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# Shetland Fisheries Statistics

# 2014

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**September 2015**



# Introduction

This report summarises the results of an analyses of the official Government data for the weight\* and value of fish landed in Shetland, and of fish landed by Shetland fishing boats, in 2014 (the last year for which these data are available).

## Data Sources

This analysis is based on data from two main sources:

- ◆ Figures for landings in Shetland were derived from data for landings in the UK published by the UK Marine Management Organisation (MMO)<sup>†</sup>.
- ◆ Figures for landings by Shetland vessels were derived from data supplied by the Marine Analytical Unit of Marine Scotland Science, part of the Scottish Government's Marine Scotland department.

There are some small differences between the figures for landings in Shetland derived from the MMO data and presented in this report, and those published by Marine Scotland in their *Scottish Fisheries Statistics* but these are not believed to be significant.

## Further Information

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

**[www.nafc.uhi.ac.uk/research/publications/fish-stats/fish-stats](http://www.nafc.uhi.ac.uk/research/publications/fish-stats/fish-stats)**

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\* All weights are 'Live Weight Equivalent', i.e. the estimated weight of the fish in their live (ungutted) state.

† available online at: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/monthly-uk-sea-fisheries-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/monthly-uk-sea-fisheries-statistics)

# Overall

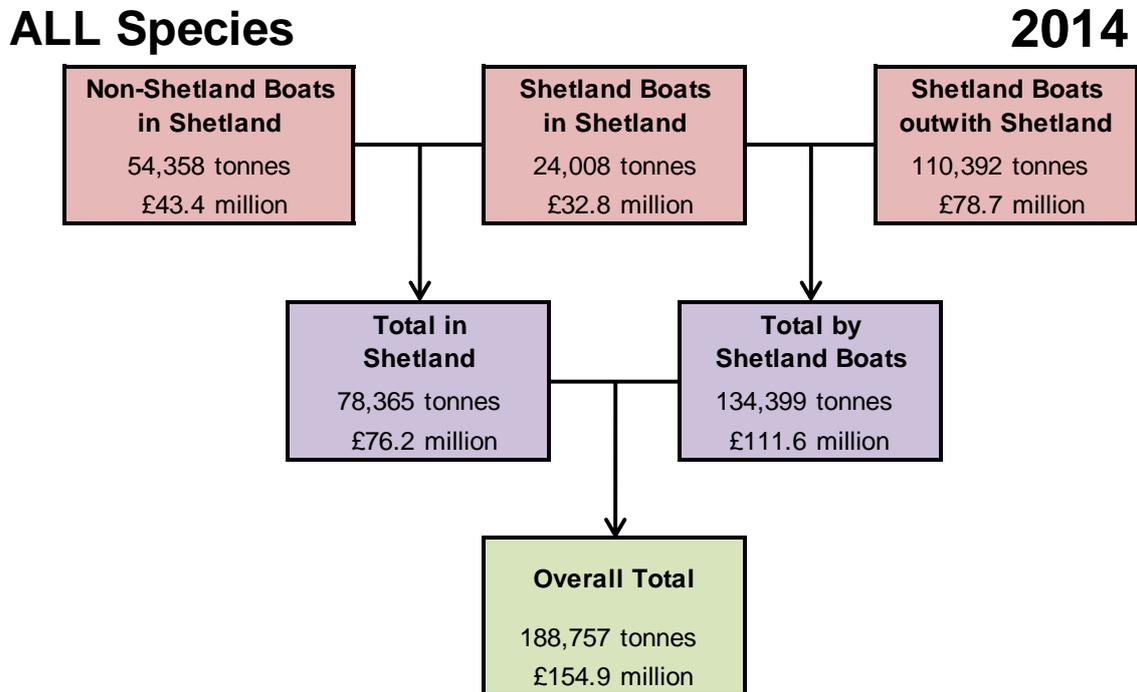


Figure 1 Summary breakdown of the weight and value of all fish landed in Shetland and by Shetland boats in 2014.

More than 78,000 tonnes of fish worth some £76 million were landed in Shetland in 2014 (Figure 1). Of these landings, Shetland fishing boats accounted for 24,000 tonnes (31% of the total) worth £33 million (43%).

An additional 110,000 tonnes of fish - most of it pelagic - worth £79 million were landed outside Shetland by local boats. This brings the notional total of 'Shetland' fish landings to almost 189,000 tonnes and £155 million (landings in Shetland plus landings elsewhere by Shetland boats).

The total weight and value of fish landed in Shetland in 2014 was slightly greater than in 2013 (by 6% and 4%, respectively; Figure 2).

The total weight of fish landed by Shetland fishing boats in 2014 (everywhere) was two-thirds (64%) greater than in 2013 (Figure 3), while their value was 29% greater. Most of these increases were in landings of mackerel (see footnote on page 1).

Overall the total weight of 'Shetland' fish landings in 2014 was 42% greater than in 2013, while their value was 26% greater (again most of this increase was in landings of mackerel).

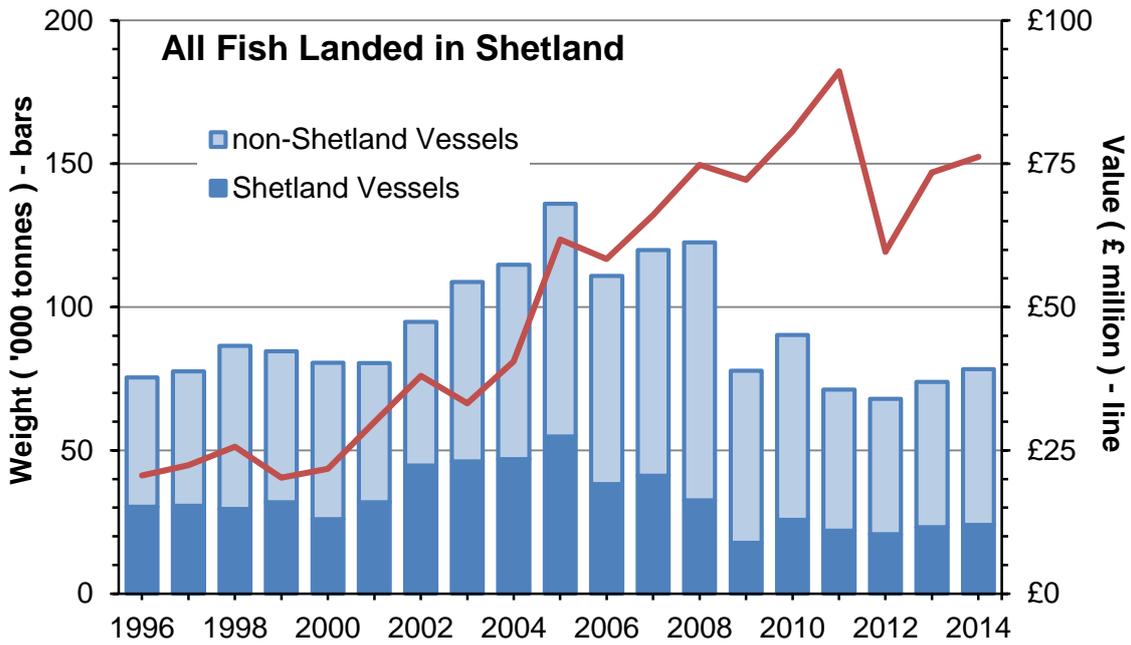


Figure 2 The weight (bars) and value (line) of all fish landed in Shetland from 1996 to 2014.

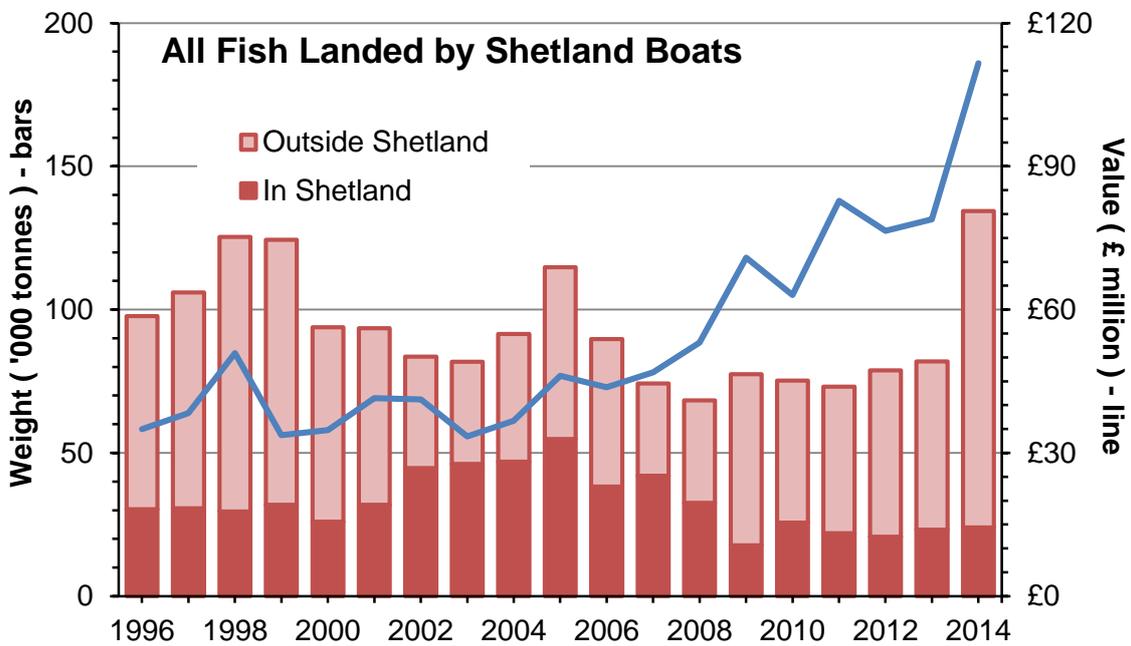


Figure 3 The weight (bars) and value (line) of all fish landed by Shetland fishing boats from 1996 to 2014.

