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Shetland Fisheries Statistics 2015

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Summary

- Just over 72,000 tonnes of fish and shellfish worth some £61 million were landed in Shetland in 2015, slightly less than in 2014.
- Almost one quarter of all the fish and shellfish landed in Scotland in 2015, and 16% of all landings in the UK, were made in Shetland.
- More fish and shellfish were landed in Shetland and in Lerwick in 2015 that in any other port in the UK, except Peterhead.
- More finfish (whitefish + pelagic fish) were landed in Shetland in 2015 than in all of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Just over 16,000 tonnes of whitefish (haddock, cod, monks, plaice, etc.) worth about £26 million were landed in Shetland in 2015, three-quarters of it by local boats.
- Shetland fishing boats landed almost 14,000 tonnes of whitefish worth over £22 million in 2015, the highest landings since 1998. Most of these landings (90% by weight) were made in Shetland.
- Lerwick ranked 4th in in the UK for whitefish landings by UK vessels, Scalloway 10th and Cullivoe 13th.
- About 54,500 tonnes of pelagic fish (mackerel, herring, etc.), worth about £31 million were landed in Shetland in 2015.
- About 1,900 tonnes of shellfish (crabs, lobsters, scallops, etc.) worth almost £4 million were landed in Shetland in 2015.
- Shetland fishing boats landed about 120,000 tonnes of fish and shellfish worth some £86 million in 2015 (everywhere), including 35,000 tonnes worth £36 million in Shetland.
- Shetland fishing boats accounted for one fifth of all finfish (whitefish + pelagic fish) landed by UK boats in 2015.
- EU fishing boats (including UK boats) landed an estimated 450,000 tonnes of fish and shellfish worth more than £300 million from the Shetland part of the UK EEZ in 2014, and 260,000 tonnes worth £200 million caught within 50 miles of Shetland.
- One-third of all the fish and shellfish landed from the UK EEZ by European fishing boats in 2014 were caught in the Shetland part of the UK EEZ, and one quarter within 50 miles of Shetland.
- More than half of the fish and shellfish landed from the Shetland part of the UK EEZ in 2014 were caught by non-UK boats.

Shetland Fisheries Statistics - 2015

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Shetland Fisheries Statistics - 2015

Introduction

This report summarises the results of analyses of official data for the weight⁻ and value of fish landed in Shetland and by Shetland fishing boats in 2015, and for landings of fish caught in the waters around Shetland in 2014 (the last years for which these data are available).

Data Sources

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

Additional data were obtained from:

- Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics published by the Scottish Government[†].
- UK Sea Fisheries Annual Statistics and associated data published by the UK Marine Management Organisation (MMO)[‡].
- Data published by the European Commission's Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)[§].

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/fish-stats

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

[†] Available online at: <u>www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Agriculture-Fisheries/PubFisheries</u>

[‡] Available online at: <u>www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-sea-fisheries-annual-statistics</u>

S Available online through the Joint Research Centre's (JRC) Data Collection Framework data portal at: <u>datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/data-dissemination</u>

All Species

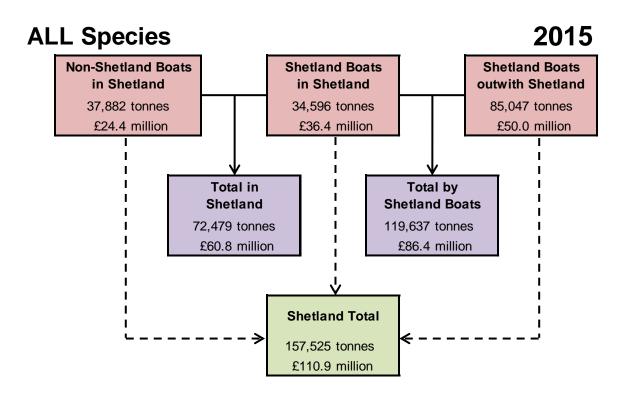


Figure 1 Summary breakdown of the weight and value of all fish landed in Shetland and by Shetland boats in 2015.

Just over 72,000 tonnes of fish and shellfish worth some £61 million were landed in Shetland in 2015 (Figure 1). Of those landings, Shetland fishing boats accounted for about 35,000 tonnes (48% of the total) worth £35 million (57%). The estimated total weight and value of fish landed in Shetland were both less than in 2014 (by 5% and 19%, respectively; Figure 2).

A further 85,000 tonnes of fish - most of it pelagic - worth £50 million were landed outside Shetland by local boats. Those landings were about one-quarter less than in 2014 (23% by weight and value) (Figure 3).

This brings the notional estimated total of 'Shetland' fish landings to over 157,000 tonnes and £111 million (landings in Shetland plus landings elsewhere by Shetland boats). These totals were less than in 2014 (by 16% by weight, 28% by value).

Much of these declines in the weight and value of landings can be attributed to falls in the landings and price of mackerel.

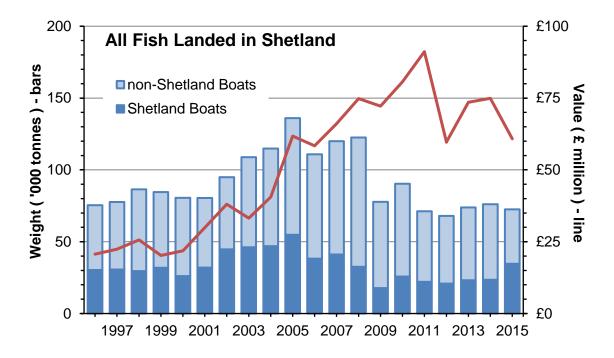


Figure 2 The weight (bars) and value (line) of all fish and shellfish landed in Shetland from 1996 to 2015.

