



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Aquaculture growth potential in Sierra Leone

WAPI factsheet to facilitate evidence-based
policy-making and sector management in
aquaculture

November 2023

World Aquaculture Performance Indicators (WAPI)

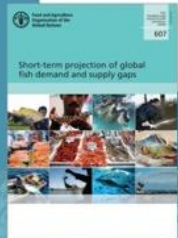
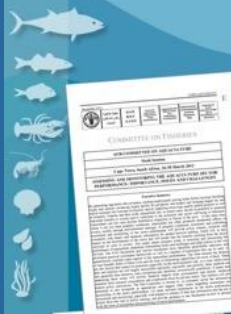
WAPI is an FAO initiative to develop user-friendly tools for compiling, generating and providing easy access to quantitative information on aquaculture sector performance at the national, regional and global levels. WAPI information and knowledge products include data analysis tools, technical papers and policy briefs.

Data analysis tools

– **WAPI Aquaculture Production Module (WAPI-AQPRN)** analyses the status and trends of aquaculture production (quantity and value) of over 650 species items in nearly 250 countries and areas under different farming environments (inland waters, marine areas and all areas) for seven decades, from the 1950s to the 2010s.

– **WAPI Fish Consumption Module (WAPIFISHCSP)** includes 10 indicators – three nutrition indicators and seven food indicators – to examine food supply and utilization patterns (with a focus on the contribution of fish to food and nutrition) in 270 countries and areas for six decades, from the 1960s to the 2010s. The module focuses on 14 fish/seafood items, but also includes 26 nonfish/seafood items.

Download WAPI tools and other products at:
www.fao.org/fishery/statistics/software/wapi/en
Contact us: WAPI@fao.org



Preparation of this factsheet

- This factsheet provides data and information to facilitate the assessment of aquaculture growth potential in Sierra Leone. It relies on official data and statistics readily available to the public. The factsheet is not a comprehensive, tailor-made sector assessment report. Some important dimensions, such as aquaculture's contribution to GDP and employment, are not evaluated due to the lack of global data. While most analyses in the factsheet are straightforward, there are some advanced analyses (e.g. [aquaculture growth potential from demand-side perspective](#)) based on certain (sometimes simplified) assumptions, which provide useful indications but do not cover all relevant aspects.
- Analyses in the factsheet are based on official data and statistics published by FAO and other international or national organizations. The data and statistics may differ from data and statistics used in other WAPI factsheets because of different data sources or different versions of the same datasets. They may not be consistent with data and statistics from other sources (e.g. national statistics).
- The term "country" used in this factsheet includes non-sovereign territory. The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
- Unless noted otherwise, country grouping in this factsheet follows the United Nations [M49 standard](#); under which Sierra Leone is listed in [Africa](#) and the sub-region of Western Africa.
- The preparation of the factsheet has benefited from tables and charts generated by various World Aquaculture Performance Indicator (WAPI) modules. Most of these data analysis tools are for FAO internal use, yet some of them are available for test use. See [slide 77](#) or visit the [WAPI webpage](#) for more information about WAPI information and knowledge products.
- The factsheet was prepared by Junning Cai, Giulia Galli, Xue Yan, and Xiaowei Zhou. Technical and other assistance provided by Sidiki Keita, Lionel Dabbadie, and Nathanael Hishamunda is acknowledged.
- The validity and relevance of the results depends on the quality (in terms of timeliness and accuracy) of the underlying data and statistics used in the analyses – see some remarks on data and statistics in [Slide 3](#). Errors could also occur in the analyses despite our efforts to minimize them. Please let us know if you have any concern.
- Contact: Junning Cai (FAO Aquaculture Officer); junning.cai@fao.org; wapi@fao.org.

Remarks on FAO aquaculture statistical data – Sierra Leone

- FAO aquaculture statistics are based on data submitted by member countries. When there is a lack of data formally reported by a country, FAO usually estimates the country's aquaculture production based on data and information from alternative sources or relies on relatively conservative estimation methods when alternative data sources are not readily available.
- Many countries lack a national statistics system for collection of aquaculture production data on a regular basis for dissemination and for reporting to FAO. In [Africa](#), only 24 countries or territories reported aquaculture production data to FAO in all the five years during 2013–2017, yet Sierra Leone was not one of them.
- A robust national system of aquaculture data collection is first and foremost for the countries' own benefit. Generally speaking from a global perspective, there is an urgent need for national capacity development in aquaculture statistics system at several levels, including (i) the legal status, institutionalization and resource allocation; (ii) development of national statistical standards in line with international standards; (iii) adequate and stable staffing plus an effective mechanism for data collection, compilation, storage, dissemination and reporting.
- For further information about FAO statistics on aquaculture production, contact: Xiaowei Zhou (FAO Aquaculture Officer (Statistics); Xiaowei.Zhou@fao.org).

Species grouping

In this factsheet, “fish” or “seafood” may be used interchangeably as a general term for narrative convenience. When it is necessary to define the scope of a species group for a specific quantitative measure, the following definitions are used.

- Aquatic organisms; aquatic species; aquatic foods; aquatic products; or aquatic commodities = fish & seafood + miscellaneous aquatic animal products + aquatic plants (or algae)*
- Fish & seafood = finfish + shellfish + miscellaneous aquatic animals
- Finfish = marine fishes + diadromous fishes + freshwater fishes
- Shellfish = crustaceans + molluscs
- Molluscs = shell molluscs (i.e. molluscs excluding cephalopods) + cephalopods

*Aquatic plants is one of the ISSCAAP Divisions; [ISSCAAP](#) = International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants. In FAO global fisheries and aquaculture production statistics, aquatic plants are virtually equal to algae, with only a few sporadic historical data (before the early 2010s) on the harvest of wild seagrass.

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Highlights (I)

Status and trends

- Aquaculture production in Sierra Leone increased from 30 tonnes in 2000 to 115 tonnes in 2021. The 6.61 percent annual growth was higher than world average, yet lower than sub regional and regional averages ([slide 61](#)). The production entirely came from inland aquaculture ([slide 63](#)) of tilapia and catfish ([slide 65-66](#)).

Supply-side perspective

- Sierra Leone's 0.0001 percent share of world aquaculture production tonnage in 2021 was smaller than its 0.11 percent share in world population and its 0.05 percent share in world land area. The country's 0.0002 percent share in world inland aquaculture production was smaller than its 0.01 percent share in world surface area of inland waterbodies and its 0.29 percent share in world renewable water resources. The country had no aquaculture production in marine and coastal areas despite its 0.05 percent share of world coastline length ([slides 9-10](#); [slide 71](#)).
- Total fisheries production in Sierra Leone increased from 5 000 tonnes in 1950 to ~200 000 tonnes since the 2010s, which primarily reflects capture fisheries production, while the contribution of aquaculture was minimal ([slide 49](#)). Aquaculture production in the country increased from 2 tonnes in 1980 to 115 tonnes in 2021; the share of aquaculture in total fisheries production reached 0.06 percent in 2021. ([slide 62](#)).
- In 2019, Sierra Leone's 203 398 tonnes of total fish & seafood consumption was supplied by 202 185 tonnes of food fish & seafood supply from domestic sources and 1 213 tonnes of net import ([slide 22](#)). Sierra Leone's import of aquatic products increased from USD 1.015 million in 2000 to USD 8.995 million in 2021; the 10.95 percent annual growth was higher than sub-regional, regional, and world averages ([slide 42](#)).

