

# Fishing

## An important sector



### Reference points

#### Number of fishermen (2011)

- Channel area: 9 801
- French side: 6 095
- English side: 3 706

#### Number of vessels (2011)

- Channel area: 4 228
- French side: 2 109
- English side: 2 048

#### Quantity of fish landed (tons, 2011)

- Channel area: 209 219
- French side: 158 578
- English side: 50 641

#### Value of catches sold (€ 2011)

- Channel area: 522 219 684
- French side: 427 814 000
- English side: 94 405 684

#### Most fished species (2011)

- Scallop - Angler - Sardine - Mackerel

#### Most profitable species for sale (2011)

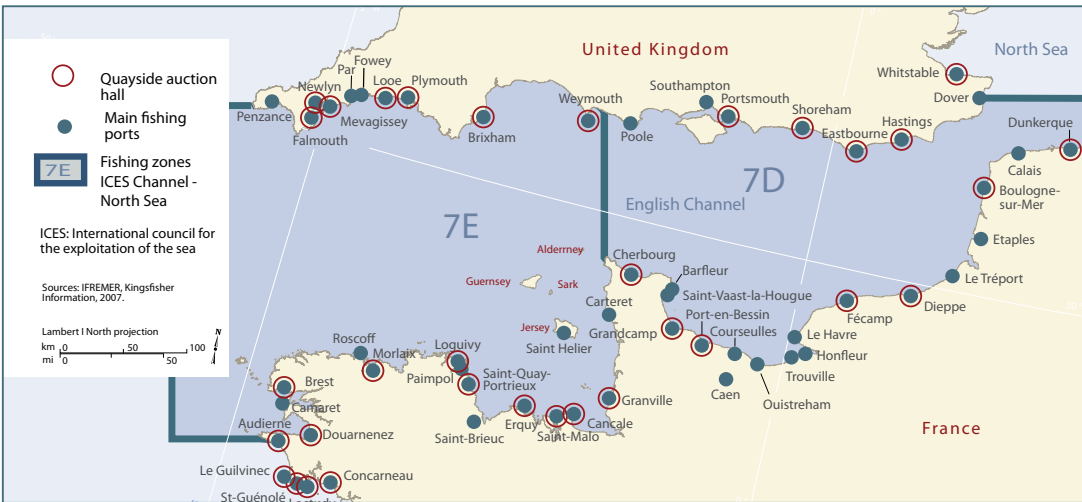
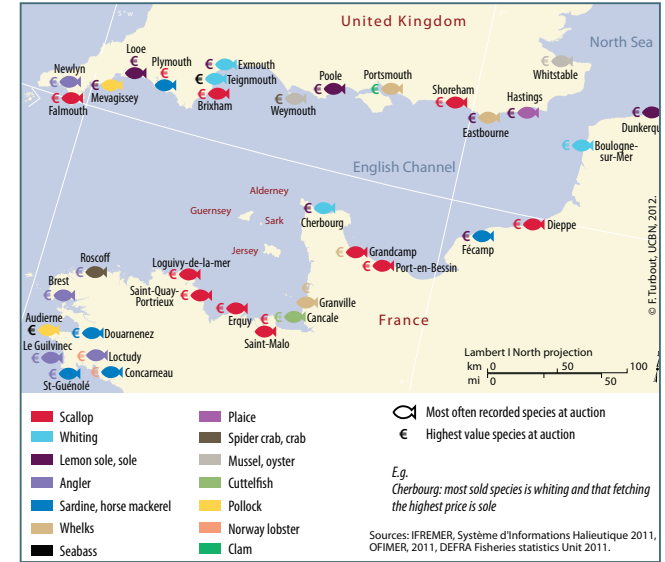
- Scallop - Sole - Norway lobster - European Seabass