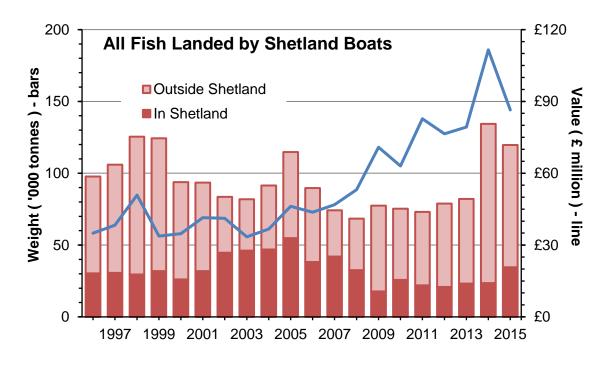


Figure 3 The weight (bars) and value (line) of all fish and shellfish landed by Shetland fishing boats from 1996 to 2015.

Composition of Landings

Pelagic species (mackerel, herring, etc.) accounted for most of the fish landed in Shetland (75% by weight, 51% by value), but had the smallest unit-value (Table 1). Whitefish (cod, haddock, monks, flatfish, etc.) accounted for 22% of the weight of landings but 43% of their value. Shellfish (crabs, lobsters, scallops, etc.) accounted for the smallest proportion of landings (3% by weight, 6% by value) but had the highest unit-value.

	Weig	Weight		Value		
	tonnes	%	£m	%	£ / kg	
Pelagic Fish	54,524	75%	£30.78	51%	£0.56	
Whitefish	16,057	22%	£26.21	43%	£1.63	
Shellfish	1,898	3%	£3.84	6%	£2.02	
Total	72,479		£60.84		£0.84	

Table 1The total weights and values of fish and shellfish landed in Shetland in 2015
by species group.

Place of Landing

Table 2 shows the landings in Shetland in 2015 broken down by place of landing. Landings outside of Lerwick, Scalloway and Cullivoe were predominantly of shellfish.

	Weight (tonnes)	Value (£ 000s)
Baltasound	47	£102
Uyeasound	1	£2
Cullivoe	1,542	£2,595
Mid Yell	85	£165
North Isles Total	1,675	£2,864
Collafirth	160	£262
Eshaness	26	£38
Northmavine	2	£10
Northmavine Total	188	£309
Sullom / Toft	272	£509
Vidlin	35	£61
Voe	11	£20
Other Central Mainland	10	£13
Central Mainland Total	327	£604
Whalsay	2,020	£1,546
Skerries	55	£106
Whalsay / Skerries Total	2,075	£1,652
Aith	11	£19
Skeld	168	£364
West Burrafirth	231	£351
Walls	34	£54
Other West Mainland	2	£3
West Mainland Total	447	£791
Burra (Hamnavoe)	8	£14
S Mainland & Fair Isle	18	£34
South Mainland Total	26	£48
Lerwick	63,202	£46,868
Scalloway	4,538	£7,699
OVERALL TOTAL	72,479	£60,837

Table 2The total weights and values of fish and shellfish landed in Shetland in 2015
by place of landing.

National Context

In a national context, almost one quarter of all the fish and shellfish landed in Scotland in 2015 (22% by weight), and 16% of all landings in the UK, were made in Shetland (Figure 4).

More fish and shellfish were landed in Shetland – and in Lerwick - in 2015 than in any other port in the UK, except Peterhead (Figure 5). The weight of fish and shellfish landed in Shetland was more than three times greater, and the value more than double, those in the next ranked port (Fraserburgh)

Overall, Scalloway ranked 14th in the UK for the weight of fish and shellfish landed, and Cullivoe 37th.

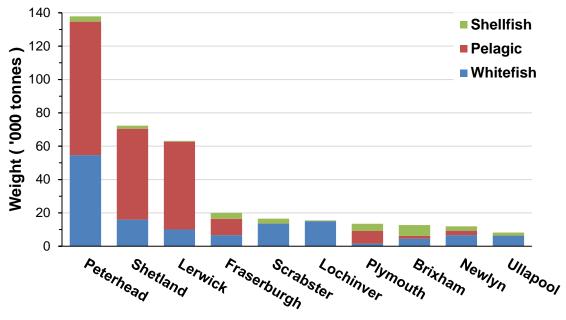
More finfish[•] was landed in Shetland – and in Lerwick – in 2015 than in all of England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Figure 4).

Shetland fishing boats accounted for more than one fifth (21% by weight) of all finfish landed by UK boats in 2015.

Whitefish and pelagic fish.



Figure 4 The proportions of all fish and shellfish landed in Scotland (top) and the UK (bottom) in 2015 that were landed in Shetland, the rest of Scotland and England, Wales and Northern Ireland ('EWNI').



