



# Globally leading producer of fishmeal and fish oil

**With a total export value of ca. 600 million € Denmark is a leading producer of fishmeal and fish oil in Europe. Globally, Denmark is the largest producer in the EU.**

Fishing for short-lived species, such as Sandeel and sprat plays a vital role in the Danish fishery, positioning Denmark with a substantial share of EU quotas for key protein species. The catch is processed at Danish fishmeal factories, yielding an average annual landing value of approximately €100 million for Danish fishermen.

Additionally, these factories procure significant quantities from foreign vessels and acquire 150-220,000 tonnes of trimmings from the filleting industry each year. This robust supply chain contributes to Denmark's status as a leading exporter of aquafeeds and aquaculture technology.

The stability in producing marine ingredients is crucial for sustaining the growth of aquaculture, known for its environmentally friendly footprint compared to alternative protein sources that are utilised in aquafeeds.

Beyond economic contributions, the industry plays a pivotal role in fostering growth and development in coastal communities, generating employment opportunities in remote areas of Denmark.

The production process is characterized by a commitment to sustainability, exercising controlled and responsible resource utilization. Moreover, it actively contributes to the circular economy by ensuring the full utilization of all captured fish, minimizing waste.

The industry adheres to rigorous international standards and certifications for raw materials, production practices, and traceability, ensuring a responsible and transparent approach to marine resource utilization.

## FACTS:

**Raw materials received:**  
On average (2019-2023)  
863.000 tons

**Fishmeal production, Denmark:** Annual average (2019-2023) 155,000 tonnes

**Fish oil production, Denmark:** Annual average (2019-2023) 45,000 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 2022, Denmark was the world's 7th largest exporter of fishmeal and the world's 3rd 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 annually sources raw materials valued at approximately €170 million from Danish and foreign vessels, contributing significant value through foreign landings in Denmark. Key species, including Sandeel, Sprat, Blue whiting, and Norway pout, are responsibly harvested, with fish stocks monitored and regulated within safe biological boundaries.
- Factories receive 150-220,000 tonnes of cut-offs from the filleting industry, constituting around 30% of the raw material input. This practice optimizes fish resource utilization, championing the principles of a circular economy.
- Globally recognized for control, species sorting, weighing, full traceability, and quality, the industry adheres to international standards and certifications for raw materials, production, and traceability. Independent third parties are utilised in Denmark to certify landings from fisheries.
- Fishmeal and fish oil, unparalleled in nutritional value, are indispensable in diets for aquaculture and land-farmed animals. Rich in protein, amino acids, long-chain omega-3 fatty acids (EPA and DHA), vital minerals (calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, sodium, and selenium), and B vitamins (B1, B2, B6, and B12), they ensure optimal growth and physical conditions.
- The industry produces high-quality products in high demand internationally, establishing Denmark as a leading exporter of fish feed and technology in the aquaculture sector. Production plays a vital role in fostering jobs and growth in the ports and communities where the factories are located.
- Ambitious global targets for increased aquaculture production by 2030 hinge on the availability of raw materials. Recognizing aquaculture as the most resource-efficient animal protein, efficient utilization of marine resources is pivotal for the growth of a low-carbon food production system.