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## Economic significance of the sea fisheries and aquaculture industries<sup>1</sup>

Znaczenie gospodarcze rybołówstwa morskiego i akwakultury

The article focuses on the analysis of the importance of fisheries and aquaculture to Poland's economy. The article presents statistics on the value, employment and budget allocated to fisheries and aquaculture.

**Keywords:** fishery, aquaculture, economy

Autorka artykułu skoncentrowała się na analizie znaczenia rybołówstwa oraz akwakultury dla gospodarki Polski. W opracowaniu odnaleźć można dane statystyczne dotyczące wartości, zatrudnienia oraz budżetu przeznaczanego na rybołówstwo i akwakulturę.

**Słowa kluczowe:** rybołówstwo, akwakultura, gospodarka

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### 1) **Are sea fisheries considered to be a significant economic activity in your country? Can you please indicate the total and percentage share of employment and the value of sea fisheries (% of GDP)?**

Sea fisheries are not considered important to Poland's economy. This is mainly due to the limited fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea, which affects the value of revenues from activities and the number of people employed in the Baltic fishery. Nevertheless, Baltic fishing is an important sector from the point of view of coastal communities. Employment in the sea fishing sector is only 0.02% of the total employment in Poland. The value of the sector (net sales value) is only 0.003% of the GDP.

The situation looks better for the fish processing and aquaculture industries. Although these are not very important sectors from the point of view of the Polish economy (mainly due to the low consumption of fish in Poland), they are profitable and well-developing sectors in Poland (as opposed to the Baltic fishing

<sup>1</sup> *Fisheries minister and government department (ECPRD Request No. 5459)* prepared on May 30, 2023 as part of cooperation in The European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (Europejskie Centrum Badań Parlamentarnych i Dokumentacji); BAS-WASiE-905/23.

sector), in particular the fish processing sector. Employment in the fish processing sector accounts for 0.13% of all employees, and in the aquaculture sector – 0.04%. The value of the sectors is respectively – 0.49% and 0.021% of GDP.

In 2021 the number directly employed in the sea fisheries and seafood processing sector and aquaculture was 0.18% of total employment in that year. The value of sea fisheries, seafood processing and aquaculture sectors was 0.52% of GDP.

#### **The total and percent share of employment in fishery, seafood processing and aquaculture sectors in 2021<sup>2</sup>**

| <i>Specification</i> | <i>Number of employees</i> | <i>% of total employment</i> |
|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sea fisheries        | 2 601                      | 0.02                         |
| Seafood processing   | 19 020                     | 0.13                         |
| Aquaculture*         | 6 130                      | 0.04                         |
| Total                | 27 751                     | 0.18                         |

\* in inland waters

#### **The value of sea fisheries, seafood processing and aquaculture sectors in 2021**

| <i>Specification</i> | <i>Net sales revenues<br/>[million PLN]</i> | <i>% of GDP</i> |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|
| Sea fisheries        | 82.1  | 0.003           |
| Seafood processing   | 13 009.6                                    | 0.49            |
| Aquaculture*         | 563.0                                       | 0.021           |
| Total                | 13 654.7                                    | 0.52            |

\* data of 2020.

#### **2) Does your country have a government minister for sea fisheries, perhaps with fisheries, fishing, or seafood in their title?**

In Poland, there is no ministry that has fisheries or seafood processing in its name. The administration bodies of sea fisheries<sup>3</sup> in Poland are:

1. the minister responsible for fisheries and

<sup>2</sup> /rocznik\_statystyczny\_gospodarki\_morskiej-2022.pdf, /pracujacy\_i\_wynagrodzenia\_w\_gospodarce\_narodowej\_w\_2021\_r.-dane\_ostateczne.pdf.

<sup>3</sup> Art. 100 of the Act of December 19, 2014 on sea fishing (Journal of Laws of 2023, item 475).

2. the Chief Inspector of Sea Fisheries – as the central body of government administration.

The function of the minister responsible for fisheries is performed by the minister of agriculture and rural development.