Pelagic species (mackerel, herring, etc.) accounted for most of the fish landed in Shetland (77% by weight, 59% by value), but had the smallest unit-value (Table 1). Whitefish (cod, haddock, monks, etc.) accounted for 21% of the weight of landings but 36% of their value. Shellfish (crabs, scallops, etc.) accounted for the smallest proportion of landings (2% by weight, 5% by value) but had the highest unit-value.

Table 1 The total weights and values of fish landed in Shetland in 2013 by species group.

	<b>Weight</b>		<b>Value</b>		<b>Unit Value</b>
	<b>tonnes</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>£ m</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>£ / kg</b>
<b>Pelagic Fish</b>	60,149	77%	£45.16	59%	£0.75
<b>Whitefish</b>	16,306	21%	£27.14	36%	£1.66
<b>Shellfish</b>	1,911	2%	£3.89	5%	£2.04
<b>Total</b>	78,365		£76.19		£0.97

## Place of Landing

Table 2 shows the landings in Shetland in 2014 broken down by place of landing. Landings outside of Lerwick, Scalloway and Cullivoe were predominantly of shellfish.

Table 2 The total weights and values of fish landed in Shetland in 2014 by place of landing.

	<b>Weight (tonnes)</b>	<b>Value (£ 000s)</b>
Baltasound	11	£21
Cullivoe	1,737	£3,067
Mid Yell	77	£151
Burravoe	0	£0
Yell and Fetlar	1	£4
<b>North Isles Total</b>	<b>1,826</b>	<b>£3,242</b>
Collafirth	131	£264
Eshaness	49	£68
Northmavine	2	£15
<b>Northmavine Total</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>£347</b>
Sullom / Toft	181	£321
Vidlin	35	£74
Voe	0	£0
Other Central Mainland	29	£49
<b>Central Mainland Total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>£444</b>
Whalsay	196	£462
Skerries	62	£131
<b>Whalsay / Skerries Total</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>£592</b>
Aith	6	£12
Skeld	164	£347
West Burrafirth	266	£372
Other West Mainland	7	£10
<b>West Mainland Total</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>£742</b>
Burra (Hamnavoe)	47	£77
Sandwick	0	£0
Dunrossness and Fair Isle	183	£321
<b>South Mainland Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>£398</b>
<b>Lerwick</b>	<b>70,337</b>	<b>£62,333</b>
<b>Scalloway</b>	<b>4,843</b>	<b>£8,096</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>78,365</b>	<b>£76,195</b>

## National Context

In a national context, one quarter (24% by weight) of all the finfish\* landed in Scotland in 2014 and one fifth (20%) of all the finfish landed in the UK were landed in Shetland. These percentages were lower than in 2013 (Figure 4).

More fish and shellfish were landed in Shetland in 2014 than in any other port in the UK, except Peterhead.

More finfish‡ was landed in Shetland in 2014 than in all of England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Figure 5).

Shetland fishing boats accounted for almost one third (32%) of all the finfish‡ landed by Scottish fishing boats in 2014, and more than one fifth (22%) of all landings by UK boats. Shetland fishing boats landed almost as much fish (132,000 tonnes) as did the whole English fishing fleet (142,000 tonnes).

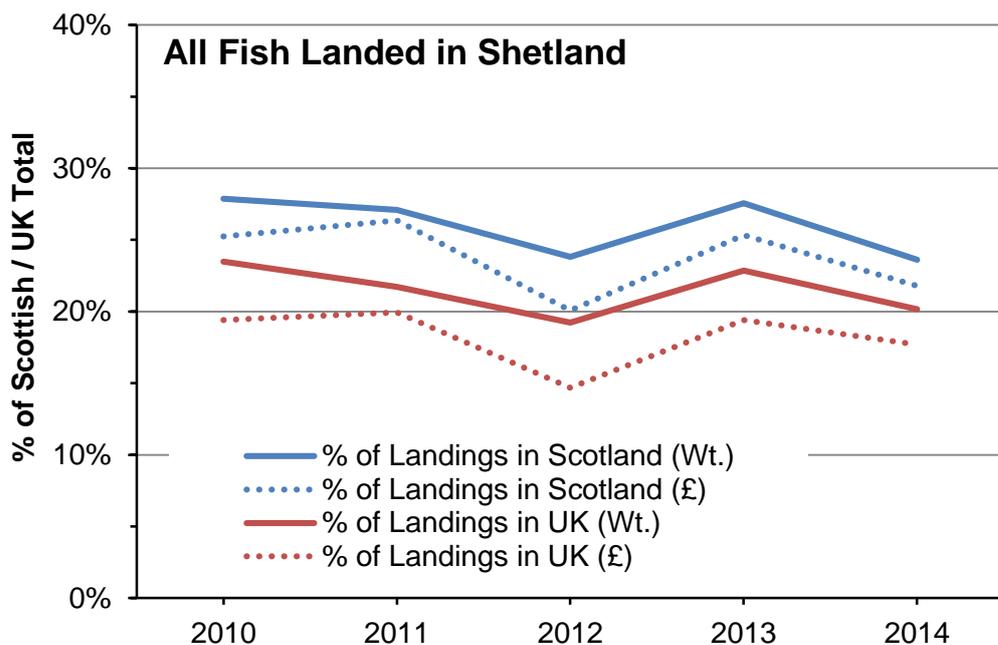


Figure 4 The weight of finfish landed in Shetland as a percentage of the totals landed in Scotland and the UK from 2010 to 2014. (Excluding shellfish.)

\* Excluding shellfish.

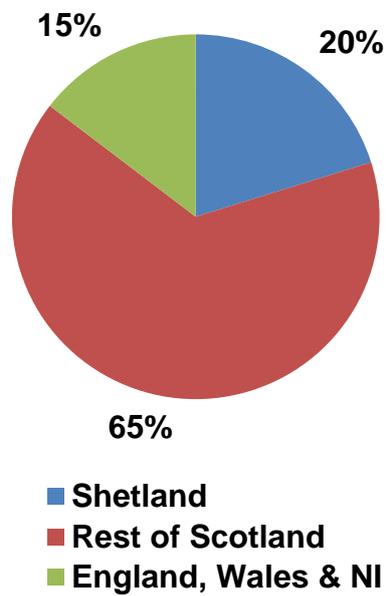


Figure 5 Breakdown of landings of finfish in the UK in 2014 (proportions of total weight landed in Shetland, in the rest of Scotland, and in England, Wales & Northern Ireland). (Excluding shellfish.)

# Whitefish

'Whitefish' (also referred to as 'demersal' fish) includes cod, haddock, whiting, monkfish, flatfish and similar species.

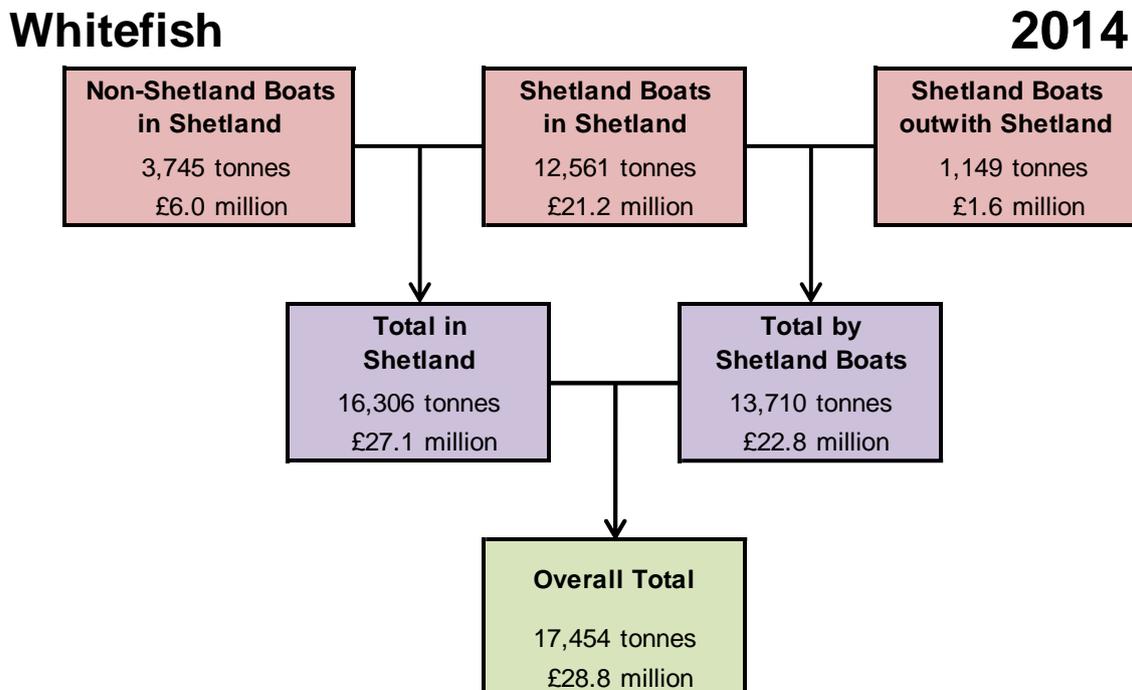


Figure 6 Summary breakdown of the weight and value of whitefish landed in Shetland and by Shetland fishing boats in 2014.

A total of just over 16,000 tonnes of whitefish worth about £27 million were landed in Shetland in 2014 (Figure 6). Three-quarters of this (77% by weight) was landed by local fishing boats.

In total, Shetland fishing boats landed 13,700 tonnes of whitefish worth almost £23 million in 2014, most of it (92% by weight) in Shetland.

The weight of whitefish landed in Shetland in 2014 was slightly (3%) less than in 2013, although the value was 6% greater (Figure 7). Landings of whitefish by Shetland fishing boats actually increased slightly (2%), while landings by non-Shetland boats decreased (by 16%).

The weight of whitefish sold through Shetland Seafood Auctions increased slightly (3%) from 2013 to 2014, suggesting that the decrease in landings by non-Shetland boats was primarily in landings of fish being consigned directly to markets outside Shetland.

