

DOMESTIC FISHERY

Because Austria is a land-locked nation in Central Europe, there is almost no domestic fishery other than some limited aquaculture activity and a few small fishing vessels plying their trade on the heavily polluted Danube River. Austria produces approximately 5,000 metric tonnes of freshwater fish annually, mainly through aquaculture, in the primary breeding areas in the provinces of Lower Austria and Styria. Carp and trout are the main species which are harvested on approximately 2,500 hectares of pond area, with carp enjoying a heightened demand during the Christmas season. Much of the aquaculture activity is conducted from relatively small ponds which supply product to some restaurants and to individual residences. Total catch harvested for 1990 based on Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) data indicates that 3,000 metric tonnes of rainbow trout were produced, 1,250 metric tonnes of common carp, and 550 metric tonnes of other freshwater fish species.

EXPORTS

Austrian exports of fisheries products are very small and represent a minor role in the domestic economy. Total fisheries exports for 1990 were 308 metric tonnes of canned fish; 235 metric tonnes of fresh, chilled or frozen fish; 79 metric tonnes of fish meal and oils; 11 metric tonnes of crustaceans and molluscs; 10 metric tonnes of canned crustaceans and molluscs; and 5 metric tonnes of dried, salted or smoked fish products.