



Globally leading producer of fishmeal and fish oil

With a total export value of 540 million € Denmark is the leading producer of fishmeal and fish oil in Europe. Globally, Denmark is among the ten largest producers.

Fishing for short-lived species such as sandeel, sprat and Norway pout is a significant part of the Danish fishery, and Denmark has a very large share of EU quotas of the most important protein species. The fish are landed at the Danish fishmeal factories and represent an average annual landing value for Danish fishermen of approx. 100 million €.

In addition to this, the factories buy similar quantities from foreign vessels, as well as 150-220,000 tonnes of trimmings from the filleting industry annually.

Fishmeal and fish oil are important marine ingredients, and the industry is the backbone of Denmark's leading role as exporter of fish feed and aquaculture technology. A stable production of marine ingredients is a precondition for a continued global development of aquaculture, which has a low environmental footprint compared to e.g. beef and pork.

The factories contribute to growth and development in coastal communities and create many jobs in remote areas of Denmark.

Production is based on a sustainable, controlled and responsible utilization of resources, and contributes to the circular economy by ensuring full utilization of all fish caught.

The industry meets international standards and certifications for raw materials, production and traceability.

FACTS:

Raw materials received:
On average (2018-2022)
863.000 tons

Fishmeal production, Denmark: Annual average (2018-2022) 165,000 tonnes

Fish oil production, Denmark: Annual average (2018-2022) 48,000 tonnes

Trimmings: Annually ~30 % of the raw materials used in the production comes from trimmings.

Danish export of fishmeal:
In 2022, the export to more than 40 countries amounted to a value of 265 mill. €.

Danish export of fish oil: In 2022, the export to more than 30 countries amounted to a value of 270 mill. €.





- In 2021, Denmark was the world's 4th largest exporter of fishmeal and the world's 2nd largest exporter of fish oil. The annual export value of the industry is approx. 540 million € and export is directed to more than 40 countries worldwide.
- The industry sources raw material for approx. 170 million € annually from Danish and foreign vessels and ensures significant value added through foreign landings in Denmark. The primary species are sandeel, sprat, blue whiting and Norway pout. Fish stocks are within safe biological boundaries and closely monitored and regulated.
- The factories receive between 150-220,000 tonnes of cut-offs from the filleting industry, which corresponds to approx. 30 pct. of the raw material input, and thus helps to ensure optimal utilization of fish resources and supports the circular economy.
- The industry is a global leader in terms of control, species sorting, weighing, full traceability and quality. The industry complies with international standards and certifications for raw materials, production and traceability and stocks and fisheries are certified by independent third parties
- Fishmeal and fish oil are without comparison, the most valuable ingredients in diets for aquaculture and many land-farmed animals. They are irreplaceable as feed ingredients as they are high in protein and amino acids, long chain omega-3 fatty acids (EPA and DHA), important minerals such as calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, sodium and selenium and B vitamins (B1, B2, B6 and B12) important to ensure optimal growth and physical conditions in domestic animals and farmed fish.
- The industry produces high quality products with high international demand, and the production of fishmeal and fish oil creates the basis for Denmark as one of the world's leading exporters of fish feed and technology in the aquaculture sector.
- Production is crucial for jobs and growth in the ports and communities where the factories are located.
- Ambitious global targets for increased production in aquaculture by 2030 presuppose the availability of raw materials.
- Aquaculture is the most resource efficient animal protein, and efficient utilisation of marine resources is key to the growth of a low carbon food production system.