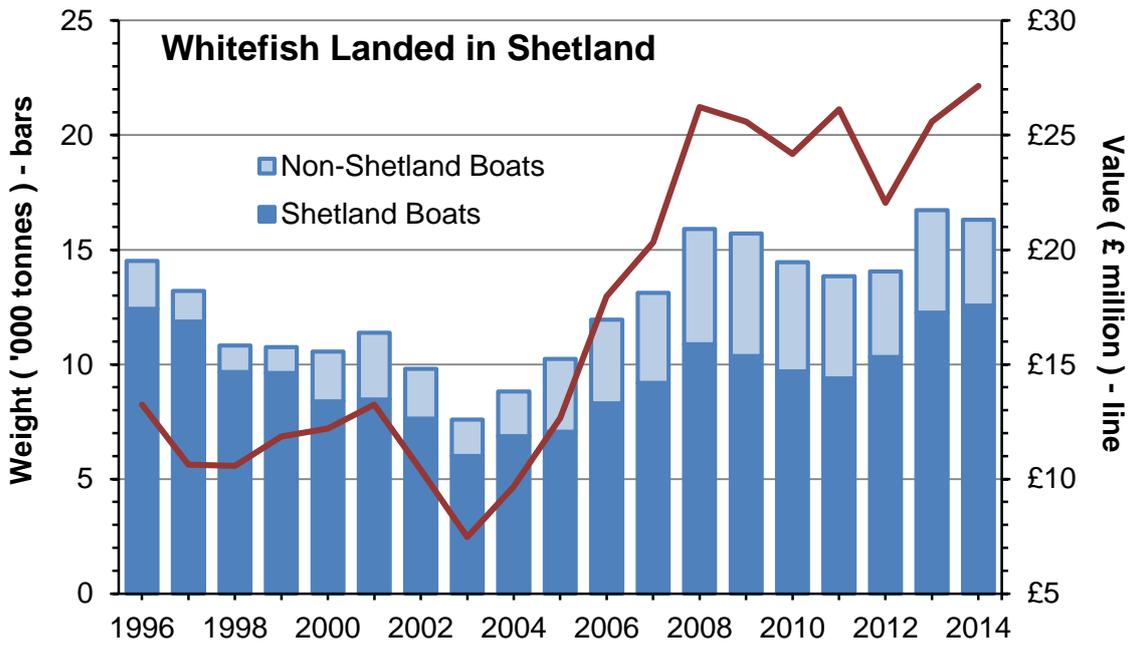


Figure 7 The weight (bars) and value (line) of whitefish landed in Shetland from 1996 to 2013.

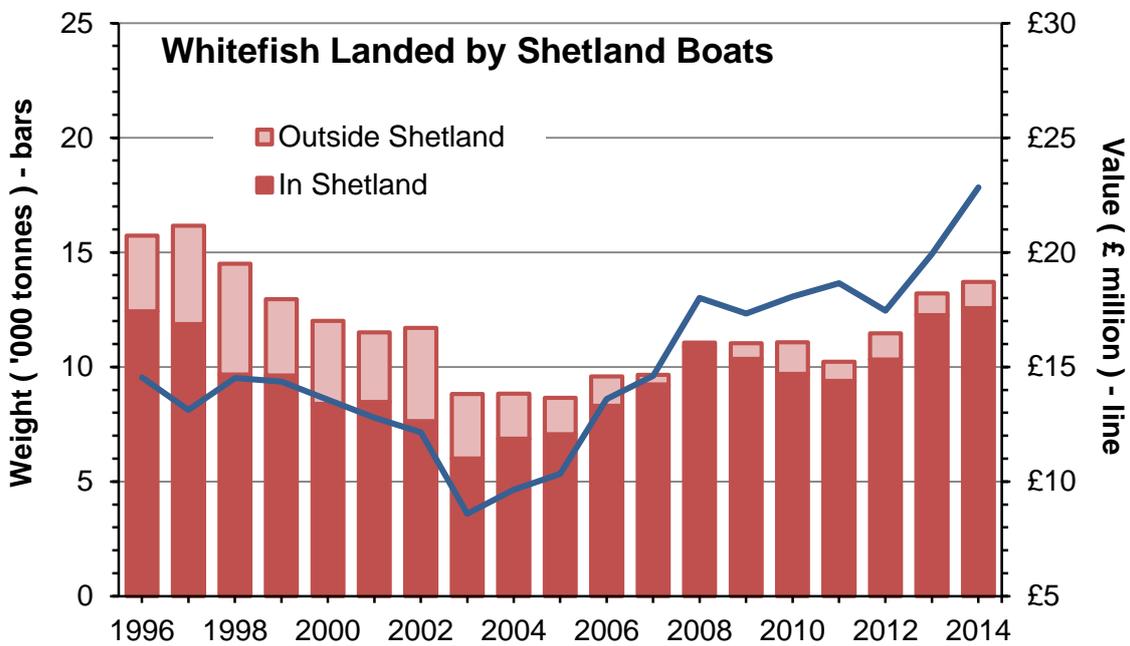


Figure 8 The weight (bars) and value (line) of whitefish landed by Shetland fishing boats from 1996 to 2013.

Overall, the total weight of whitefish landed by Shetland fishing boats increased by 4% in 2014 (Figure 8), while their value increased by 15%. Most landings of whitefish by Shetland boats (92%) were made in Shetland. (In recent years whitefish landings outside Shetland have resulted from boats travelling further afield to find alternative fishing opportunities, as far as the English Channel in some cases. The former practice of ‘tripping’ to mainland markets no longer occurs.)

It is estimated that about 87% (by weight) of the whitefish landed in Shetland in 2014 was sold through local fish markets, an increase from 2013 (83%). The remainder is shipped directly south, either for sale at Mainland fish markets or directly to processors. (This practice is only carried out by non-Shetland fishing boats.)

### **Composition of Whitefish Landings**

The weight and value of landings of the principal whitefish species in Shetland in 2014 are summarised in Table 3. Figure 9 and Figure 10 show the trends in the weights and value of landings in Shetland of the main whitefish species over the last decade and Figure 11 shows the changes in the weight and value of landings of the top-10 species (by value) from 2012 to 2014.

Haddock was the most valuable whitefish species landed in Shetland in 2014, accounting for 25% of the value of landings, but was only just ahead of cod (24%).

The biggest increases in whitefish landings in Shetland 2013 were in cod, monks, lemon sole and – especially – hake, while the biggest declines were in landings of megrim and saithe (Figure 11). Although the weight of haddock landed fell, their total value did not.

Table 3 The top-10 whitefish species (ranked by value) landed in Shetland in 2014.

	<b>Weight (tonnes)</b>	<b>Value (£ m)</b>
<b>Haddock</b>	4,449	£6.77
<b>Cod</b>	3,222	£6.61
<b>Monks</b>	1,300	£3.90
<b>Whiting</b>	2,429	£2.66
<b>Megrim</b>	664	£1.95
<b>Saithe</b>	1,677	£1.48
<b>Ling</b>	901	£1.06
<b>Lemon Sole</b>	196	£0.83
<b>Hake</b>	506	£0.74
<b>Plaice</b>	440	£0.38
<b>Others</b>	522	£0.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,306</b>	<b>£27.14</b>

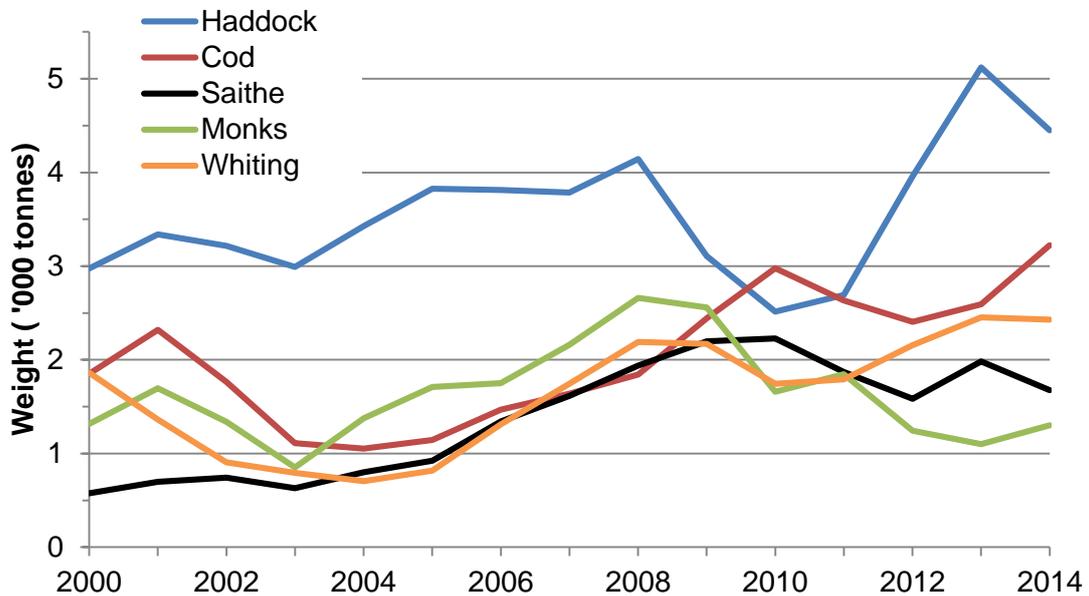


Figure 9 The weights of the principal whitefish species landed in Shetland from 2000 to 2014.

