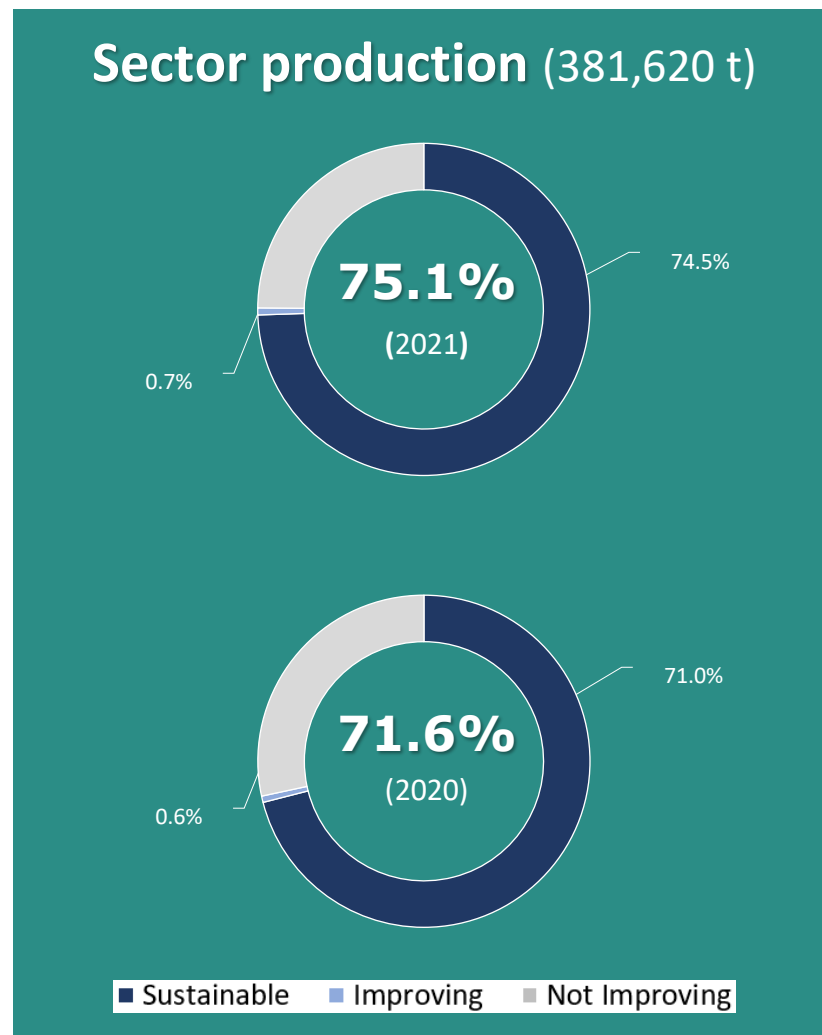
Notes: (1) EU/EEA/UK = European Union, EEA countries, and the United Kingdom. (2) With the exception of Russia, the trade data is based on reported exports. For Russia, the data is based on reported imports by partner countries, as none of Russia's exports include data on the specific importers. (3) For commodities reported as unspecified shrimp, only exports by coldwater countries (e.g., Russia, Greenland, Canada, South Korea, Japan, Argentina), or warmwater countries that typically produce small shrimps (e.g., Suriname), were assumed in this trade analysis.

## 5 PROGRESS AGAINST THE 75% TARGET

Currently, **more than 75 percent** of global small shrimp production is considered **sustainable or improving**. Almost all of this is from sustainable production, which is estimated to represent 75 percent of the total sector. This is coming mostly from MSC-certified small shrimp fisheries in the North Atlantic Ocean. The small amount of improving production (c. 2,600 tonnes, or 0.7 percent of total production) is coming from a new Canadian fishery in MSC full assessment ([NAFO 3M Flemish Cap cold water prawn](#)) and also from the recent [Ecuador Gulf of Guayaquil titi shrimp - bottom trawl](#) fishery improvement project (FIP), which is making good progress.

This sector was the first to achieve the 75-percent target. Despite a drop in 2020 to about 71 percent, the sustainable and improving volume is now again above 75 percent. The increase compared to 2020 was mostly due to a relatively large Russian fishery ([FIUN Russian Barents Sea shrimp](#); 6.8 percent of sector total) that entered MSC full assessment on October 7, 2020, and was MSC-certified on September 1, 2021.

Learn about SFP's T75 strategy and prioritized fisheries [here](#).





