FISKERIDIREKTORATET

Economic and Biological Key Figures from the Norwegian Fisheries 2025

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Report

Economic and Biological Key Figures from the Norwegian Fisheries 2025

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Summary:

The report provides a concise overview on trends and developments in the Norwegian fisheries. It highlights, among other things, developments in the groundfish and pelagic fisheries, as well as developments in the most commercially important species within these fisheries. With a few exceptions, the data underlying the graphical presentations are drawn from our statistics database.

Report

Key figures from the Norwegian fisheries 2025

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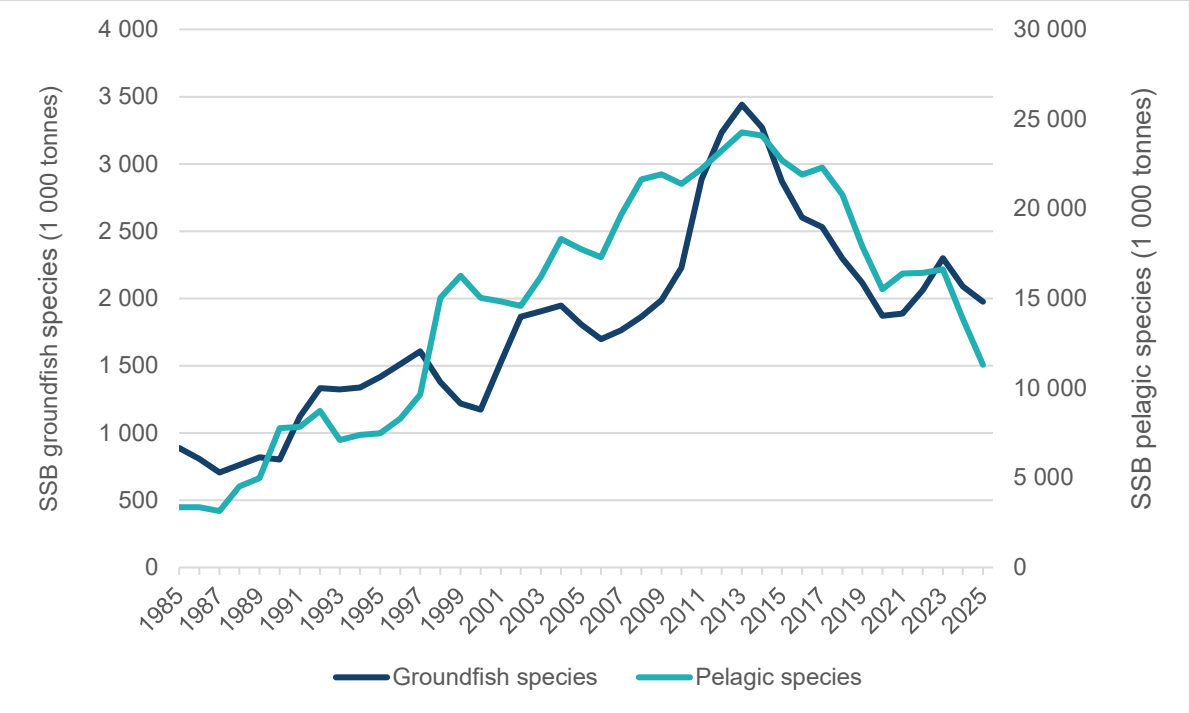
1. Spawning stock biomass

Spawning stock biomass (SSB) data are obtained from the stock assessments conducted by the International Council of the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). The data are available in the statistics database under F Fiskeri – F.04 Fiskebestander. These figures may be revised retrospectively as new assessments are published.

For more information on the statistics, including definitions, limitations and related information, please see Om statistikken – fiskebestander (available in Norwegian only).

Figure 1 Total spawning stock biomass of key pelagic and groundfish species, 1985–2025

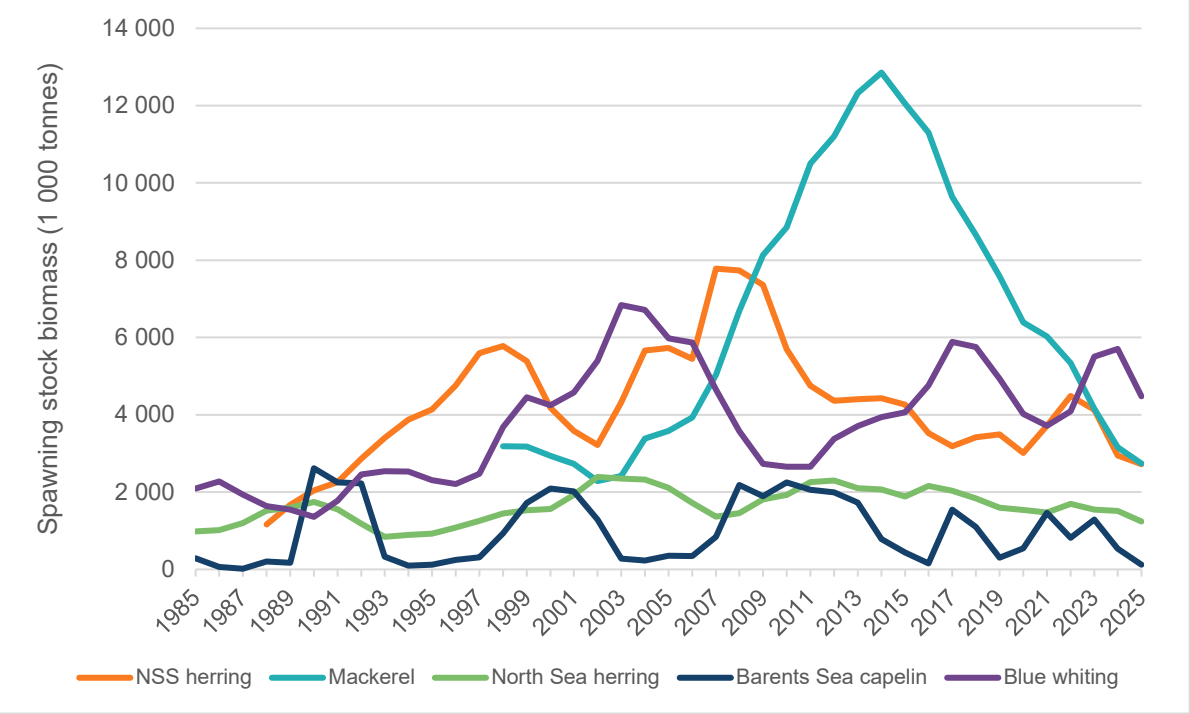


Pealgic species includes Norwegian spring-spawning herring, North Sea herring, mackerel, capelin in the Barents Sea, and blue whiting.

Groundfish species includes Northeast Atlantic cod, haddock and saithe, as well as cod, haddock and saithe in the North Sea and Skagerrak.

The 2023–2025 stock assessments for Northeast Arctic cod, haddock, and capelin in the Barents Sea were conducted by the Joint Russian-Norwegian Arctic Fisheries Working Group (JRN-AFWG).

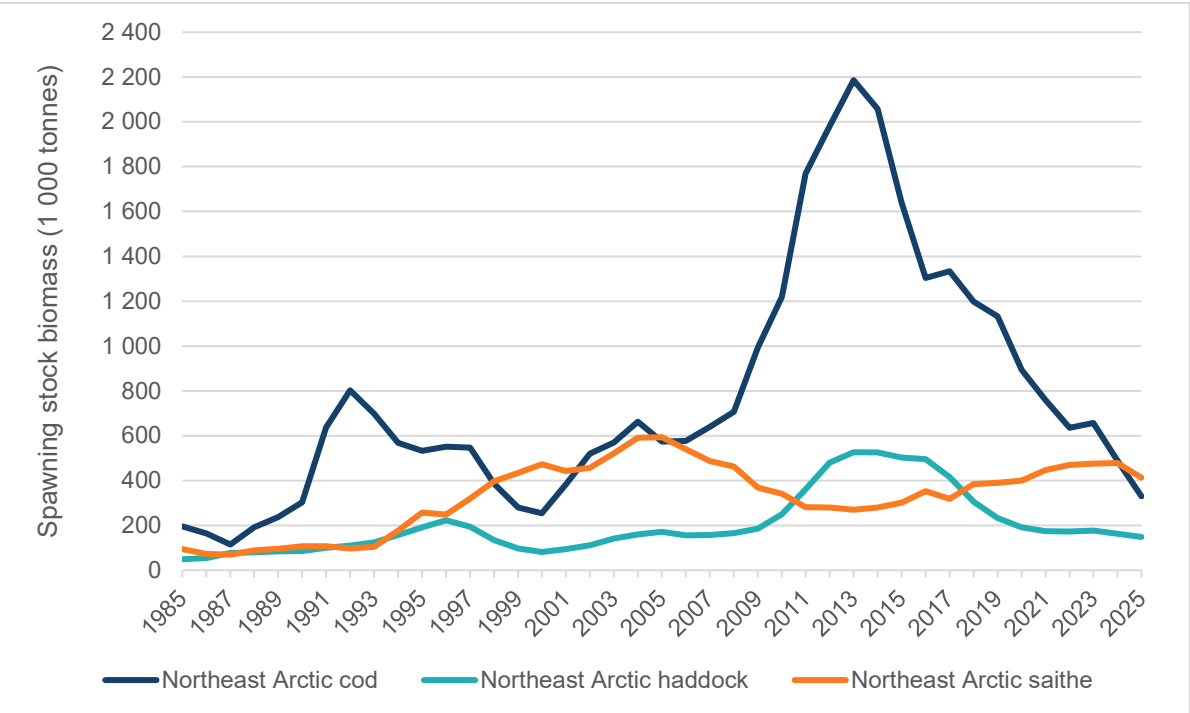
Figure 2 Spawning stock biomass of key pelagic species, 1985–2025



The 2023–2025 stock assessments for capelin in the Barents Sea were conducted by the Joint Russian–Norwegian Working Group on Arctic Fisheries (JRN-AFWG).