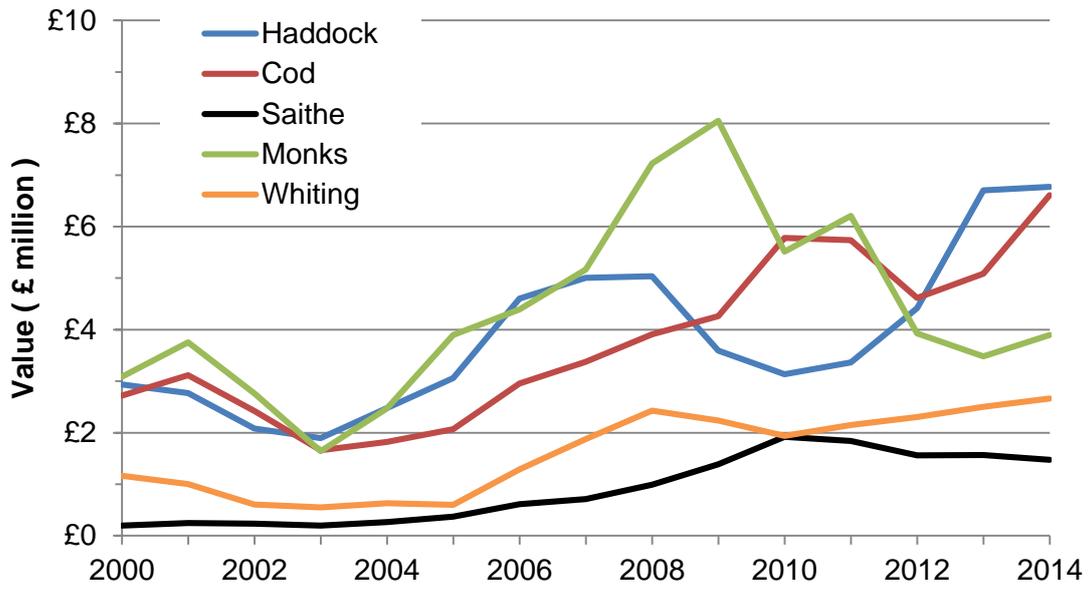


Figure 10 The values of the principal whitefish species landed in Shetland from 2000 to 2014.

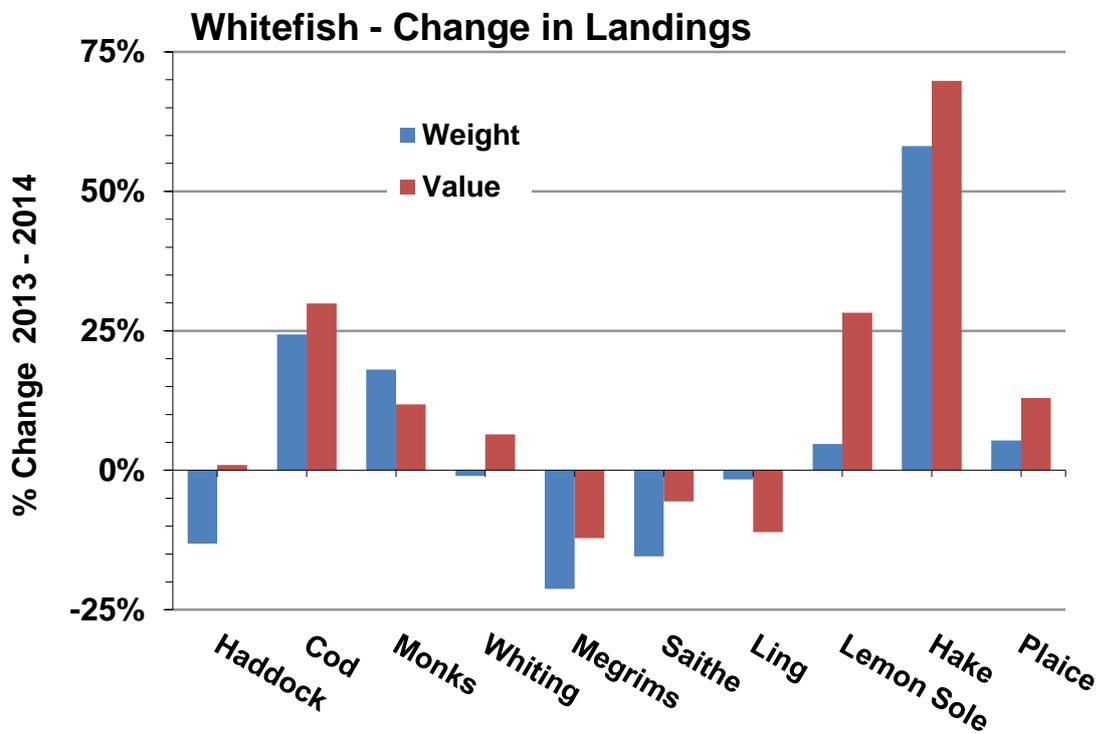


Figure 11 Percentage changes in the weight and value of landings of the top-10 whitefish species (by value) in Shetland from 2013 to 2014.

## Places of Whitefish Landing

Just under two-thirds (60%) of the whitefish landed in Shetland in 2014 were landed in Lerwick, more than one-quarter (28%) in Scalloway, 10% in Cullivoe, and 1% elsewhere in Shetland. Landings fell in Lerwick, although they remained in line with the average over the last few years. In Scalloway, landings increased, continuing a trend seen for several years, while in Cullivoe they remained stable (Figure 12). The weight of whitefish landed in Scalloway increased by 79% over the three years between 2011 and 2014.

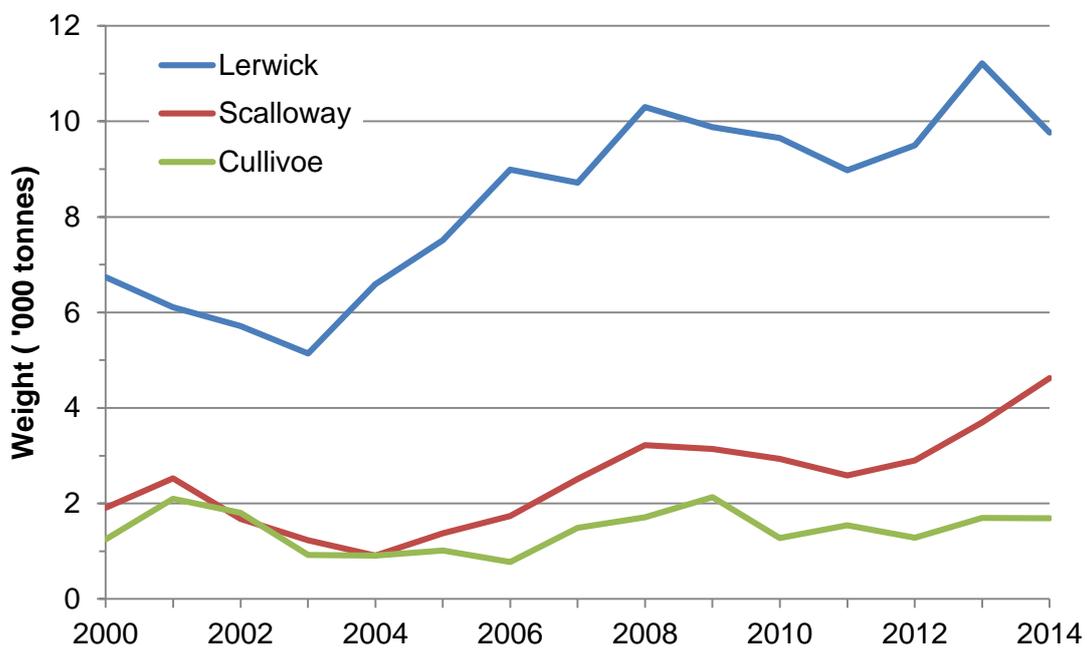


Figure 12 The weight of whitefish landed in Lerwick, Scalloway and Cullivoe from 2000 to 2013.

## National Context

In a national context, 14% (by weight) of all the whitefish landed in Scotland in 2014, and 11% of all the whitefish landed in the UK, were landed in Shetland. More whitefish was landed in Lerwick than in any other port in the UK except Peterhead and Scrabster. Scalloway ranked 7<sup>th</sup> and Cullivoe 12<sup>th</sup> in the UK.

Shetland fishing boats accounted for 15% (by weight) of all landings of whitefish by Scottish fishing boats, and 8% of all landings by UK fishing boats.

## 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.*

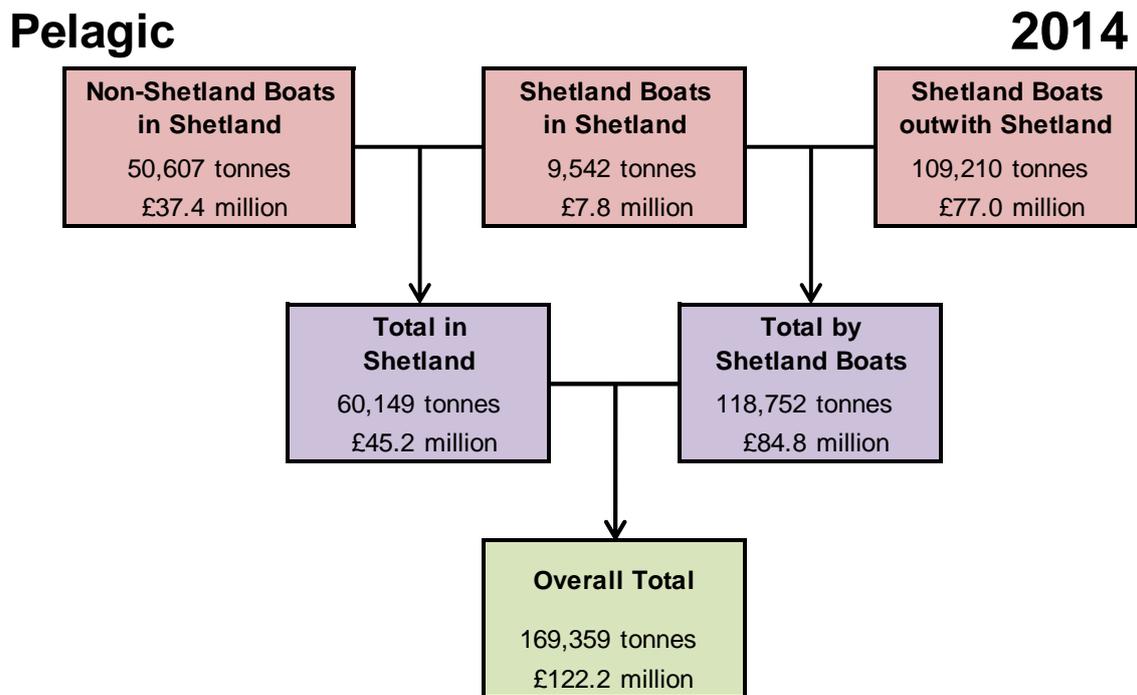


Figure 13 Summary breakdown of the weight and value of pelagic fish landed in Shetland and by Shetland boats in 2014.