Weight of Landings



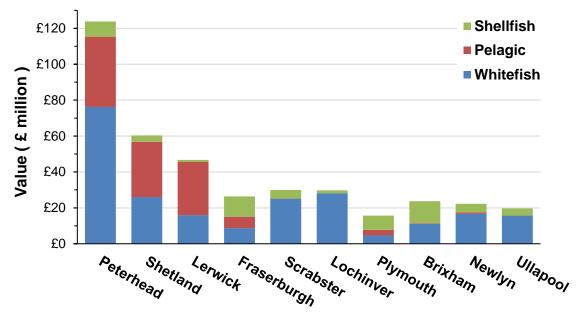


Figure 5 The weights (top) and values (bottom) of fish and shellfish landed in the top-10 UK ports in 2015. (Landings by all fishing boats. Ports sorted by total weight of landings. 'Shetland' includes landings in all Shetland ports, including Lerwick.)

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.

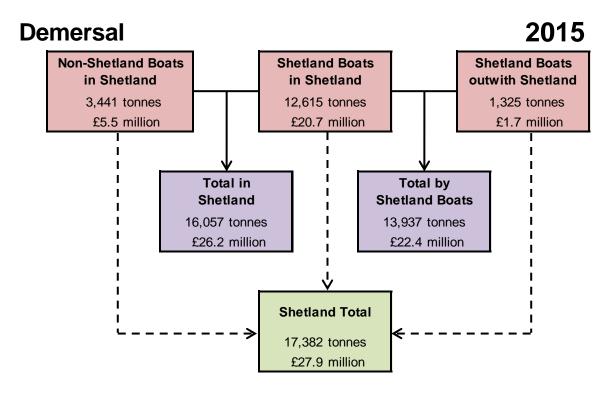


Figure 6 Summary breakdown of the weight and value of whitefish landed in Shetland and by Shetland fishing boats in 2015.

A total of just over 16,000 tonnes of whitefish worth about £26 million were landed in Shetland in 2015 (Figure 6). Three-quarters of this (79% by weight) was landed by local fishing boats. The weight and value of whitefish landed in Shetland in 2015 were slightly less than in 2014 (by 2% and 5% respectively; Figure 7), although the weight of landings by Shetland boats was almost unchanged (the value of their landings was down by 3%).

In total, Shetland fishing boats landed almost 14,000 tonnes of whitefish worth over $\pounds 22$ million in 2015, the highest landings since 1998. Most of these landings (90% by weight) were made in Shetland. Total landings by Shetland boats were slightly higher than in 2014 (1% by weight), although their value was slightly lower (by 3%).

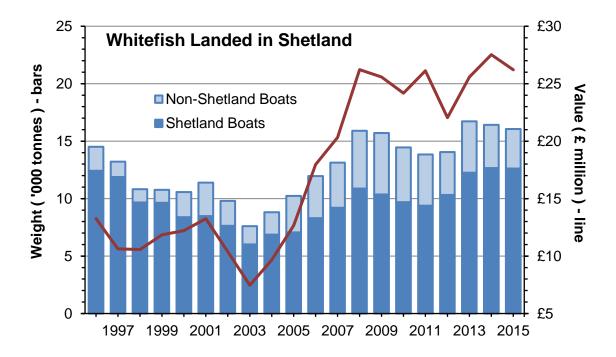


Figure 7 The weight (bars) and value (line) of whitefish landed in Shetland from 1996 to 2015.

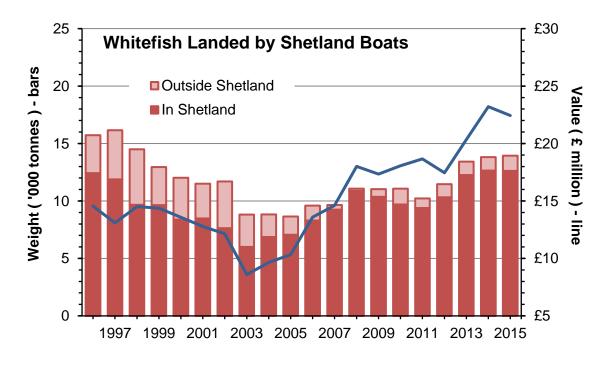


Figure 8 The weight (bars) and value (line) of whitefish landed by Shetland fishing boats from 1996 to 2015.

Composition of Whitefish Landings

Cod was the single most important whitefish species landed in Shetland in 2015, by both weight and value, followed by haddock and monks (Table 3). Together with whiting and saithe, these species accounted for more than three-quarters of the whitefish landed in Shetland (79% by weight, 78% by value).

Landings of the principal whitefish species in Shetland have exhibited a general upward trend over the last 15 years, albeit with some large fluctuations (Figure 9).

The weights and values of most of the principal whitefish species landed in Shetland increased from 2014 to 2015 (Figure 10). The exceptions were haddock, which saw a large fall, and whiting and ling which saw small falls. The biggest increases in the weight of landings were for monks and plaice, and the biggest increases in value for hake and lemon sole.

	Weight		Value	
Species	tonnes	%	£m	%
Cod	3,535	22%	£7.10	27%
Haddock	3,350	21%	£5.00	19%
Monks	1,636	10%	£4.22	16%
Whiting	2,368	15%	£2.69	10%
Saithe	1,764	11%	£1.48	6%
Ling	864	5%	£1.03	4%
Lemon Sole	220	1%	£0.96	4%
Hake	575	4%	£0.87	3%
Plaice	577	4%	£0.41	2%
Lythe (Pollack)	115	1%	£0.24	1%
Others	1,053	7%	£2.22	8%
Total	16,057		£26.21	

Table 3The top-10 whitefish species (ranked by value) landed in Shetland in 2015.