Highlights (II)

Demand-side perspective

- Sierra Leone is a low-income country with an increasingly urbanized economy and a growing population ([slides 9-12](#); [slides 68-69](#)). The life expectancy at birth of its population was higher than sub-regional average, yet lower than regional and world averages ([slide 17](#)). Sierra Leone's food security and nutrition status was generally worse than the sub-regional, regional, or world average ([slide 14](#)).
- Sierra Leone's per capita total protein intake in 2020 was lower than sub-regional and world averages ([slide 16](#)). Its per capita animal protein intake was higher than the sub-regional average yet lower than the world average ([slide 20](#)). The share of fish & seafood in its animal protein intake (54.6 percent) was higher than sub-regional and world averages.
- Per capita fish & seafood consumption in Sierra Leone increased from 11.6 kg in 1999 to 25.3 kg in 2019. The 4 percent annual growth was higher than sub-regional, regional, and world averages. Its 25.3 kg per capita consumption in 2019 was the second highest in Western Africa and the seventh highest in Africa ([slide 26](#)). Sierra Leone is the most seafood liking country in Africa, yet the high preference is mostly on marine fishes, whereas its preferences for freshwater & diadromous fishes and shellfish groups are below world averages ([slide 29](#)).
- Sierra Leone's export of aquatic products declined from USD 11.055 million in 2000 to USD 4.555 million in 2021, as opposed to increased exports in Western Africa, Africa, and the world. Sierra Leone's export of aquatic products in 2021 comprised mostly marine fishes (61.6 percent), followed by crustaceans (19.2 percent), freshwater fishes (8.3 percent), miscellaneous aquatic animals (5.8 percent), and molluscs (5.7 percent). The composition was more diverse than Western Africa ([slides 34-40](#)).
- Sierra Leone's population is expected to increase from 8.234 million in 2020 to 10.105 million in 2030, which would need 47 298 tonnes more fish & seafood to maintain its per capita fish & seafood consumption at the baseline level (i.e. 25.28 kg). Sierra Leone's aquaculture production increased from 85 tonnes in 2017 to 115 tonnes in 2021. Following the linear trend during 2017–2021, the country's aquaculture production could reach 186 tonnes in 2030. The 71 tonnes of extra supply would be far from enough to cover the 47298 tonnes of extra demand driven by population growth ([slide 70](#)).

Resources

Sierra Leone (2021): 0.0001 percent of world aquaculture production; 0.11 percent of world population; a low-income country (3.99 percent of world average GDP per capita).

Status of aquaculture production, population and GDP

Country/area	Aquaculture production (2021) ¹		Population (2021) ²		GDP per capita (2021) ³	
	Tonnes	Share of world total (%)	Million	Share of world total (%)	Current USD	Ratio to world average (%)
World	126 035 297	100.00	7 909	100.00	12 351	100.00
Africa	2 418 844	1.92	1 394	17.62	1 979	16.02
Sub-Saharan Africa	809 782	0.64	1 184	14.96	1 640	13.28
Western Africa	388 375	0.31	419	5.29	1 768	14.31
Sierra Leone versus the largest aquaculture countries in Western Africa, 2021						
1. Nigeria	275 645	0.2187	213	2.70	2 068	16.75
2. Ghana	89 380	0.0709	33	0.42	2 411	19.52
3. Mali	8 484	0.0067	22	0.28	898	7.27
4. Côte d'Ivoire	5 720	0.0045	27	0.35	2 610	21.13
5. Benin	4 150	0.0033	13	0.16	1 362	11.03
6. Senegal	1 151	0.0009	17	0.21	1 638	13.26
7. Guinea	1 150	0.0009	14	0.17	1 194	9.67
8. Togo	882	0.0007	9	0.11	975	7.90
9. Burkina Faso	878	0.0007	22	0.28	894	7.24
10. Niger	472	0.0004	25	0.32	591	4.78
11. Liberia	275	0.0002	5	0.07	676	5.47
12. Sierra Leone	115	0.0001	8	0.11	493	3.99

Data sources: 1. FAO Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global aquaculture production 1950-2021 (FishStatJ). 2. UN World Population Prospects (2022 Revision). 3. Total GDP from IMF World Economic Outlook Database (April 2023) divided by population from UN World Population Prospects (2022 Revision).

Notes: Country grouping based on UN-OHRLLS and UN M49 standard. Sub-Saharan Africa includes Sudan.

Natural resources of Sierra Leone: 0.05 percent of world land area (including inland water surface area); 0.01 percent of world inland water surface area; 0.05 percent of world coastline length; 0.29 percent of world total renewable water resources.

Land and water resources

Country/area	Total country area (excluding coastal waters; 2020) ¹		Surface area of inland waterbodies (2020) ²		Coastline length (2019) ³		Total renewable water resources (2020) ¹	
	km ²	Share of world total (%)	km ²	Share of world total (%)	km	Share of world total (%)	Billion m ³ /year	Share of world total (%)
World	133 780 390	100.00	3 494 970	100.00	805 942	100.00	54 737	100.00
Africa	30 091 420	22.49	312 064	8.93			5 630	10.29
Sub-Saharan Africa	24 338 529	18.19	298 859	8.55			5 526	10.10
Western Africa	6 146 123	4.59	33 176	0.95			1 343	2.45
Sierra Leone versus the largest aquaculture countries in Western Africa, 2021								
1. Nigeria	923 770	0.69	9 799	0.28	853	0.11	286	0.523
2. Ghana	238 533	0.18	7 369	0.21	539	0.07	56	0.103
3. Mali	1 240 190	0.93	3 820	0.11	0	-	120	0.219
4. Côte d'Ivoire	322 460	0.24					84	0.154
5. Benin	114 760	0.09	226	0.01	121	0.02	26	0.048
6. Senegal	196 710	0.15	3 157	0.09	531	0.07	39	0.071
7. Guinea	245 860	0.18	901	0.03	320	0.04	226	0.413
8. Togo	56 790	0.04	213	0.01	56	0.01	15	0.027
9. Burkina Faso	274 220	0.21	1 030	0.03	0	-	14	0.025
10. Niger	1 267 000	0.95	420	0.01	0	-	34	0.06
11. Liberia	111 370	0.08	477	0.01	579	0.07	232	0.42
12. Sierra Leone	72 300	0.05	472	0.01	402	0.05	160	0.29

Data sources: 1. FAO AQUASTAT main country database (November 2020; downloaded on 29 April, 2023). 2. FAOSTAT Land Cover database (CCI_LC; updated on 15 July, 2022; downloaded on April 29, 2023). 3. The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), United States of America. Web accessed on 20 May 2019. Coastline length of world equal to the sum of coastline length of 265 countries and territories listed in the data source.

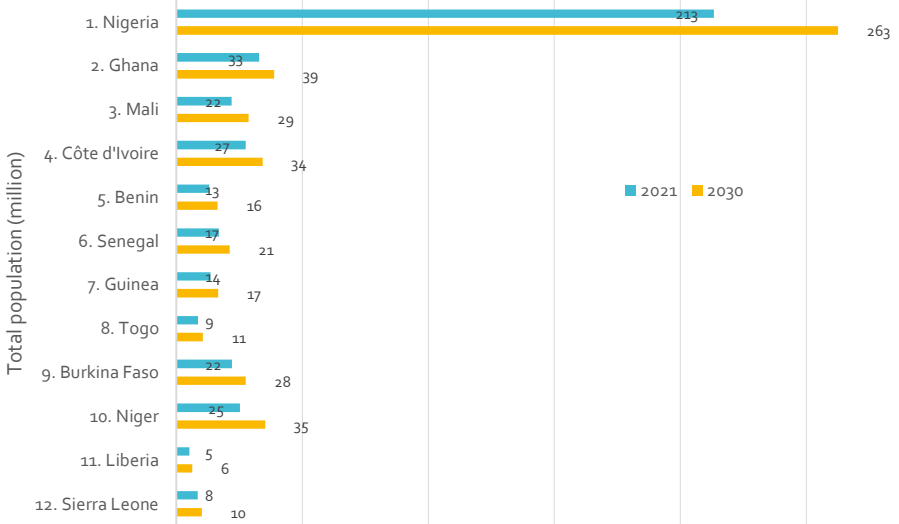
Notes: Country grouping based on UN-OHRLS and UN M49 standard. Sub-Saharan Africa includes Sudan.

