



COVID-19 – Global Market Trends of Fish and Fish Products

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What the news say about the impact of COVID-19 on fish trade?

Indian seafood companies struggling to export during COVID-19 lockdown

By Toan Dao
April 9, 2020

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Seafood companies in India are doggedly continuing to export their products, despite various barriers brought about by the complete lockdown imposed across the country last month, [The Hindu BusinessLine](#) reported 1 April.

Not business as usual in Europe's largest fishing port

Vigo, Spain works to keep its fisheries value chain going in the time of COVID-19

Argentine fisheries industry estimates exports to drop 30% this year because of COVID-19

Monday, April 20th 2020 - 08:55 UTC

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COVID-19: Maldives halts fish exports to Europe

Seafood may not find takers on Covid-19 scare

With several countries affected by the virus, export has turned sluggish.

By P K Krishnakumar, ET Bureau | Last Updated: Mar 16, 2020, 12:02 PM IST




Europe is a large consumer of squid, cuttle fish and octopus besides shrimp, the mainstay of Indian seafood export.

Association of India.

The Indian [seafood](#) industry fears a pile-up of stock thanks to a setback to exports to Covid-19-impacted countries. Shipments to China, Europe and the Far East countries have slowed down and the industry reckons the situation is likely to get better only from the middle of 2020.

"The consignments to China have dropped by 10 to 15 per cent because of congestion in several ports. [Shipping](#) lines are charging extra for the delay," said Jagdish V Fofandi, national president of Seafood Exporters

The Fish Site

species, diseases, articles...  Breeding & genetics Farm management Health & welfare Nutrition Environment Post-harvest Technology & equipment

Myanmar's aquaculture exports hit hard by COVID-19


CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

F by The Fish Site
11 May 2020, at 11:29am

Myanmar's aquaculture and fisheries sectors are suffering from the collapse in the export trade that has accompanied the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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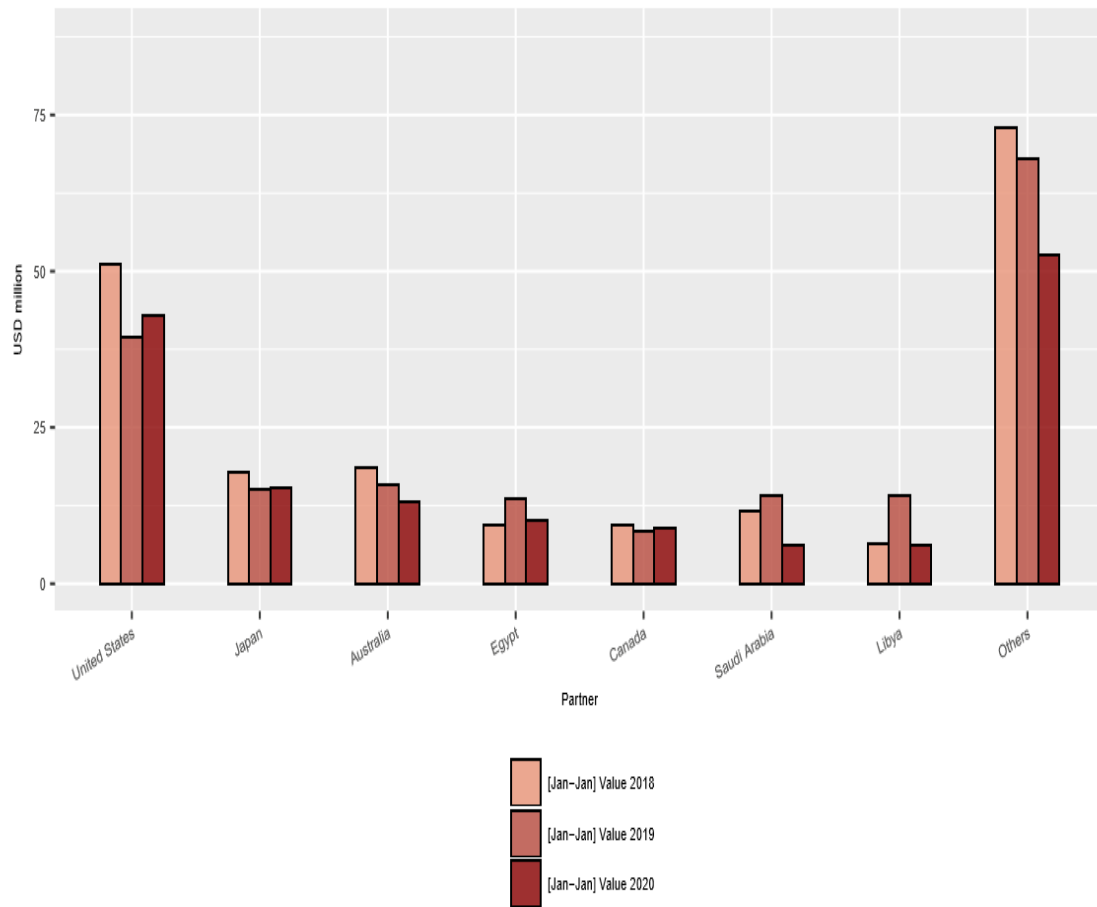
Mongabay Series: [Indonesian Fisheries](#)