A total of about 60,000 tonnes of pelagic fish, worth about £45 million were landed in Shetland in 2014 (Figure 13), 16% of it by local fishing boats. With the exception of a small quantity of hand-line caught mackerel, all pelagic fish were landed in Lerwick. Shetland fishing boats landed a further 109,000 tonnes of pelagic fish worth £77 million, outside Shetland. Of this, almost two-thirds (62%) was landed in Norway, with most of the balance in either Scotland (28%) or Denmark (18%).

Pelagic landings in Shetland were dominated by mackerel, which accounted for 89% of their weight and 96% of their value (£43 million). In addition to the main landings of mackerel at the Shetland Catch factory in Lerwick about 83 tonnes of hand-line caught mackerel, worth about £100,000, were sold through the Shetland Seafood Auction in 2014.

The weight of pelagic fish landed in Shetland in 2014 was slightly (9%) higher than in 2013 (Figure 14), but broadly similar to the last few years. The value of pelagic landings was similar to that in 2013 (2% higher).

Of the pelagic fish landed in Shetland by non-Shetland fishing boats in 2013, more than half (58%) was landed by other Scottish boats (Figure 15), 18% by Danish boats and 13% by Irish boats. Norwegian and Northern Irish boats accounted for the balance.

The weight and value of pelagic fish landed by Shetland fishing boats both increased substantially in 2014 (by 77% and 52%, respectively; Figure 16). This can be attributed to the large increase in the mackerel quota in 2014\*.

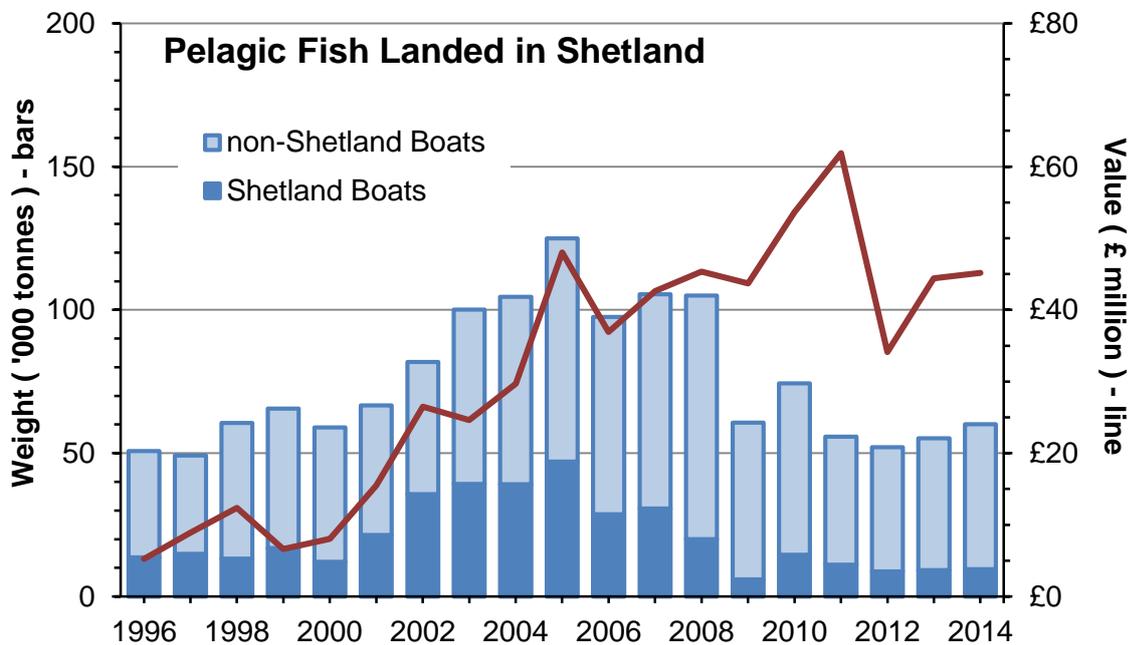


Figure 14 The weight (bars) and value (line) of pelagic fish landed in Shetland from 1996 to 2014.

\* The mackerel quota was increased in 2014 as part of the agreement that was reached to settle the long-running dispute over the division of the quota between the EU and Norway and Iceland and Faroe. Under the deal the EU accepted a smaller share of the mackerel quota (49.5% cf. 68%) but this was offset – at least temporarily – by a substantial increase in the total size of the quota. The result of this was to increase the size of the mackerel quota available to Scottish fishing vessels in 2014 by 84%. (The mackerel quota was reduced in 2015, but remains above the level agreed in 2013.)

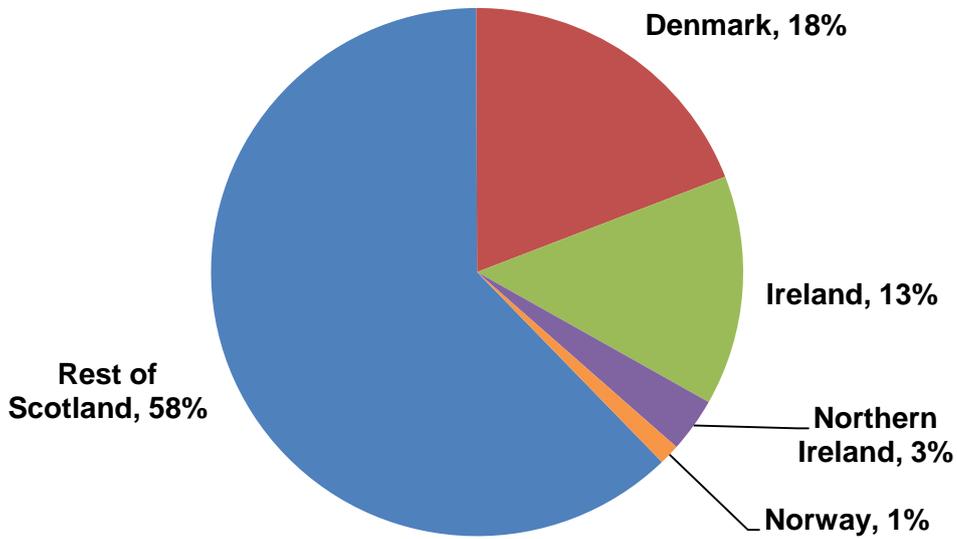


Figure 15 Breakdown by nationality of landings of pelagic fish in Shetland in 2014 by non-Shetland boats.

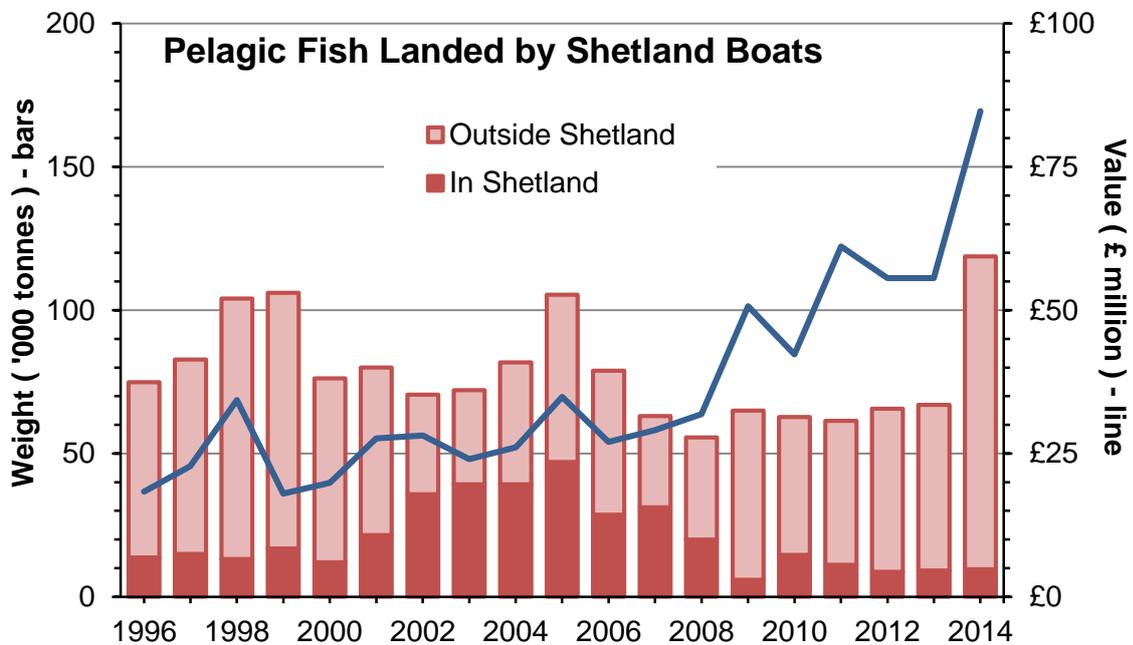


Figure 16 The weight (bars) and value (line) of pelagic fish landed by Shetland boats from 1996 to 2014.

