

# UHI | SHETLAND

## Shetland Fisheries Statistics

# 2021

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**October 2021**



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## Summary

49,000 tonnes of fish and shellfish worth £70 million were landed in Shetland in 2021. That is about 10% less than in 2020 by weight although only 3% less in value. The fall in landings was due to decreases in the quantities of both pelagic fish and whitefish landed in Shetland in 2021, the latter in turn almost entirely due to a substantial fall in the quantity of whitefish landed by foreign fishing boats.

Shetland-based fishing boats landed 112,000 tonnes of fish and shellfish worth £110 million (everywhere) in 2021, a substantial increase from 2020 (20% more by weight, 5% by value). This increase was mostly in landings of pelagic fish (especially blue whiting), but landings of whitefish were also up, especially in value (by 8%).

More fish and shellfish were landed in Shetland in 2021 than in any other port in the UK except Peterhead and more finfish was landed in Shetland than in all of England and Wales.

Overall, there does not appear to have been any significant impact on fish landings in Shetland from the COVID-19 pandemic, except perhaps on the prices of shellfish.

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# Introduction

This report summarises the results of an analysis of official data on the weights<sup>1</sup> and values of fish landed in Shetland and by Shetland fishing boats<sup>2</sup> in 2021.

## Data Sources

The analysis is based primarily on data supplied by the Marine Analytical Unit of Marine Scotland Science, part of the Marine Scotland department of the Scottish Government, whose cooperation and assistance are gratefully acknowledged.

Additional data were obtained from:

- ◆ *Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics* published by the Scottish Government<sup>3</sup>.
- ◆ *UK Sea Fisheries Annual Statistics* and associated data published by the UK Marine Management Organisation (MMO)<sup>4</sup>.

## Further Information

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**Copies of this and previous Shetland Fisheries Statistics are available on the Shetland UHI website at:**

**[www.shetland.uhi.ac.uk/research/statistics/reports](http://www.shetland.uhi.ac.uk/research/statistics/reports)**

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<sup>1</sup> All weights are 'Live Weight Equivalent'; that is the estimated weights of the fish in their live (ungutted) state.

<sup>2</sup> 'Shetland fishing boats' are boats officially recorded as being based in Shetland. This may include some boats that are not registered in Lerwick (do not carry a 'LK' registration number).

<sup>3</sup> Available online at: [www.gov.scot/collections/sea-fisheries-statistics/](http://www.gov.scot/collections/sea-fisheries-statistics/)

<sup>4</sup> Available online at: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-sea-fisheries-annual-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-sea-fisheries-annual-statistics)

# All Species

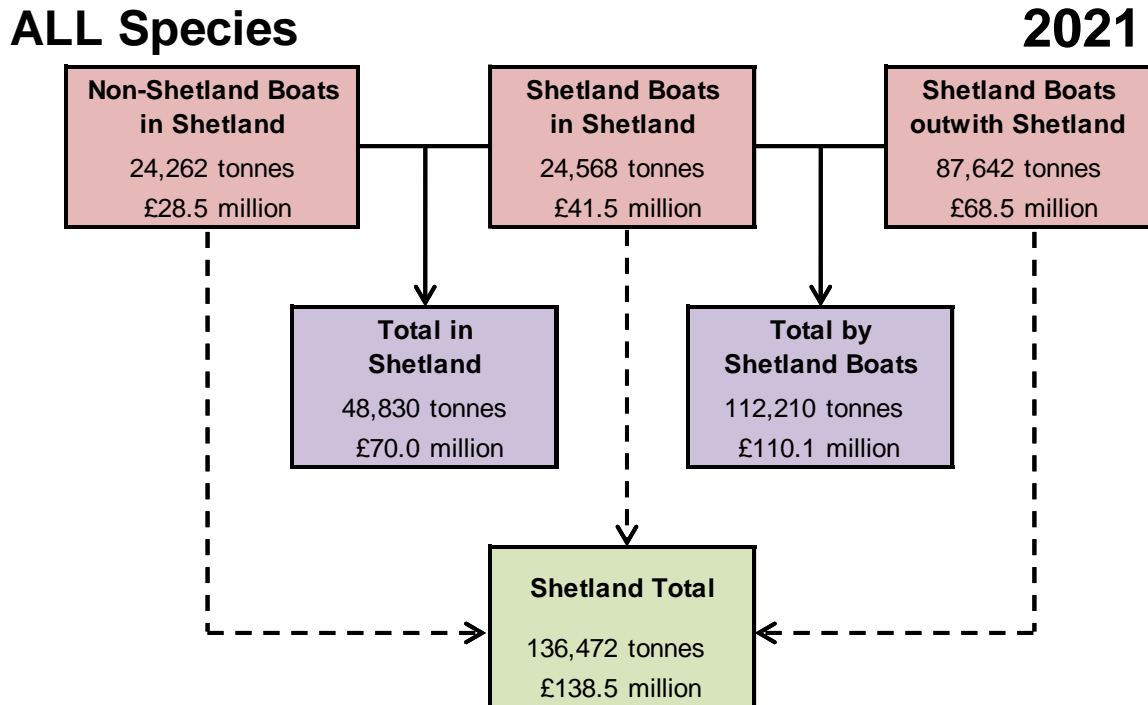


Figure 1 Summary breakdown of the weight and value of all fish landed in Shetland and by Shetland-based fishing boats in 2021.

Just under 49,000 tonnes of fish and shellfish, worth some £70 million, were landed in Shetland in 2021 (Figure 1). That was about 10% less than in 2020 by weight, although only 3% less by value (Figure 2). This fall in landings was due to decreases in the quantities of both pelagic fish and whitefish landed in Shetland in 2021, the latter in turn almost entirely due to a substantial fall in the quantity of whitefish landed by foreign fishing boats (see page 12).

Shetland-based fishing boats accounted for half of all the fish and shellfish landed in Shetland in 2020 (50% by weight) and well over half by value (59%) (Figure 2).

Shetland boats landed just over 112,000 tonnes of fish and shellfish worth some £110 million in 2021 (Figure 1). That was a substantial (20%) increase from 2020 in the weight landed, while the value was 5% greater (Figure 3).

The total weight of fish and shellfish landed in Shetland, and by Shetland boats elsewhere, ('Shetland' fish landings) was just over 136,000 tonnes in 2021, 10% more than in 2020, while the total value was almost unchanged at £139 million (Figure 1).

# ALL Species

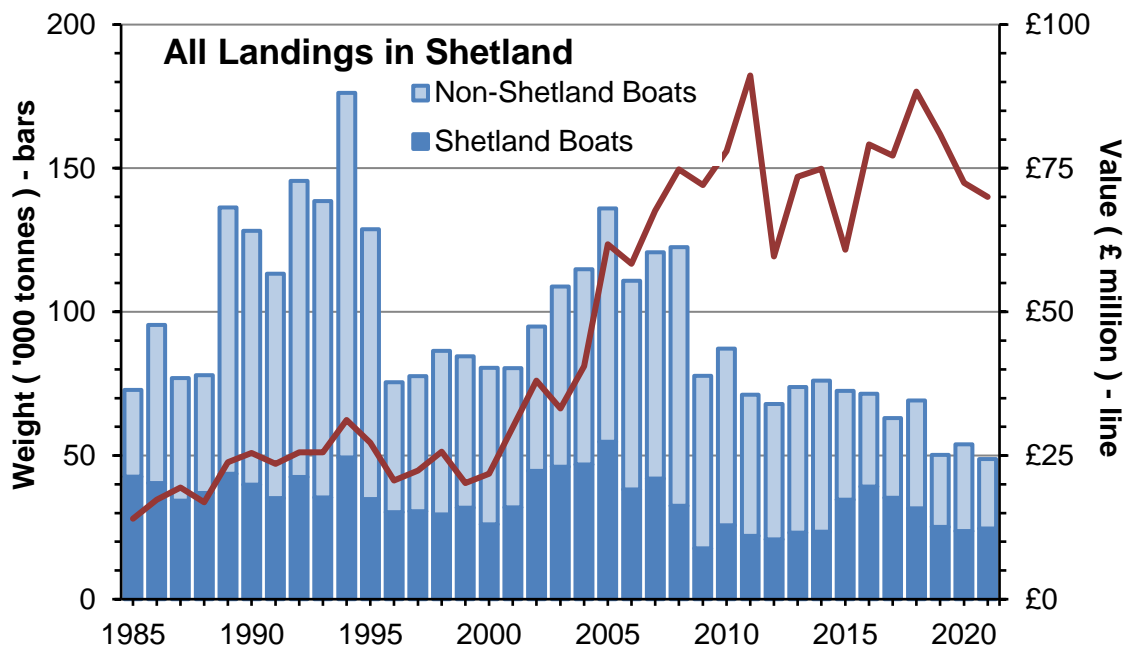


Figure 2 The weight (bars) and value (line) of all fish and shellfish landed in Shetland from 1985 to 2021.

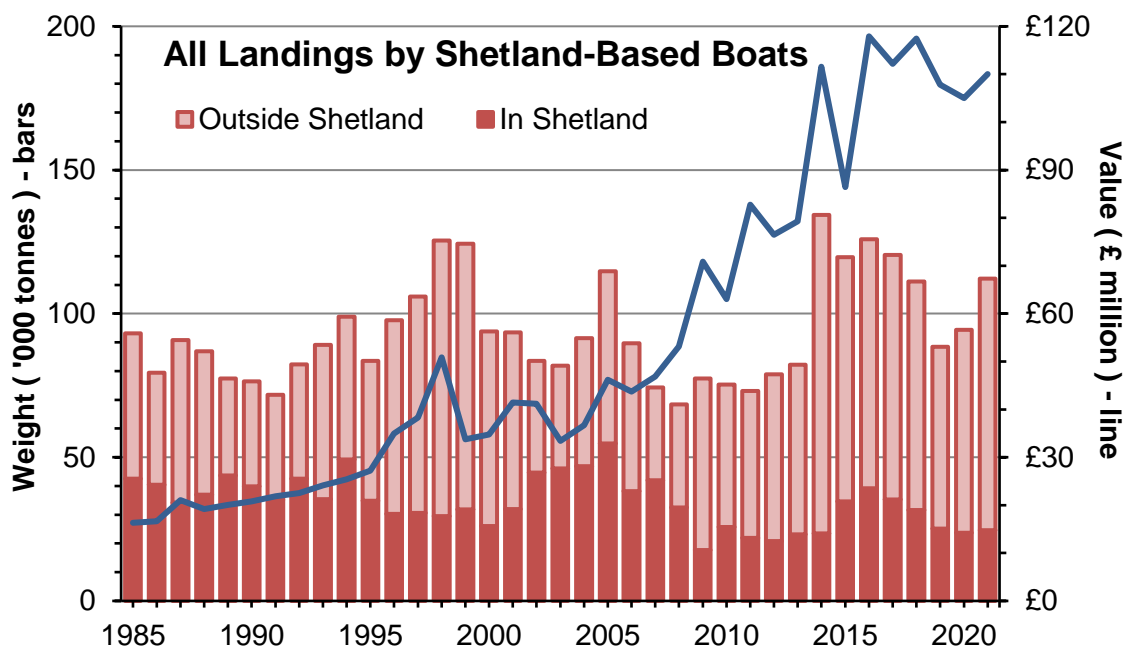


Figure 3 The weight (bars) and value (line) of all fish and shellfish landed by Shetland-based fishing boats from 1985 to 2021.

### The COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the UK throughout much of 2021 although most restrictions such as lockdowns were eased or lifted entirely during the year. The effects of the pandemic on the UK seafood industry were varied and included impacts on exports due to reduced transport and logistic timetables, and the collapse of the foodservice market due to restrictions on eating out. On the other hand, there was an increase in demand for retail products, including pre-packed, tinned and frozen seafood.<sup>5</sup>

Shetland's seafood industry continued to operate throughout the pandemic: Boats continued to land fish and shellfish in Shetland, the whitefish auction continued to operate, and fish and shellfish continued to be exported from the islands.

No detailed analysis of the effects of the pandemic on Shetland's seafood industry has been carried out but these (and previous) Shetland fisheries statistics do not provide any clear evidence of any such effects. While the quantities and values of fish and shellfish landed in Shetland and by Shetland-based boats have fluctuated over the last few years it is likely that these changes were primarily caused by other factors including changes in fishing opportunities (quotas).

