

News Release



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Fisheries

Fish Landings - March Quarter 2006

A total of 83,325 kilograms of fish were landed during March quarter 2006. The volume increased by 18,297 kilograms (+28.1 per cent) when compared to the 65,028 kilograms landed in the same period last year. The wholesale value increased by Lm24,760 (+17.0 per cent), from Lm 145,906 recorded in the first quarter of 2005 to Lm170,666 in the first quarter this year.

The increase in volume was a result of an increase in dorado landings, which increased by 130.0 per cent from 10,060 kilograms in the first quarter of 2005 to 23,134 kilograms in the first quarter this year and swordfish landings which increased by 14.5 per cent from 8,244 kilograms in the first quarter last year to 9,436 kilograms in the first quarter this year. On the other hand, the landings of Stone Bass were down by 29.9 per cent, from 4,178 kilograms in the first quarter last year to 2,930 kilograms in March quarter 2006.

Maltese landings

The volume of Maltese fishermen's landings increase by 1.6 per cent from 48,583 kilograms in March Quarter 2005 to 37,374 kilogrammes in the first quarter this year. Although increases of swordfish (+20.8 per cent) and bogue (+31.5 per cent) landings were recorded, there were drops in Shrimp (-29.8 per cent), stone bass (-25.0 per cent) and dorado (-73.8 per cent) landings during the period covered by this report.

The increase in volume brought an increase of Lm10,541 (+4.7 per cent) in the wholesale value of landings which increased from Lm 118,085 in the first quarter of 2005 to Lm123,626 in the first quarter this year. Responsible for this increase were the larger volume of landings of Swordfish and Bogue. Maltese fishermen's share of the total landings amounted to 59.3 per cent, down by 15.5 per cent when compared to the corresponding period last year.

Gozitan landings

During the first quarter, Gozitan fishermen landed a total of 30,735 kilograms of fish. Shrimp and dorado were the main contributors to the increase of 14,290 kilograms (+86.9 per cent) over last year's landings which stood at 16,445 kilograms. Dorado landings increased by 17,596 kilograms (+454.2 per cent) from 3,874 kilograms in the first quarter of 2005 to 21,470 kilograms in the first quarter this year. The volume of Dorado landings accounted for 69.86 per cent of all landings by Gozitan fishermen.

Foreign vessel landings

During the first quarter, foreign flagged vessels landed a total of 3,216 kilograms valued at Lm6,993.

Indices

While the fish price index for the month of March stood at 121.78, up 7.13 points (+6.2 per cent) from 114.65 points in March 2005, the volume index decreased by 6.36 points (-28.9 per cent) from 21.98 points in March 2005 to 15.62 points in March 2006■

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Table 1. Quantity and wholesale value of fish landings

Administrative area*	Species designation		2006							
			January		February		March		January/March	
	Maltese	English	Quantity Kg	Value Lm	Quantity Kg	Value Lm	Quantity Kg	Value Lm	Quantity Kg	Value Lm
MALTA	Total		41,678	66,941	16,756	40,642	22,241	57,423	83,325	170,666
	Gamblu	Shrimp	1,936	12,681	1,029	7,792	1,543	10,524	4,508	30,997
	Hanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	741	2,397	388	1,347	1,682	5,271	2,930	9,471
	Lampuka	Dorado	23,072	16,815	19	82	-	-	23,134	16,941
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	2,285	2,245	2,034	2,521	3,128	3,701	7,791	8,864
	Pixxispad	Sword Fish	5,241	15,195	2,170	6,894	1,765	6,974	9,436	30,069
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	102	226	-	-	-	-	102	226
	Vopa	Bogue	854	722	1,662	1,913	2,115	2,049	4,631	4,684
	Hut lehor	Other Species	7,447	16,660	9,454	20,093	12,008	28,904	30,793	69,414
Malta	Total		17,623	43,118	13,980	34,158	17,771	46,350	49,374	123,626
	Gamblu	Shrimp	916	6,564	647	5,660	1,150	8,391	2,713	20,615
	Hanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	705	2,299	388	1,347	1,609	5,011	2,702	8,657
	Lampuka	Dorado	1,602	1,208	19	82	-	-	1,621	1,290
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	2,144	2,110	1,832	2,193	2,644	3,012	6,620	7,315
	Pixxispad	Sword Fish	5,125	14,931	2,080	6,616	1,410	5,632	8,615	27,179
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	102	226	-	-	-	-	102	226
	Vopa	Bogue	198	223	723	1,184	1,110	1,218	2,031	2,625
	Hut lehor	Other species	6,831	15,557	8,291	17,076	9,848	23,086	24,970	55,719
Gozo and Comino	Total		24,055	23,823	2,776	6,484	3,904	9,740	30,735	40,047
	Gamblu	Shrimp	1,020	6,117	382	2,132	393	2,133	1,795	10,382
	Hanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	36	98	-	-	-	-	36	98
	Lampuka	Dorado	21,470	15,607	-	-	-	-	21,470	15,607
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	141	135	202	328	459	664	802	1,127
	Pixxispad	Sword Fish	116	264	90	278	355	1,342	561	1,884
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Vopa	Bogue	656	499	939	729	1,005	831	2,600	2,059
	Hut lehor	Other Species	616	1,103	1,163	3,017	1,692	4,770	3,471	8,890
Foreign Vessels	Total		1,645	3,709	1,005	1,951	566	1,333	3,216	6,993
	Gamblu	Shrimp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Hanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	71	293	48	163	73	260	192	716
	Lampuka	Dorado	-	-	43	44	-	-	43	44
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	344	397	-	-	25	25	369	422
	Pixxispad	Sword Fish	232	851	28	155	-	-	260	1,006
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Vopa	Bogue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Hut lehor	Other Species	998	2,168	886	1,589	468	1,048	2,352	4,805