As COVID-19 batters fishery, Indonesia's sharks get a respite

What latest trade statistics tell us about species? The case of Tuna

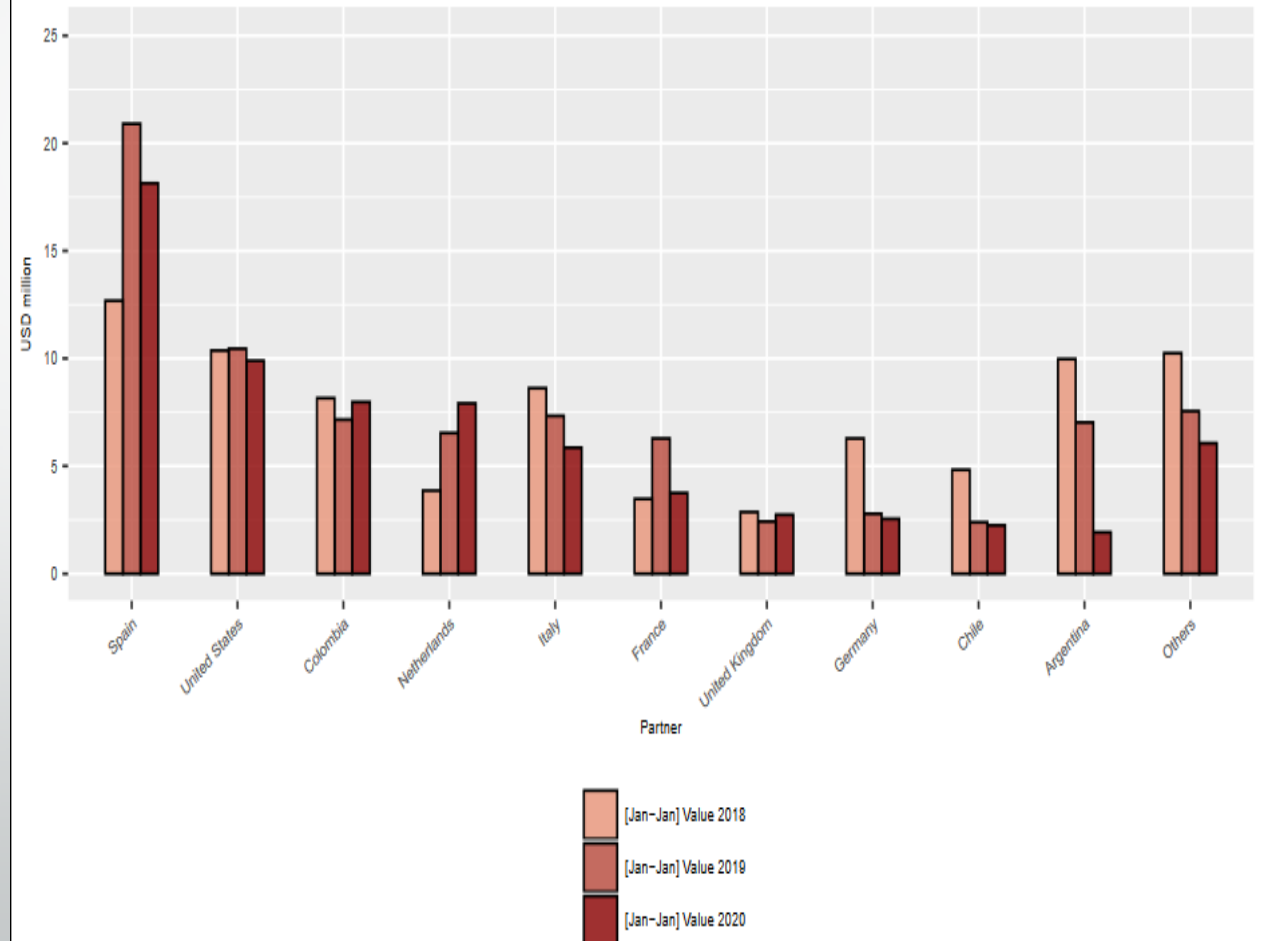
[Thailand | Exports to all partners | Tuna - All products]