The biggest probable impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 was thought to have been on the prices of shellfish landed in Shetland, possibly because shellfish markets were affected more by the closure of restaurants and the end of eating out during the lockdowns<sup>6</sup>. Although the prices of some individual species increased in 2021 there was no evidence of a general increase in shellfish prices to pre-pandemic levels.

Overall, these statistics do not indicate that the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on fish and shellfish landings in Shetland during 2021 with other factors affecting fishing opportunities and landings likely much more significant.

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<sup>5</sup> See: Seafish's review of how COVID-19 has affected the UK seafood industry, available at: [www.seafish.org/insight-and-research/covid-19-impact-on-seafood-industry/](http://www.seafish.org/insight-and-research/covid-19-impact-on-seafood-industry/).

<sup>6</sup> *Shetland Fisheries Statistics 2020*. Available at: [www.shetland.uhi.ac.uk/research/statistics/reports/fisheries/](http://www.shetland.uhi.ac.uk/research/statistics/reports/fisheries/)



## Composition of Landings

Pelagic species (such as mackerel and herring) accounted for almost two-thirds of the fish and shellfish landed in Shetland in 2021, although only two-fifths of the value (Table 1). Whitefish (such as cod, haddock, monks and flatfish) accounted for about one-third of the weight landed but just over half of the value, reflecting their greater unit value (price). Shellfish such as crabs, lobsters and scallops accounted for only a small proportion of the total landings.

Table 1 The total weights and values of fish and shellfish landed in Shetland in 2021 by species group and their average unit-values (prices).

	Weight		Value		Unit Value
	tonnes	%	£ m	%	£ / kg
<b>Pelagic Fish</b>	29,834	61%	£26.59	42%	£0.99
<b>Whitefish</b>	16,813	34%	£32.43	51%	£2.14
<b>Shellfish</b>	2,182	4%	£4.00	6%	£2.04
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48,830</b>		<b>£63.02</b>		<b>£1.43</b>

## Place of Landing

Almost all the fish and shellfish landed in Shetland in 2021 was landed in either Lerwick, Scalloway or Cullivoe (Table 2). Landings at other ports were predominantly of shellfish.

## ALL Species

Table 2 The total weights and values of fish and shellfish landed in Shetland (by all boats) in 2021 by place of landing.

	Weight (tonnes)	% Wt.	Value (£ 000s)	% £
Baltasound	4		£16	
Uyeasound	10		£15	
Burravoe	18		£31	
Cullivoe	2,863	6%	£6,311	9%
Mid Yell	12		£14	
Yell & Fetlar	5		£7	
<b>North Isles Total</b>	<b>2,911</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>£6,393</b>	<b>9%</b>
Collafirth	299		£619	
Eshaness	44		£115	
Northmavine	13		£41	
<b>Northmavine Total</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>£775</b>	<b>1%</b>
Sullom	83		£195	
Sullom / Toft	90		£179	
Vidlin	119		£172	
Voe	14		£40	
<b>Central Mainland Total</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>£586</b>	<b>1%</b>
Whalsay	306		£618	
Skerries	91		£115	
<b>Whalsay / Skerries Total</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>£733</b>	<b>1%</b>
Aith	32		£59	
Skeld	275		£541	
West Burrafirth	238		£519	
Walls	7		£14	
West Mainland	1		£5	
<b>West Mainland Total</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>£1,133</b>	<b>2%</b>
Burra (Hamnavoe)	95		£211	
Sandwick	35		£48	
Levenwick	1		£2	
Dunrossness and Fair Isle	69		£129	
Fair Isle	6		£28	
<b>South Mainland Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>£390</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Lerwick</b>	<b>39,809</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>£50,433</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>Scalloway</b>	<b>4,285</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>£9,524</b>	<b>14%</b>
Other Shetland	7		£20	
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>48,830</b>		<b>£70,020</b>	

### National Context

In a national context, just over one-fifth of all the finfish<sup>7</sup> landed in Scotland in 2021 (20% by weight) and almost one quarter by value (22%) were landed in Shetland (Figure 4). And one-sixth of all the finfish landed in the UK (16% by weight, 17% by value) was landed in Shetland (Figure 4).

More fish and shellfish were landed in Shetland – and in Lerwick - in 2021 than in any other port in the UK, except Peterhead (Figure 5).

Overall, Scalloway ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the UK for the value of fish and shellfish landed, and Cullivoe 19<sup>th</sup>.

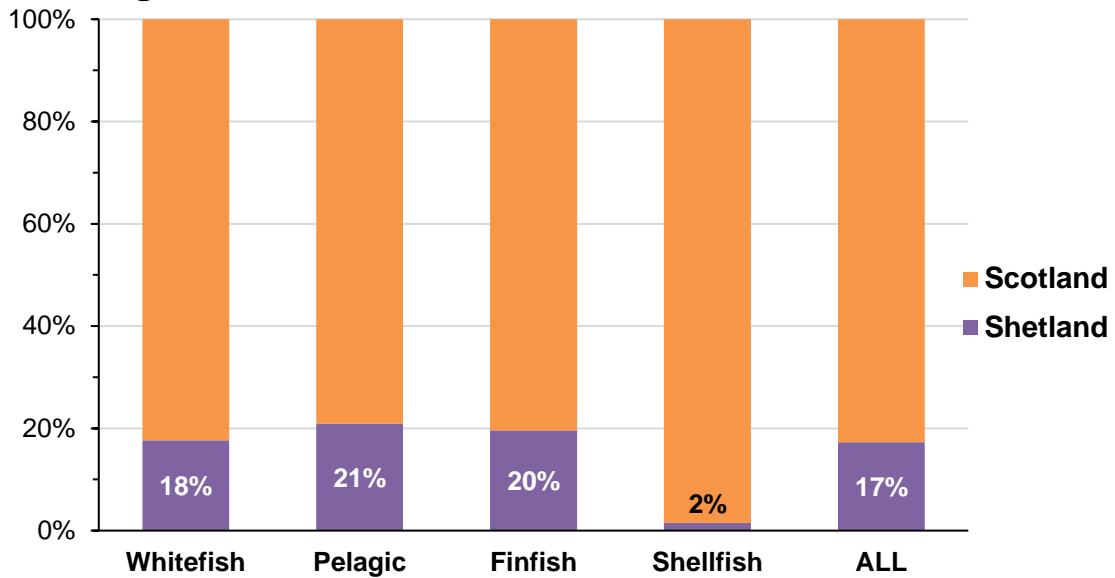
The weight of finfish landed in Shetland in 2021 (46,000 tonnes) was almost as much as the total landed in all of England, Wales and Northern Ireland (48,000 tonnes) and was substantially greater than that landed in all of England and Wales (29,000 tonnes).

Shetland-based fishing boats accounted for just over one-quarter (26% by weight) of all the fish and shellfish landed by Scottish fishing boats in 2021, and 17% (by weight) of all the landings by UK boats (Figure 6).

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<sup>7</sup> Whitefish and pelagic fish.

Landings in Scotland



Landings in the UK

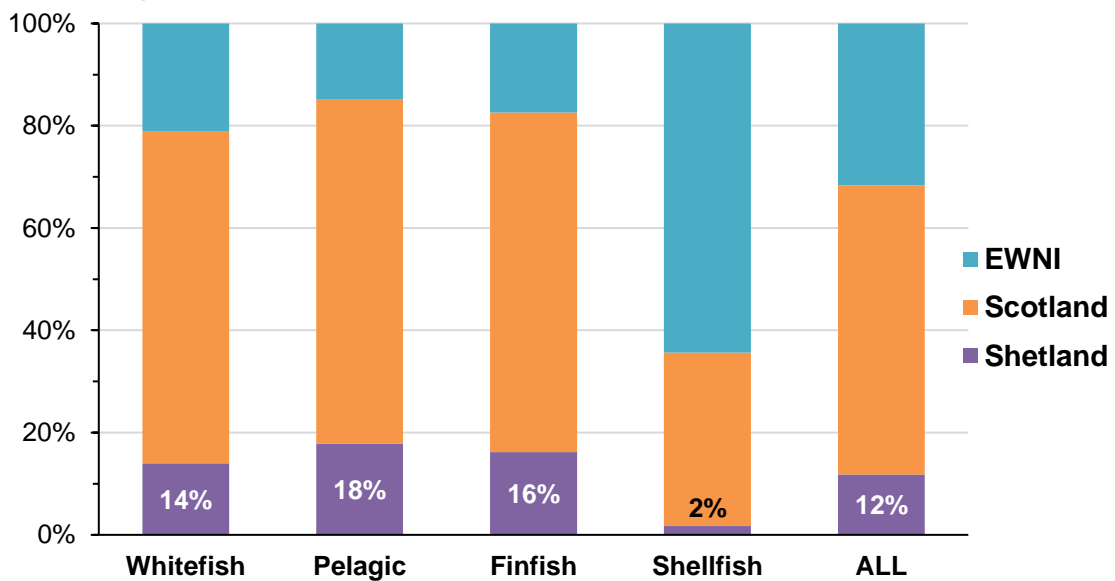
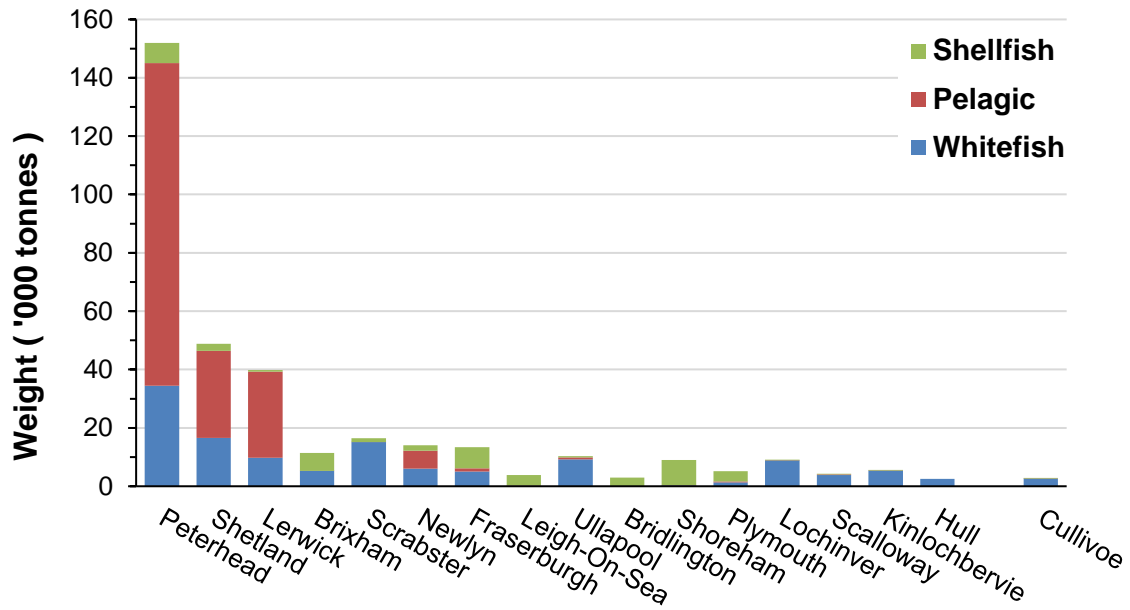


Figure 4 Breakdowns of all fish and shellfish landed in Scotland (top) and in the UK (bottom) in 2021 showing the proportions (by weight) landed in Shetland, in the rest of Scotland and in England, Wales and Northern Ireland ('EWNI').