#### Shellfish production (2010)

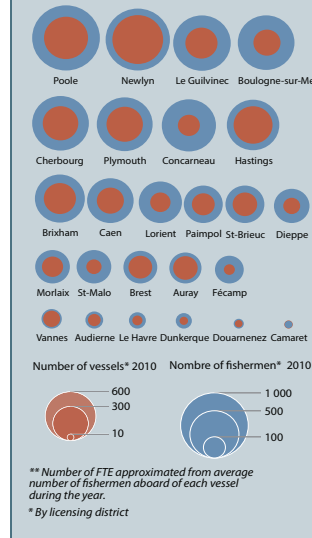
- Channel area: 79 400 tons



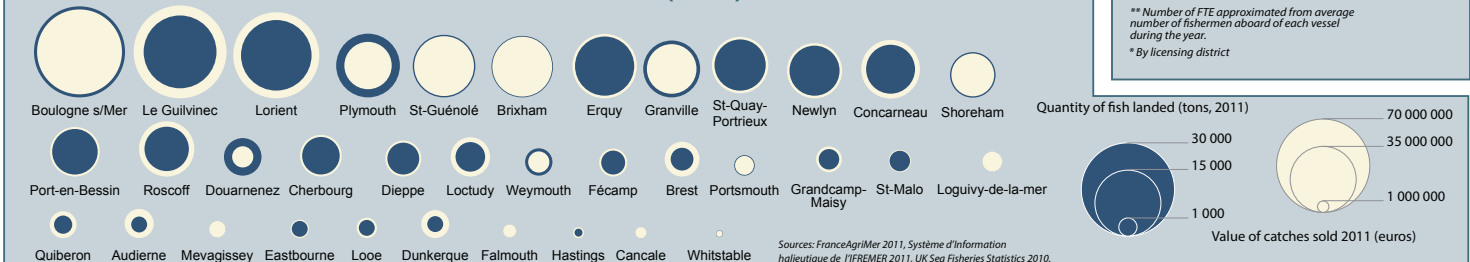
Photo : G. Milledrogues, 2007.



### Fishermen and vessels per licensing district (2010)



### Total size and value of catch for each auction site (2011)



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Of all the maritime activities practised in the Channel, fishing is certainly one of the longest-standing. Many ports of all sizes are scattered along the coast. With around 9,800 sailors aboard some 4,200 ships, fishing continues to be a key activity in local economies, despite having undergone continuous restructuring and downsizing over the last 40 years.

The differences are sometimes stark between the two sides of the Channel and while there are more French than British sailors, this is mainly down to the type of fishing traditionally practised being different. 60% of all the fishermen in the zone work in the Channel area and 40% fish in the open sea. The type of fishing vessel operating in the seas of western Scotland, or the Irish Sea, for example, requires larger crews over long periods.

By virtue of its configuration, the Channel still harbours a wealth of diverse species. From Penzance to Dover and from Concarneau to Dunkirk, some 210,000 tons of catches are sold every year in the 35 fish markets in the zone. Boulogne is the largest fishing port in the Channel area with 28,000 tons of fish and crustaceans sold in 2011. In England, Plymouth is the leading fishing port with almost 14,000 tons of catches. Here again there are differences. Some species are more profitable than others and sell for higher prices for the same amount fished. Scampi, monkfish (anglerfish), seabass, sole and scallop shells are among the most profitable species. In Fécamp, fishermen can get more for sole than mackerel, even though more of the latter is fished. More generally, throughout the area, scallops are both the most sold and the most profitable species.

Pressure on the resource has significantly increased at the very same time as various protection measures are being put in place. Depletion of fish resources elsewhere, coupled with more difficult economic decisions for fishing boat owners are prompting outside fleets that have not been seen over recent decades to come back and fish in the Channel. Adjusting to new situations is sometimes difficult.

Traditional fishing practices, which have shaped populations and societies for centuries, are now in fierce competition with countless other commercial, tourist and industrial developments. Although the decline of fleets leads to a reduction in the overall activity, a collective and coherent management of the resource and its dependent activities can help to maintain this vital sector for the Channel as a whole.