* see methodological notes

Table 2. Quantity and wholesale value of fish landings

Administrative area*	Species designation		January/March							
			2004		2005		2006		±% 2006/2005	
	Maltese	English	Quantity Kg	Value Lm	Quantity Kg	Value Lm	Quantity Kg	Value Lm	Quantity Kg	Value Lm
MALTA	Total		106,202	194,473	65,028	145,906	83,325	170,666	28.1	17.0
	Gamblu	Shrimp	7,810	42,521	4,940	35,656	4,508	30,997	-8.7	-13.1
	Hanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	10,719	29,771	4,178	12,677	2,930	9,471	-29.9	-25.3
	Lampuka	Dorado	28,549	16,787	10,060	10,668	23,134	16,941	130.0	58.8
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	15,550	15,381	7,870	8,045	7,791	8,864	-1.0	10.2
	Pixxispad	Sword Fish	4,042	12,931	8,244	17,357	9,436	30,069	14.5	73.2
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	-	102	226	-	-
	Vopa	Bogue	6,178	5,277	3,542	4,188	4,631	4,684	30.7	11.8
	Hut lehor	Other Species	33,354	71,805	26,194	57,315	30,793	69,414	17.6	21.1
Malta	Total		92,880	172,463	48,583	118,085	49,374	123,626	1.6	4.7
	Gamblu	Shrimp	4,233	29,180	3,863	28,886	2,713	20,615	-29.8	-28.6
	Hanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	10,673	29,623	3,602	10,932	2,702	8,657	-25.0	-20.8
	Lampuka	Dorado	21,064	12,138	6,186	7,470	1,621	1,290	-73.8	-82.7
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	14,998	14,662	6,731	6,909	6,620	7,315	-1.6	5.9
	Pixxispad	Sword Fish	3,982	12,740	7,133	14,833	8,615	27,179	20.8	83.2
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	-	102	226	-	-
	Vopa	Bogue	6,031	5,130	1,545	2,085	2,031	2,625	31.5	25.9
	Hut lehor	Other species	31,899	68,990	19,523	46,970	24,970	55,719	27.9	18.6
Gozo and Comino	Total		13,322	22,010	16,445	27,821	30,735	40,047	86.9	43.9
	Gamblu	Shrimp	3,577	13,341	1,077	6,770	1,795	10,382	66.7	53.4
	Hanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	46	148	576	1,745	36	98	-93.8	-94.4
	Lampuka	Dorado	7,485	4,649	3,874	3,198	21,470	15,607	454.2	388.0
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	552	719	1,139	1,136	802	1,127	-29.6	-0.8
	Pixxispad	Sword Fish	60	191	1,111	2,524	561	1,884	-49.5	-25.4
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Vopa	Bogue	147	147	1,997	2,103	2,600	2,059	30.2	-2.1
	Hut lehor	Other Species	1,455	2,815	6,671	10,345	3,471	8,890	-48.0	-14.1
Foreign Vessels	Total		-	-	-	-	3,216	6,993	-	-
	Gamblu	Shrimp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Hanzir/Dott	Stone Bass	-	-	-	-	192	716	-	-
	Lampuka	Dorado	-	-	-	-	43	44	-	-
	Mazzola	Dog-Fish	-	-	-	-	369	422	-	-
	Pixxispad	Sword Fish	-	-	-	-	260	1,006	-	-
	Tonna	Blue Fin Tuna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Hut lehor	Other Species	-	-	-	-	2,352	4,805	-	-