Weight of Landings



Value of Landings

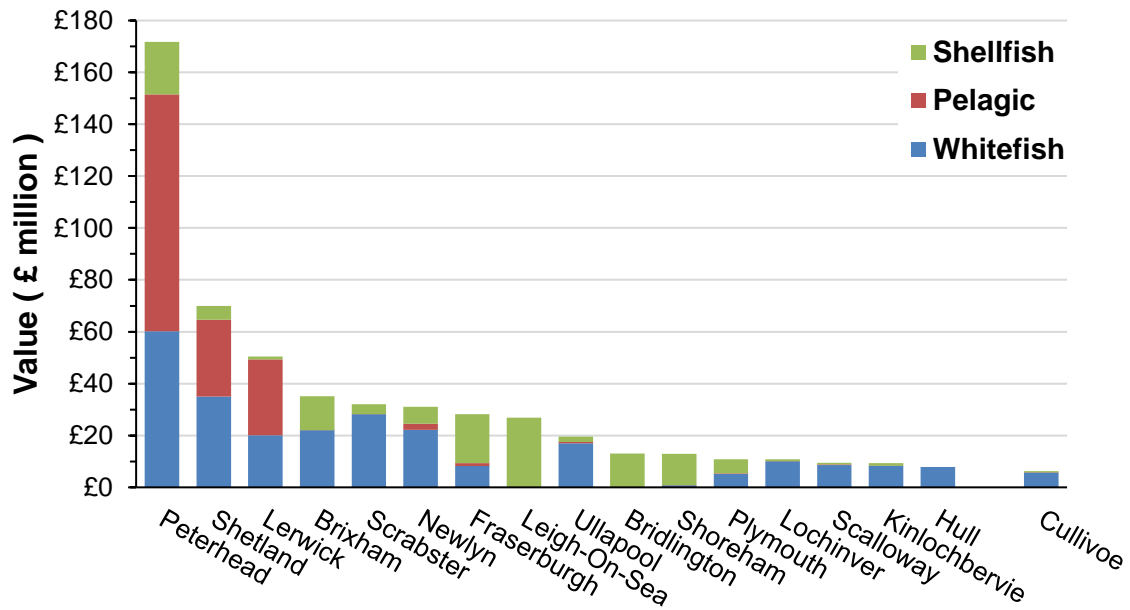
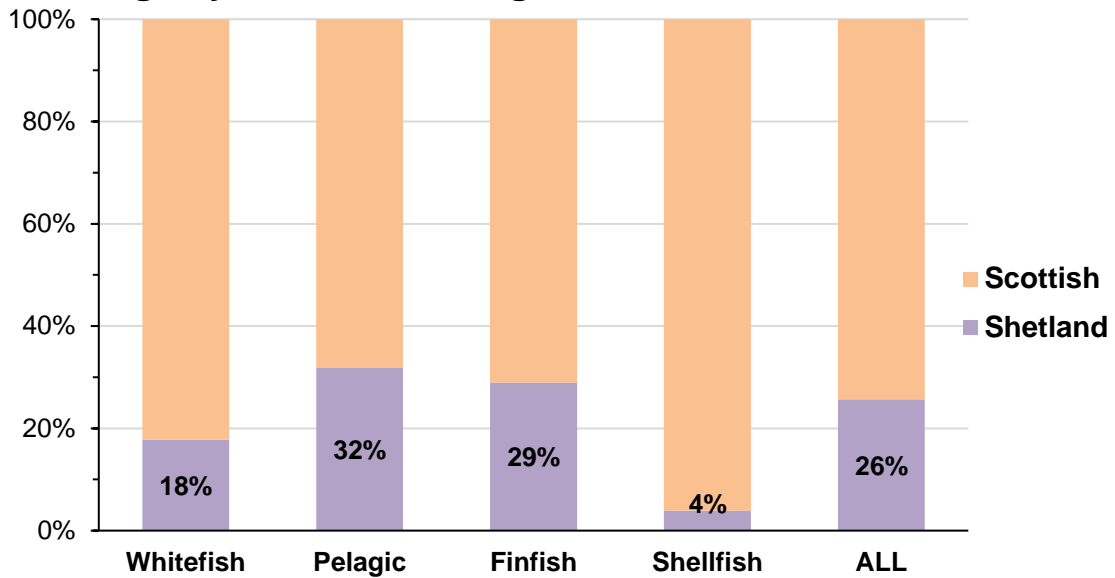


Figure 5 The weights (top) and values (bottom) of fish and shellfish landed in the top-15 UK ports in 2021, plus Cullivoe. Totals for Shetland are also shown. (Ports are ranked by value of landings.)

**Landings by Scottish Fishing Boats**



**Landings by UK Fishing Boats**

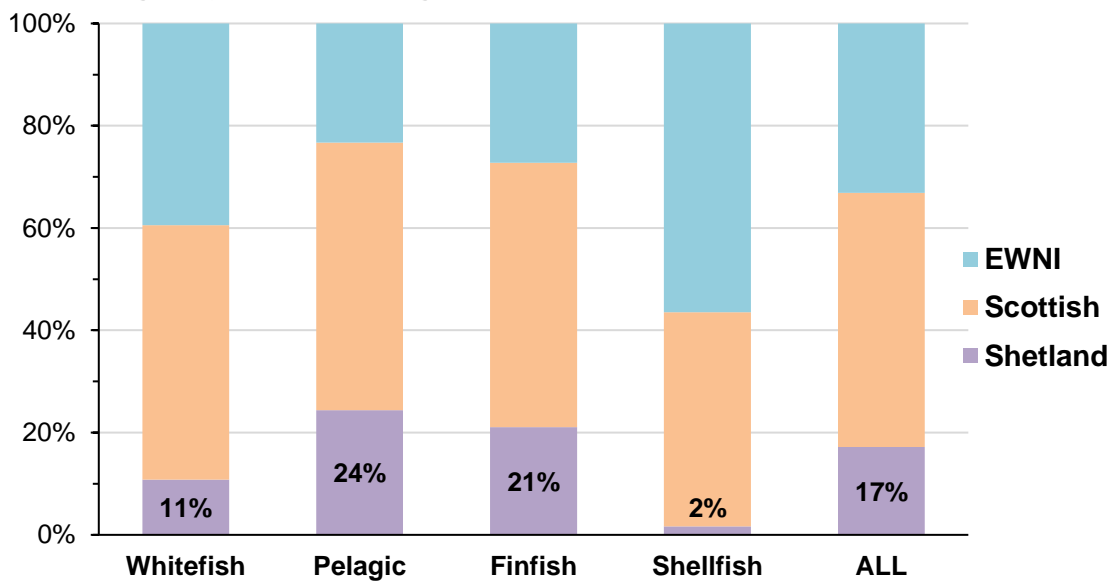


Figure 6 Breakdowns of all landings of fish and shellfish in 2021 by Scottish fishing boats (top) and UK boats (bottom) showing the proportions (by weight) landed by Shetland-based boats, other Scottish boats and other UK boats ('EWNI' = England, Wales and Northern Ireland.)

# Whitefish

'Whitefish' (also referred to as 'demersal' fish) includes cod, haddock, whiting, monkfish, flatfish and similar species. Some shellfish (cuttlefish, Nephrops and squid) are included in these figures as around Shetland they are predominantly caught in the whitefish fishery.

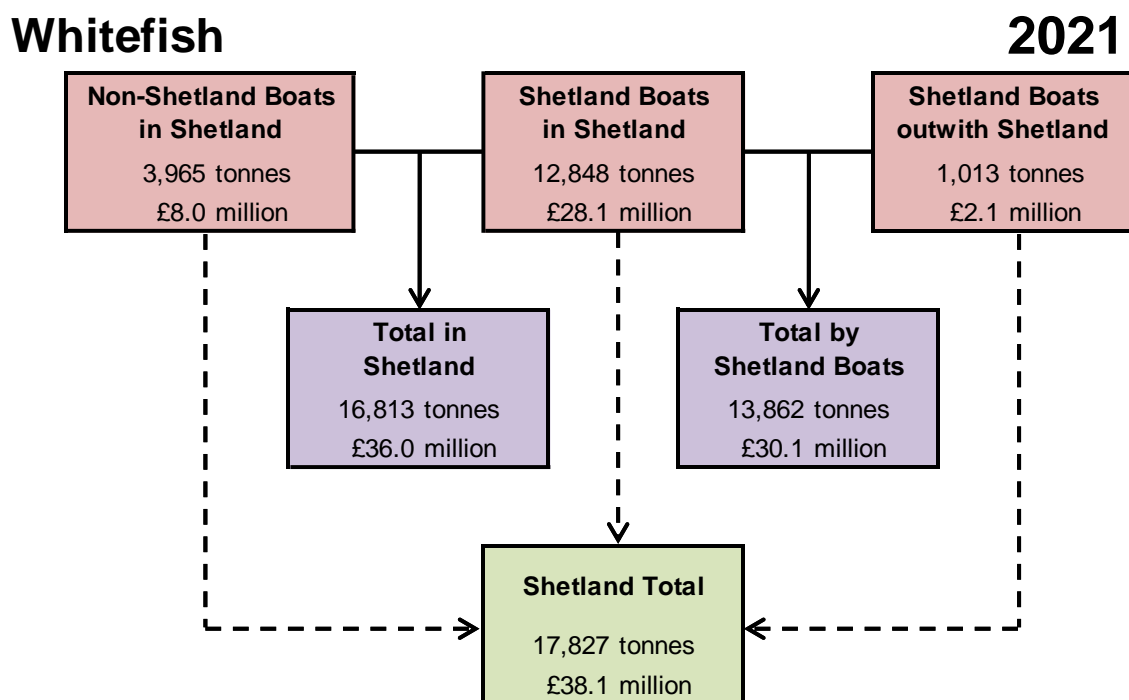


Figure 7 Summary breakdown of the weight and value of whitefish landed in Shetland and by Shetland-based fishing boats in 2021.

Just under 17,000 tonnes of whitefish, worth £36 million were landed in Shetland in 2021 (Figure 7). That was a decrease of about 10% by weight and 4% in value from 2020 (Figure 8, Figure 9).

In contrast, the quantities of whitefish landed in Shetland by Shetland and other Scottish fishing boats in 2021 were only slightly (2%) less than in 2020 while their values were slightly greater (Figure 8). Similarly, the weight of whitefish sold through Shetland’s fish markets (the Shetland Seafood Auction) in 2021 was only very slightly less than in 2020 while the value was 7% greater (Figure 8).

The overall decrease in landings of whitefish in Shetland from 2020 to 2021 almost entirely reflected a substantial (90%) fall in landings by foreign (especially French) and English fishing boats (Figure 8). Most of these boats’ landings were shipped directly

South without passing through the local fish markets. Their landings in Shetland had increased to a peak in 2019 but have declined substantially since then.

Overall, Shetland-based fishing boats landed almost 14,000 tonnes of whitefish in 2021, slightly (3%) more than in 2020. At £30 million the value of those landings was 8% higher than in 2020 (Figure 8, Figure 10).

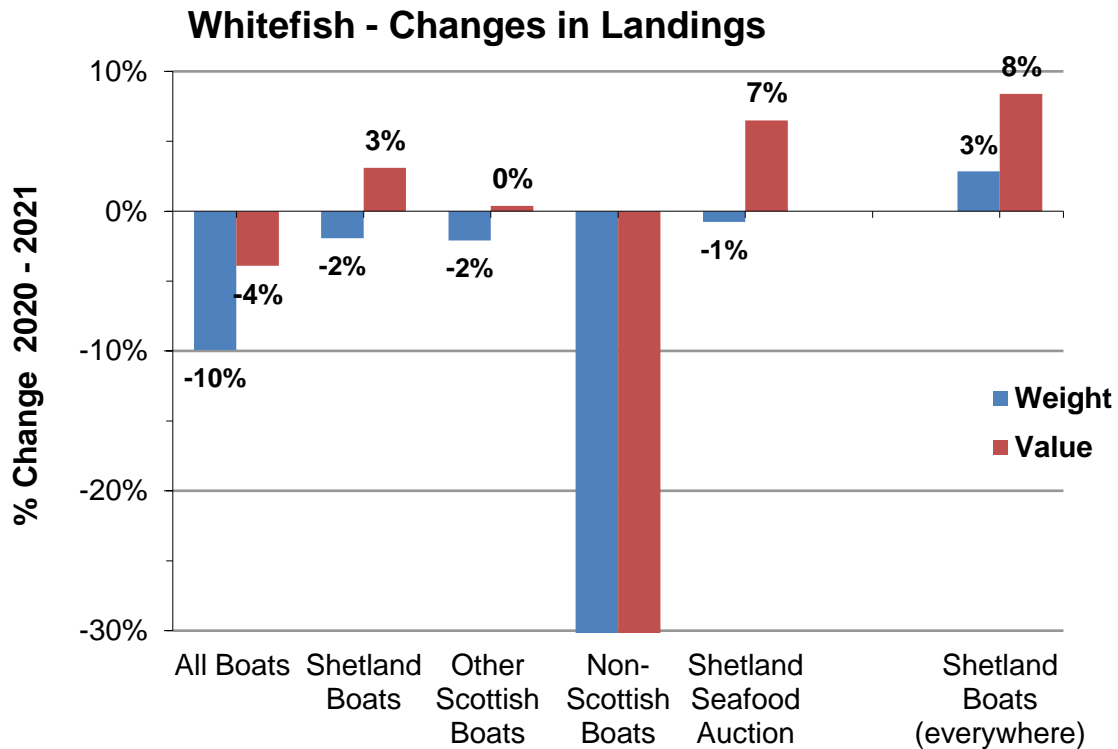


Figure 8 Summary of the changes from 2020 to 2021 in the weights and values of whitefish landed in Shetland by all fishing boats; by Shetland-based boats; by other Scottish boats; and by non-Scottish boats; sold through the Shetland Seafood Auction; and the total landed by Shetland-based boats (everywhere). Values for non-Scottish (foreign & English) boats are -90% (weight) and -85% (value).