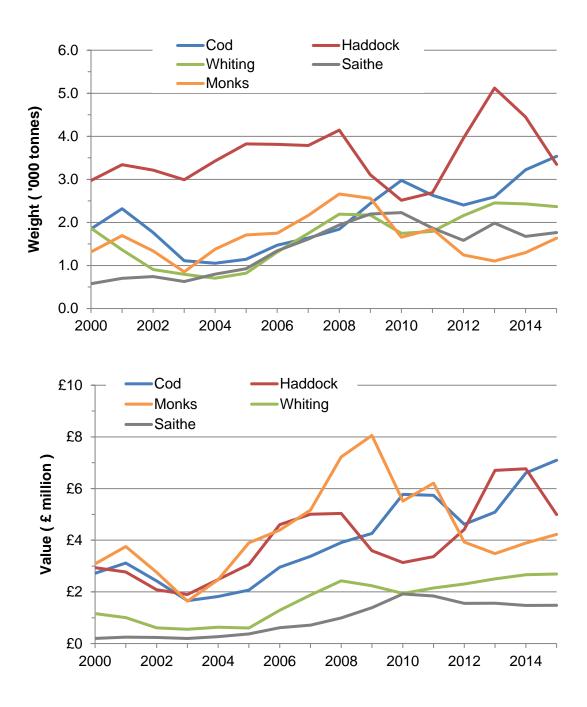


Figure 9 The weights (top) and values (bottom) of the principal whitefish species landed in Shetland from 2000 to 2015. (Top-5 species landed by weight and by value.)

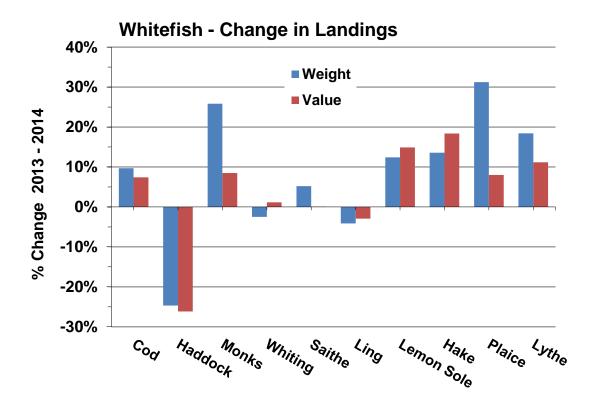


Figure 10 Percentage changes in the weight and value of landings of the top-10 whitefish species (by value) in Shetland from 2014 to 2015.

Place of Whitefish Landing

More than one-half (59%) of the whitefish landed in Shetland in 2015 were landed in Lerwick, more than one-quarter (28%) in Scalloway, 9% in Cullivoe, and less than 4% elsewhere in Shetland (Figure 11). Landings in Lerwick, Scalloway and Cullivoe in 2015 were similar to those in 2014 (Figure 12).

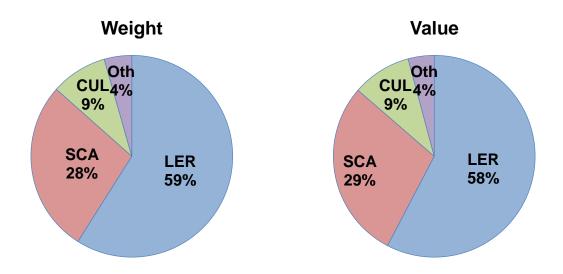


Figure 11 The proportions of the weight and value of whitefish landed in Shetland in 2015 landed in Lerwick ('LER'), Scalloway ('SCA'), Cullivoe ('CUL') and other Shetland ports ('Oth').

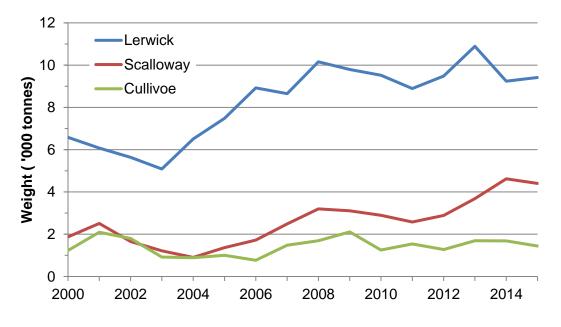


Figure 12 The weight of whitefish landed in Lerwick, Scalloway and Cullivoe from 2000 to 2015.

National Context

In a national context, 13% (by weight) of all the whitefish landed in Scotland in 2015, and 11% of landings in the UK, were landed in Shetland (Figure 4). More whitefish was landed in Shetland than in any other port in the UK except Peterhead.

Individually, Lerwick ranked 4th in in the UK for whitefish landings by UK vessels, after Peterhead, Scrabster and Lochinver, Scalloway 10th and Cullivoe 13th.

Shetland fishing boats accounted for 8% of the whitefish landed by UK fishing boats in 2015 and 15% of landings by Scottish 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.