Population prospects in Sierra Leone (2021 versus 2030):

Sierra Leone’s population is expected to increase from 8 million in 2021 to 10 million in 2030.

Compared to other largest aquaculture countries in Western Africa, Sierra Leone has the second smallest population (only greater than Liberia).

Population prospects in the largest aquaculture countries in Western Africa, 2021



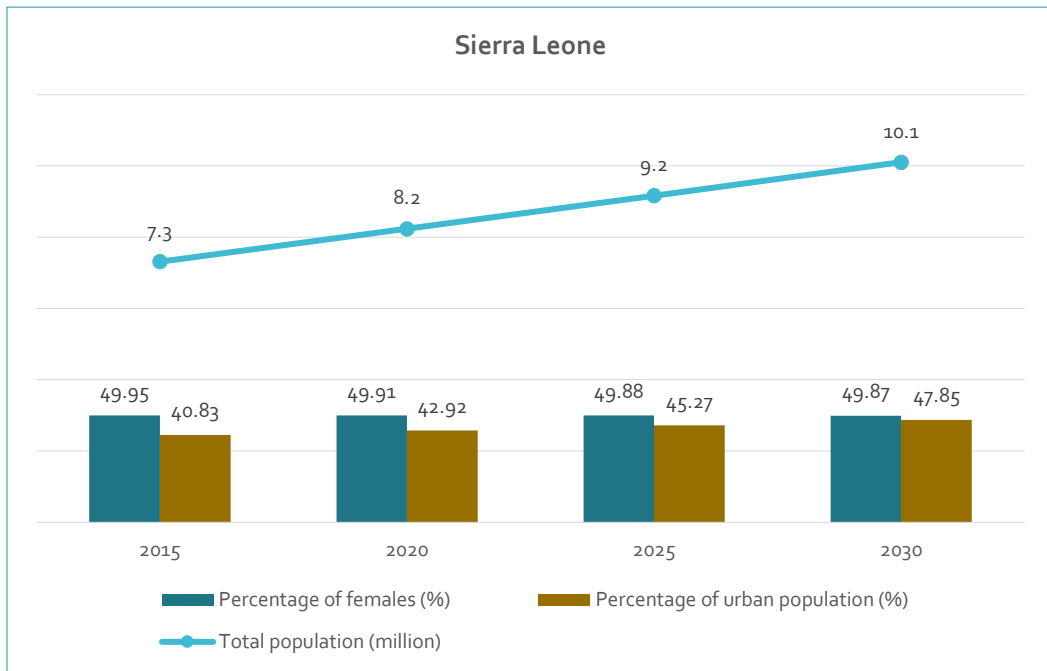
Data source: United Nations World Population Prospects (2022 revision) <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population> .

Demographic features in Sierra Leone (2015–2030):

Population expected to increase from 7.3 million in 2015 to 10.1 million in 2030.

Urban ratio of total population expected to increase to 47.85 percent in 2030.

Female ratio in total population expected to remain slightly below 50 percent.



Data source: United Nations World Population Prospects (2022 revision)

<https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population>; United Nations World Urbanization Prospects (2018 revision)

<https://population.un.org/wup>.

Food security, nutrition and health

Food security and nutrition status in Sierra Leone

Prevalence of undernourishment

27.4 percent of prevalence of undernourishment, which was higher than sub-regional, regional, and world averages.

Prevalence of severe food insecurity

31.5 percent of prevalence of severe food insecurity, which was higher than sub-regional, regional, and world averages.

Stunted children

26.8 percent of children under 5 years of age were stunted, which was lower than sub-regional and regional averages yet higher than the world average.

Overweight children

4.7 percent of children under 5 years of age were overweight, which was lower than regional and world averages yet higher than the sub-regional average.

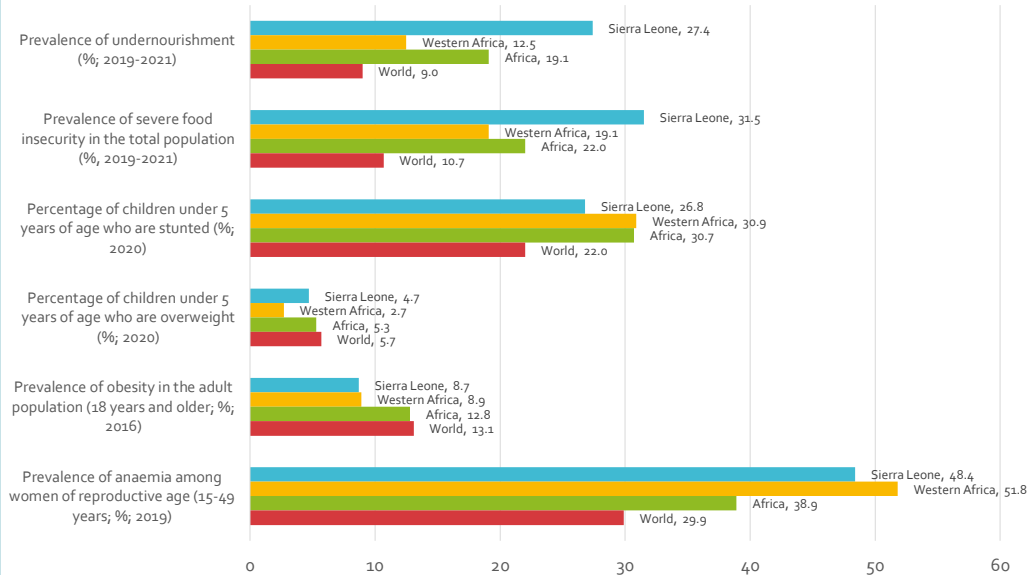
Adult obesity

8.7 percent of adult population were obese, which was lower than sub-regional, regional, and world averages.

Women anaemia

48.4 percent of reproductive-age women were anaemic, which was lower than the sub-regional average yet higher than regional and world averages.

Food security and nutrition status in Sierra Leone



Data source: FAOSTAT – Suite of Food Security Indicators (updated on 7 November, 2022). www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FS

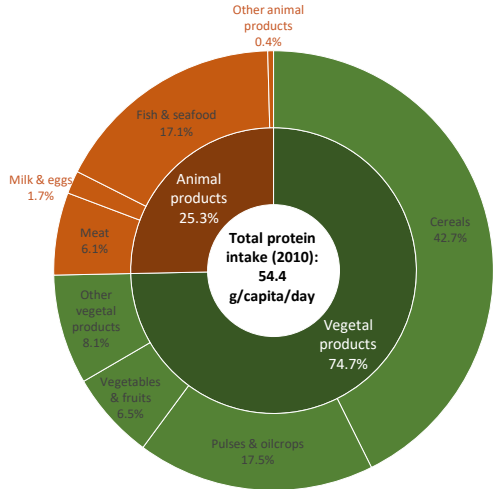
Per capita protein intake in Sierra Leone (2010 versus 2020):

Per capita total protein intake slightly declined from 54.4 g/day to 53.6 g/day between 2010 and 2020.