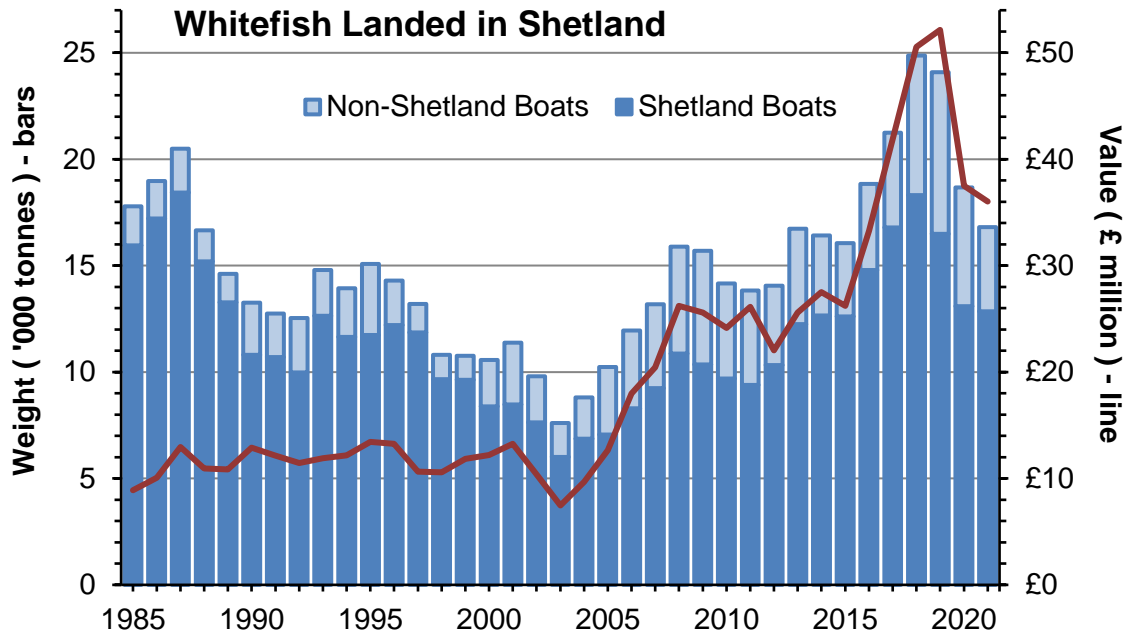


Figure 9 The weight (bars) and value (line) of whitefish landed in Shetland annually from 1985 to 2021.

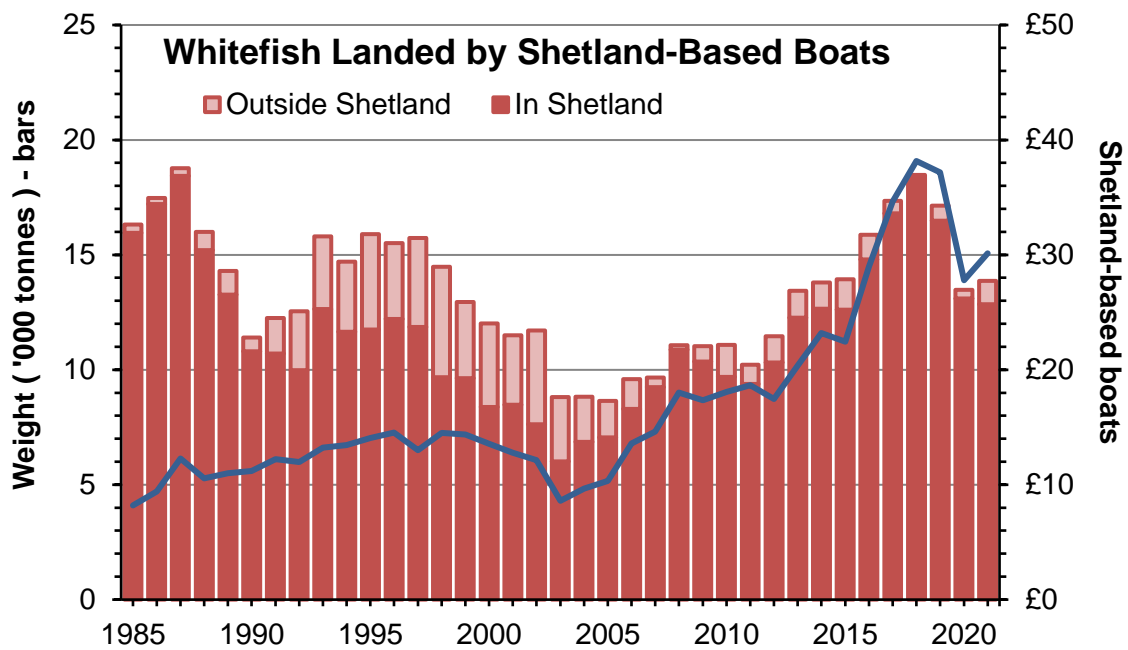


Figure 10 The weight (bars) and value (line) of whitefish landed by Shetland-based fishing boats from 1985 to 2021.

## Composition of Whitefish Landings

Monks were the most valuable whitefish species landed in Shetland in 2021, accounting for just under one-fifth (19%) of the total value of whitefish landed (Table 3), followed by cod, haddock and megrim.

Whiting and haddock accounted for the greatest shares of the landings by weight (17% each), followed by monks and cod (Table 3).

Table 3 The top-10 whitefish species (ranked by value) landed in Shetland in 2021 (all boats).

Species	Weight		Value	
	tonnes	%	£ m	%
Monks	2,390	14%	£6.84	19%
Cod	1,920	11%	£6.57	18%
Haddock	2,794	17%	£4.75	13%
Megrim	1,260	7%	£4.19	12%
Whiting	2,814	17%	£4.11	11%
Hake	660	4%	£1.62	4%
Saithe	1,665	10%	£1.58	4%
Ling	1,440	9%	£1.57	4%
Plaice	601	4%	£1.15	3%
Lemon Sole	204	1%	£1.07	3%
Others	1,066	6%	£2.59	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,813</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£36.03</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Changes in Landings of Whitefish Species

Landings of five of the main whitefish species landed in Shetland increased from 2020 to 2021 while five decreased (Figure 11). This pattern was broadly mirrored in the changes in the landings by Shetland-based fishing boats (Figure 12) although the increases in Shetland boats' landings of individual species tended to be greater while the decreases were smaller.

The large falls in landings of cod, both in Shetland and by Shetland-based boats, probably reflects the further cut in the cod quota in 2021. The large reductions in landings of hake and saithe probably also reflect reductions in quotas, although the more substantial decreases in the landings of these species in Shetland almost certainly also reflects the substantial fall in landings by non-Scottish boats (see page 12), many of which targeted these species. The reason for the significant fall in landings of whiting is less clear as the whiting quota was increased in 2021 but may reflect changes in fishing patterns related to the limited cod quota.

There were substantial increases in landings of monks, ling, haddock, megrim and plaice, especially by Shetland-based fishing boats. Not all of these can be linked to increases in quotas. In fact, the quotas for some species were reduced but 'quota uptake' (the proportion of the available quota that was caught) may have increased. That could have reflected increased local abundances of particular species around Shetland and/or changes in fishing patterns.

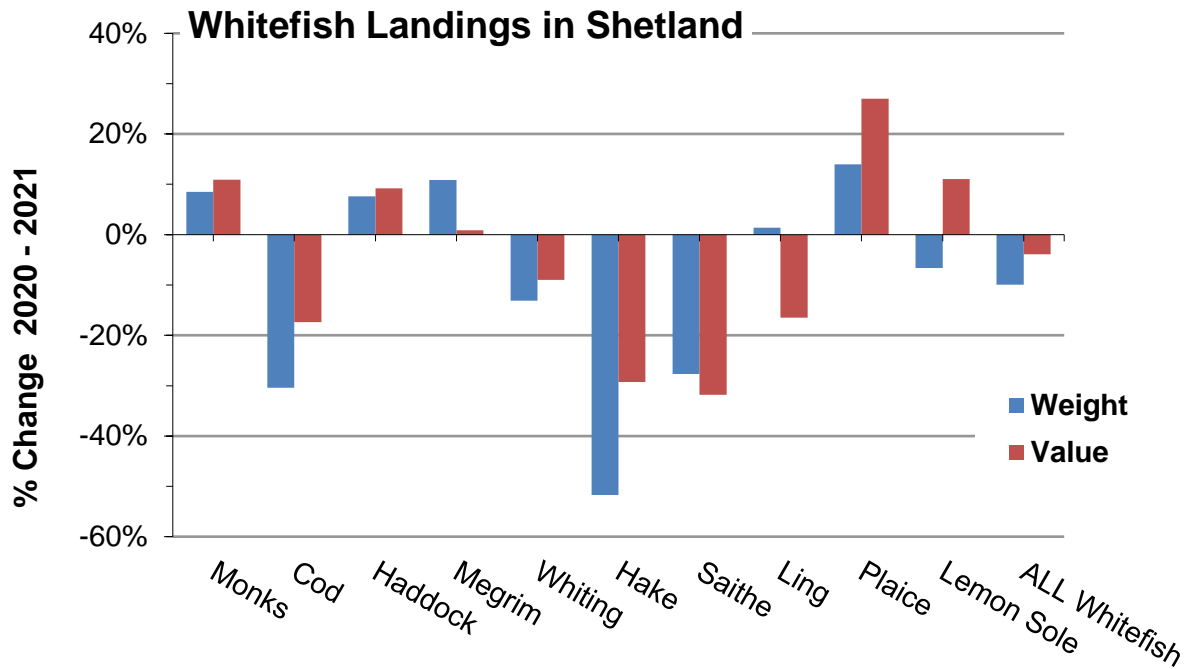


Figure 11 Percentage changes from 2020 to 2021 in the weights and values of the principal whitefish species landed in Shetland (top-10 species landed by all boats by value).

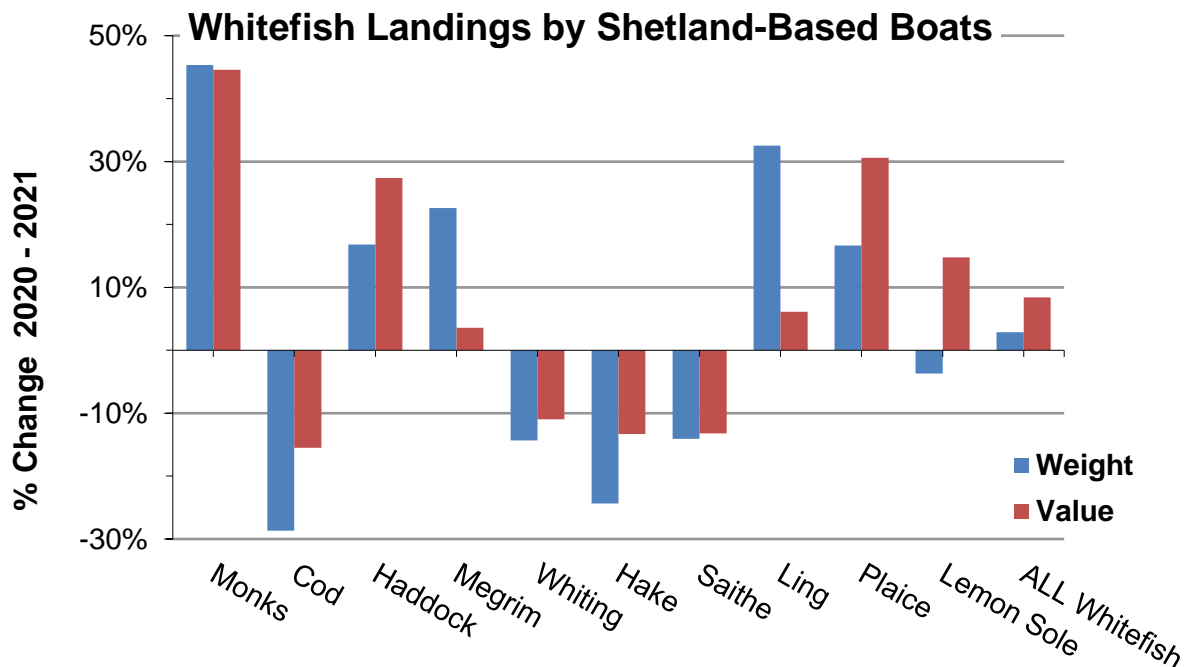


Figure 12 Percentage changes from 2020 to 2021 in the weights and values of whitefish species landed by Shetland-based fishing boats (everywhere) (top-10 species landed in Shetland by value; see Figure 11).