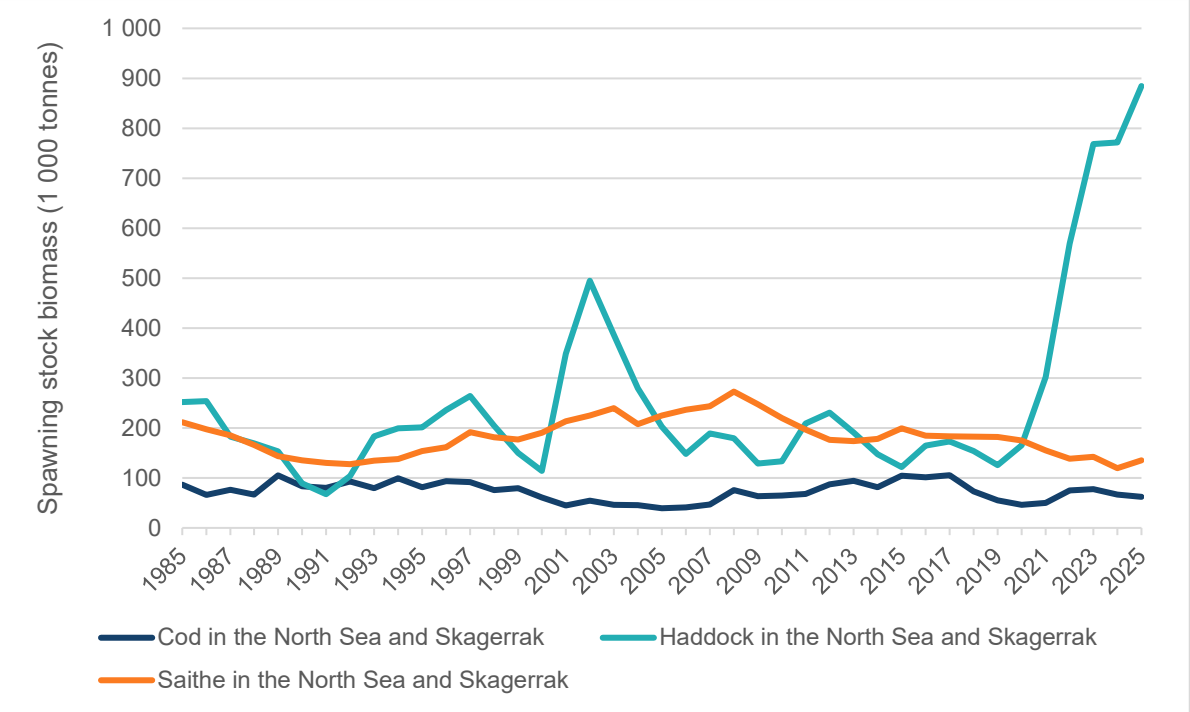
As of 2025, no stock estimates have been published by ICES for Norwegian Spring-Spawning (NSS) herring for 1985–1987, or for mackerel for 1985–1997. The absence of these assessments is due to methodological changes.

Figure 3 SSB of Northeast Arctic cod, haddock and saithe, 1985–2025



The 2023–2025 stock assessments for Northeast Arctic cod and haddock were conducted by the Joint Russian-Norwegian Arctic Fisheries Working Group (JRN-AFWG).

Figure 4 SSB of cod, haddock and saithe in the North Sea and Skagerrak, 1985–2025



2. National quotas

Information on national quotas is sourced from J-circulars (Norwegian regulatory notices) published by the Directorate of Fisheries: J-meldinger | Fiskeridirektoratet. The figures presented in this report are total quotas and include quotas for research and educational purposes. Data for 2026 are taken from the most recent available J-circular.

Figure 5 Norwegian quotas for key pelagic species, 1990–2025

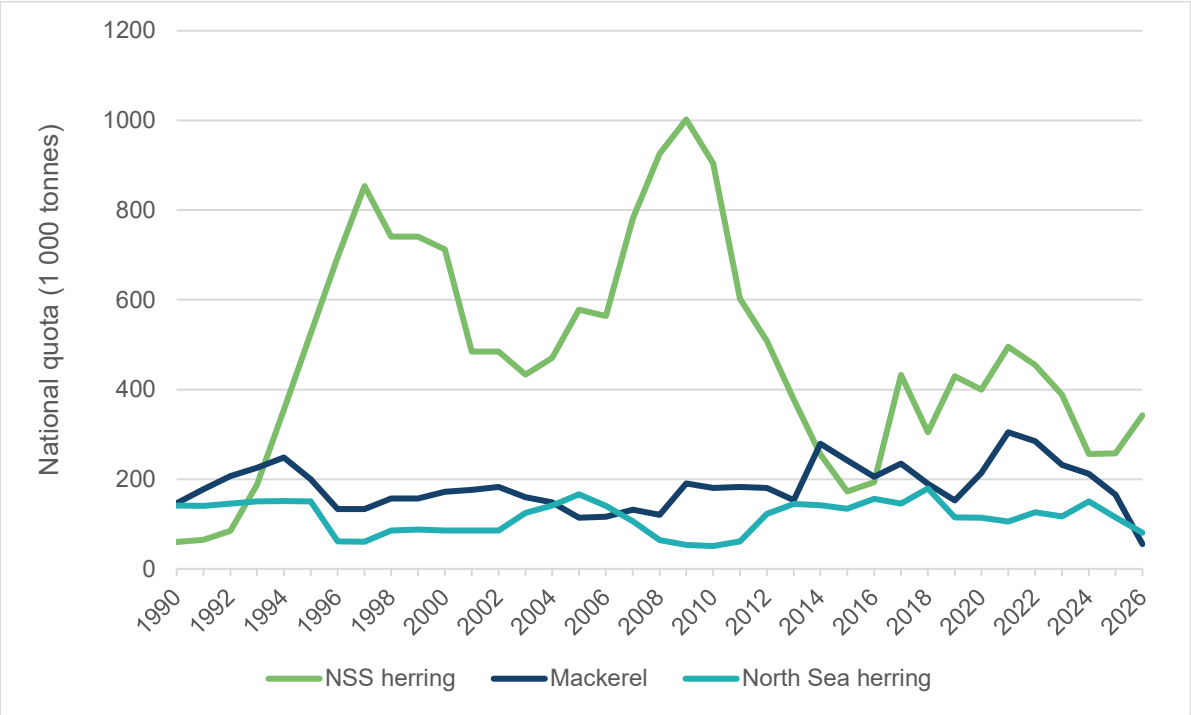


Figure 6 Norwegian quotas for key groundfish species north of 62°N, 1990–2025

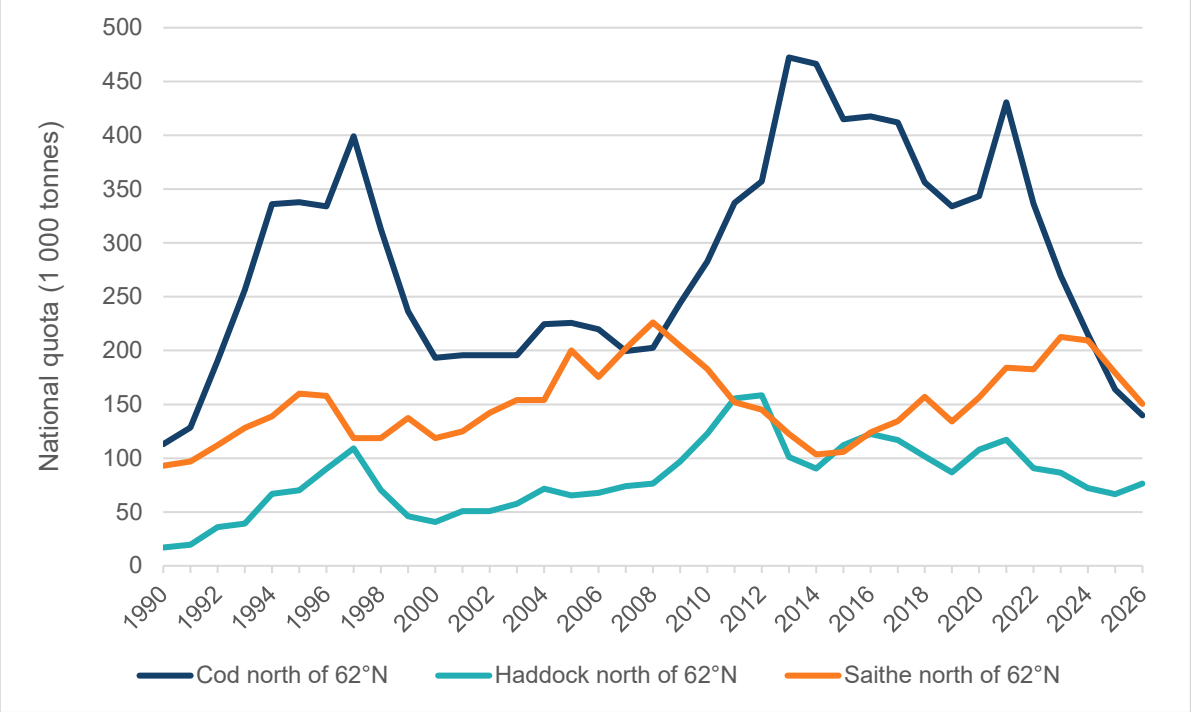


Table 1 Norwegian quotas for key fish species (in tonnes), 1990–2026

Year	Cod north of 62°N	Haddock north of 62°N	Saithe north of 62°N	NSS herring	North Sea herring	Mackerel
1990	113 000	17 000	93 000	59 985	141 530	146 270
1991	128 500	19 500	97 000	65 000	140 850	177 450
1992	190 500	36 000	112 000	85 000	145 350	207 055
1993	256 200	39 310	128 000	188 000	150 810	225 815
1994	336 000	67 000	139 000	355 000	151 490	248 435
1995	338 000	70 000	160 000	525 000	150 317	199 706
1996	334 000	90 000	158 000	695 000	61 600	133 430
1997	399 000	109 000	118 500	854 000	60 330	133 210
1998	313 000	70 500	118 500	741 000	85 580	157 160
1999	236 500	46 000	137 500	741 000	87 870	157 160
2000	193 400	40 748	118 500	712 500	85 470	172 060
2001	195 550	50 835	125 000	484 500	85 470	176 370
2002	195 550	50 835	142 000	484 500	85 470	182 637
2003	195 550	57 500	154 000	433 100	125 060	159 556
2004	224 600	71 500	154 000	470 250	140 960	148 728
2005	225 700	65 300	200 000	578 500	166 152	114 437
2006	219 700	67 650	175 500	564 200	140 798	116 245
2007	199 500	74 050	201 975	780 800	106 563	131 965
2008	202 413	76 500	226 150	925 980	63 960	120 450
2009	244 100	97 050	204 150	1 002 230	53 400	190 802
2010	282 729	122 859	182 950	904 630	50 955	180 424
2011	337 269	155 470	151 950	602 680	61 155	182 827
2012	357 196	158 453	145 200	508 130	122 530	180 843
2013	472 340	101 107	122 625	377 590	145 033	153 355
2014	466 439	90 484	103 450	255 277	141 681	278 868
2015	414 920	111 947	105 950	172 638	133 868	242 078
2016	417 518	122 394	123 950	193 294	155 919	205 694
2017	412 011	116 865	134 450	432 870	145 282	234 471
2018	356 418	101 605	156 950	304 500	179 391	189 482
2019	333 956	86 689	134 000	429 650	114 677	152 811
2020	343 377	107 971	156 482	399 451	113 975	213 880
2021	430 674	117 261	183 959	495 035	105 347	304 648
2022	336 467	90 701	182 657	454 927	126 358	284 539
2023	269 451	86 556	212 544	388 490	117 171	231 569
2024	214 967	72 173	209 323	255 847	150 830	211 827
2025	163 757	66 697	179 367	257 871	114 852	165 298
2026[1]	139 827	76 345	150 399	342 666	80 724	55 257

[1] The figures are taken from the most recent J-circular available at the time of publication. For example, the latest total quota figures for cod, haddock, and saithe north of 62°N are taken from J-30-2026.

3. Catches

Figures on catch quantity and catch value are sourced from the Directorate of Fisheries' landing and sales note data. The data are available in the Tableau report on the following page: Fangst fordelt på art (offisiell statistikk) | Fiskeridirektoratet.

