

5. THE FRENCH MARKET FOR FISH PRODUCTS

5.1 The French fishery and its production

Production in the French marine fishery had been stable at approximately 700 000 tonnes per year (including seaweed, mussels and oysters) for ten years or so. In 1987, however, production increased to 751 000 tonnes, and in 1988 total landings amounted to 818 000 tonnes.

France possesses several dozen fishing ports, of which the three largest are Boulogne-sur-Mer, Lorient and Concarneau: these three alone account for nearly one third of the country's production. Three different types of fishing activity coexist in the ports: the small-scale fishery, in which small boats are used, the medium-scale fishery, with boats that undertake week-long trips to the Irish Sea or the North Sea, and the large-scale industrial fishery that operates off the coast of Africa, in the Atlantic, and toward South America. The French fishing fleet boasted a total of 8991 boats as of 31 December 1988.

Catches: the main species (with tonnage figures for quantities landed in 1988) are shown in the following list.

- tuna	144 338 tonnes
- pollock	43 242 tonnes
- cod	37 322 tonnes
- whiting	28 206 tonnes
- sardines	25 709 tonnes
- ling	19 886 tonnes
- European hake	19 550 tonnes
- mackerel	15 064 tonnes
- monkfish	14 797 tonnes
- anchovy	12 902 tonnes
- skate	12 579 tonnes
- cuttlefish	10 880 tonnes
- plaice	10 325 tonnes
- herring	9 803 tonnes
- Norway lobster	9 288 tonnes
- sole	8 048 tonnes
- crab	7 368 tonnes
- haddock	7 182 tonnes
- cockle	6 714 tonnes
- horse mackerel	6 714 tonnes
- scallop	6 525 tonnes