## Place of Whitefish Landing

Three-fifths (60%) of the whitefish landed in Shetland in 2021 were landed in Lerwick, almost one-quarter in Scalloway and 16% in Cullivoe (Yell) (Figure 13).

The weight of whitefish landed in Lerwick fell substantially from 2020 to 2021 (by 17% by weight) while landings in Scalloway increased slightly (by 6%) and those in Cullivoe remained almost unchanged (Figure 14).

The fall in whitefish landings in Lerwick in 2021 and the more general declines in Lerwick and Scalloway can largely be attributed to decreases in the quantities of whitefish landed by non-Scottish boats (see page 12). For example, the weight of whitefish landed in Lerwick by non-Scottish boats fell from over 3,600 tonnes in 2019 to just over 100 tonnes in 2021 (a decline of 97%) while landings by Scottish boats fell by only 8% over the same period. Most if not all these landings by non-Scottish boats were shipped directly South without passing through the local fish markets.

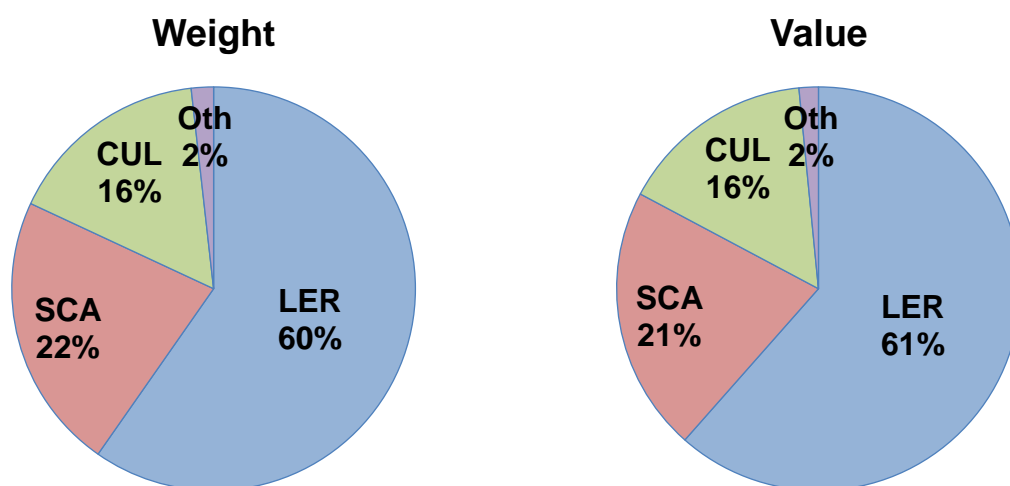


Figure 13 The proportions of the weight and value of whitefish landed in Shetland in 2021 landed in Lerwick ('LER'), Scalloway ('SCA'), Cullivoe ('CUL') and other Shetland ports ('Oth').

### Whitefish - Landings by Port

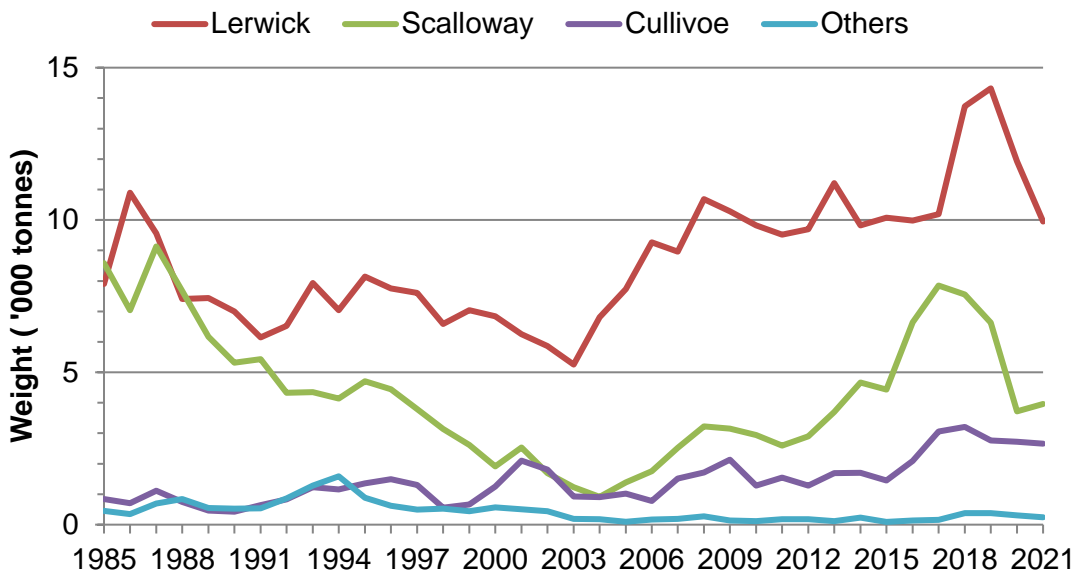


Figure 14 The weights of whitefish landed in Lerwick, Scalloway, Cullivoe and other places in Shetland from 1985 to 2021.

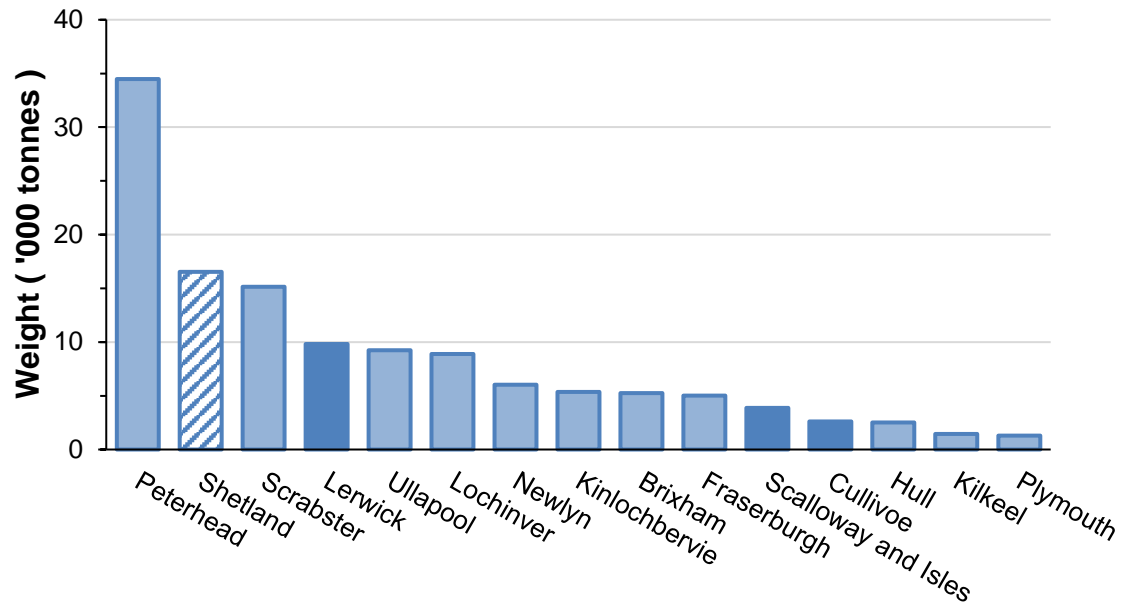
### National Context

In a national context, Shetland accounted for just over one-sixth of all the whitefish landed in Scotland in 2021 by weight (18%) and more than one-fifth by value (21%), and for 14% of all the whitefish landed in the UK (by weight and value).

More whitefish was landed in Shetland in 2021 than in any other port in the UK except Peterhead (Figure 15). Lerwick, Scalloway and Cullivoe were all in the top 15 UK ports for whitefish landings and Lerwick ranked third, behind Peterhead and Scrabster.

Shetland-based fishing boats accounted for 18% of all the whitefish landed by Scottish fishing boats in 2021 and 11% of the landings by UK boats.

Weight of Landings - Whitefish



Value of Landings - Whitefish

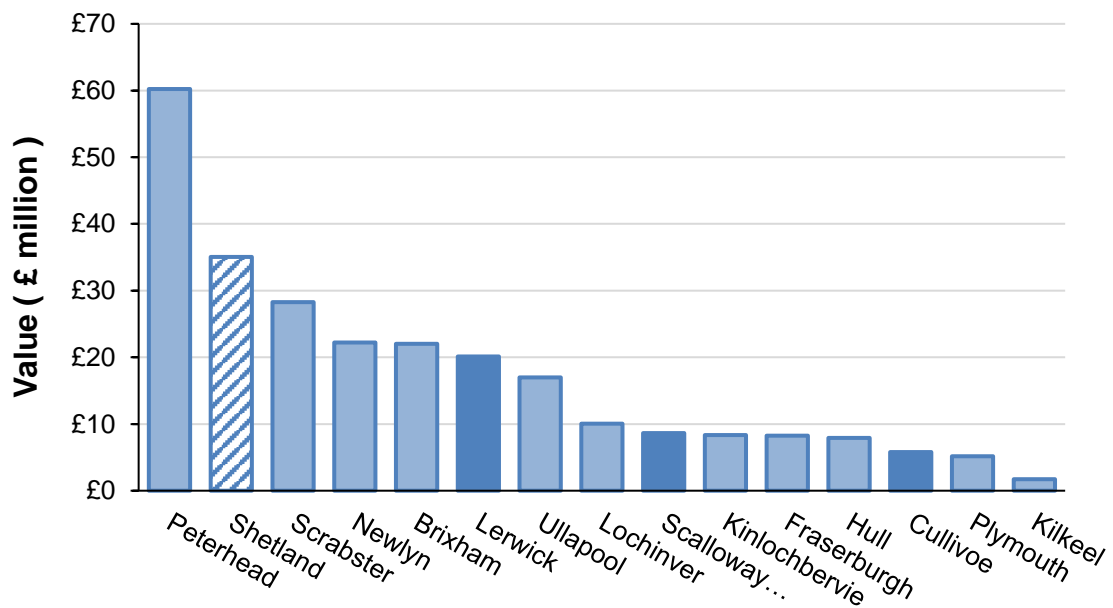


Figure 15 The weights (top) and values (bottom) of whitefish landed in the top-15 UK ports in 2021, and the totals for Shetland as a whole. (Shetland ports are highlighted.)

### Comparison of Whitefish Prices

Overall, the average price (£/kg) of all whitefish landed in Shetland in 2021 and sold through the local fish markets (Shetland Seafood Auction) was about one-quarter higher than that of whitefish landed in Peterhead (Figure 14).

The average prices were also higher at Shetland's fish markets for 10 of the 13 principal species landed, substantially so in the cases of megrim, plaice and lemon sole (Figure 14).

The only species for which prices were higher in Peterhead were cod (by a very small amount), saithe and ling<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> For a more detailed analysis of whitefish prices in Shetland and elsewhere in Scotland see: Napier, I.R. (2022). *Whitefish Market Prices in Shetland*. UHI Shetland Report. Available at: [www.shetland.uhi.ac.uk/research/statistics/reports/fisheries/](http://www.shetland.uhi.ac.uk/research/statistics/reports/fisheries/).