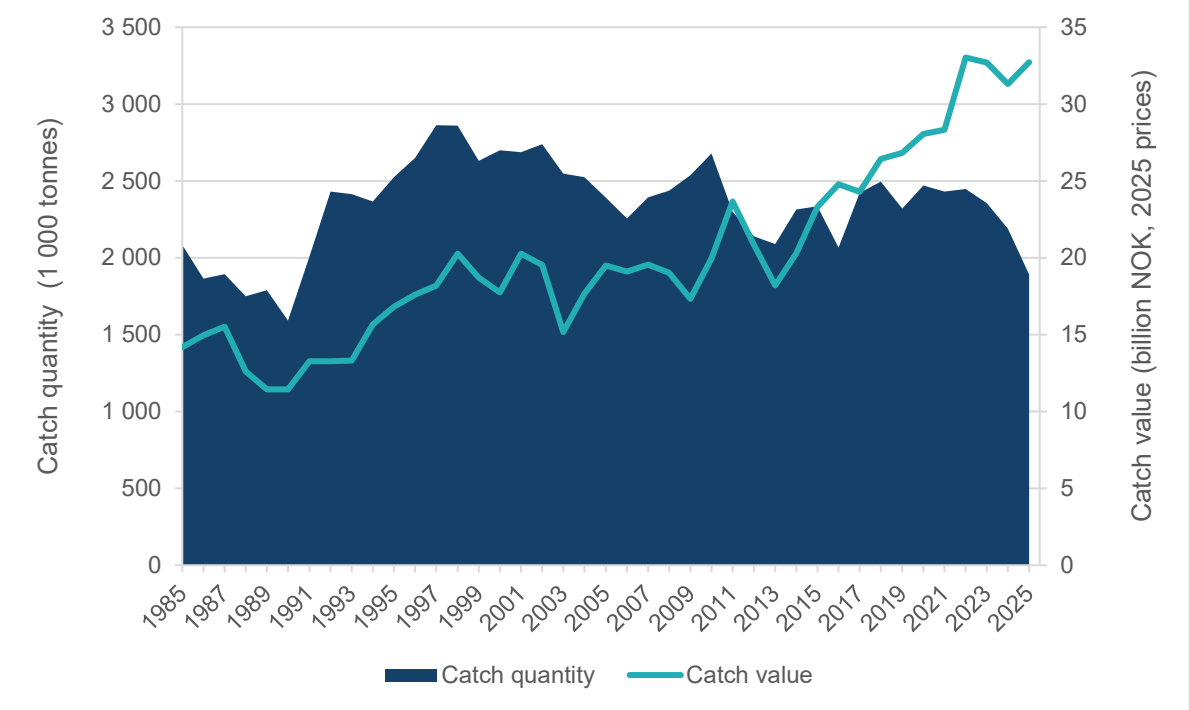
For more information on the statistics, including definitions, limitations and related information, please see: Om statistikken - landings- og sluttseddeldata | Fiskeridirektoratet (available in Norwegian only).

The figures below show trends in catch quantity, catch value, and first-hand price, both in total and broken down by fishery and by selected fish species. The figures exclude seaweed and kelp.

Catch value and price figures are presented in real terms, adjusted using the 2025 Consumer Price Index (Consumer price index – SSB).

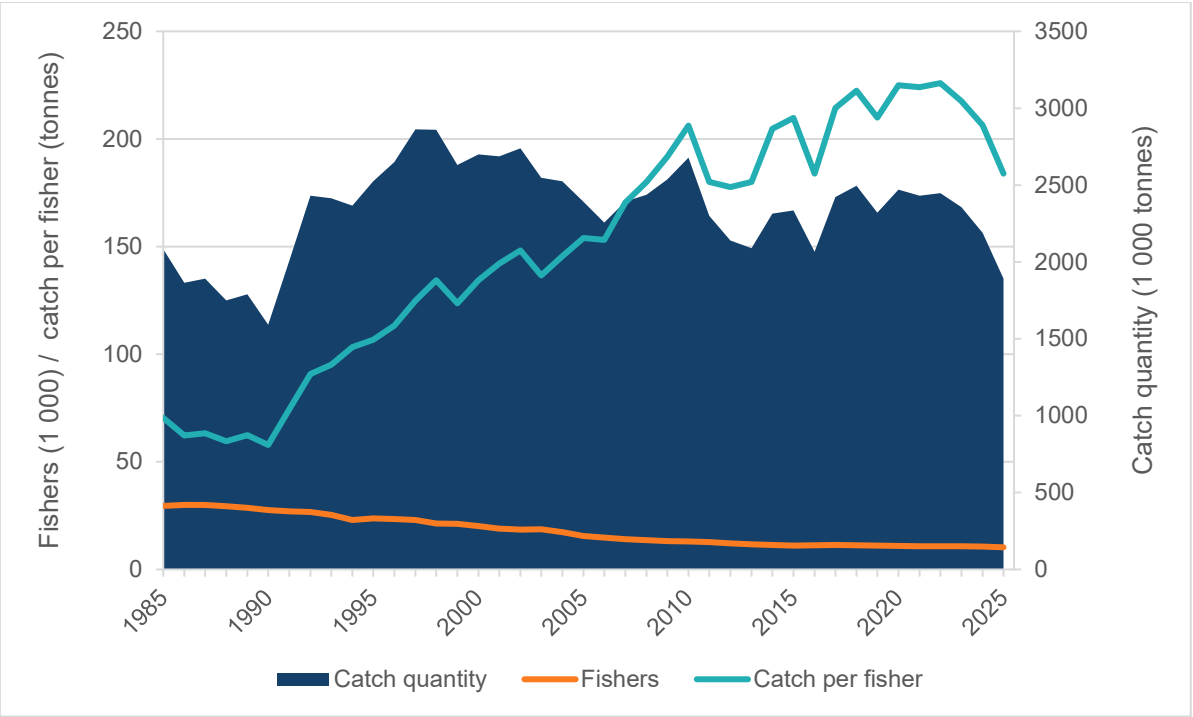
Figures for 2025 are preliminary.

Figure 7 Development of Norwegian catch quantity and catch value 1985–2025



The value of landed catch in Norwegian fisheries has fluctuated over time, but the overall trend over the past 40 years has been positive. Catch quantities show a slight downward trend and naturally vary with biological fluctuations and corresponding quotas.

Figure 8 Catch productivity: catch quantity per fisher, 1985–2026



Over the past 40 years, productivity has risen from 70 tonnes per fisher in 1985 to over 180 tonnes in 2025, representing an overall increase of around 160 percent, or an average annual growth of 2.5 percent. The increase in productivity reflects the decline in the number of fishers and fishing vessels and is closely linked to technological development and a targeted fleet restructuring policy.