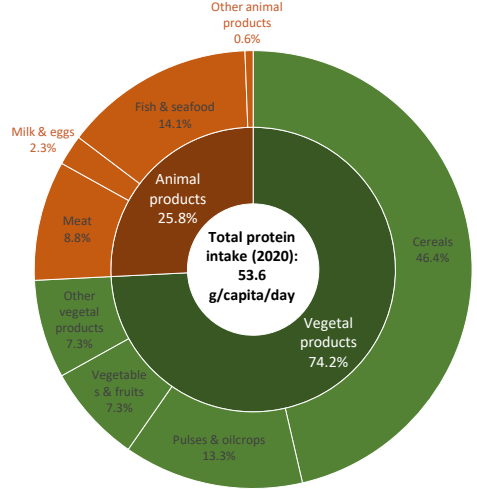
The share of animal protein in total protein intake slightly increased from 25.3 percent to 25.8 percent.

The share of fish & seafood declined from 17.1 percent to 14.1 percent.

Sierra Leone (2010)



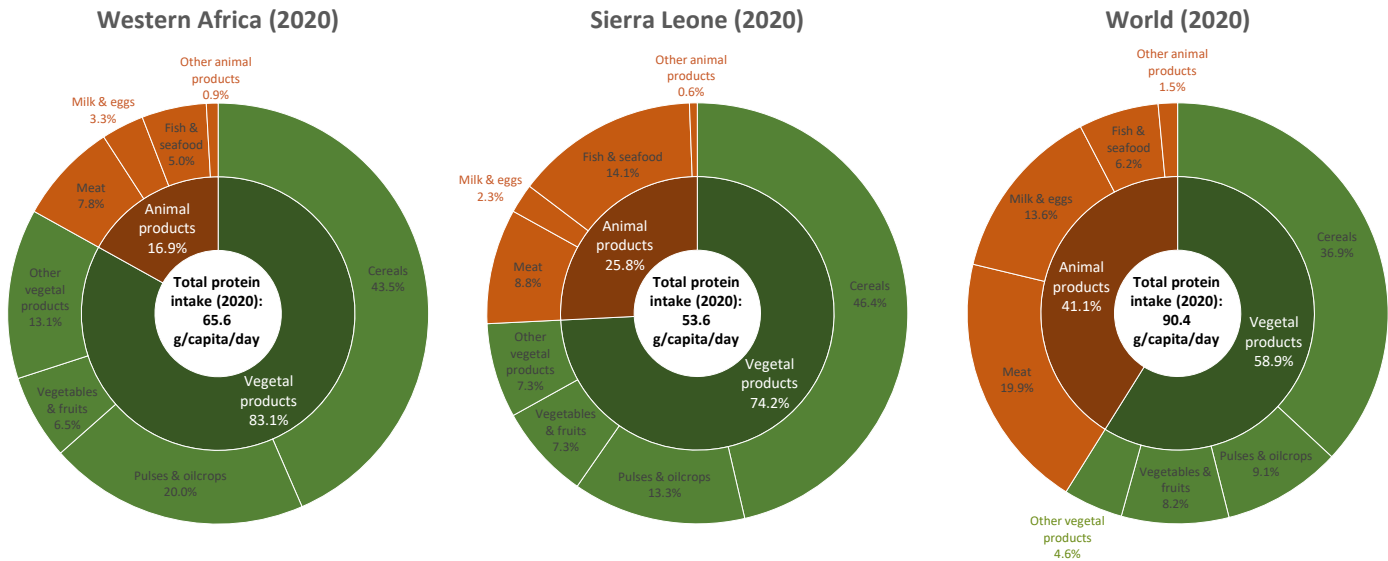
Sierra Leone (2020)



Data source: FAOSTAT New Food Balances (updated on 27 October, 2023; <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FBS>).

Notes: See [slide #4](#) for the scope of fish & seafood. Food items with a small contribution to total protein intake may not be labelled.

Per capita protein intake in Sierra Leone (2020): The 53.6 g/day of per capita protein intake was lower than the sub-regional average (65.6 g/day) and the world average (90.4 g/day). The share of animal proteins in the country's total protein intake was higher than the sub-regional average yet lower than the world average. The share of fish & seafood in its total protein intake was higher than both sub-regional and world averages.



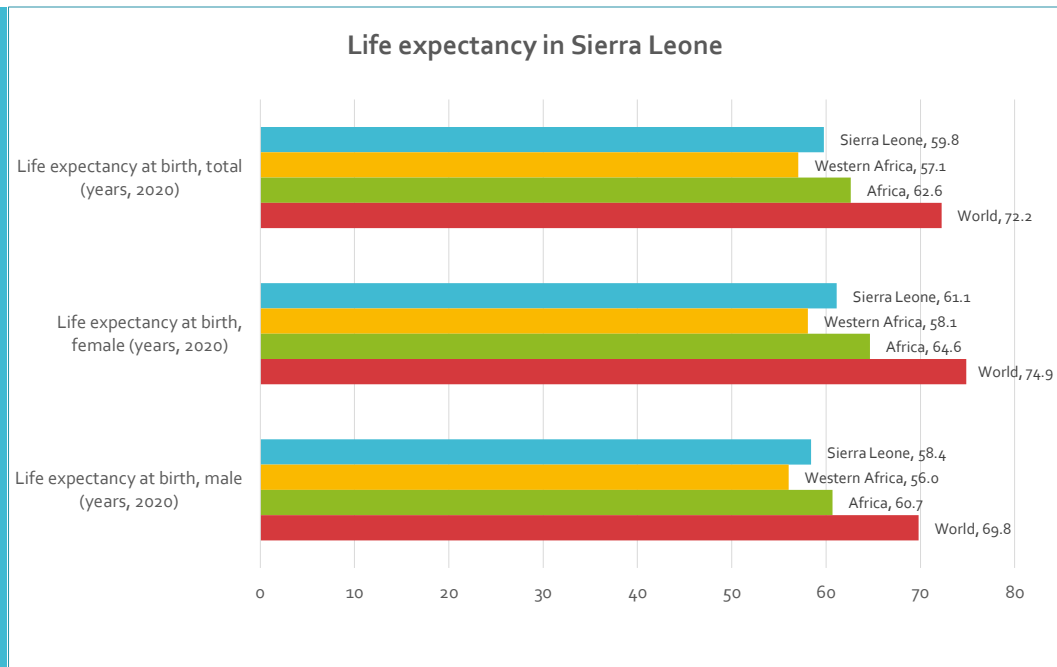
Data source: FAOSTAT New Food Balances (updated on 27 October, 2023; <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FBS>).

Notes: See [slide #4](#) for the scope of fish & seafood. Food items with a small contribution to total protein intake may not be labelled.

Life expectancy in Sierra Leone (2020):

Life expectancy at birth for the total population was 59.8 years, which was higher than the sub-regional average, yet lower than regional and world averages.

Life expectancy for female population (61.1 years) was higher than male population (58.4 years) – a general pattern applying to most countries and areas.



Data source: World Bank World Development Indicators (WDI), downloaded on 25 January, 2023 (<http://datatopics.worldbank.org/world-development-indicators/#archives>); United Nations World Population Prospects (2022 revision; <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population>) used to calculate life expectancy at the regional level.