## Whitefish - Comparison of Prices

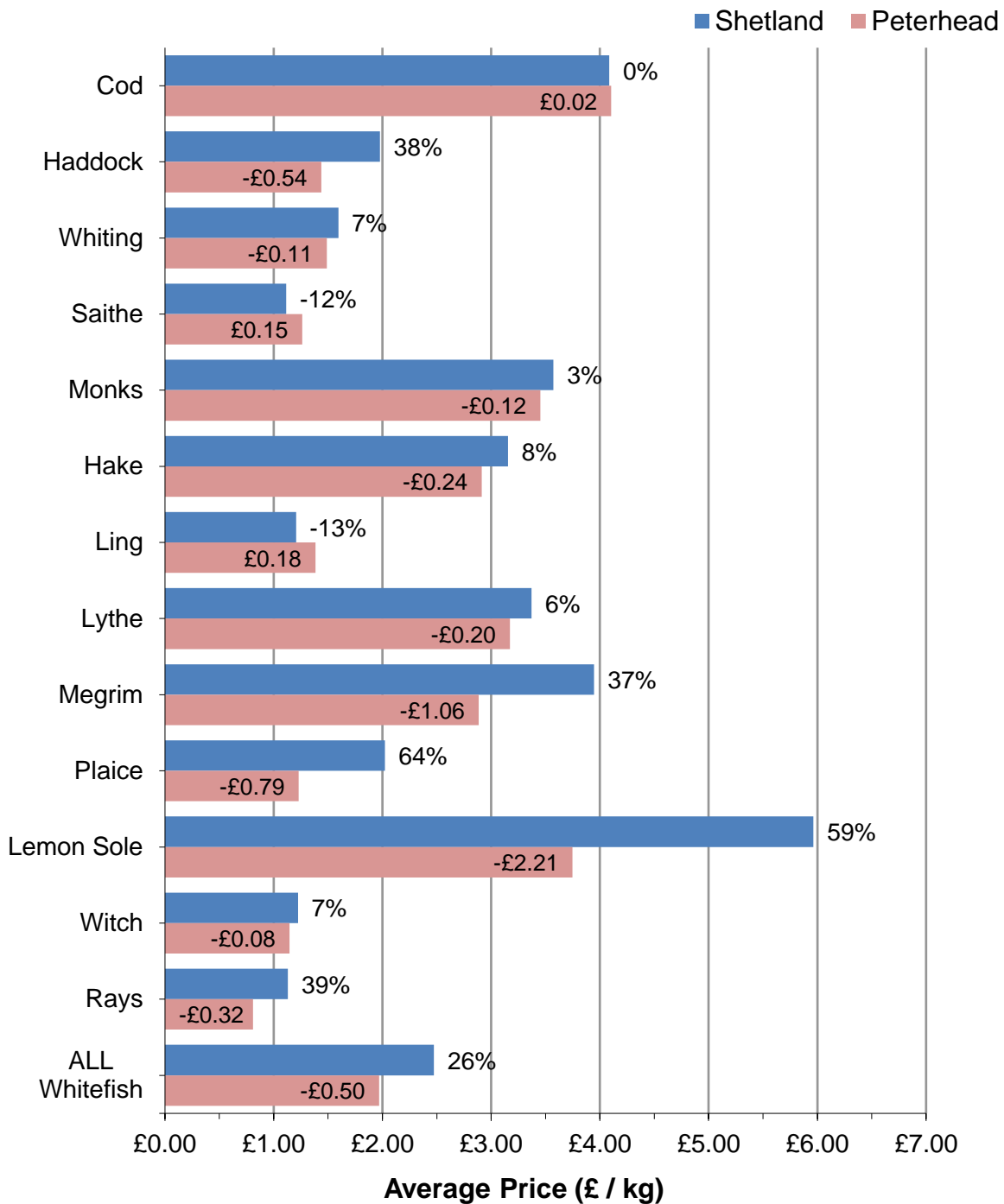


Figure 16 Comparisons of the average prices of the principal whitefish species landed in Shetland in 2021 and sold through the local fish markets (Shetland Seafood Auction) with those in Peterhead. Figures outside the bars show the percentage differences between the prices in Shetland and those in Peterhead. Figures inside the bars show the actual differences in prices (£/kg) between Peterhead and Shetland. (Prices are based on landed weights.)

# Pelagic Fish

*Pelagic fish include mackerel, herring, blue whiting and similar species. Past pelagic landings have included both landings for human consumption and for reduction to fish meal, although they are now almost entirely for human consumption.*

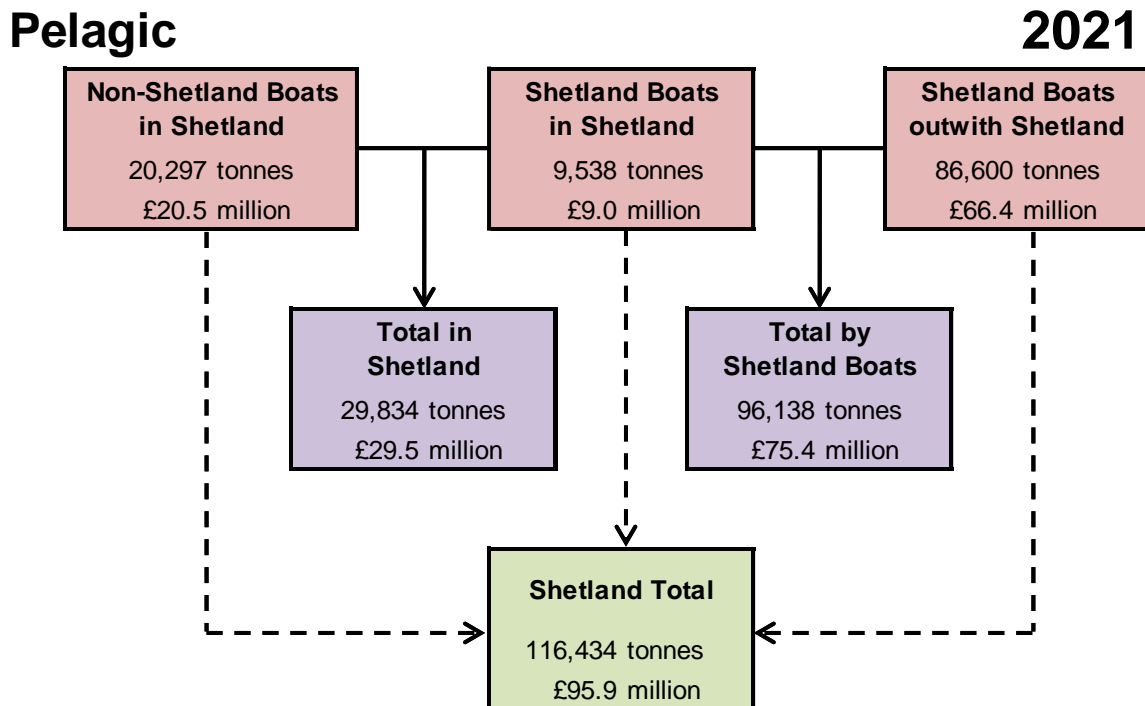


Figure 17 Summary breakdown of the weight and value of pelagic fish landed in Shetland and by Shetland-based fishing boats in 2021.

Just under 30,000 tonnes of pelagic fish, worth almost £30 million were landed in Shetland in 2021 (Figure 17). That was about 10% less weight than in 2020 although the value was only slightly (2%) less (Figure 19). Almost all pelagic fish landed in Shetland are landed to the Pelagia Shetland (formerly Shetland Catch) factory in Lerwick and variations in the quantity of pelagic fish landed in Shetland probably therefore reflect commercial and operational company decisions.

Shetland-based fishing boats landed some 96,000 tonnes of pelagic fish worth some £75 million in 2021 (Figure 17). That was an increase from 2020 of 22% in weight, but only 4% in value (Figure 20). Much of the increase in pelagic landings by Shetland boats was in landings of blue whiting, which have a relatively low price (£70 per tonne

## Pelagic Fish

on average compared to £1,000 per tonne for mackerel), but there were also increases in their landings of mackerel (by 7%) and herring (4%) (Figure 21).

Shetland-based fishing boats accounted for just under one-third of the pelagic fish landed in Shetland in 2021 (32% by weight, 31% by value) (Figure 19).

Mackerel accounted for almost two-thirds (64% by weight) of the pelagic fish landed in Shetland in 2021 and three-quarters (76%) of the value while herring accounted for almost all of the remainder (Figure 18).

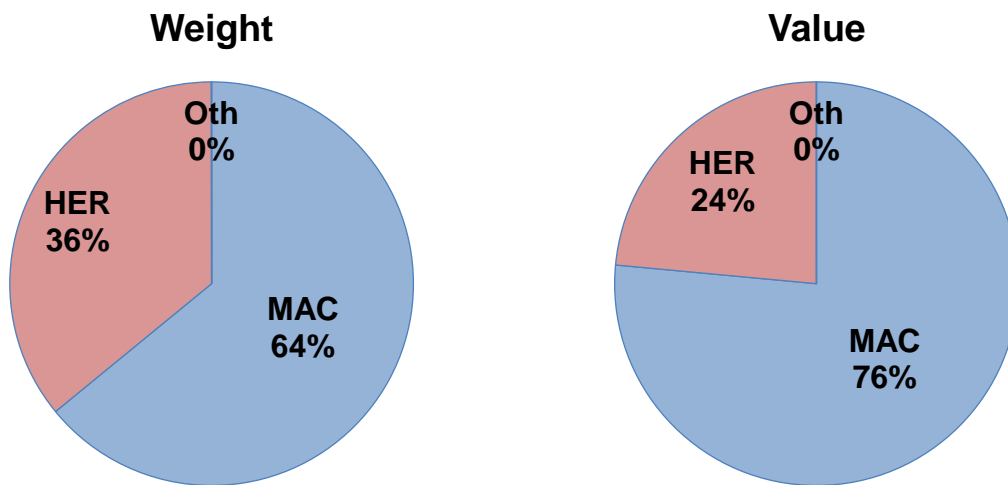


Figure 18 Breakdowns of the weights (left) and value (right) of pelagic fish landed in Shetland in 2021. 'MAC' = mackerel; 'HER' = herring; 'Oth' = other species.

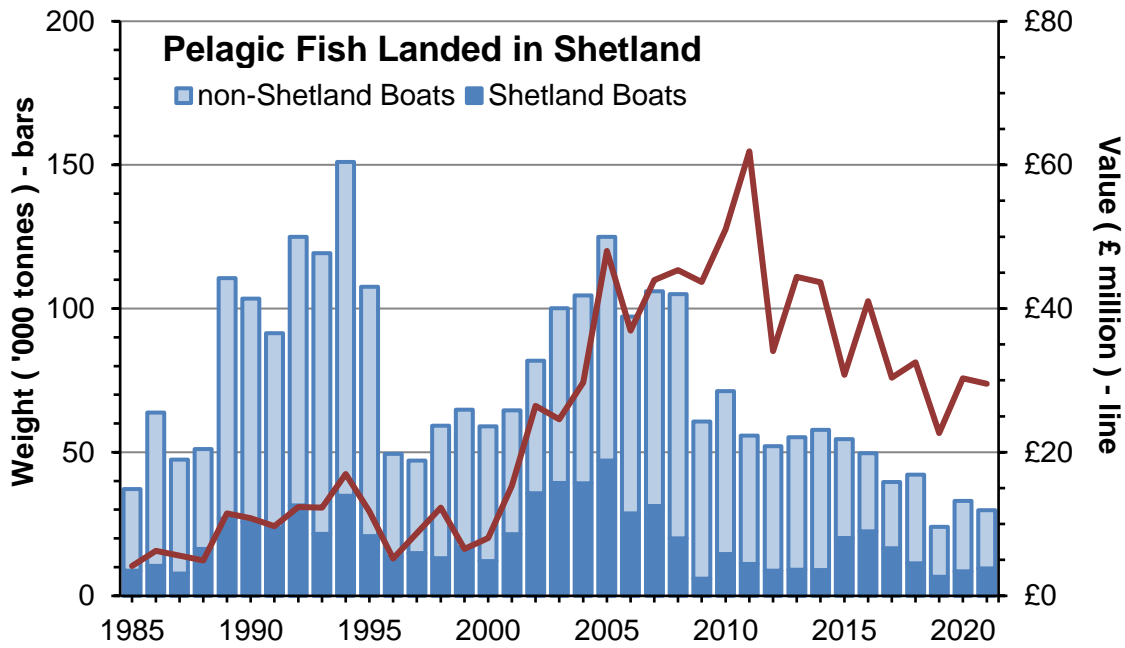


Figure 19 The weight (bars) and value (line) of pelagic fish landed in Shetland from 1985 to 2021.