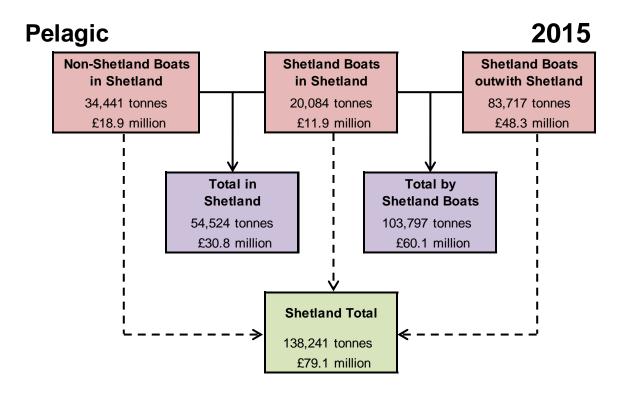


Figure 13 Summary breakdown of the weight and value of pelagic fish landed in Shetland and by Shetland boats in 2015.

A total of about 54,500 tonnes of pelagic fish, worth about £31 million were landed in Shetland in 2015 (Figure 13), just over one-third 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 84,000 tonnes of pelagic fish worth some £48 million, outside Shetland.

Pelagic landings in Shetland were dominated by mackerel, which accounted for three-quarters (76%) of their weight and 84% of their value (£26 million). In addition to the main landings of mackerel at the Shetland Catch factory in Lerwick about 53 tonnes of hand-line caught mackerel, worth about £50,000, were sold through the Shetland Seafood Auction in 2015.

The weight of pelagic fish landed in Shetland in 2015 was slightly (6%) less than in 2014 (Figure 14), but broadly similar to the last few years. The value of pelagic landings was substantially less than that in 2014 (by 29%).

The weight of pelagic fish landed by Shetland fishing boats fell by more than onequarter in 2015 (by 29%), although their value was down by only 13% (Figure 15).

The declines in landings of pelagic fish in Shetland and by Shetland boats can be largely attributed to declines in the weight and value of landings of mackerel. These reflect ongoing difficulties in the global market for mackerel, linked to increased production from Iceland and Faroe and the closure of the Russian market (due to sanctions on imports of food from the EU).

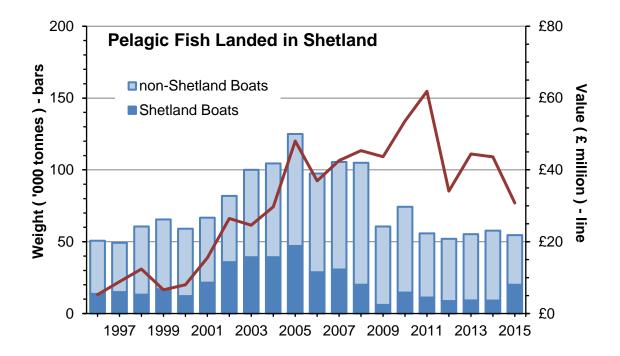


Figure 14 The weight (bars) and value (line) of pelagic fish landed in Shetland from 1996 to 2015.

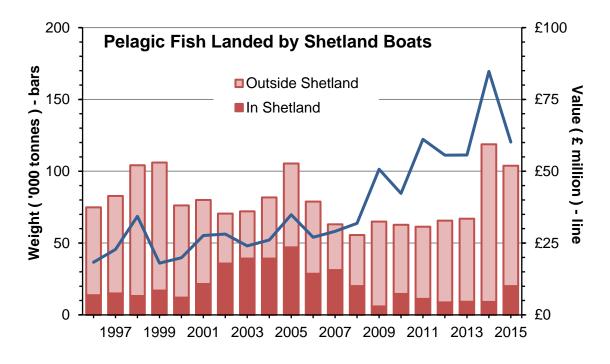


Figure 15 The weight (bars) and value (line) of pelagic fish landed by Shetland boats from 1996 to 2015.

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.

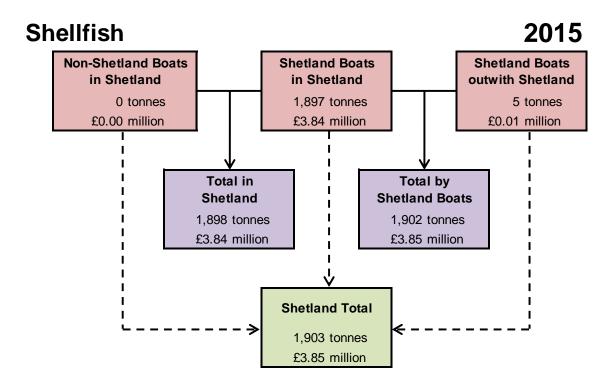


Figure 16 Summary breakdown of the weight and value of shellfish landed in Shetland and by Shetland boats in 2015.

About 1,900 tonnes of shellfish worth almost £4 million were landed in Shetland in 2015 (Figure 16).

The quantities of shellfish landed outside Shetland by local boats and in Shetland by non-Shetland boats were negligible.

Landings of shellfish in Shetland in 2015 were almost unchanged from 2014, although landings by Shetland boats were slightly higher (5% by weight) and the total value of shellfish landings was 3% higher.

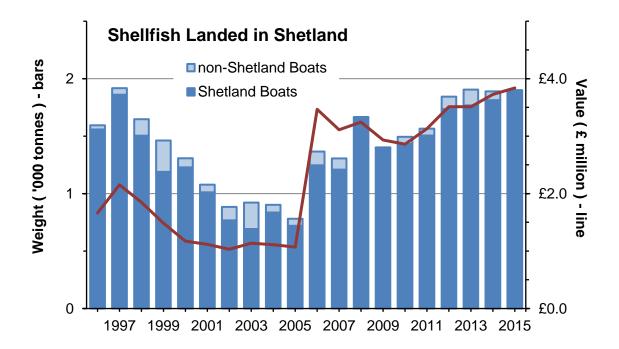


Figure 17 The weight (bars) and value (line) of shellfish landed in Shetland from 1996 to 2015. (The jump in landings from 2005 to 2006 probably reflects the improvement in data collection arising from the registration of buyers and sellers.)