Figure 9 Total catch quantity and catch quantity by fishery, 1985–2025

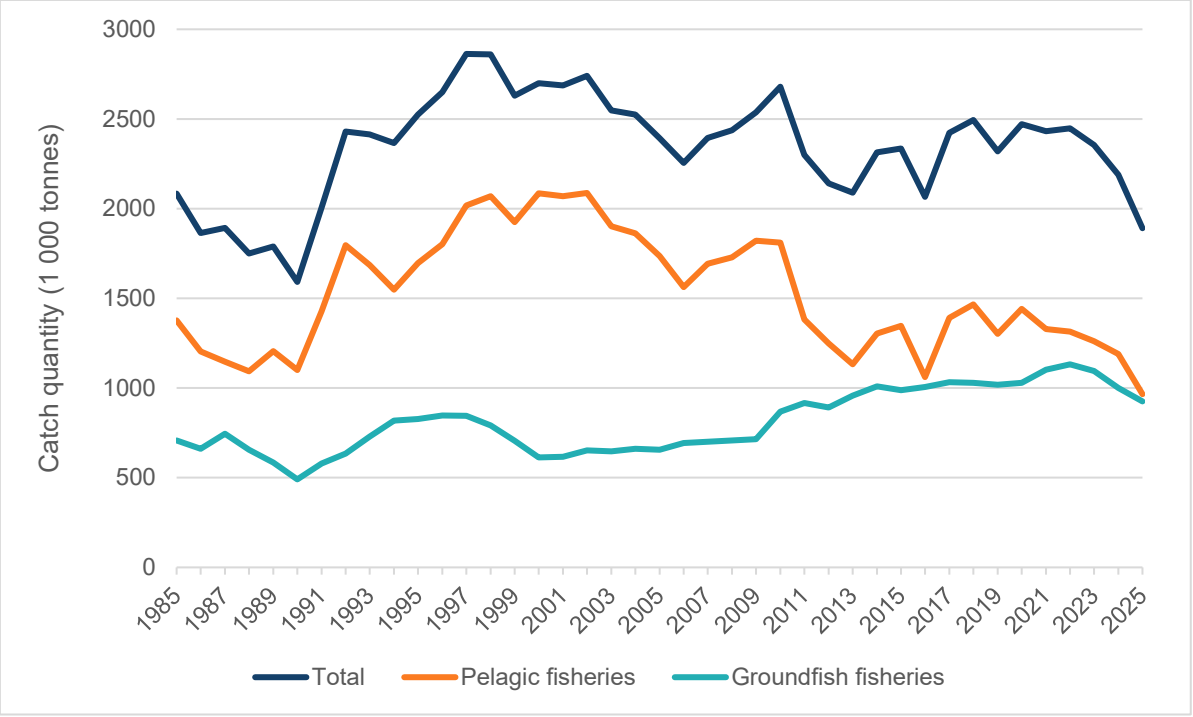


Figure 10 Catch quantity of key pelagic species, 2016–2025

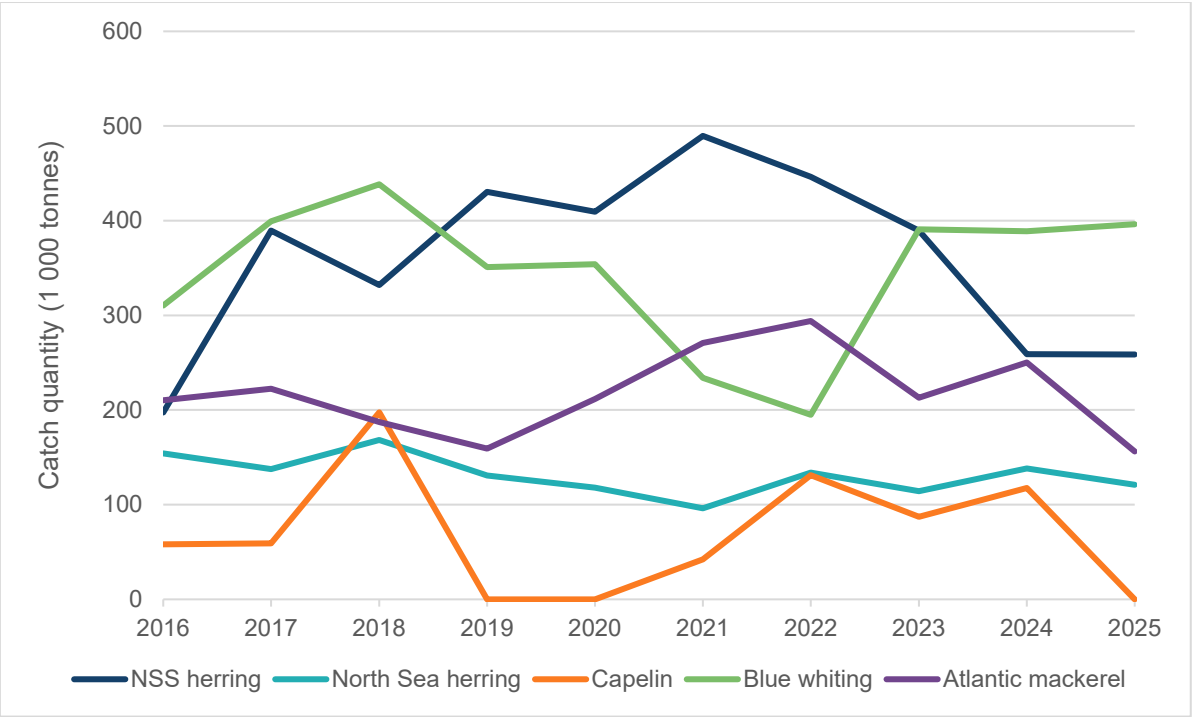


Figure 11 Catch quantity of cod, haddock and saithe north of 62°N, 2016–2025

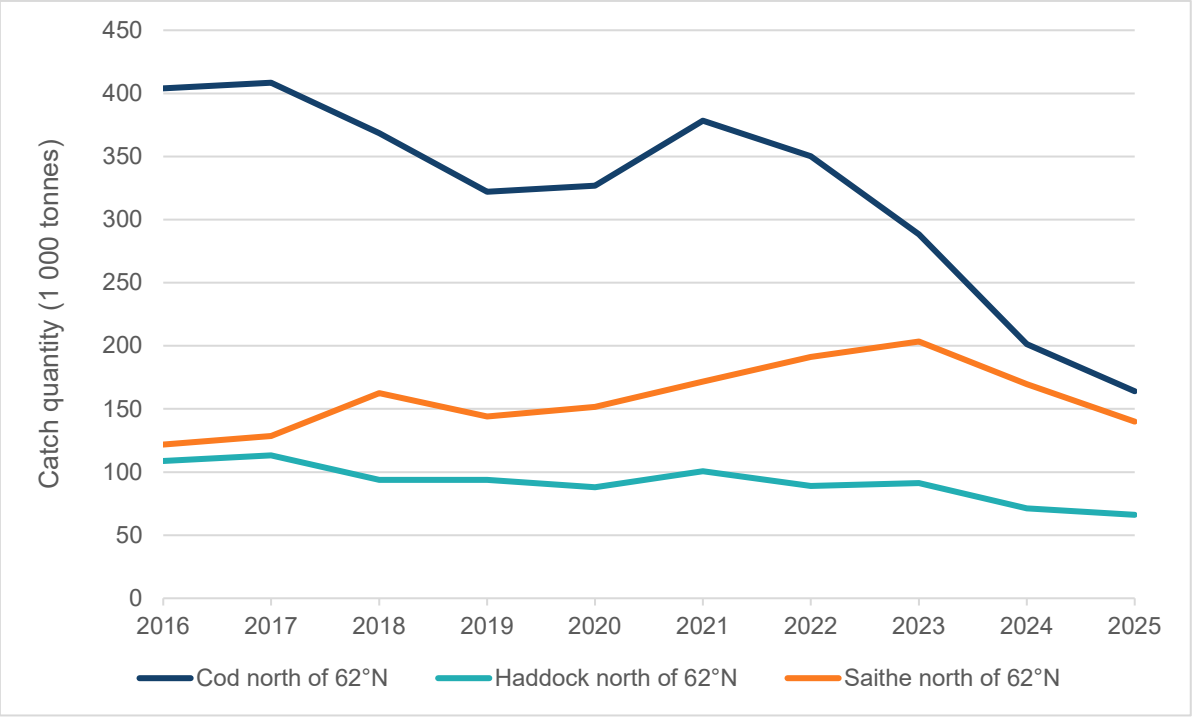


Figure 12 Catch quantity of cod, haddock and saithe south of 62°N, 2016–2025

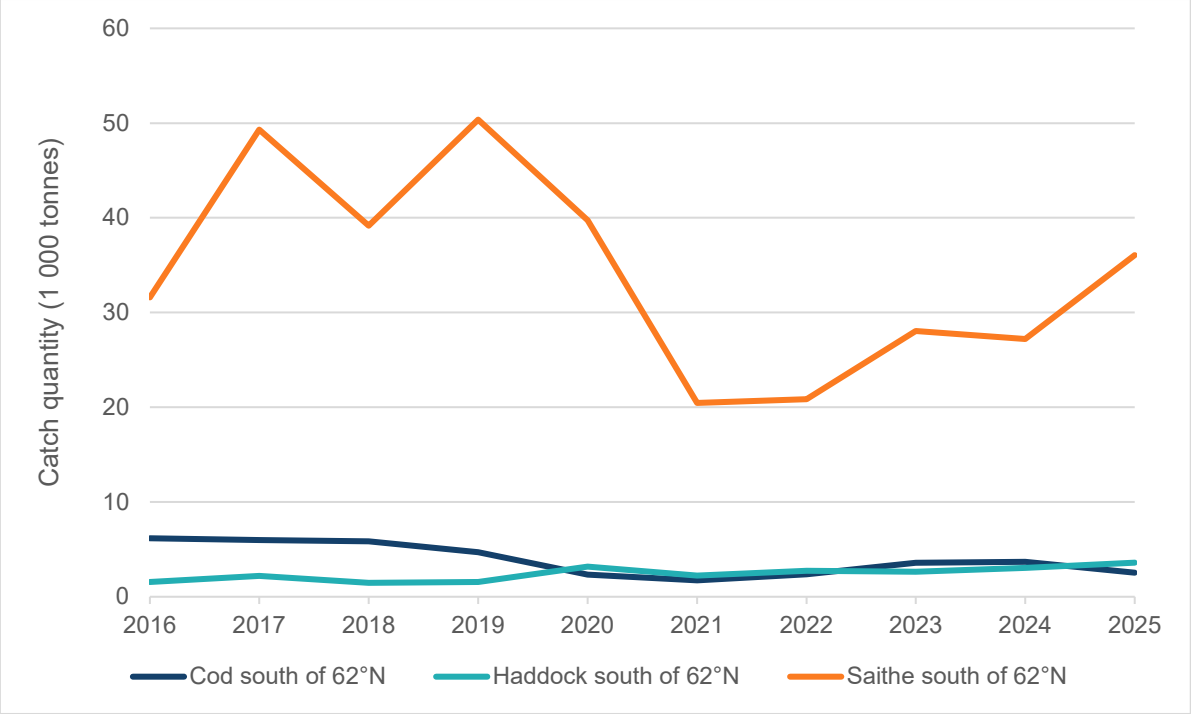


Figure 13 Catch value by fishery and in total, 1985–2025

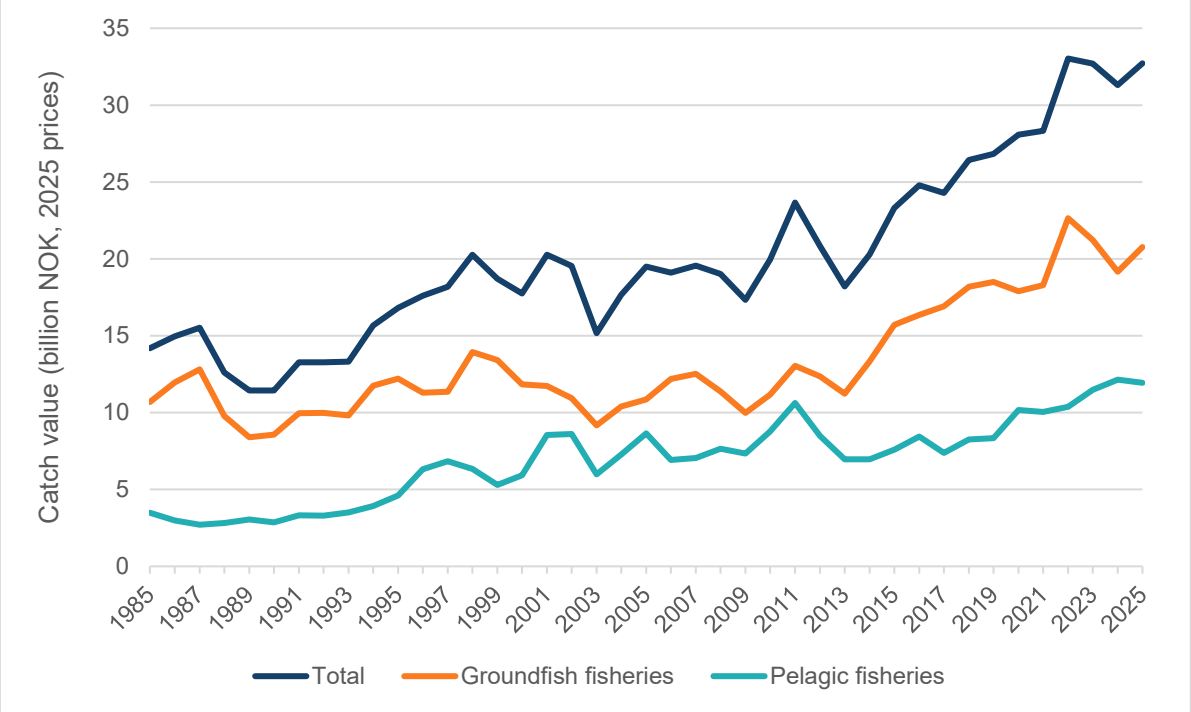


Figure 14 Catch value of main pelagic species, 2016–2025