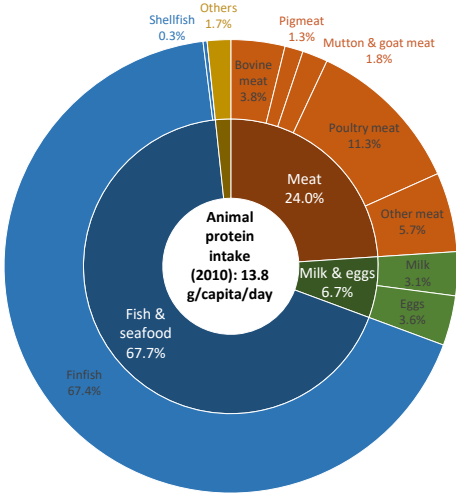
Contribution to food and nutrition

Animal protein intake in Sierra Leone (2010 versus 2020):

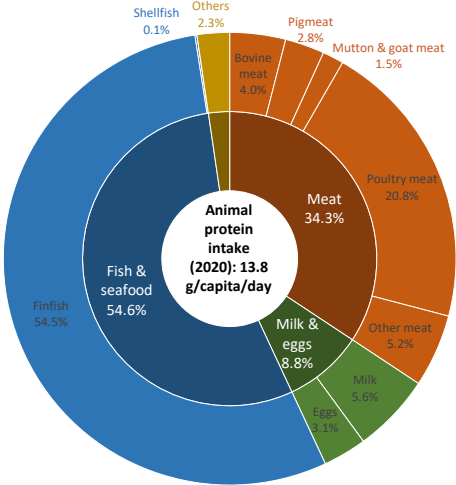
Per capita animal protein intake remained stable at 13.8 g/day.

The share of fish & seafood in animal protein intake declined from 67.7 percent to 54.6 percent, yielding the share to both meat and milk & eggs.

Sierra Leone (2010)



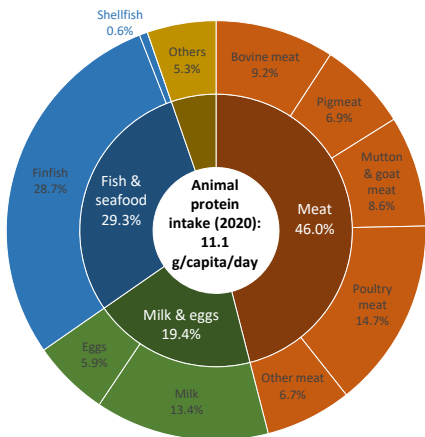
Sierra Leone (2020)



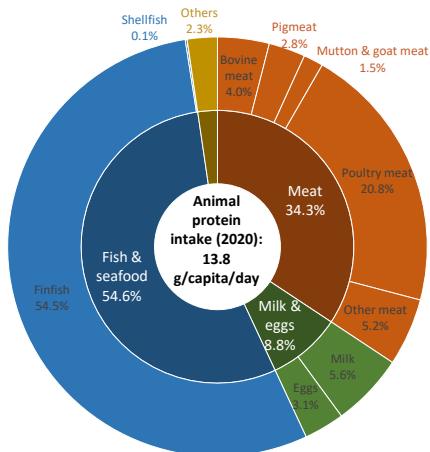
Data source: FAOSTAT New Food Balances (updated on 27 October, 2023; <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FBS>).
 Note: See slide #4 for the scope of fish & seafood. Food items with a small contribution to animal protein may not be labelled.

Animal protein intake in Sierra Leone (2020): The 13.8 g/day of per capita animal protein intake was higher than the sub-regional average yet lower than the world average. The 54.6 percent fish share in the country's animal protein intake was higher than both sub-regional and world averages.

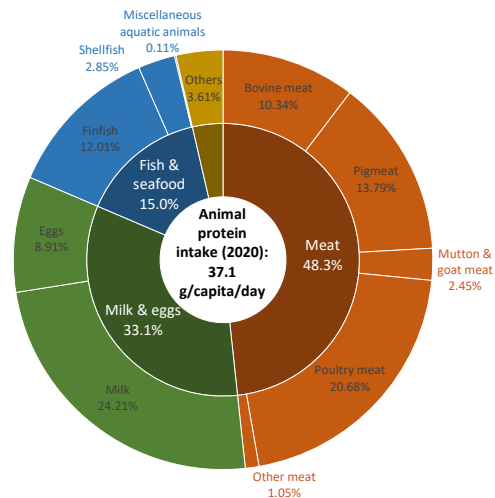
Western Africa (2020)



Sierra Leone (2020)



World (2020)



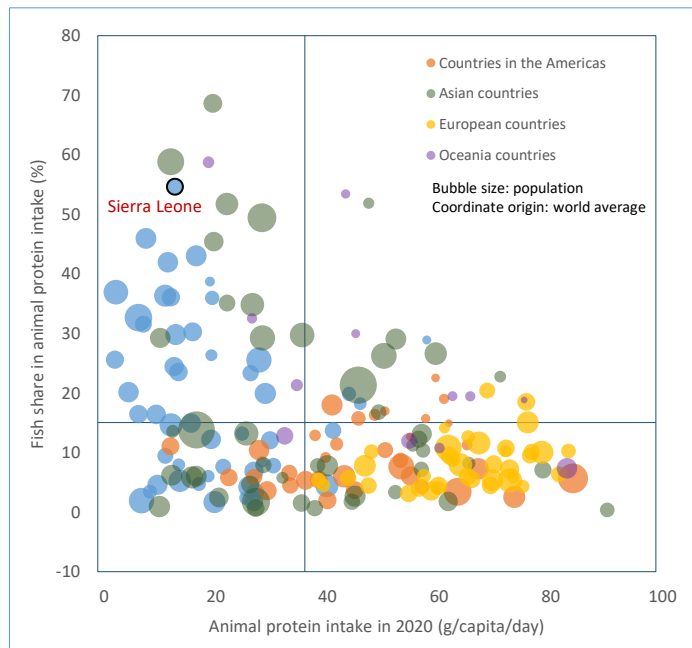
Data source: FAOSTAT New Food Balances (updated on 27 October, 2023; <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FBS>).

Note: See [slide #4](#) for the scope of fish & seafood.

Sierra Leone (2020): Locating in the second quadrant in the bubble chart, indicating that animal protein intake was lower than world average, yet the share of fish & seafood was higher. The country's 54.6 percent fish share in animal protein intake was one of the highest in the world.

Contribution of fish to animal protein, 2020

Country/area	Per capita protein intake in 2020 (g/capita/day)		Fish share (%)
	Fish & seafood	Animal products	
World	5.6	37.1	15.0
Africa	2.8	15.8	17.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	2.3	13.3	17.6
Western Africa	3.3	11.1	29.3
Countries in Western Africa, ranked by animal protein intake			
1. Ghana	7.6	17.6	43.0
2. Sierra Leone	7.6	13.8	54.6
3. Gambia	7.4	20.5	36.0
4. Côte d'Ivoire	6.5	15.5	41.8
5. Senegal	5.2	17.0	30.2
6. Benin	4.7	13.1	36.1
7. Guinea	3.4	14.5	23.5
8. Togo	2.6	8.2	31.5
9. Burkina Faso	2.5	20.3	12.2
10. Cabo Verde	2.5	29.4	8.4
15. Mauritania	2.5	31.5	7.8
12. Nigeria	2.4	7.3	32.6
13. Mali	1.7	10.5	16.4
14. Liberia	1.1	12.1	9.4
15. Niger	0.5	10.7	4.6
1. Ghana	7.6	17.6	43.0



Data source: FAOSTAT New Food Balances (updated on 27 October, 2023; <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FBS>).

Notes: Country grouping based on UN-OHRLS and UN M49 standard. Sub-Saharan Africa includes Sudan.