# Shellfish

*Shellfish includes lobsters, crabs, scallops and buckies (whelks).*

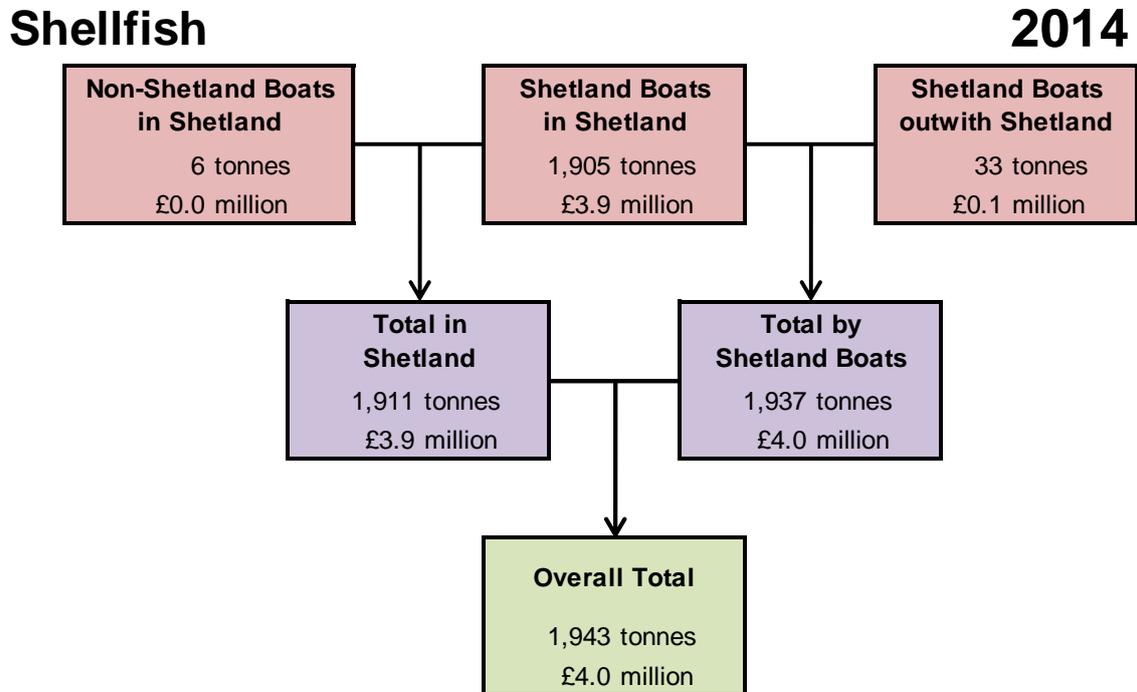


Figure 17 Summary breakdown of the weight and value of shellfish landed in Shetland and by Shetland boats in 2014.

About 1,900 tonnes of shellfish worth £3.9 million were landed in Shetland in 2014, almost all of it (>99%) by Shetland registered fishing boats (Figure 17). Only a very small quantity of shellfish was landed outside Shetland by local boats (some, at least, of this might be attributable to boats still registered in Shetland but no longer based here).

The weight of shellfish landed in Shetland in 2014 was almost unchanged from 2013, but the value was 12% higher.

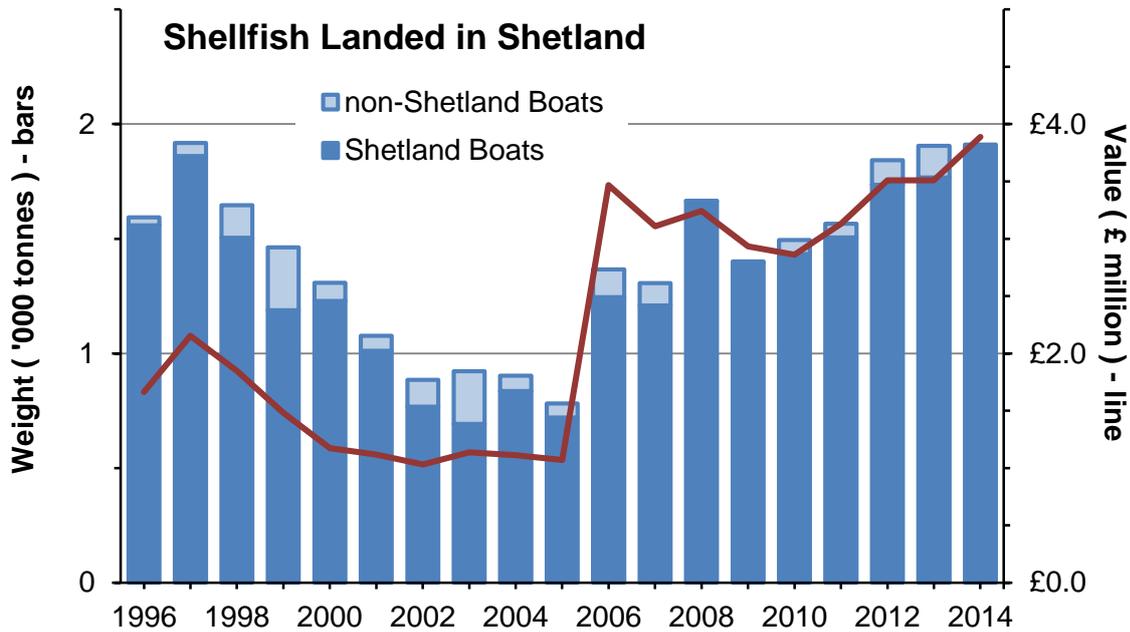


Figure 18 The weight (bars) and value (line) of shellfish landed in Shetland from 1996 to 2014. (The jump in landings from 2005 to 2006 probably reflects the improvement in data collection arising from the registration of buyers and sellers.)

Landings of shellfish were much more widely distributed around Shetland than was the case for landings of whitefish or pelagic fish. Just over one-quarter of shellfish landings were made in Lerwick (27%), while Scalloway accounted for only 8% of shellfish landings (Figure 20). Other principal landings places for shellfish included West Burrafirth, Sullom Voe / Toft, Whalsay, Skeld, Collafirth and Mid Yell.

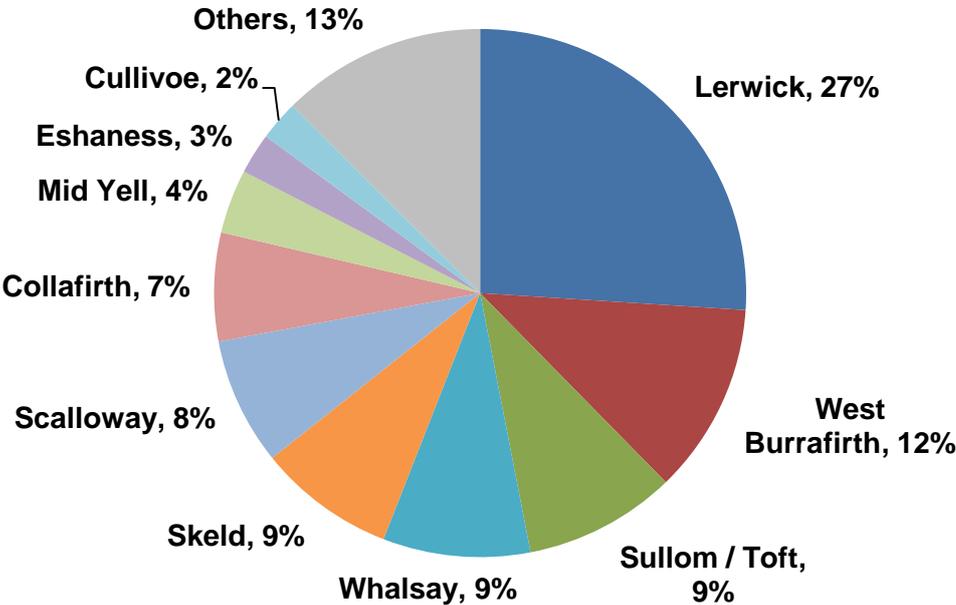


Figure 19 Breakdown of landings of shellfish in Shetland in 2014 by place of landing.

# Catches in the Waters Around Shetland

Figure 20 summarises the weight and value of landings of fish caught in the waters around Shetland in 2014. These data are based on fishermen’s log-sheets that record the locations of catches and are overall totals for all species, for all landings (everywhere) by UK boats and for landings in the UK by foreign boats. They do not include fish caught by foreign boats and landed outside the UK.

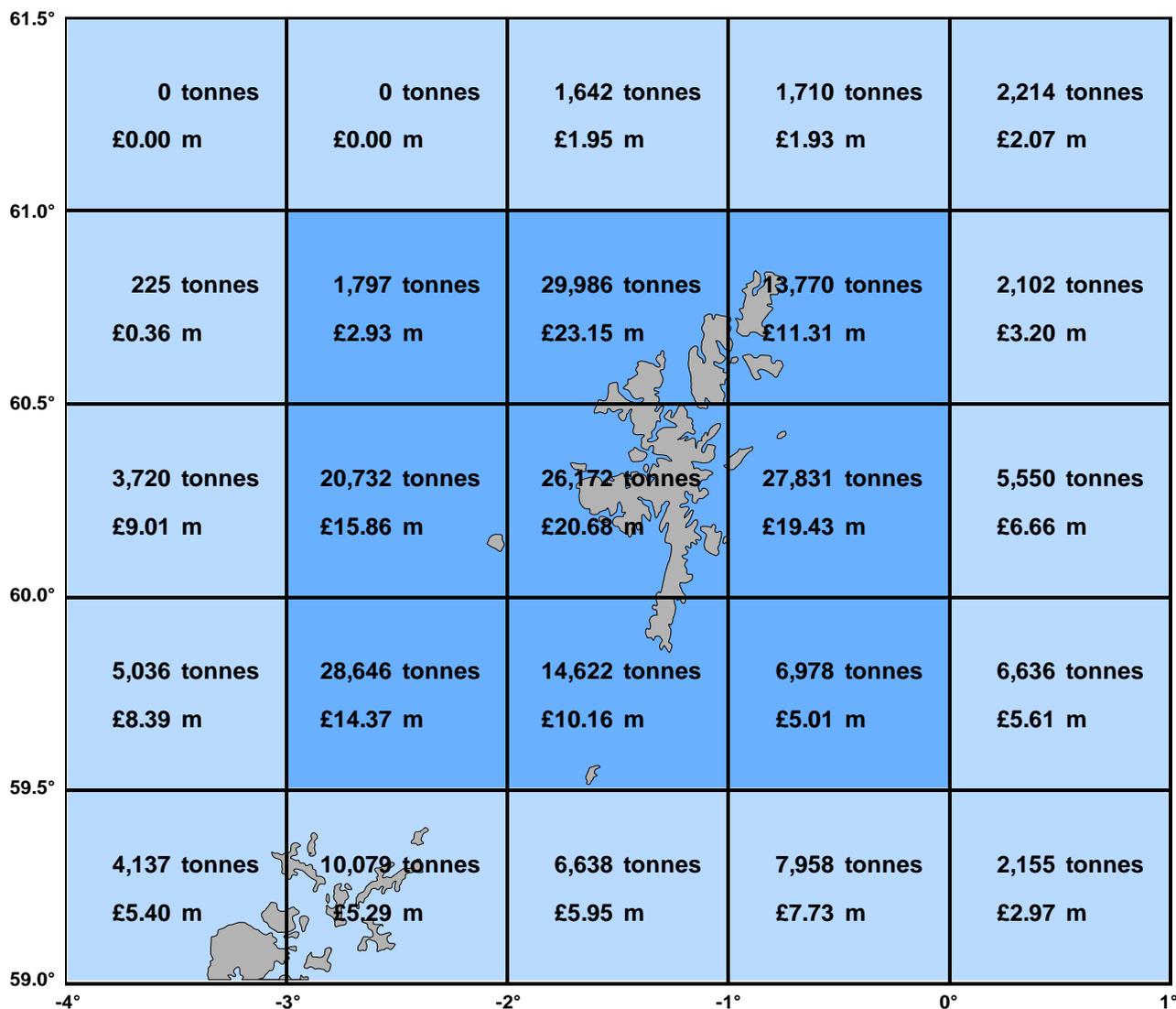


Figure 20 The weight and value of landings in 2014 of fish caught in the waters around Shetland (includes all landings of all species everywhere by UK boats and landings by foreign boats in the UK). Individual rectangles are approximately 30 nautical miles on a side. The smaller ‘inner’ area referred to in the text is more darkly shaded.