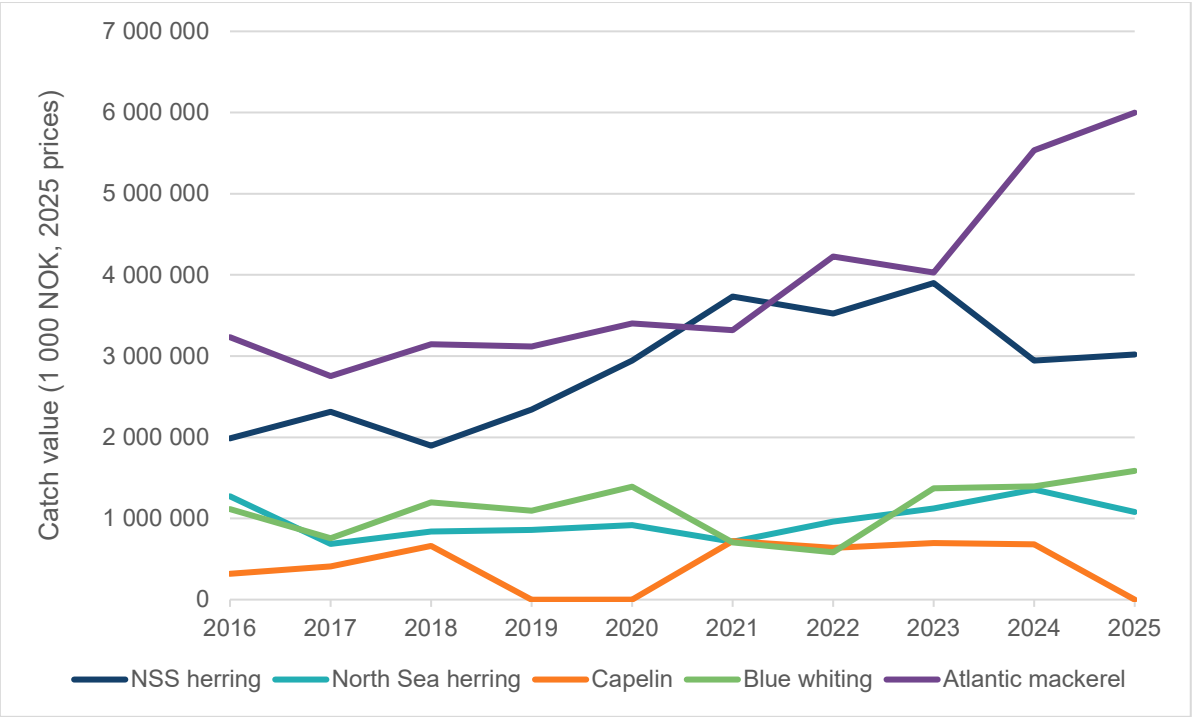


Figure 15 Catch value of cod, haddock and saithe north of 62°N, 2016–2025

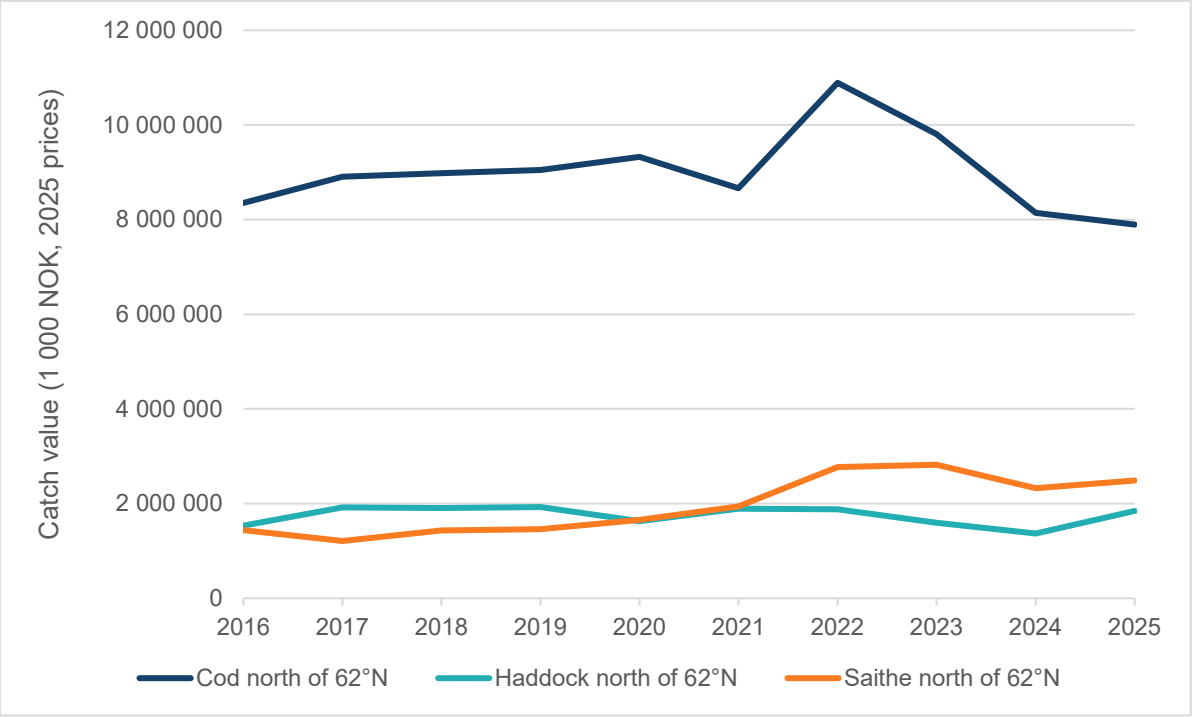


Figure 16 Catch value of cod, haddock and saithe south of 62°N, 2016–2025

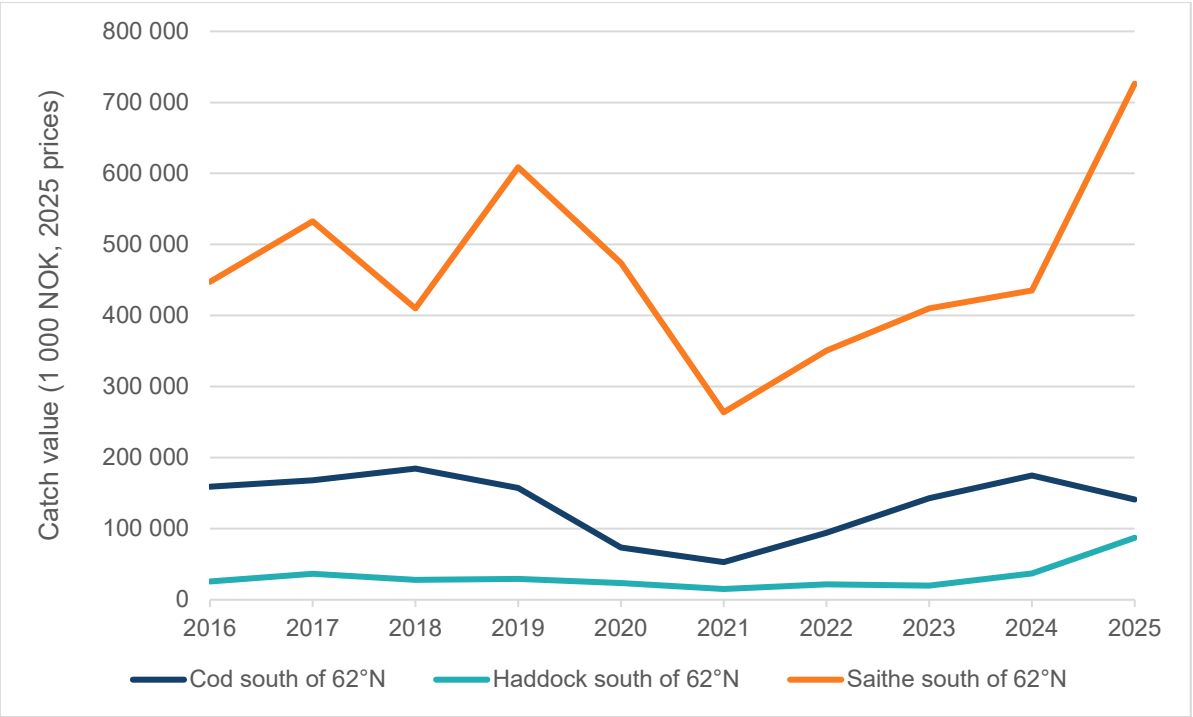
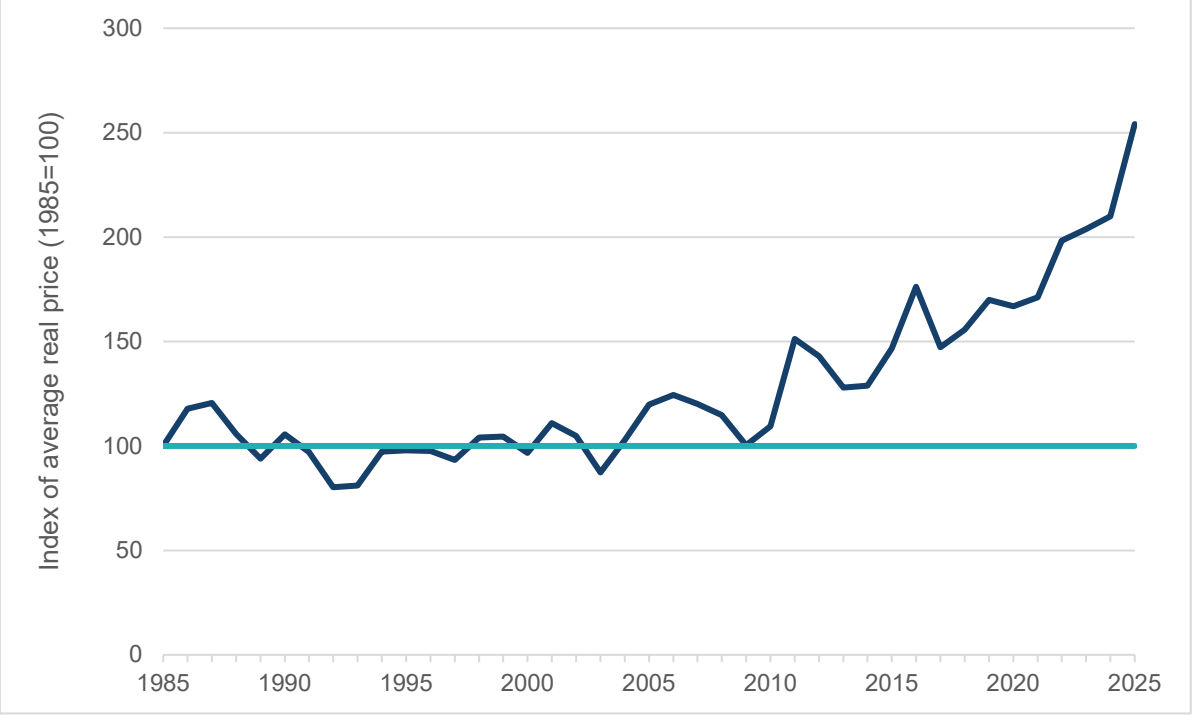


Figure 17 Development of average real price for all fish species, 1985–2025



The figure shows the development of first-hand prices for all fish species relative to the base year 1985. The figures are expressed in real terms and presented in 2025 NOK.