Place of Shellfish Landings

Landings of shellfish were much more widely distributed around Shetland than was the case for landings of whitefish or pelagic fish. One-quarter of shellfish landings were made in Lerwick (25% by weight), while Scalloway accounted for only 4% of shellfish landings (Figure 18).

After Lerwick, the principal landings places for shellfish included Sullom / Toft (14%) West Burrafirth (12%), Whalsay (9%), Skeld (9%) and Collafirth (8%) (Figure 18).

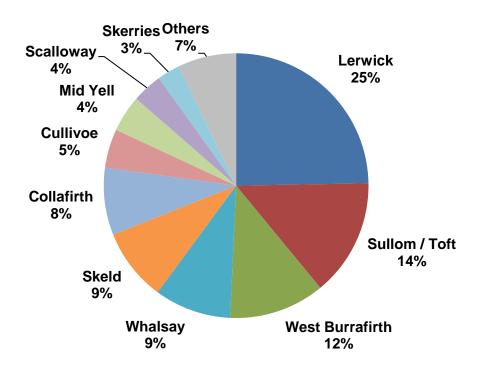


Figure 18 Breakdown of landings of shellfish in Shetland in 2015 by place of landing (by weight).

Landings from 'Shetland Waters'

The part of the United Kingdom's Exclusive Economic Line (EEZ) that lies adjacent to Shetland (north of a median line between Shetland and the rest of the UK) (Figure 19) covers an area of 127,000 km². That is 17% of the total area of the UK EEZ, and about one-quarter (27%) of the Scottish part of the UK EEZ.

In 2014 (the last year for which these data are available) it is estimated that European Union fishing boats (including UK boats) landed almost 450,000 tonnes of fish and shellfish, worth more than £300 million, caught in the Shetland part of the UK EEZ^{*}. That represents about one-third of all the fish and shellfish landed from the UK EEZ by EU boats, and almost half of landings from the Scottish part of the EEZ (Figure 20, Table 4).

Those landings included more than 50,000 tonnes of whitefish (worth £80 million) and 370,000 tonnes of pelagic fish (£220 million) (Table 4).

It is further estimated that EU boats landed 260,000 tonnes of fish and shellfish, worth more than £200 million, caught within 50 miles of Shetland in 2014 (see Figure 19). That is almost one quarter of all the fish and shellfish landed from the UK EEZ by EU boats, and one-third of landings from the Scottish part of the UK EEZ (Table 4).

Those landings included 40,000 tonnes of whitefish (worth £60 million) and more than 200,000 tonnes of pelagic fish (£ 140 million) (Table 4).

(These above figures do not include fish caught by Norwegian, Faroese or other non-EU fishing boats in the waters around Shetland. Data for these countries catches around Shetland is not available.)

Composition of Landings from 'Shetland Waters'

Pelagic fish accounted for by far the greatest proportion of landings from the Shetland part of the UK EEZ in 2014 (Figure 21) and whitefish for most of the balance. Whitefish accounted for a substantially higher proportion of landings by value than by weight (26% compared to 12%), reflecting their higher unit-value than pelagic fish. Shellfish and industrial fish accounted for negligible proportions of the landings from the Shetland part of the UK EEZ.

The analysis used to make these estimates is described in the NAFC report: *Fish Landings from the United Kingdom's Exclusive Economic Zone, and UK Landings from the European Union's EEZ*, available at: www.nafc.uhi.ac.uk/eez-report.

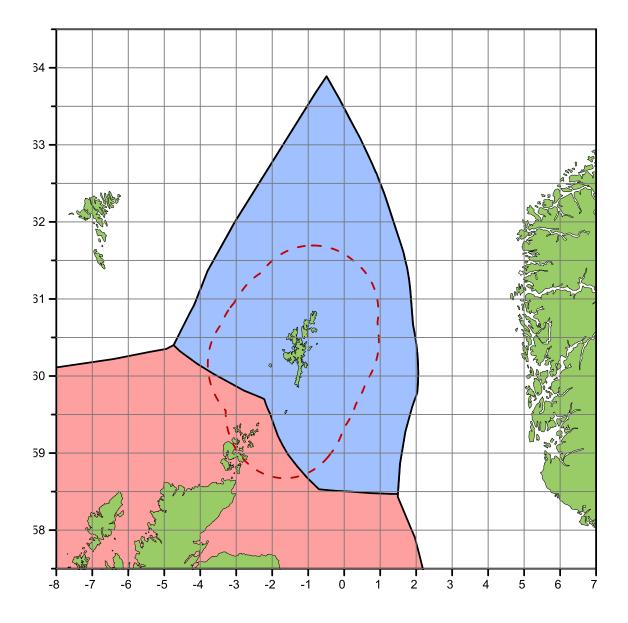


Figure 19 'Shetland Waters': that part of the United Kingdom's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) adjacent to Shetland (north of a median line between Shetland and the rest of the UK). The dashed line indicates the area within 50 miles of Shetland's coastline.