Landings from the whole area shown in Figure 20 totalled 230,000 tonnes in 2014, worth £189 million. A total of some 170,000 tonnes of fish, worth £123 million, were landed from the smaller, inner area (with the darker shading). The most valuable individual areas are to the west and north of Shetland.

On a per-area basis, the value of landings from the whole area shown in Figure 20 averaged about £8,400 per square nautical mile (NM) (£2,500 / km<sup>2</sup>), while for the smaller ‘inner’ area the average was about £15,200 / NM<sup>2</sup> (£4,400 / km<sup>2</sup>). However, there was substantial variation between areas, and within the squares shown in Figure 20, with some areas having much higher averages. The highest average value per area was in the top-central square of the inner area shown in of Figure 20 (which encompasses the north of the Shetland Mainland), at £25,700 / NM<sup>2</sup> (£7,500 / km<sup>2</sup>)

Although the figures for 2014 exclude fish landed outside the UK by non-UK vessels, landings from the waters around Shetland were substantially higher in 2014 than in 2013 (Figure 21). A significant contributor to this increase will have been the increase in the mackerel quota in 2014 (see footnote on page 1).

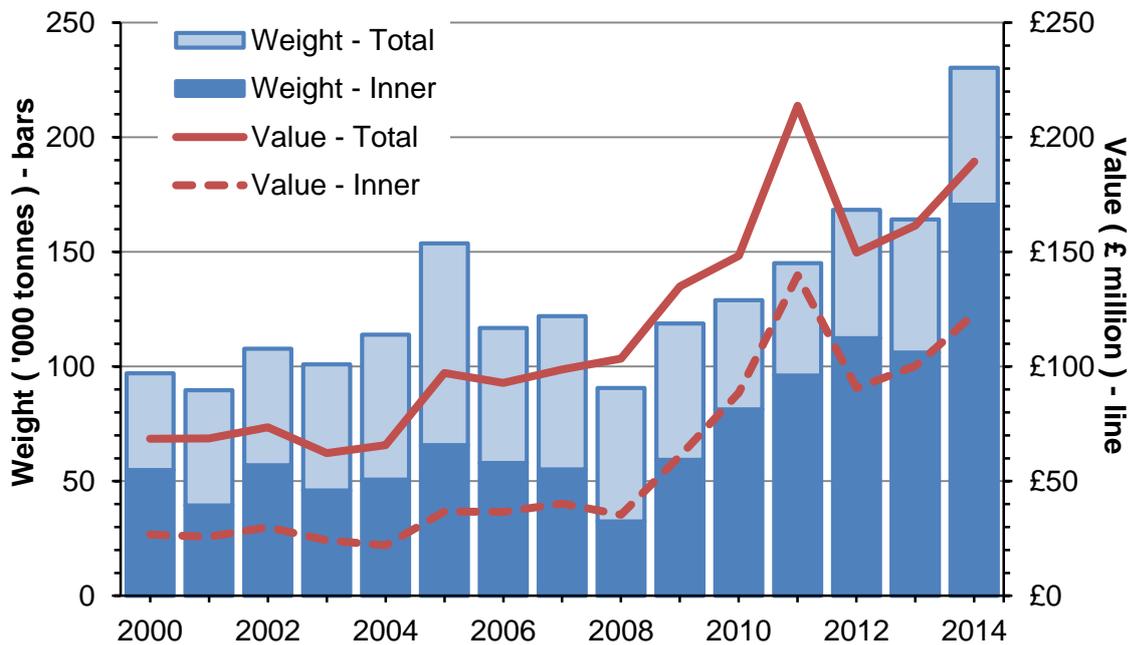


Figure 21 The weights (bars) and values (lines) of fish landed from the area around Shetland shown in Figure 20, and from the smaller ‘inner’ area. NOTE: figures for 2014 do not include landings outside the UK by non-UK vessels.

## Distribution of Catches Around the UK

The maps on the following pages (Figure 22 to Figure 24) show the distribution of catches of fish around the UK in 2013 (all landings of fish everywhere by UK fishing boats), the last year for which these data are available\*.

As can be seen, high proportions of both the whitefish and the pelagic fish landed by UK boats were caught in waters close to Shetland. It is estimated that more than one third (39% by weight) of all the whitefish and half (50%) of the pelagic fish landed by UK fishing boats were caught within 100 nautical miles (185 km) of Shetland (Table 4). And one quarter (23%) of the whitefish and more than one third (38%) of the pelagic fish were caught within 50 nautical miles (93 km) of Shetland.

If only the North Sea is considered the proportions are much higher: More than half the whitefish (58%) and 87% of the pelagic fish landed by UK boats from the North Sea were caught within 100 nautical miles of Shetland.

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\* These figures are derived from data published by the Scottish Government, available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Agriculture-Fisheries/RectangleData>

## Whitefish

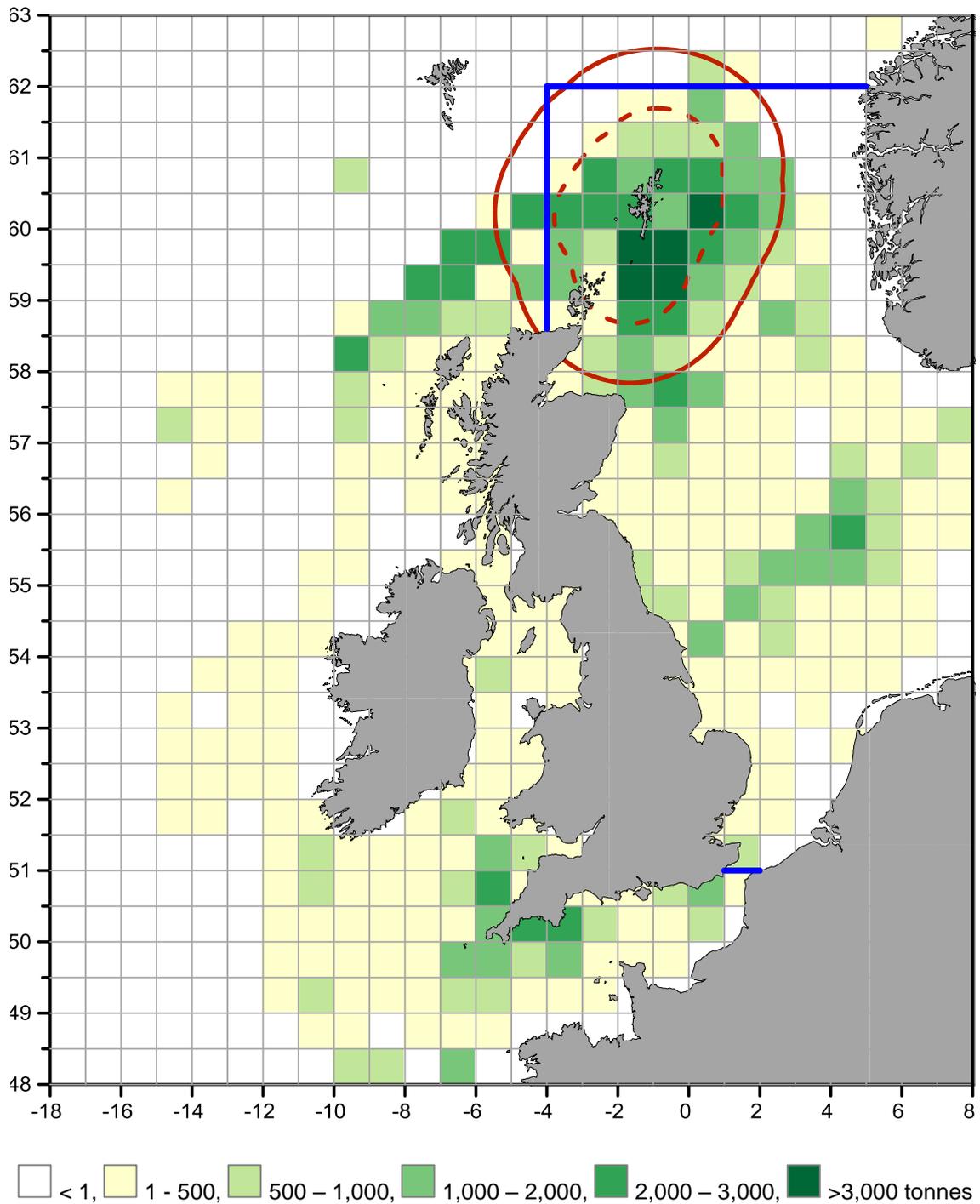


Figure 22 The distribution of British catches of whitefish in 2013: Total landings (tonnes) in the UK and by UK vessels abroad by ICES rectangle. The 50 and 100 nautical mile limits around Shetland, and the boundaries of the North Sea, are shown.