Figure 18 Price development of key pelagic species, 2016–2025

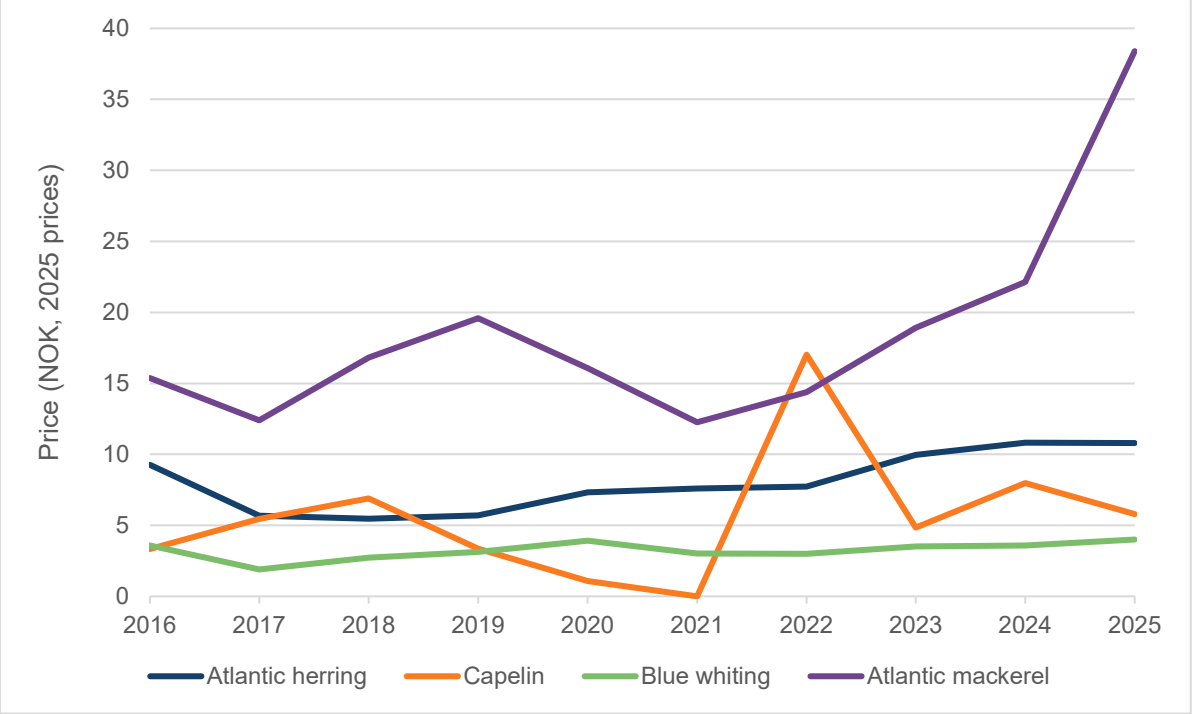
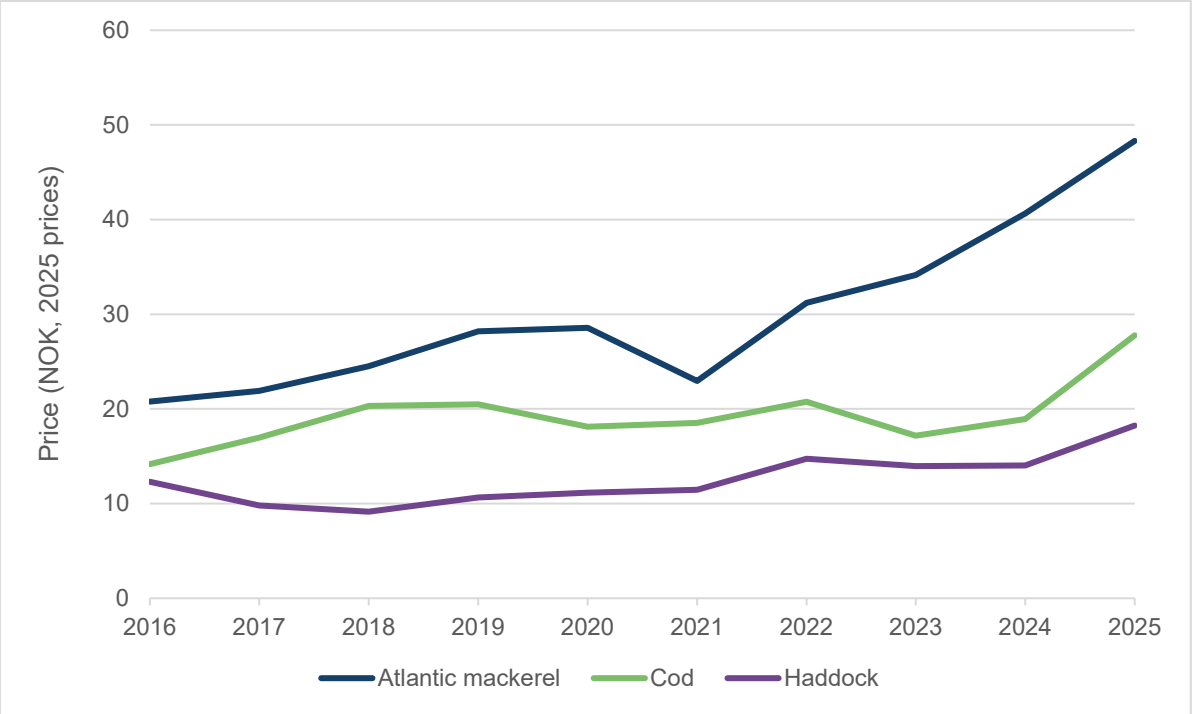


Figure 19 Price development of key pelagic species, 2016–2025



4. Fishers

Figures on fishers are sourced from the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries' Register of Fishers. The data are available in the statistics database under F Fiskeri – F.02 Fiskere.

For more information on the statistics, including definitions, limitations and related information, please see Om statistikken for fiskere i fiskerregisteret (available in Norwegian only).

Figures for 2025 are preliminary.

Figure 20 Registered fishers by primary and secondary occupation, 1985–2025

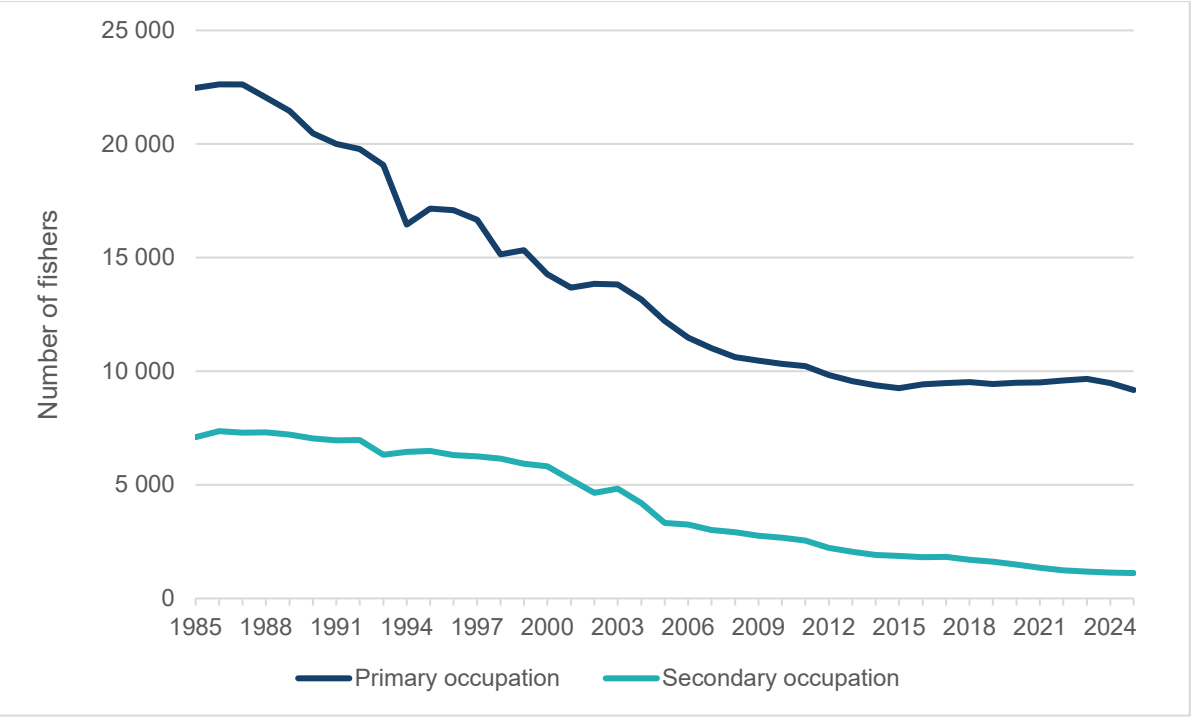


Figure 21 Share of full-time fishers by age group, 2000–2025

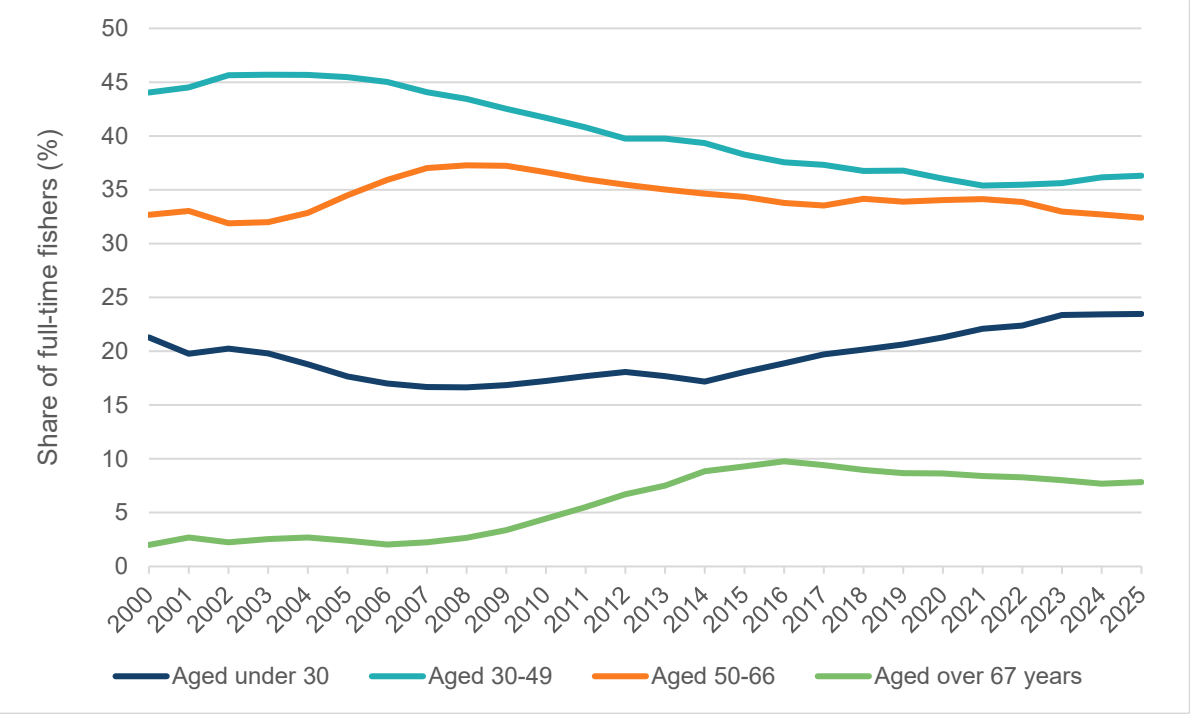
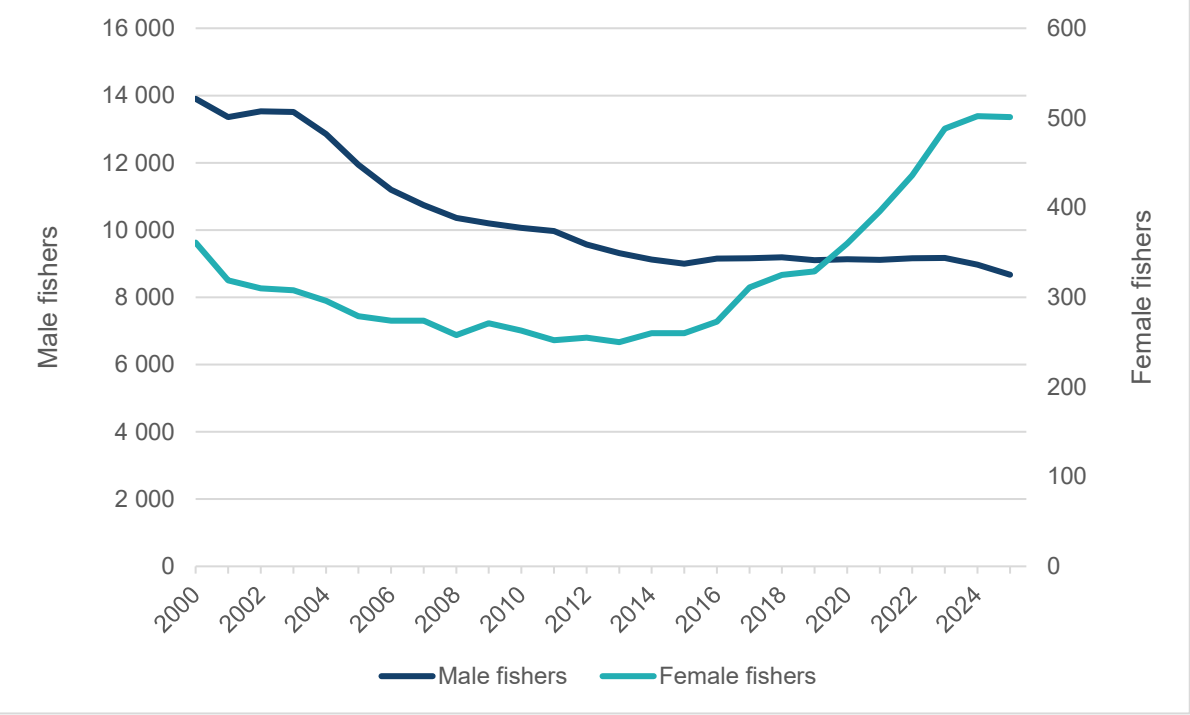


Figure 22 Registered full-time male and female fishers, 2000–2025



5. Fishing vessels

Figures on vessels are sourced from the Directorate of Fisheries' Register of Fishing vessels. The data are available in the statistics database F Fiskeri – F.01 Fiskefartøy. For more information on the statistics, including definitions, limitations and related information, please see Om statistikken for fiskefartøy i fartøyregisteret (available in Norwegian only). Figures for 2025 are preliminary.