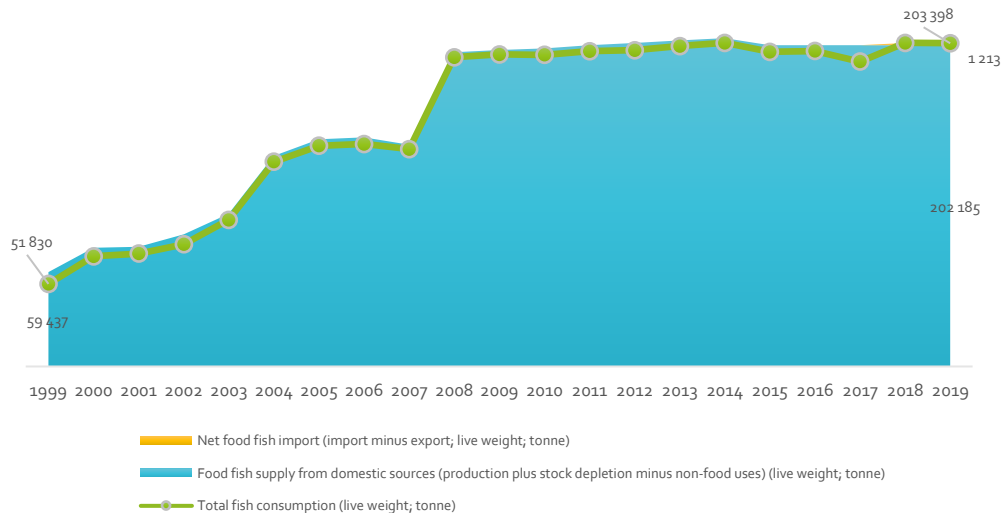
Status and trend of fish & seafood supply and utilization in Sierra Leone (1999–2019):

Food fish & seafood supply from domestic sources increased from 59 437 tonnes in 1999 to 202 185 tonnes in 2019.

Total fish & seafood consumption increased from 51 830 tonnes to 203 398 tonnes.

In 2019, 203 398 tonnes total fish & seafood consumption = 202 185 tonnes food fish & seafood supply from domestic sources + 1 213 tonnes net import.

Fish & seafood supply and utilization in Sierra Leone (1999–2019)



Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Food balance sheets of fish and fishery products 1961-2019 (FishStat); www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstati.

Note: See [slide #4](#) for the scope of fish & seafood.

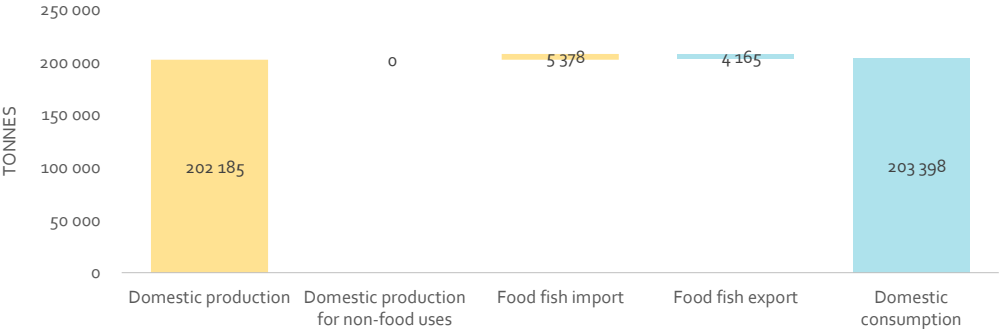
Sierra Leone's food balance sheet for fish & seafood, 2019

202 185 tonnes domestic fish & seafood production – 0 tonnes for non-food use = 202 185 tonnes domestic food fish & seafood production (100 percent).

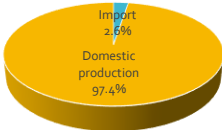
202 185 tonnes domestic food fish & seafood production (97.4 percent of food fish supply) + 5 378 tonnes import of food fish & seafood (2.6 percent) = 207 563 tonnes food fish & seafood supply available for utilization.

207 563 tonnes utilization of food fish & seafood = 4 165 tonnes export of food fish & seafood (2 percent of food fish & seafood utilization) + 203 398 tonnes domestic (food) fish & seafood consumption (98 percent).

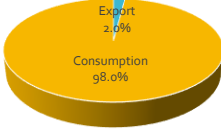
FISH & SEAFOOD SUPPLY AND UTILIZATION IN SIERRA LEONE (2019)



Domestic production (2019): 202 185 tonnes



Food fish supply (2019): 207 563 tonnes



Food fish utilization (2019): 207 563 tonnes

Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Food balance sheets of fish and fishery products 1961-2019 (FishStat); www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstati.

Note: See slide #4 for the scope of fish & seafood. Numbers may not add up exactly due to rounding.

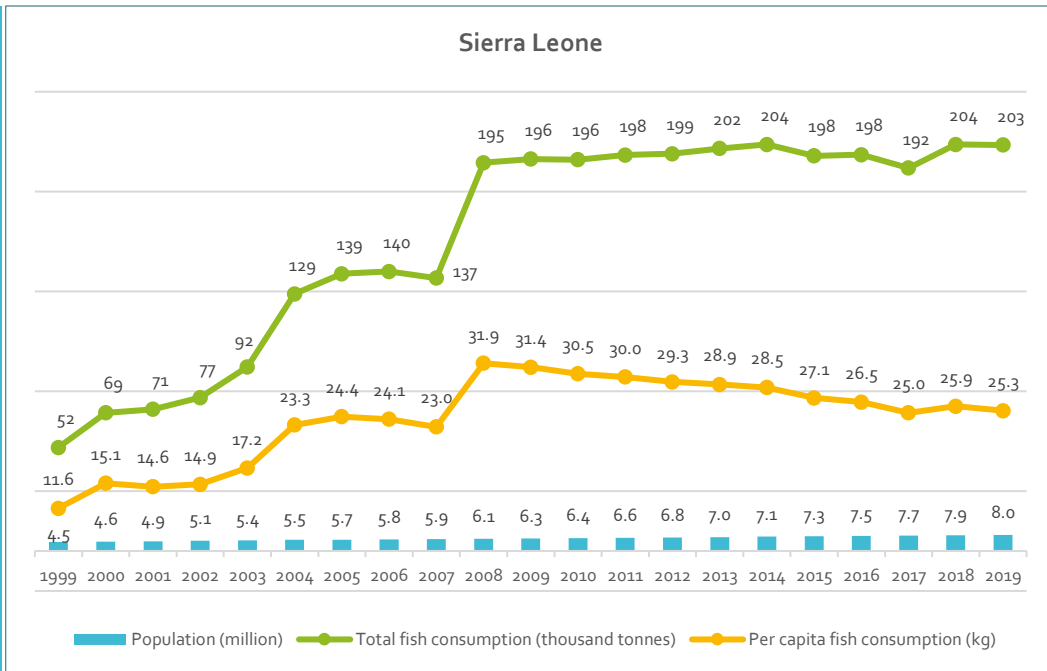
Domestic market (consumption)

Status and trend of fish & seafood consumption in Sierra Leone (1999–2019):

Between 1999 and 2019, Sierra Leone's total fish & seafood consumption increased from 52 thousand tonnes to 203 thousand tonnes.

The population increased from 4.5 million to 8 million.

Per capita fish & seafood consumption increased from 11.6 kg in 1999 to 31.9 kg in 2008 then declined to 25.3 kg in 2019.



Data source: Data on total consumption from FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Food balance sheets of fish and fishery products 1961-2019 (FishStatJ). www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj Data on population from the United Nations World Population Prospects (2022 revision) <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population>. Per capita consumption = Total consumption ÷ population.

