

Fresh fish from Flanders





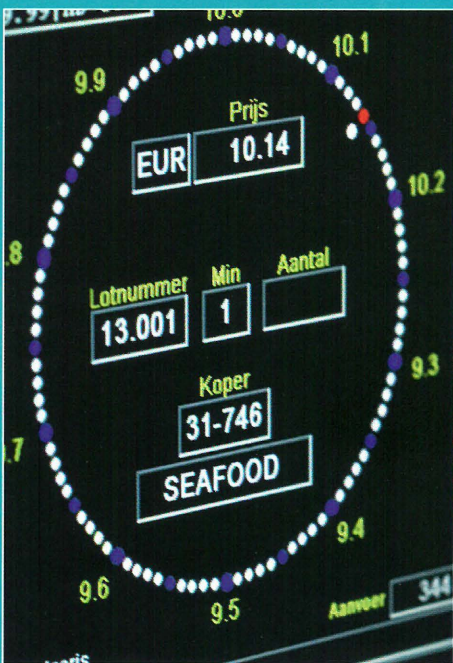
Flanders has a very large production of sole and flatfish

Last year the Flemish fish auctions sold about 16.000 tons of fresh fish.

Within the huge variety of species produced by the Flemish fleet, sole and plaice are the most important and represent more then 50% of the total catch.

Top quality

Flemish fisheries are well known for delivering a safe and high quality product. The skills and experience of the Flemish fishermen provide what quality buyers are looking for. Strict controls of the Belgian Food Safety Authority guarantee the highest sanitary and hygienic standards in Europe.



Quality is monitored by the Quality Index Method (QIM) which is generally accepted as an objective information system. A growing number of internet buyers are now fully confident that this method provides the relevant information on quality and traceability of the products, allowing them to buy from a distance within Europe.

Fish Markets

The catches of the Flemish fishing fleet are sold in one of the three auctions on the Flemish coast. The smallest of the three in Nieuwpoort, specializes in the sale of the coastal fisheries production and some specialities such as the famous Flemish brown shrimp.

The bulk of the Flemish production is sold in the auctions of Ostend and Zeebrugge. Auction clocks are interlinked with those of neighbouring countries. This allows for a fully transparent pricing system.

Sustainable Fisheries

Thanks to an intensive cooperation between fishermen, scientific institutes and industry, the sector has taken an irreversible course of sustainable fishing methods, such as the so-called 'Alternative Beam Trawl', sumwing, twin-riggers, fly-shooters and passive fishing. It all provides for better selectivity, a lesser impact to the seabed, improved quality of the catches and a reduced fuel consumption.

Conclusion

The Flemish fresh fish sector may not be the biggest in Europe. It aims at being the best: it is dynamic, it goes for top quality, safety, traceability and sustainability. ...and it has a large production of sole and other flatfish in Europe. Through its ideal location in the center of Europe 300 million people are reached within 12 hours.





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