Figure 23 Number of fishing vessels by length group, 1985–2025

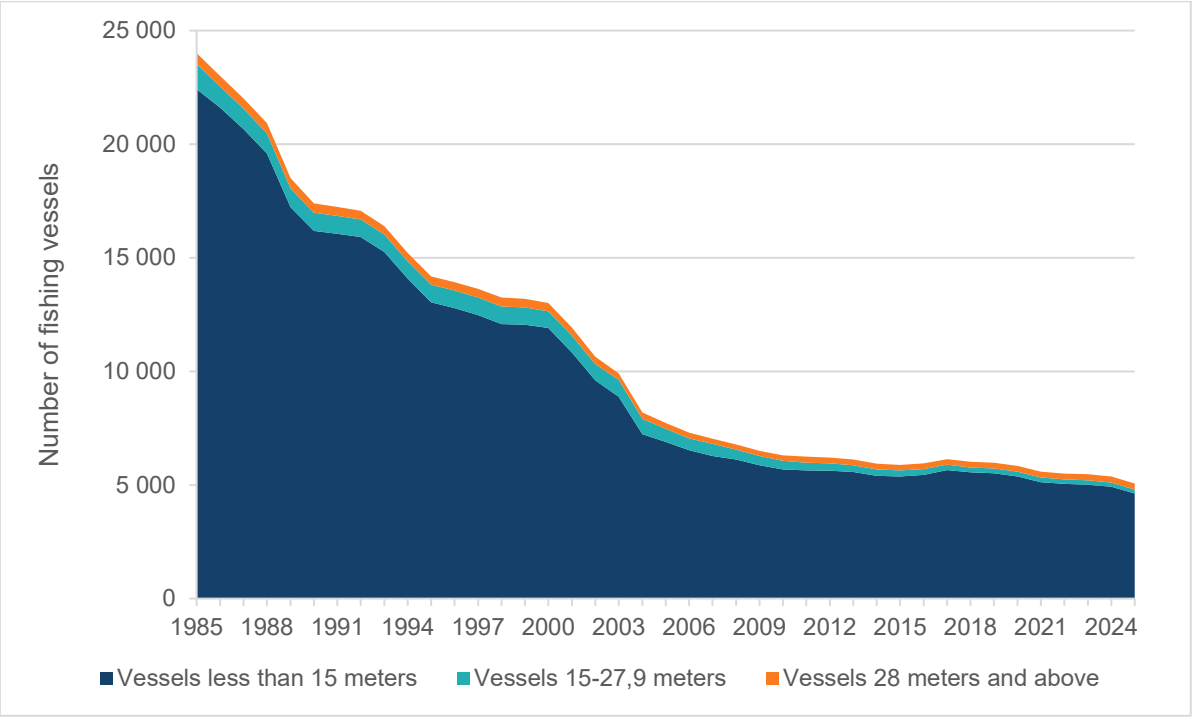
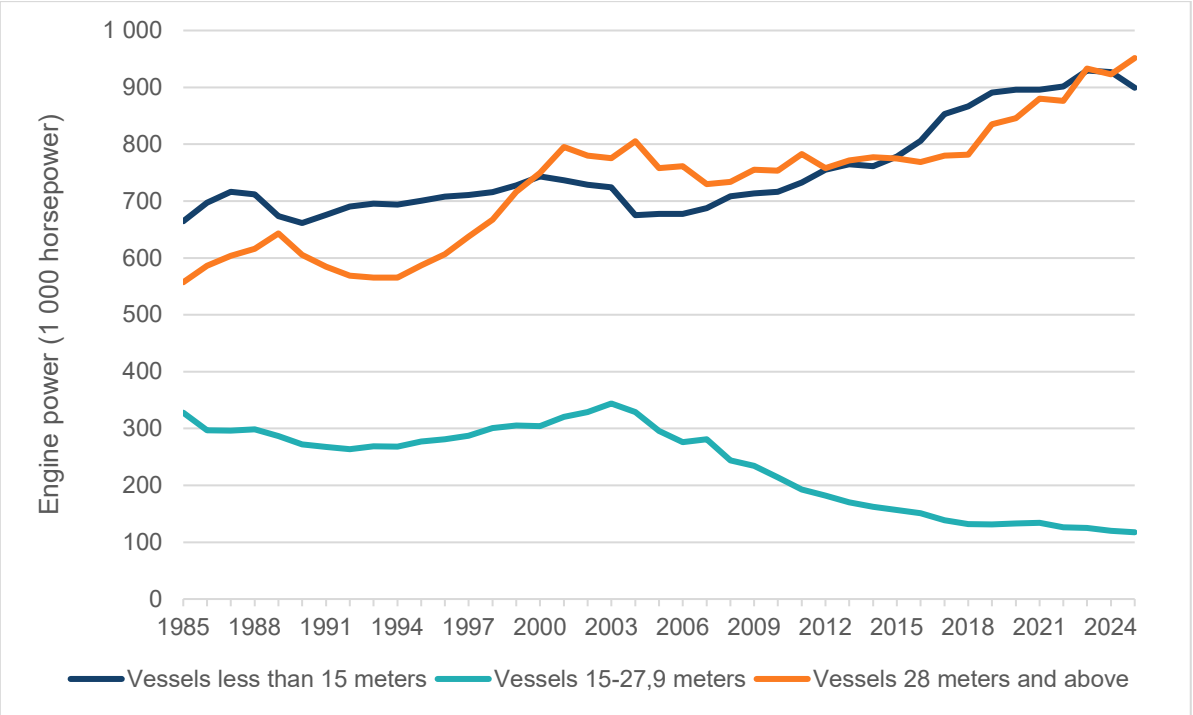


Figure 24 Total engine power by vessel length groups,1985–2025



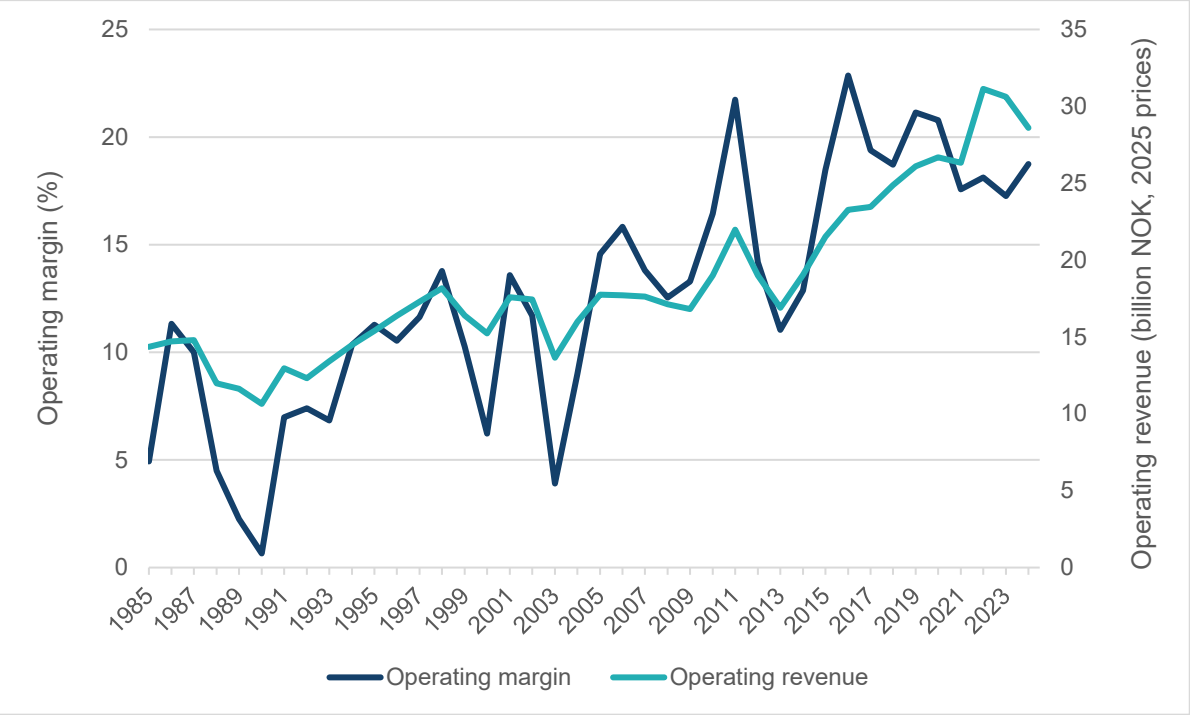
6. Profitability of the Norwegian fishing fleet

The Directorate of Fisheries collects annual data on the profitability of the Norwegian fishing fleet. The survey covers all registered vessels with catch revenue above a minimum threshold, which varies depending on vessel size. These vessels account for approximately 90 percent of the total catch value in Norwegian fisheries.

Data from the profitability survey are available as time series and annual tables on the survey's website: Lønnsomhetsundersøkelsen for fiskeflåten | Fiskeridirektoratet. Information on methodological changes and definitions of variables is available in the times series. See also the report for the profitability survey (published up to 2019) for more information on, among other things, vessel groupings: Statistiske publikasjoner innen yrkesfiske | Fiskeridirektoratet.

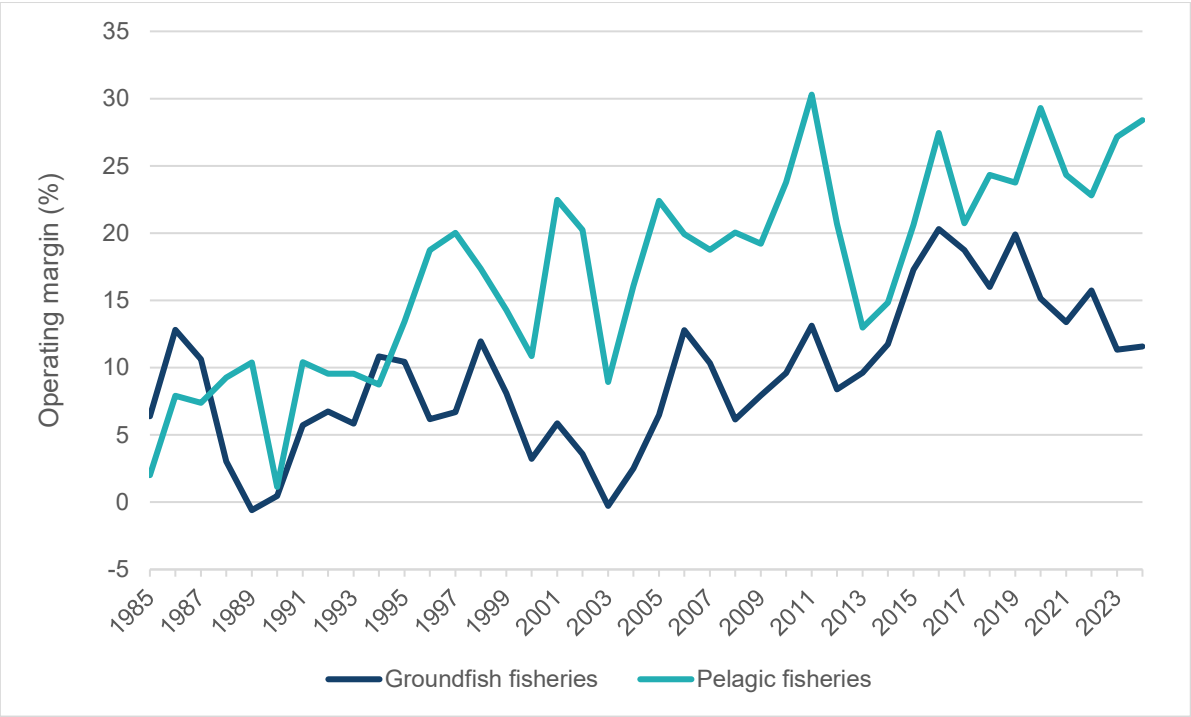
The profitability survey uses two key indicators: operating margin and return on total capital. The operating margin indicates the profit earned per 100 NOK of revenue, while return on total capital reflects the overall return on invested capital. Although the two indicators generally follow similar trends, increases in total capital over time mean that changes in profitability have a smaller effect on return on total capital than on operating margin. Profitability is therefore presented using the operating margin in this chapter.