* see methodological notes

Table 3. Fresh Fish Indices

	All Items Fresh Fish Index (1995 = 100)	
	Price Index	Volume Index
2004		
January	103.17	32.63
February	145.60	21.94
March	118.71	20.00
April	133.11	16.69
May	159.47	126.86
June	128.04	84.00
July	125.56	46.07
August	129.49	75.29
September	117.01	97.46
October	105.69	144.92
November	117.58	47.87
December	115.95	36.03
2005		
January	131.33	14.99
February	104.31	8.69
March	114.65	21.98
April	204.96	23.55
May	153.29	170.95
June	149.26	97.58
July	120.45	77.02
August	104.00	145.87
September	106.65	175.30
October	124.31	90.44
November	148.59	58.70
December	119.18	53.61
2006		
January	125.63	30.42
February	187.62	12.47
March	121.78	15.62

Methodological Notes

1. According to the fisheries regulation, fish caught by local fishermen have to be sold through the wholesale fish market. Statistical data for fish landings is collected through the daily returns of sales submitted by middlemen at the fishmarket.
2. The information is submitted to the NSO on a monthly basis. Fish landings by species, data on volume, average monthly unit prices and total value paid out to fishermen are available to compile the news release.
3. The indices are used to monitor developments in price and volume movements over a particular period. The price and volume indices are fixed weights Laspayres type indices with 1995 as the base year.
4. The data in this release are not normally subject to revision.
5. The news release has been re-designed to include the 7 dominant species landed. No individual species under the heading 'Other species' exceed 10 per cent of the total landings. All species will be made available upon request.
6. The aquaculture statistics are not being published in this release in order to respect confidentiality.
7. These statistics are published and disseminated by the National Statistics Office and can also be found on the NSO website <http://www.nso.gov.mt>.

NUTS classification

The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) is a common classification that is used to provide a single uniform breakdown of territorial units for the production of regional statistics with regard to the European Union. It was adopted on 26 May 2003 by means of a Regulation¹ of the European Parliament and of the Council.

¹ (EC) No. 1059/2003

NUTS levels					
Administrative area	I (National)	II (National)	III (Regional)	IV (District)	V (Locality)
MALTA	x	x	x	x	x
Malta			x		
Gozo & Comino			x		
Southern Harbour				x	
Northern Harbour				x	
South Eastern				x	
Western				x	
Northern				x	
Gozo & Comino				x	

COMPOSITION OF DISTRICTS - NUTS level V

Southern Harbour: Valletta, Birgu, Isla, Bormla, Żabbar, Fgura, Floriana, Kalkara, Luqa, Marsa Paola, Santa Luċija, Tarxien, Xgħajra.

Northern Harbour: Qormi, B'Kara, Gżira, Hamrun, Msida, Pembroke, Pieta, San Ġiljan, San Ġwann, Santa Venera, Sliema, Swieqi, Ta' Xbiex.

South Eastern: Żejtun, B'Bugia, Gudja, Għaxaq, Kirkop, M'Scala, M'Xlokk, Mqabba, Qrendi, Safi, Żurrieq.

Western: Mdina, Żebbuġ, Siġġiewi, Attard, Balzan, Dingli, Iklin, Lija, Rabat, Mtarfa.

Northern: Għargħur, Mellieħa, Mġarr, Mosta, Naxxar, San Pawl il-Baħar.

Gozo and Comino: Rabat, Fontana, G'Sielem & Comino, Għarb, Għasri, Kerċem, Munxar, Nadur, Qala, San Lawrenz, Sannat, Xagħra, Xewkija, Żebbuġ.