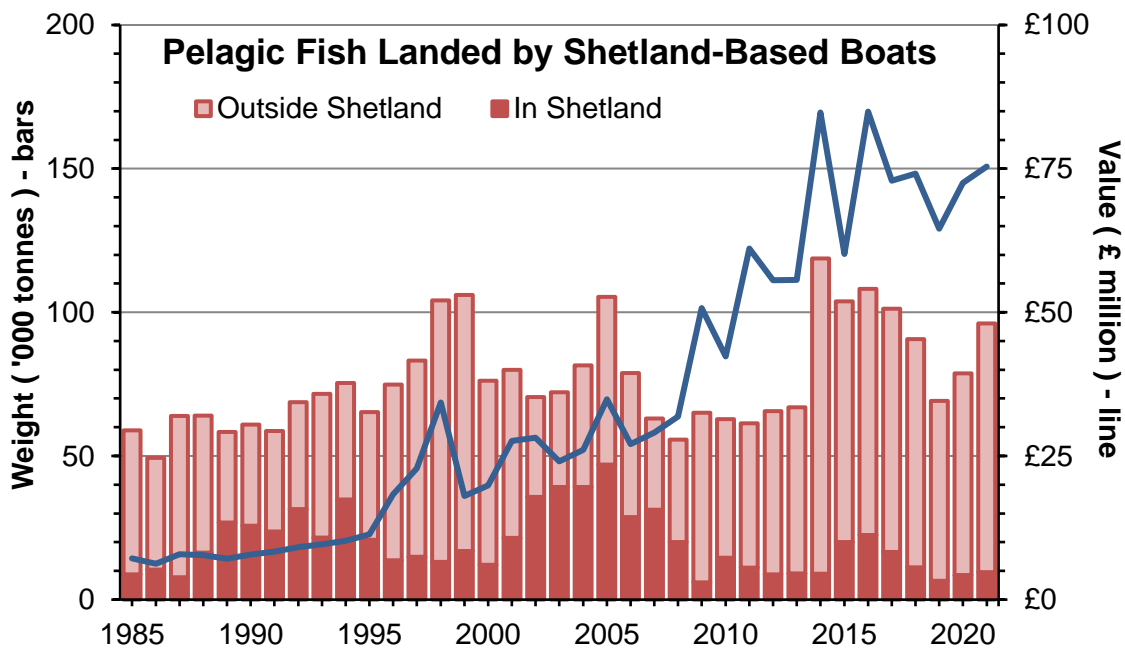


Figure 20 The weight (bars) and value (line) of pelagic fish landed by Shetland-based fishing boats from 1985 to 2021.

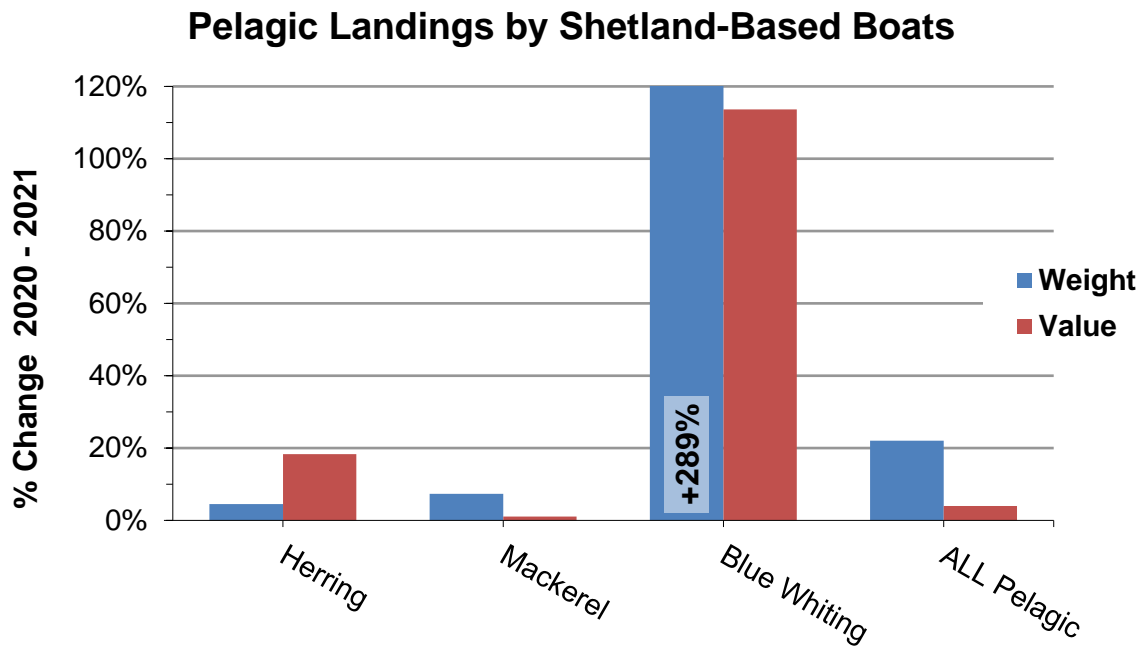


Figure 21 Percentage changes from 2020 to 2021 in the weights and values of pelagic species landed by Shetland-based fishing boats (everywhere). Note that the value for the weight of blue whiting exceeds the scale shown.

## Handline Caught Mackerel

Although most pelagic fish landed in Shetland are caught by large pelagic fishing boats and landed to the Pelagia Shetland factory in Lerwick, the quantity of mackerel caught by handline from small boats<sup>9</sup> and landed in Shetland for sale through the local fish markets has expanded substantially in recent years (Figure 22).

About 370 tonnes of handline caught mackerel, worth some £430,000 were sold through the Shetland Seafood Auction in 2021 (Figure 22) That was an increase of about 10% in weight (9% by value) from 2020.

The quantity of handline caught mackerel sold through the Auction increased more than 5-fold between 2018 and 2021 (Figure 22).

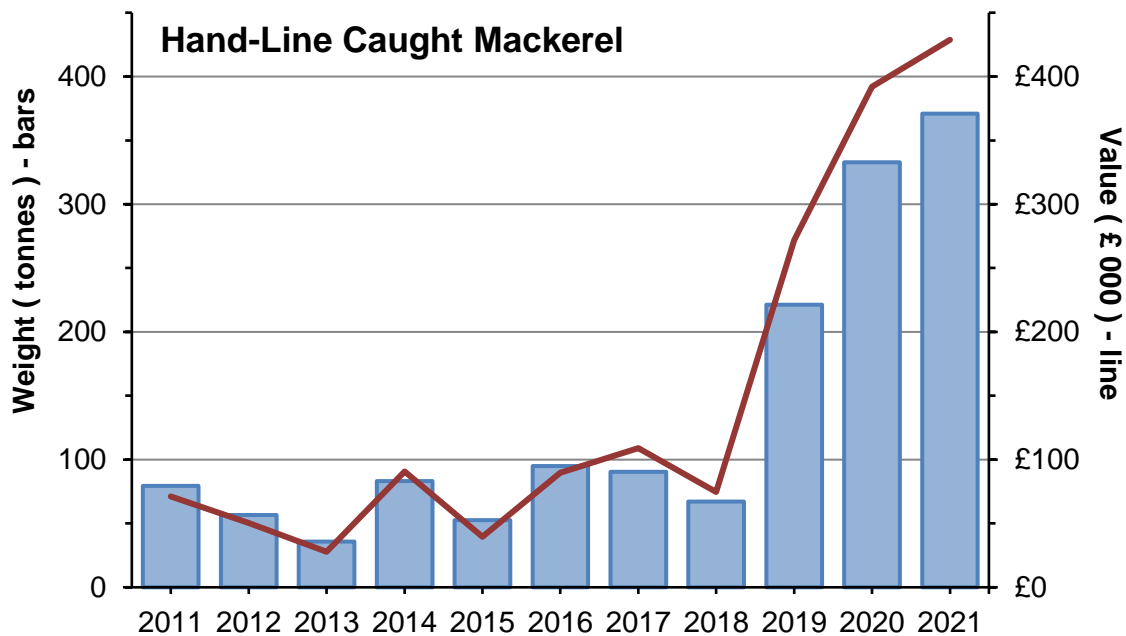


Figure 22 The weight (bars) and value (line) of handline caught mackerel sold through the Shetland Seafood Auction from 2011 to 2021.

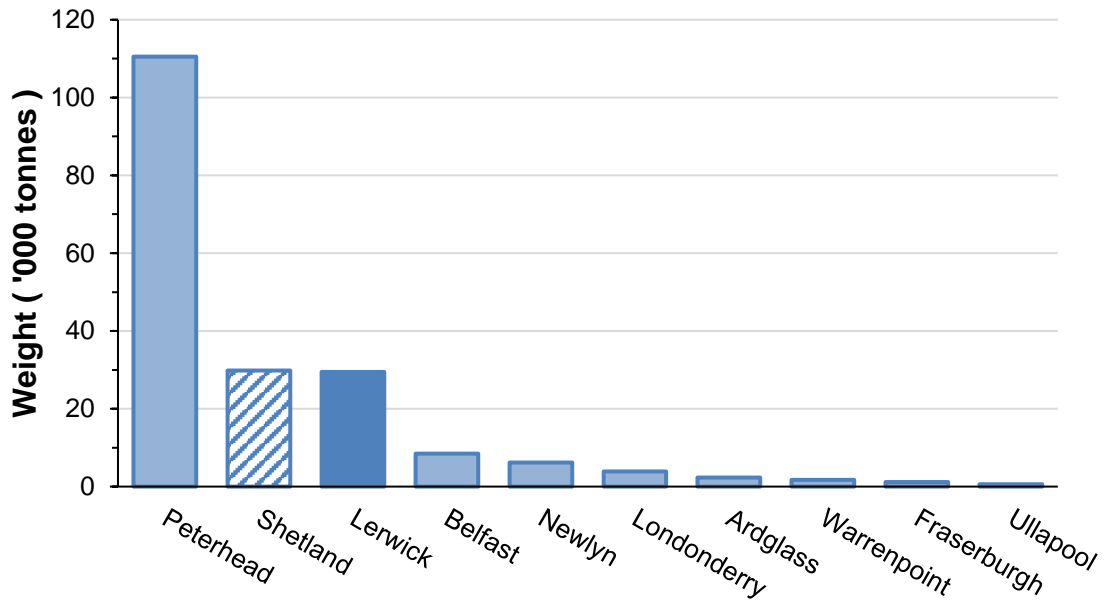
<sup>9</sup> It is believed that as many as 100 or more small Shetland fishing boats now participate in this fishery.

### National Context

In a national context, Shetland accounted for almost one-quarter of all the pelagic fish landed in Scotland in 2021 (24% by weight and value), and more than one-fifth of all pelagic fish landed in the UK (22% by weight, 24% by value). More pelagic fish were landed in Shetland than in any other port in the UK except Peterhead (Figure 23).

Shetland-based fishing boats accounted for almost one-third of all the pelagic fish landed by Scottish boats in 2021 (31% by weight, 29% by value) and just under one-quarter of all the pelagic fish landed by UK boats (24% by weight, 23% by value). Eight of the 21 Scottish large pelagic fishing boats are based in Shetland, including seven in Whalsay.

**Weight of Landings - Pelagic Fish**



**Value of Landings - Pelagic Fish**

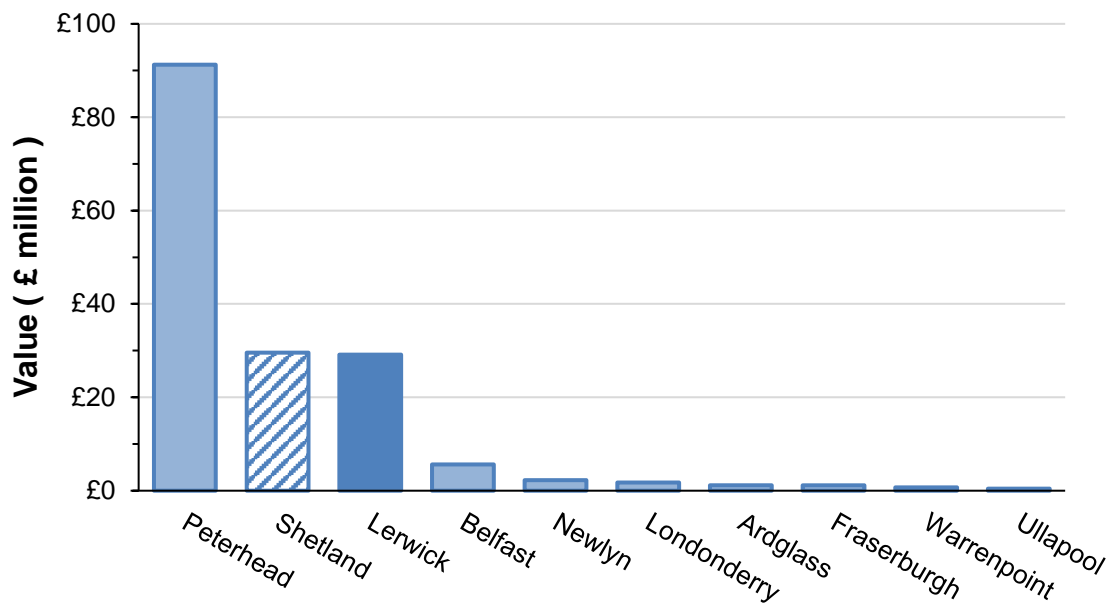


Figure 23 The weights (top) and values (bottom) of pelagic fish landed in the top-10 UK ports in 2021, and the totals for Shetland as a whole. (Shetland ports are highlighted.)