Figure 25 Operating margin and revenue for the Norwegian fishing fleet[1], 1985–2024



[1] The population covered in the Directorate of Fisheries' profitability survey of the fishing fleet

Figure 26 Operating margin for fishing vessels[1] by fishery, 1985–2024



[1] The population covered in the Directorate of Fisheries' profitability survey of the fishing fleet

Figure 27 Operating margin for vessel groups in pelagic fisheries, 2000–2024

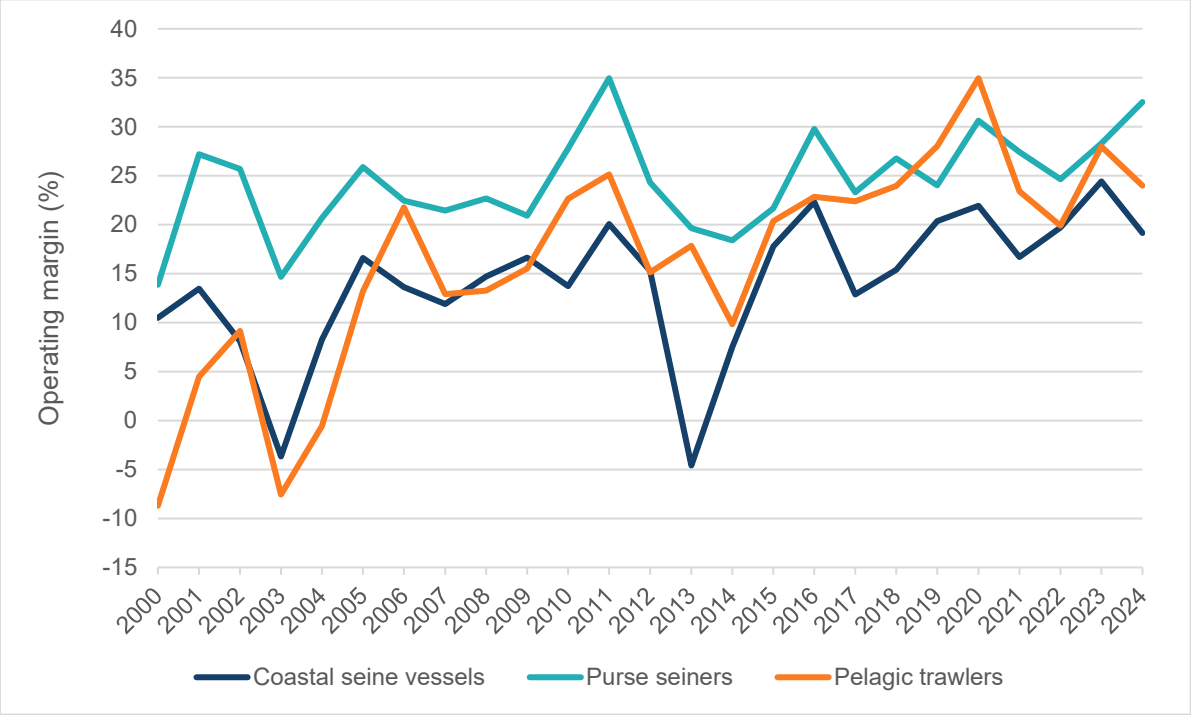
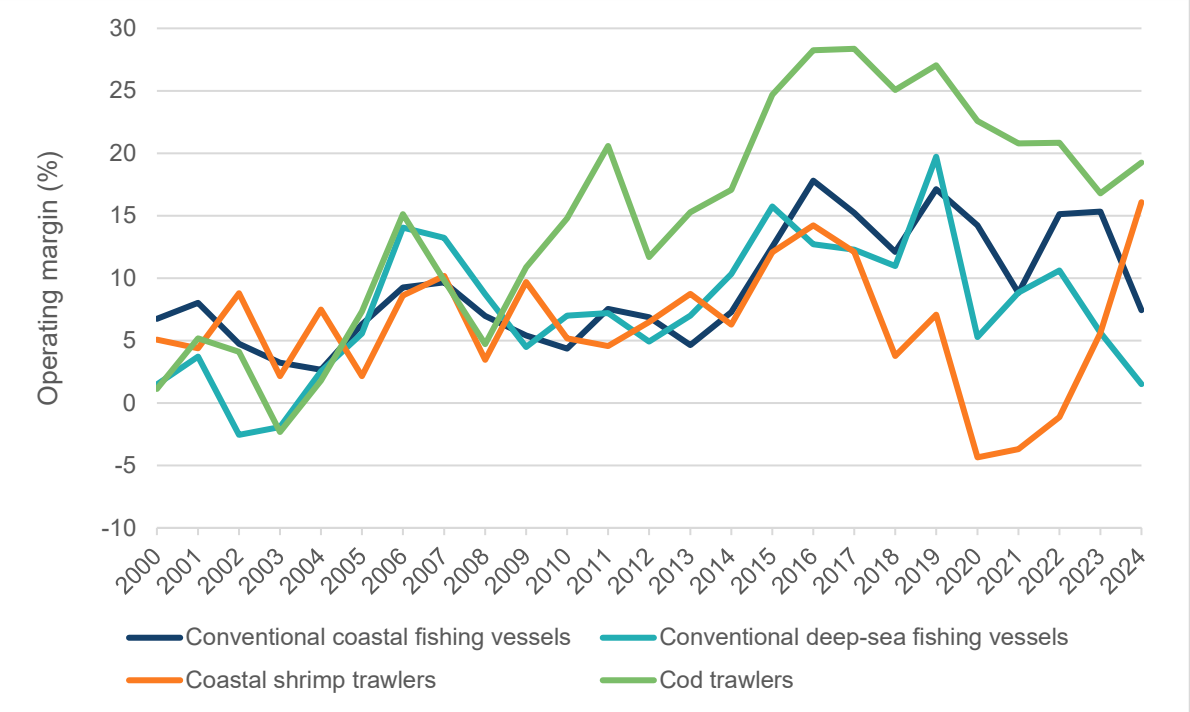


Figure 28 Operating margin for vessel groups in groundfish fisheries, 2000–2024



7. Subsidies to the Norwegian fishing fleet

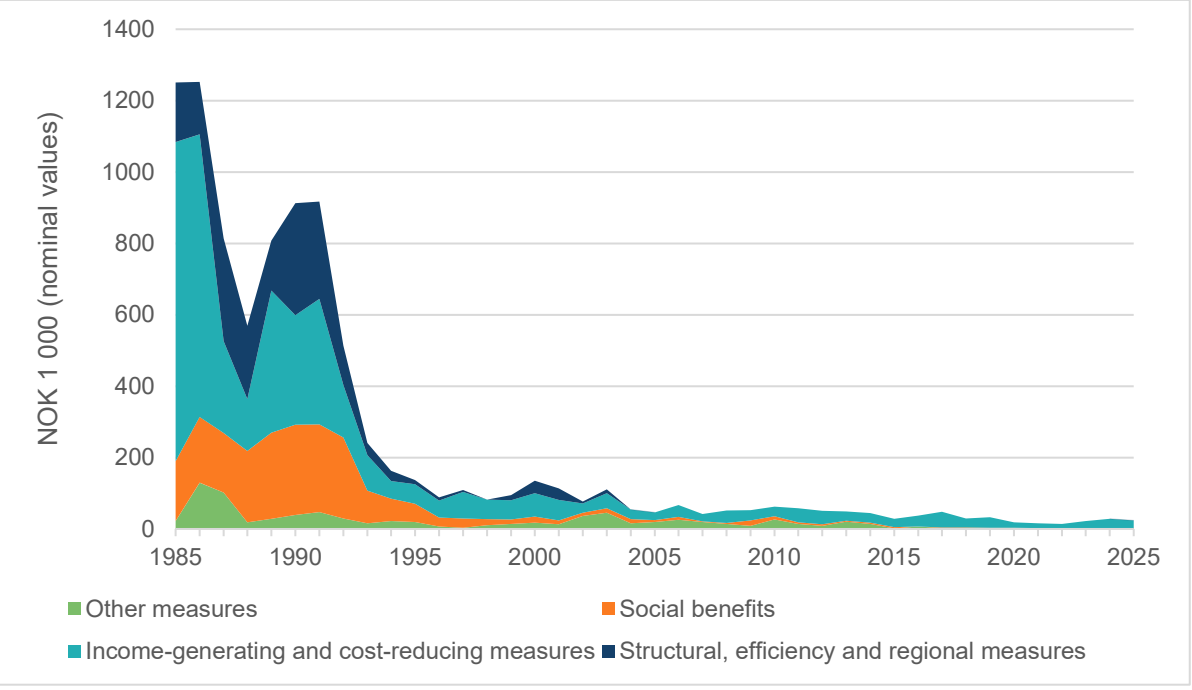
The figure below shows the development in the annual state allocations to the fishing industry through the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries. The data are taken from the appendices to Prop. 1 S (Proposition to the Norwegian Parliament).

During the period 1980–2004, state subsidies were allocated under the support agreement between the Norwegian Fishermen's Association and the State. The agreement was terminated with effect from 1 January 2005.

The allocated amounts are grouped into main categories. Although there is some uncertainty as to which main category certain amounts belong to, the figures presented in the chart nevertheless provide a good indication of the level of fisheries support, and a clear representation of the main objectives emphasized in the earlier support agreements.

Over the past 20-30 years, the need for subsidies has been limited, and the fishing industry has, in practice, operated without subsidies.

Figure 29 Government support awarded to the fishing fleet, 1985–2025



8. Sources

International Council of the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

The Directorate of Fisheries' J-circulars

The Directorate of Fisheries' landing and sales note data

Statistics Norway

The Directorate of Fisheries' Register of Fishers

The Directorate of Fisheries' Register of Fishing vessels

The Directorate of Fisheries' profitability survey of the fishing fleet

Prop. 1 S (Proposition to the Norwegian Parliament)

Note: sources are linked in the text where they are cited.

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