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# 7 GLOSSARY

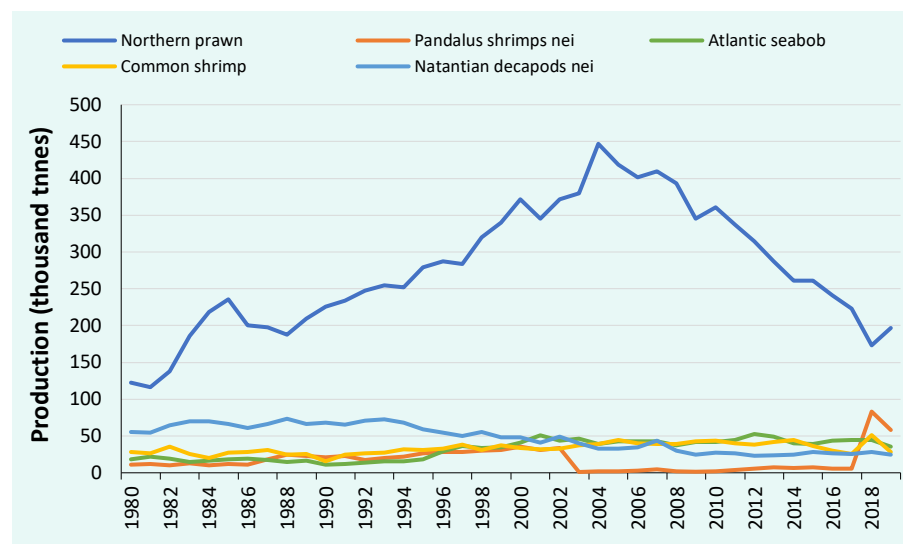
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	SFW	Seafood Watch
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device	SR	Supply Chain Roundtable
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	T75	SFP <a href="#">Target 75</a> initiative
FIP	Fishery Improvement Project	UoC	Unit of Certification (for a fishery under the MSC program)
IRF	Iceland Responsible Fisheries		
ISSCAAP	International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants		
IUU	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing		
MARINTRUST	Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients (Formerly IFFO RS)		
MBAq	Monterey Bay Aquarium		
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council		
MSC C	Marine Stewardship Council Certified		
MSC FA	Marine Stewardship Council Full Assessment		
NEI	Not Elsewhere Included		
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization		

Appendix I | Reported 2019 production by species (A), trends in annual production by species (B), and exports by main exporter (C)

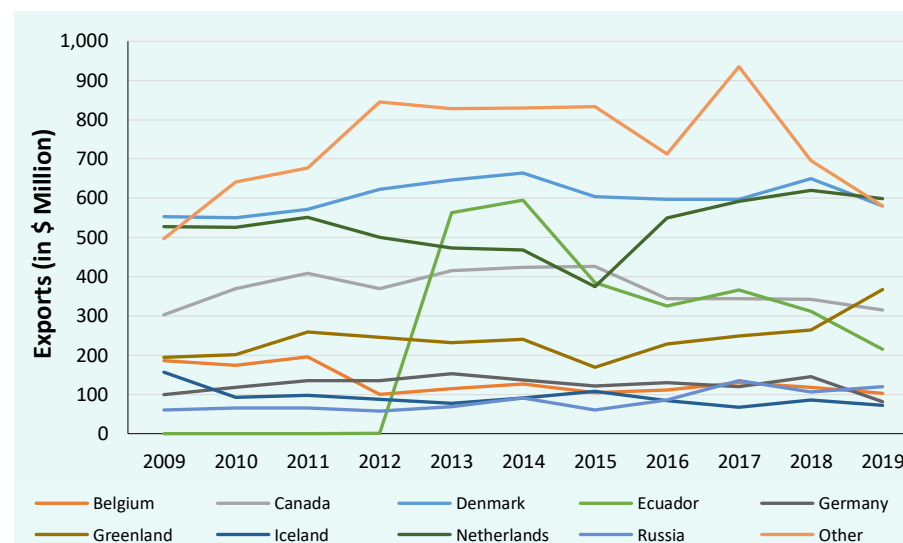
(A) 2019 wild production, by small shrimp species

Common name	Scientific name	2019 production ('000 t)	% of total
Northern prawn	<i>Pandalus borealis</i>	197.1	52%
Pandalus shrimps nei	<i>Pandalus spp.</i>	58.5	15%
Atlantic seabob	<i>Xiphopenaeus kroyeri</i>	35.6	9%
Common shrimp	<i>Crangon crangon</i>	27.9	7%
Natantian decapods	Natantia	25.0	7%
Ocean shrimp	<i>Pandalus jordani</i>	17.6	5%
Titi shrimp	<i>Protrachypene precipua</i>	6.7	2%
Chilean nylon shrimp	<i>Heterocarpus reedi</i>	4.5	1%
Pacific seabob	<i>Xiphopenaeus riveti</i>	1.9	1%
Whitebelly prawn	<i>Nematopalaemon schmitti</i>	1.3	0%
Pacific seabobs	<i>Xiphopenaeus, Trachypenaeus</i>	1.3	0%
Humpy shrimp	<i>Pandalus goniurus</i>	1.2	0%
Baltic prawn	<i>Palaemon adspersus</i>	0.7	0%
Other		2.5	1%

(B) Trends in annual production for the top small shrimp species



(C) Trends in annual exports for the main exporter countries





Brown shimp (*Crangon crangon*) © [H. Krisp](#), Wikimedia

## FURTHER INFORMATION

<http://www.sustainablefish.org/>

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