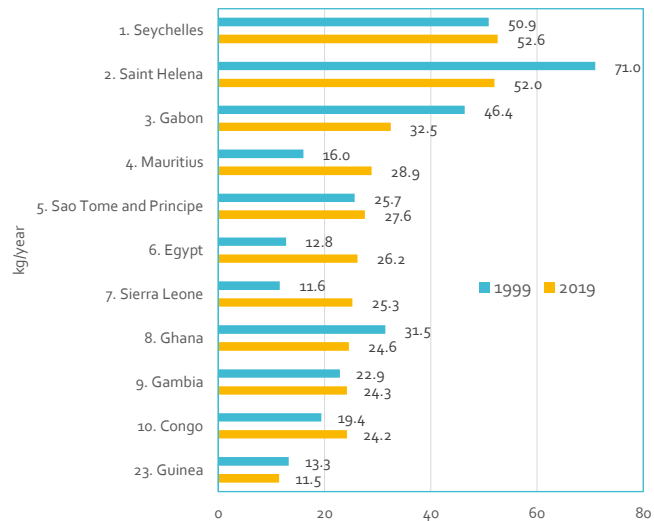
Note: See [slide #4](#) for the scope of fish & seafood.

Between 1999 and 2019, per capita fish & seafood consumption in Sierra Leone increased from 11.6 kg to 25.3 kg. The 4 percent annual growth was higher than sub-regional, regional, and world averages. Its 25.3 kg per capita consumption in 2019 was the 2nd highest in Western Africa and the 7th highest in Africa.

Status and trend of per capita fish & seafood consumption

Country/area	Per capita fish & seafood consumption (kg/year)		Annual growth (%)
	1999	2019	
World	15.7	20.5	1.3
Africa	7.8	10.0	1.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	7.4	8.3	0.6
Western Africa	11.1	11.6	0.2
Top 10 countries in Western Africa with the highest fish consumption, 2019			
1. Saint Helena	71.0	52.0	-1.5
2. Sierra Leone	11.6	25.3	4.0
3. Ghana	31.5	24.6	-1.2
4. Gambia	22.9	24.3	0.3
5. Senegal	28.9	17.8	-2.4
6. Benin	8.4	16.6	3.5
7. Guinea	13.3	11.5	-0.7
8. Cabo Verde	18.5	9.7	-3.2
9. Togo	11.5	9.4	-1.0
10. Mali	8.7	9.0	0.2

Top 10 African countries with the highest per capita fish and seafood consumption



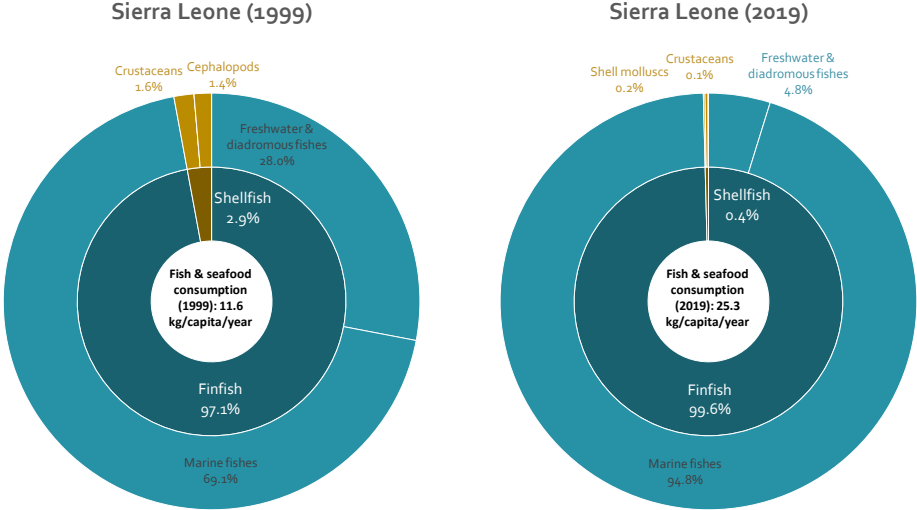
Data source: Data on total consumption from FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Food balance sheets of fish and fishery products 1961-2019 (FishStat). www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstati Data on population from the United Nations World Population Prospects (2022 revision) <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population>. Per capita consumption = Total consumption ÷ population.

Note: See [slide #4](#) for the scope of fish & seafood.

Per capita fish & seafood consumption in Sierra Leone (1999 versus 2019):

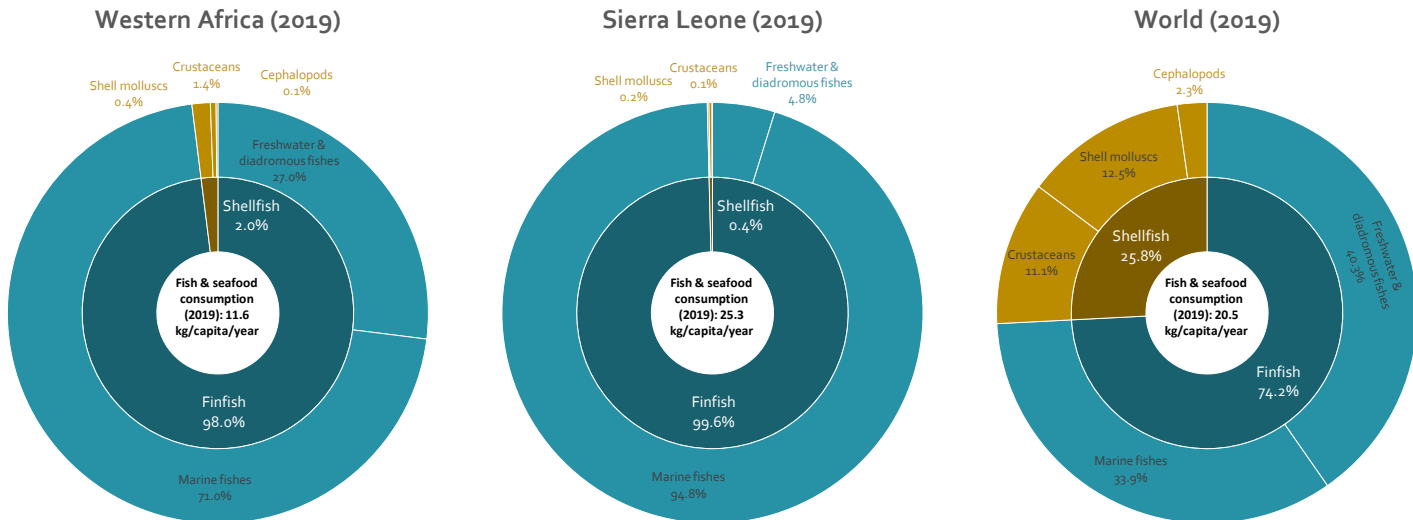
Per capita fish & seafood consumption increased from 11.6 kg in 1999 to 25.3 kg in 2019.

The share of marine fishes increased from 69.1 percent to 94.8 percent, whereas that of freshwater & diadromous fishes declined from 28 percent to 4.8 percent.



Data source: Data on total consumption from FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Food balance sheets of fish and fishery products 1961-2019 (FishStatJ). www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstati
 Data on population from the United Nations World Population Prospects (2022 revision) <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population>. Per capita consumption = Total consumption ÷ population.
 Note: See [slide #4](#) for the scope of fish & seafood.

Sierra Leone (2019): The 25.3 kg per capita fish & seafood consumption was higher than sub-regional and world averages. Yet the taxonomic composition was less diverse.