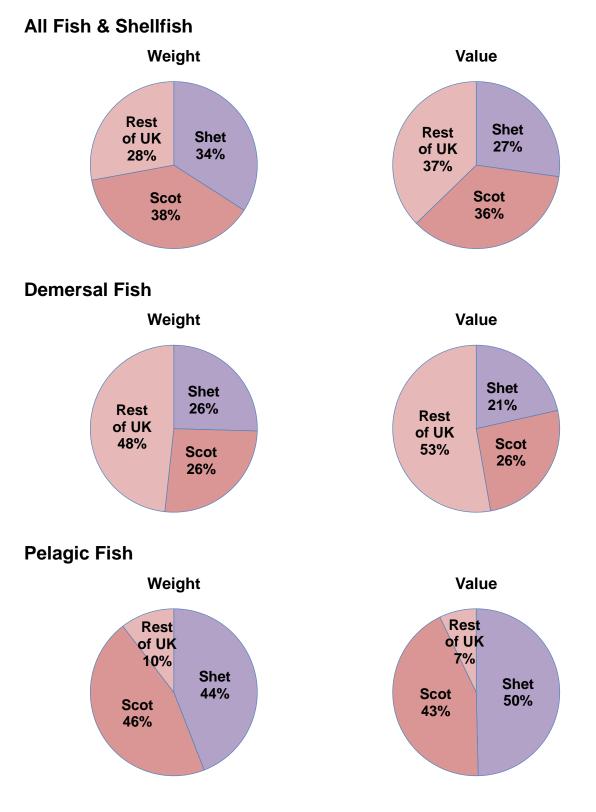
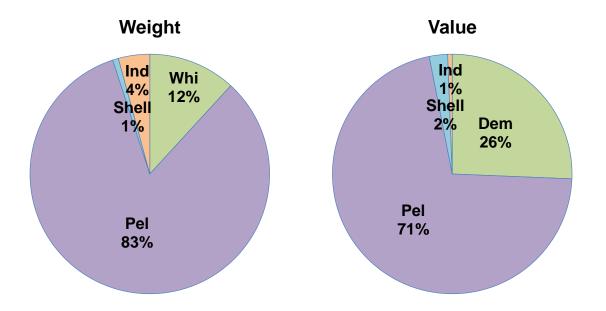


Figure 20 Breakdown of the estimated weights and values of all fish and shellfish (top), whitefish (middle) and pelagic fish (bottom) landed by European Union fishing boats (including UK boats) from the Shetland part of the UK EEZ ('Shet') in 2014, and from the remaining areas of the UK EEZ.

Table 4Comparisons of the estimated weights and values of all fish and shellfish, of
demersal fish, and of pelagic fish landed from the areas within 50 miles of
Shetland and the Shetland part of the UK EEZ in 2014 by all European
Union fishing boats (including UK boats), with those from the United
Kingdom's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the Scottish part of the UK
EEZ. (Percentages are landings from the Shetland areas as % of landings
from UK EEZ or Scottish part of the EEZ.)

	Weight ('000 tonnes)			alue nillion)	
	`Wt.	%	%	È	%	%
ALL Species						
Shetland 50 mile	262	35%	23%	£208	35%	22%
Shetland part of EEZ	447	47%	34%	£311	43%	27%
Scottish part of EEZ	946	100%		£716	100%	
UK EEZ	1,312		100%	£1,141		100%
Demersal Fish Shetland 50 mile Shetland part of EEZ	41 53 107	37% 49% 100%	20% 25%	£62 £80 £175	36% 45% 100%	18% 21%
Scottish part of EEZ UK EEZ	208	100%	100%	£173 £371	100%	100%
Pelagic Fish Shetland 50 mile	215	37%	31%	£139	44%	40%
Shetland part of EEZ	372	49%	44%	£133	53%	50%
Scottish part of EEZ	756	100%	77 70	£414	100%	0078
UK EEZ	844		100%	£446		100%



UK EEZ	Weight ('000 tonnes)		Value (£ million)		
Species Group	Wt.	%	£	%	
Whitefish ('Whi')	52.8	12%	£79.7	26%	
Pelagic ('Pel')	372.0	83%	£221.4	71%	
All Finfish	424.8	95%	£301.0	97%	
Shellfish ('Shell')	3.5	1%	£7.7	2%	
Industrial Fish ('Ind')	18.9	4%	£1.9	1%	
TOTAL	447.2		£310.6		

Figure 21 Breakdown by species group of the estimated weight and value of fish and shellfish landed from the 'Shetland Area' by all European Union fishing boats in 2014.

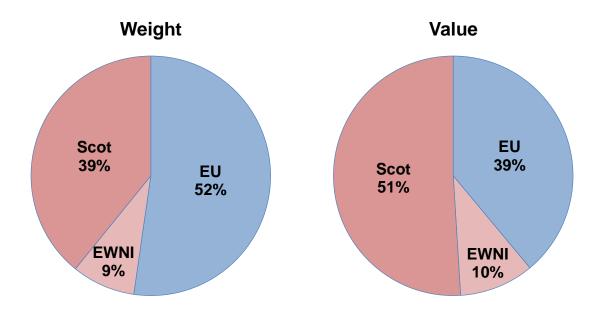
Landings from 'Shetland Waters' by Nationality

Overall, just over half (by weight) of the fish and shellfish landed from the Shetland part of the UK EEZ by European Union fishing boats in 2014 were caught by non-UK boats, although their contribution to the value of landings was smaller (Figure 22). Scottish fishing boats accounted for most of the fish and shellfish landed by UK boats.