## Pelagic Fish

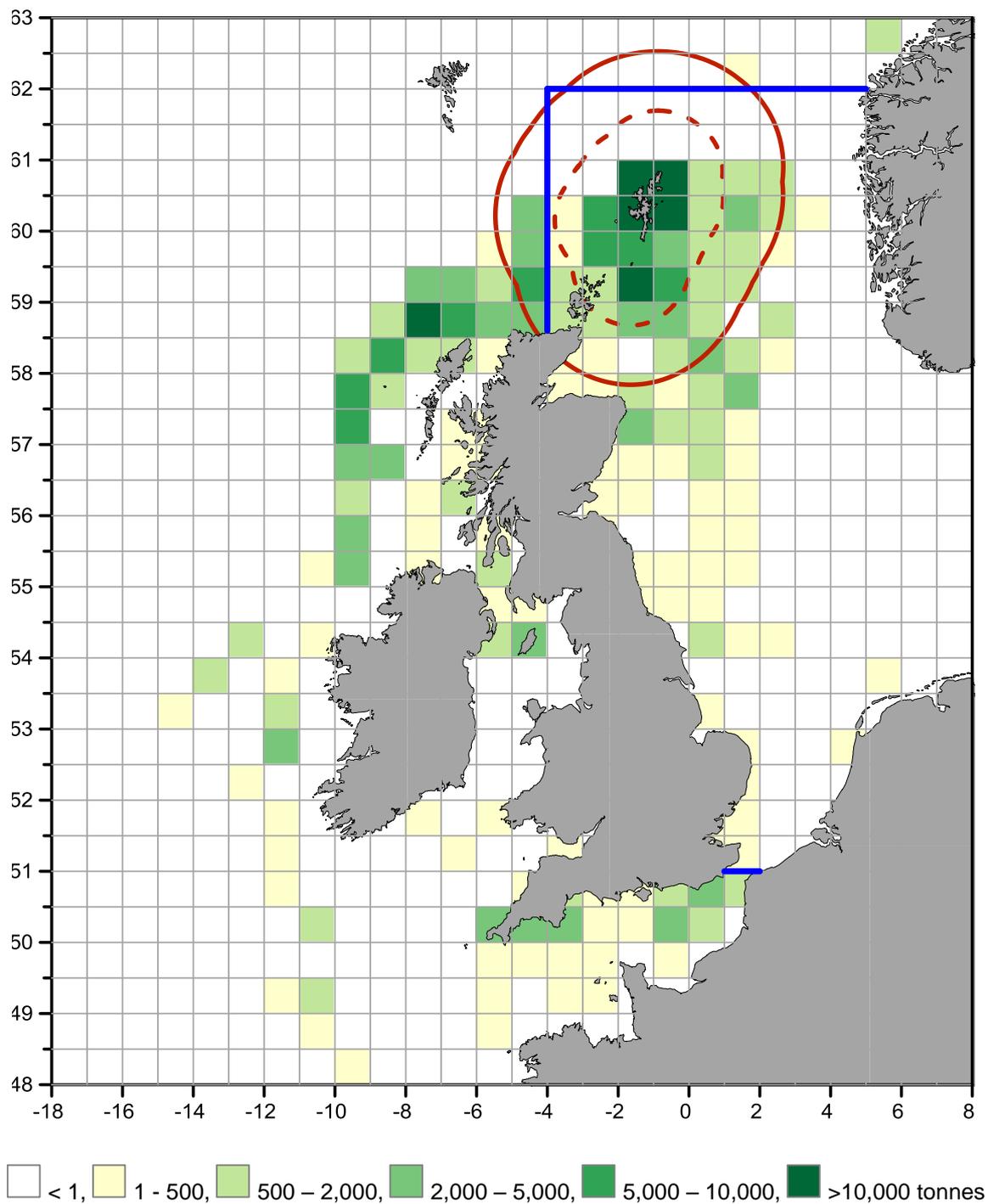


Figure 23 The distribution of British catches of pelagic fish in 2013: Total landings (tonnes) in the UK and by UK vessels abroad by ICES rectangle. The 50 and 100 nautical mile limits around Shetland, and the boundaries of the North Sea, are shown.

## ALL Fish (whitefish + pelagic)

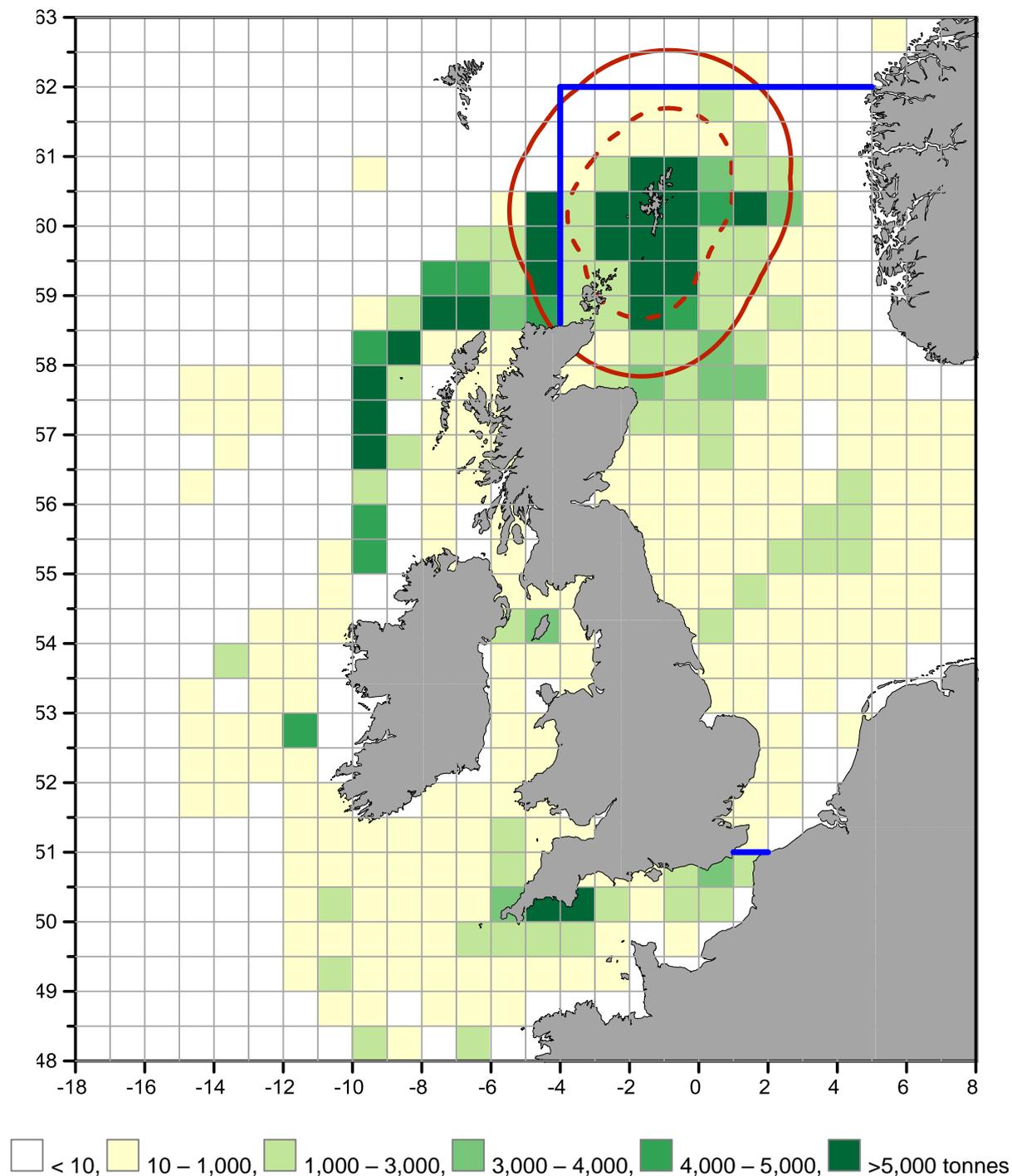


Figure 24 The distribution of British catches of all fish (whitefish & pelagic) in 2013: Total landings (tonnes) in the UK and by UK vessels abroad by ICES rectangle. The 50 and 100 nautical mile limits around Shetland, and the boundaries of the North Sea, are shown.

Table 4 The total quantities of whitefish and pelagic fish landed by UK boats from the area around the UK, and from the North Sea, and the estimated quantities caught in the areas within 100 and 50 nautical miles (NM) of Shetland. (The total weights and values of fish landed by UK fishing boats from the waters around the UK and from the North Sea, and the estimated quantities caught within 100 and 50 nautical miles of Shetland. These estimated quantities are shown as percentages of the total in each case.)

	Whole UK Area		North Sea	
	Weight	Value	Weight	Value
<b>Whitefish</b>				
Whole Area	185,000 t	£300 m	114,000 t	£157 m
Shetland Area (100 NM)	72,000 t <b>39%</b>	£104 m <b>35%</b>	67,000 t <b>58%</b>	£96 m <b>62%</b>
Shetland Area (50 NM)	42,000 t <b>23%</b>	£63 m <b>21%</b>	42,000 t <b>37%</b>	£63 m <b>40%</b>
<b>Pelagic Fish</b>				
Whole Area	298,000 t	£192 m	154,000 t	£99 m
Shetland Area (100 NM)	148,000 t <b>50%</b>	£98 m <b>51%</b>	134,000 t <b>87%</b>	£92 m <b>93%</b>
Shetland Area (50 NM)	114,000 t <b>38%</b>	£82 m <b>43%</b>	114,000 t <b>74%</b>	£82 m <b>82%</b>
<b>ALL Fish</b>				
Whole Area	483,000 t	£492 m	268,000 t	£255 m
Shetland Area (100 NM)	220,000 t <b>46%</b>	£202 m <b>41%</b>	200,000 t <b>75%</b>	£188 m <b>74%</b>
Shetland Area (50 NM)	156,000 t <b>32%</b>	£144 m <b>29%</b>	156,000 t <b>58%</b>	£144 m <b>56%</b>