## Shellfish

Shellfish includes lobsters, crabs, scallops and buckies (whelks). Some shellfish species (cuttlefish, Nephrops and squid) are not included in these figures but instead included in the whitefish figures as they are predominantly caught by whitefish boats around Shetland.

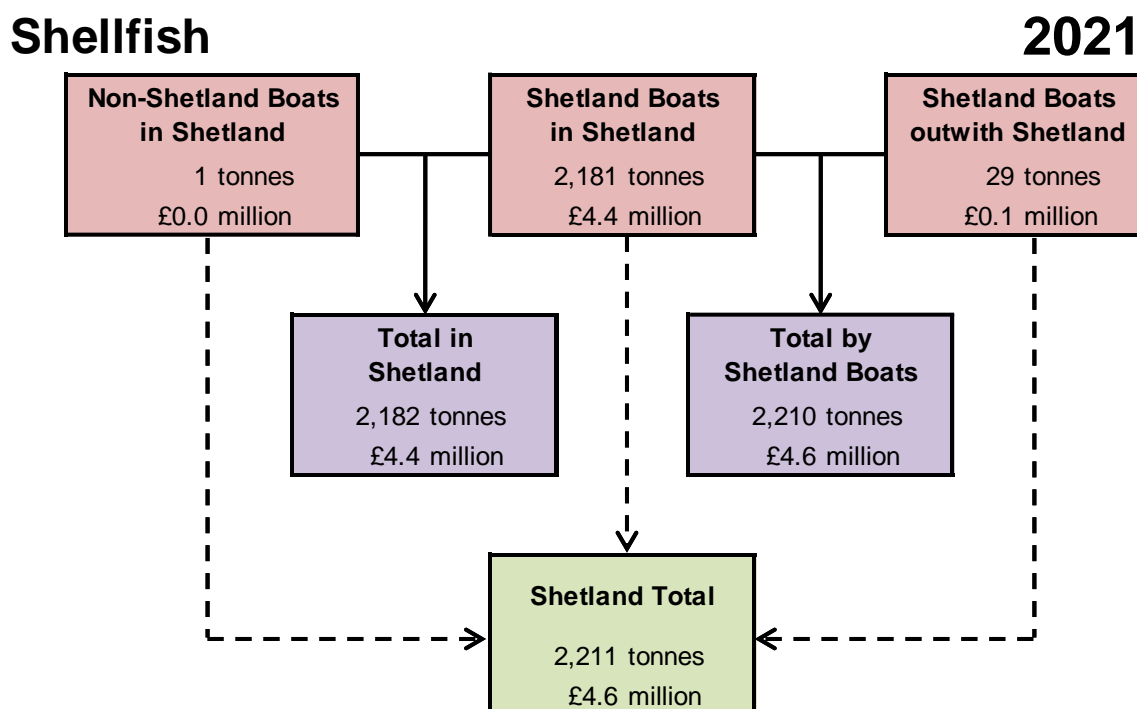


Figure 24 Summary breakdown of the weight and value of shellfish landed in Shetland and by Shetland-based fishing boats in 2021.

Just under 2,200 tonnes of shellfish worth about £4.5 million were landed in Shetland in 2021 (Figure 24). That was slightly more than in 2020 by weight (1%) but the value was 5% less (Figure 25). The falls in the value of shellfish landed in Shetland in 2020 and 2021 (Figure 25) may reflect impacts on the seafood market of the COVID-19 pandemic (see page 4).

Almost all the shellfish landed in Shetland (>99%) was landed by Shetland-based fishing boats (Figure 25) and almost all the shellfish landed by Shetland boats (99%) was landed in Shetland (Figure 26). The weight landed by Shetland boats increased slightly (by 3%) from 2020 to 2021 although their value fell by a small amount (3%) (Figure 26).

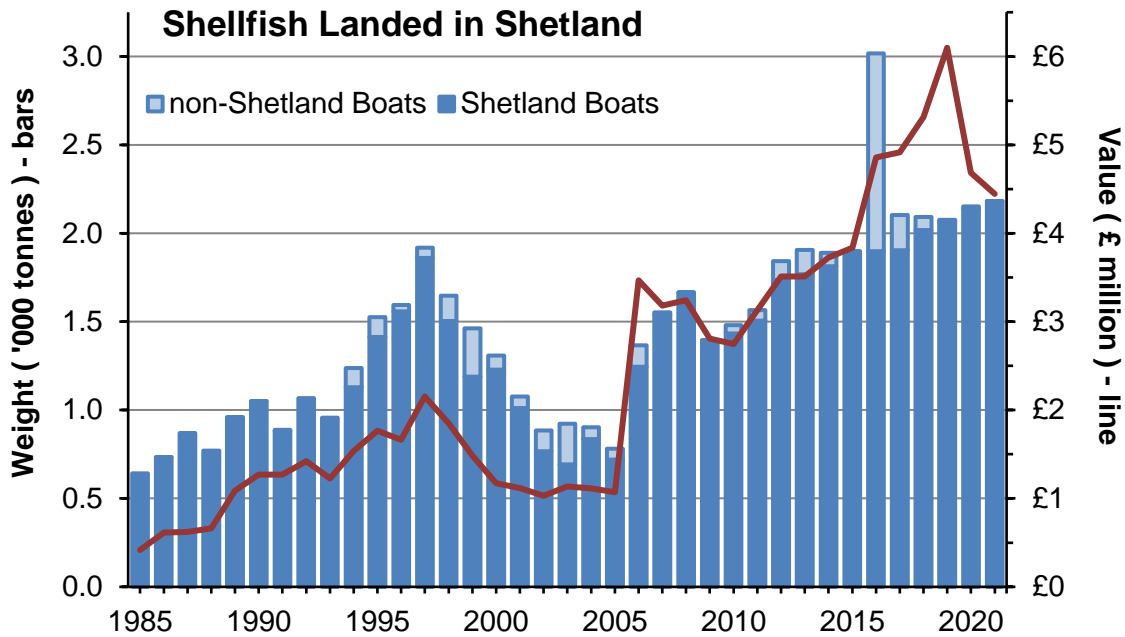


Figure 25 The weight (bars) and value (line) of shellfish landed in Shetland from 1985 to 2021. (The jump in landings from 2005 to 2006 reflects an improvement in data collection arising from the registration of buyers and sellers.)

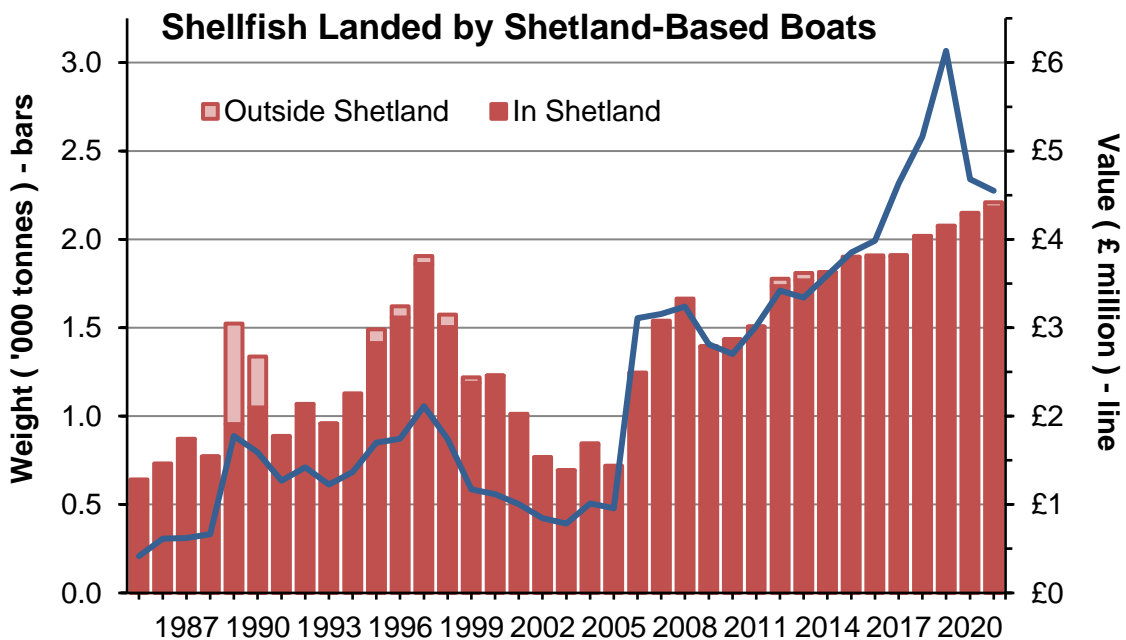


Figure 26 The weight (bars) and value (line) of shellfish landed by Shetland-based fishing boats from 1985 to 2021. (The jump in landings from 2005 to 2006 reflects an improvement in data collection arising from the registration of buyers and sellers.)

## Composition of Shellfish Landings

Scallops accounted for more than half of the shellfish landed in Shetland in 2021 and edible crabs about one-fifth (Table 4). Most of the remainder was made up of lobsters, velvet crabs and buckies (whelks).

Table 4 The principal shellfish species landed in Shetland in 2021 (ranked by value).

Species	Weight		Value	
	tonnes	%	£ 000	%
Scallops	1,303	60%	£2,335	53%
Edible Crabs	404	19%	£899	20%
Lobsters	23	1%	£371	8%
Velvet Crabs	140	6%	£513	12%
Whelks	306	14%	£322	7%
Others	6	0%	£6	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,182</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£4,447</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Place of Shellfish Landings

Landings of shellfish are much more widely distributed around Shetland than those of whitefish or pelagic fish, with no landing place especially dominant. That reflects the much more dispersed distribution around the islands of the inshore fleet which is based at many small piers and harbours throughout Shetland.

Lerwick and Collafirth together accounted for almost one-third of shellfish landings in Shetland in 2021 (by weight) and Skeld, Whalsay and Cullivoe another third (Figure 27).

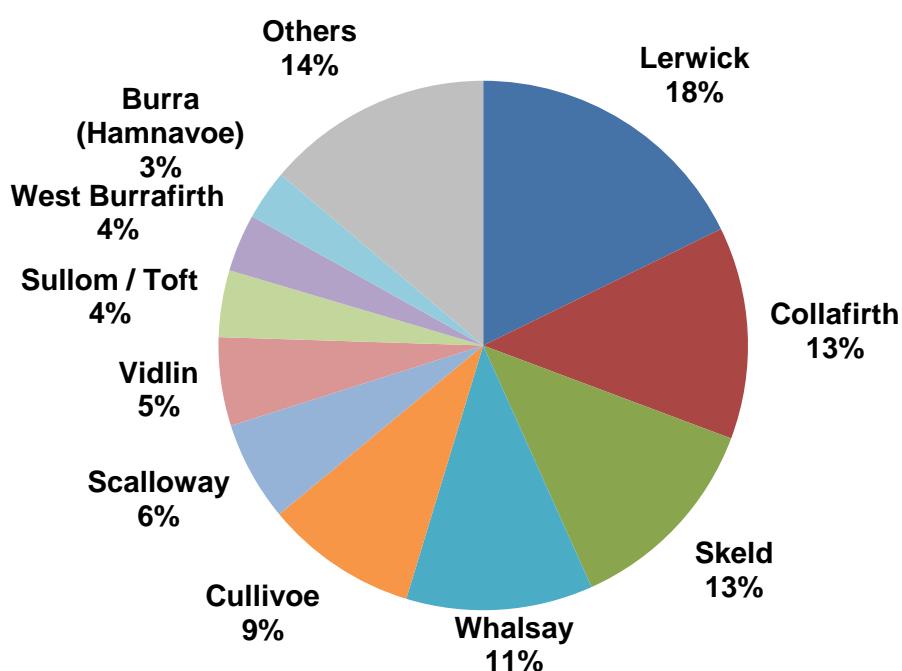


Figure 27 Breakdown of landings of shellfish in Shetland in 2021 by place of landing (by weight).

### National Context

Landings of Shellfish accounted for only small proportions of the quantities landed in Scotland (3% by value) or the UK (1% by value).