Generally the minister performs his tasks with the help of the secretary and undersecretaries of state, the minister's political cabinet and the general director of the office. The scope of activities of the secretary and undersecretary of state is determined by the competent minister, notifying the Prime Minister thereof. The secretary of state and the undersecretary of state are appointed by the Prime Minister at the request of the competent minister, while a request from the minister is not necessary to dismiss them. The minister is replaced by the secretary of state within the scope determined by him or by the undersecretary of state if the secretary of state has not been appointed<sup>4</sup>.

There is an undersecretary of state responsible for, among others, sea fishing and aquaculture in the ministry<sup>5</sup>.

The Chief Inspector of Sea Fisheries is a unit subordinated to the minister responsible for fisheries.

**3) Please summarise the main responsibilities of the secretary of state/junior minister/minister of state or other non-ministerial, high ranking political official for sea fisheries?**

The undersecretary of state responsible for sea fisheries and aquaculture defines tasks to be performed and supervises their implementation in matters covered by the scope of activity of the Fisheries Department, in particular, the participation in the Common Fisheries Policy, development of sea fisheries, aquaculture and the fish market. He coordinates the execution of tasks of the Managing Authority of operational programs concerning the sea fishing and aquaculture sectors as well as supervises the activities of the Chief Sea Fisheries Inspectorate.

The Chief Inspector of Sea Fisheries – as a central administration body – supervises the performance of sea fishing, compliance with the provisions on the protection and management of living marine resources and the implementation of the provisions of the Common Fisheries Policy of the European Union. The territorial scope of operation of the Chief Inspector of Sea Fisheries covers the territory and the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Poland. The Chief Inspector of Sea Fisheries reports to the minister responsible for fisheries. The seat of the Chief Inspector of Sea Fisheries is in Słupsk.

<sup>4</sup> Art. 37 of the Act of August 8, 1996 on the Council of Ministers (Journal of Laws of 2022, item 1188).

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.pl/web/agriculture/ministry2>.

**4) What is the annual budget allocated to sea fisheries and aquaculture (please give 2022 and 2023 figures in Euros if possible?)**

The total annual budget (state budget and European funds) allocated to sea fisheries and aquaculture in Poland amounted to EUR 156.4 million in 2022 and EUR 202.3 million in 2023.

**The annual state budget allocated on fisheries and aquaculture in 2022 and 2023 (in Euros)\***

| <i>Specification</i>     | <i>2022**</i> | <i>2023***</i> |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| State budget             | 56 517 656    | 71 733 064     |
| Budget of European funds | 99 837 855    | 130 578 513    |
| Total                    | 156 355 511   | 202 311 577    |

\* PLN 1 = EUR 0.221, according to the average exchange rate of the National Bank of Poland on May 26, 2023.

\*\* Budget Act for 2022 of December 17, 2021 (Journal of Laws of 2022, item 270).

\*\*\* Budget Act for 2023 of December 15, 2022 (Journal of Laws of 2023, item 256).

**5) Is there any regional administration of sea fisheries and aquaculture?**

The Chief Inspectorate of Sea Fisheries has two regional branch offices – regional sea fisheries inspectorates in Szczecin and Gdynia – and fourteen field offices located in the coastal provinces.

**6) Please summarise the public bodies with responsibility for sea fisheries and aquaculture, at national and or regional level as appropriate.**

Sea fisheries administration is at a national level and regional level. Sea fisheries administration bodies are:

- 1) the minister responsible for fisheries based in the capital in Warsaw;
- 2) the Chief Inspector of Sea Fisheries based in Słupsk – supervises the performance of sea fishing, compliance with the provisions on the protection and management of living marine resources and the implementation of the provisions of the CFP;
- 3) two regional sea fisheries inspectorates of the Chief Inspector of Sea Fisheries in Szczecin and Gdynia;
- 4) fourteen field offices of the Chief Inspector of Sea Fisheries located in the coastal provinces.

Other public bodies in the field of sea fishing:

- Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture (ARMA) – acts as an accredited paying agency. The scope of activities of ARMA includes the implementation of instruments co-financed from the European Union

- budget (including operational programs from European funds for fisheries and aquaculture) and the provision of assistance from national funds<sup>6</sup>;
- National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (based in Gdynia) – a state research institute responsible for conducting scientific research in the field of sea fisheries<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.gov.pl/web/arimr-en>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://mir.gdynia.pl/?lang=en>.