Non-UK European Union fishing boats caught more than one-quarter of the whitefish and more than half of the pelagic fish landed from the Shetland part of the UK EEZ in 2014 (by weight) (Figure 23, Figure 24). Scottish boats accounted for most of the balance in both cases.

The vast majority of the relatively small quantity of shellfish landed from the Shetland part of the UK EEZ in 2014 was caught by Scottish fishing boats (Figure 25), while all of the small quantity of industrial fish was landed by non-UK European Union fishing boats (chart not included).

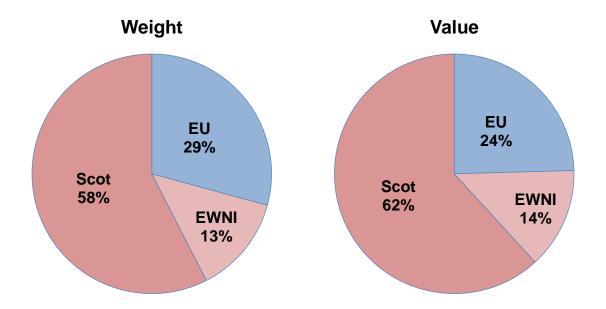
ALL Fish & Shellfish



UK EEZ	Weight ('000 tonnes)		Value (£ million)	
Fleet	Wt.	%	£	%
Scottish ('Scot')	175.1	39%	£158.4	51%
Rest of UK ('EWNI')	38.3	9%	£31.3	10%
Total UK	213.4	48%	£189.6	61%
Other EU ('EU')	233.8	52%	£121.0	39%
TOTAL	447.2		£310.6	

Figure 22 Breakdown of the estimated weight and value of fish and shellfish landed from the 'Shetland Area' in 2014 by Scottish ('Scot'), English, Welsh & Northern Irish ('EWNI'), and other European Union ('EU') fishing boats.

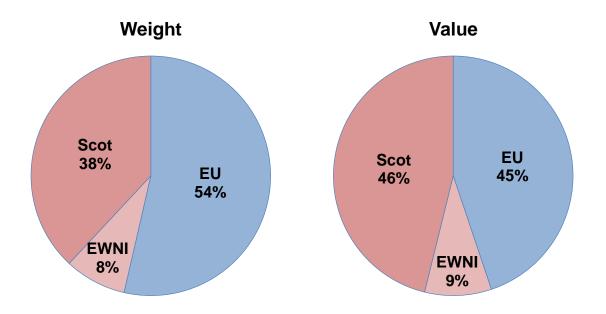
Whitefish



UK EEZ	Weight ('000 tonnes)		U U		Value (£ millie	-
Fleet	Wt. %		£	%		
Scottish ('Scot')	30.4	58%	£49.2	62%		
Rest of UK ('EWNI')	7.0	13%	£10.9	14%		
Total UK	37.4	71%	£60.1	75%		
Other EU ('EU')	15.4	29%	£19.6	25%		
TOTAL	52.8		£79.7			

Figure 23 Breakdown of the estimated weight and value of whitefish landed from the 'Shetland Area' in 2014 by Scottish ('Scot'), English, Welsh & Northern Irish ('EWNI'), and other European Union ('EU') fishing boats.

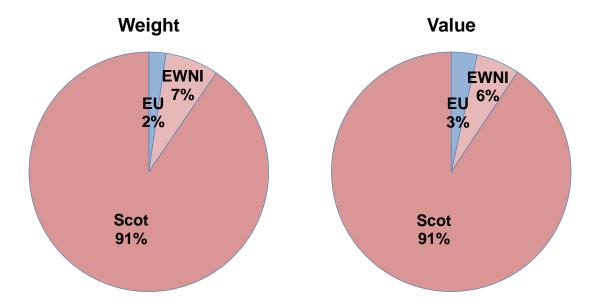
Pelagic Fish



UK EEZ	Weight ('000 tonnes)		Value) (£ million)	
Fleet	Wt.	%	£	%
Scottish ('Scot')	141.6	38%	£102.2	46%
Rest of UK ('EWNI')	31.1	8%	£19.9	9%
Total UK	172.6	46%	£122.1	55%
Other EU ('EU')	199.3	54%	£99.3	45%
TOTAL	372.0		£221.4	

Figure 24 Breakdown of the estimated weight and value of pelagic fish landed from the 'Shetland Area' in 2014 by Scottish ('Scot'), English, Welsh & Northern Irish ('EWNI'), and other European Union ('EU') fishing boats.

Shellfish



UK EEZ	Weight ('000 tonnes)		Value (£ million)	
Fleet	Wt.	%	£	%
Scottish ('Scot')	3.2	90%	£7.0	91%
Rest of UK ('EWNI')	0.3	7%	£0.4	6%
Total UK	3.4	98%	£7.4	97%
Other EU ('EU')	0.1	2%	£0.3	3%
TOTAL	3.5		£7.7	

Figure 25 Breakdown of the estimated weight and value of shellfish landed from the 'Shetland Area' in 2014 by Scottish ('Scot'), English, Welsh & Northern Irish ('EWNI'), and other European Union ('EU') fishing boats.

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