3.11 Year-on-year USD value by partner, YTD Jan to Jan, 2018 to 2020



[Ecuador | Exports to all partners | Tuna - All products]

5.11 Year-on-year USD value by partner, YTD Jan to Jan, 2018 to 2020



Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on international fish trade

Demand side:

- **Falling consumer demand** (closure of restaurants, hotels & retail business, specially of fresh produce)
- **Changes in consumer demand** (more local & processed fish consumption)
- **Changes in means of purchase** (more e-purchases and e-auctions)
- Potential increase or stricter application of **sanitary measures** on fish and seafood products (human & animal species health)

Supply side:

- **Impossibility to fish** in some countries due to social/economic confinement measures
- **Missing profitable fishing seasons** in some countries
- **Disrupted trade routes** (e.g. air transport has ceased in many routes) for fishers in many countries
- **Lack of sanitary and social protection for fishers and processors**
- **Lack of capacity to process overstock of fresh fish**

Coping with the challenges

(1)



Harvesting

Fish remains an **essential food/animal protein** that it can support post-pandemic recovery



Keep the **fight against illegal fishing** in all shores and rely as much as possible on electronic MCS systems complemented with targeted interventions at sea & port



If conditions allow, **adjust fishing seasons**, i.e. when below MSY & without disturbing reproduction periods, so fishers can compensate lack of activity (**case by case**)



Processing

Introduce **sanitary and social safety readiness and adaptation plans** for most vulnerable workers in key blue economic sector such fisheries and seafood processing



Support **fresh production shifts to seafood processing** when feasible, as well as new product development and effective logistic support



Enhance digitalization & coordination: fish producers & suppliers with transport, warehousing & logistical services (to avoid food losses & waste)

Coping with the challenges (2)



Commercialization & distribution



Apply the **least possible trade-restrictive & at the same time effective sanitary measures**



Minimize unnecessary controls and burdensome procedures associated with trade in fish clearance



Make effective use of online sales and auction platforms



Recovery



Rescue packages need not only to be green but also **BLUE** (focus on sustainability vulnerable populations)



Phase out unsustainable public expenditure including fish and fuel subsidies, shifting resources to stock management & responsible small-scale fishers support



International cooperation must continue: **UNCTAD-FAO-UNEP Plan of Action for SDG implementation**

See UNCTAD resources on trade and COVID-19 at: <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) : News, Analysis and Resources

UNCTAD is monitoring the effects of the global pandemic on manufacturing, trade, foreign direct investment and economic growth.

We stand ready to provide [technical assistance](#) that can help countries mitigate or recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19.

Analysis and Resources



The COVID-19 Pandemic and the Blue Economy:
[PDF]
New challenges and prospects for recovery and resilience



The need to protect science, technology and innovation funding during and after the COVID-19 crisis
- UNCTAD Policy Brief No. 80
[PDF]



Investment Policy Monitor: Special Issue - Investment Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic
[PDF]