Data source: Data on total consumption from FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Food balance sheets of fish and fishery products 1961-2019 (FishStatJ). www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstati Data on population from the United Nations World Population Prospects (2022 revision) <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population>. Per capita consumption = Total consumption ÷ population.

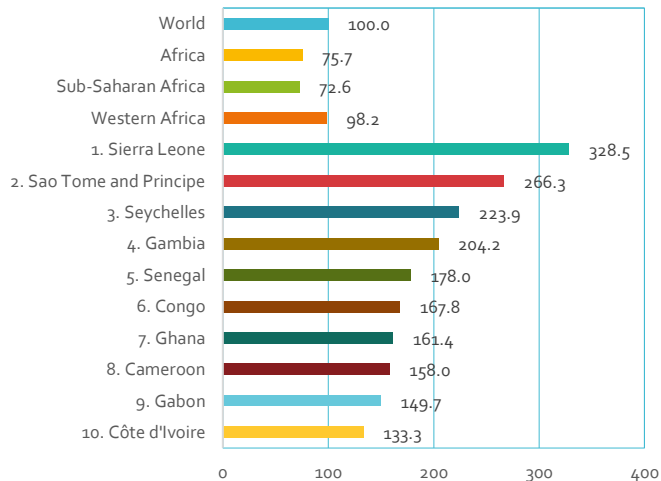
Note: See [slide #4](#) for the scope of fish & seafood.

Sierra Leone's 328.5 seafood liking index (SLI) in the 2010s was the highest in Africa. The high preference is mostly on marine fishes, whereas its preferences for freshwater & diadromous fishes and shellfish groups are below world averages.

Sierra Leone's preferences for aquatic foods, 2010–2017

Sierra Leone	Seafood liking index (SLI, 2010-17 average)	Per capita consumption, 2010-17 average	
		kg/year	Ratio to world average (%)
Fish & seafood	328.5	28.56	157.7
Finfish & shellfish	332.2	28.56	159.2
Finfish	414.8	28.42	211.2
Freshwater & diadromous fishes	76.9	1.59	25.0
Marine fishes	919.5	26.84	418.4
Shellfish	22.5	0.14	3.2
Crustaceans	11.8	0.03	2.1
Molluscs	51.6	0.11	4.0
Shell molluscs	45.0	0.08	4.0
Cephalopods	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Miscellaneous aquatic animals	-	-	-

Seafood liking index (SLI; 2010-2017 average) in the top 10 countries in Africa with the highest preferences for fish & seafood



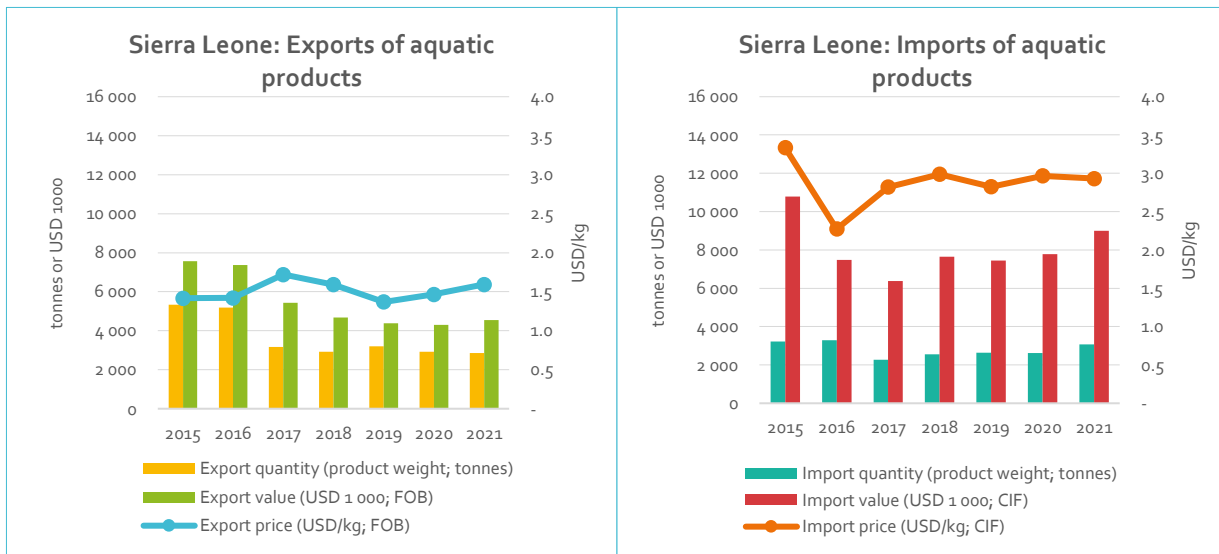
Data source: Cai, J. & Leung, P.S. 2022. Unlocking the potential of aquatic foods in global food security and nutrition: A missing piece under the lens of seafood liking index.

Global food security, 33, 100641. doi.org/10.1016/j.gfs.2022.100641

Note: SLI = Seafood Liking Index.

International trade

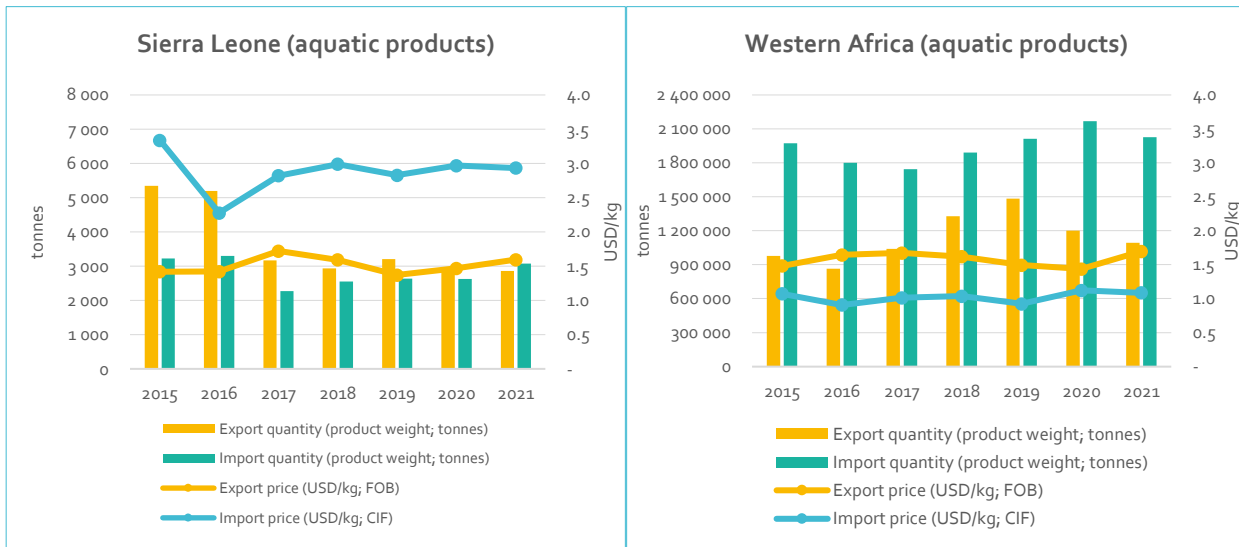
Status and trend of the international trade of aquatic products in Sierra Leone, 2015–2021



Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global Fisheries commodities production and trade 1976-2021 (FishStatJ); www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj).

Notes: Includes all aquatic commodities recorded in the data source; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic products. CIF = Cost, insurance and freight; FOB = Free on board.

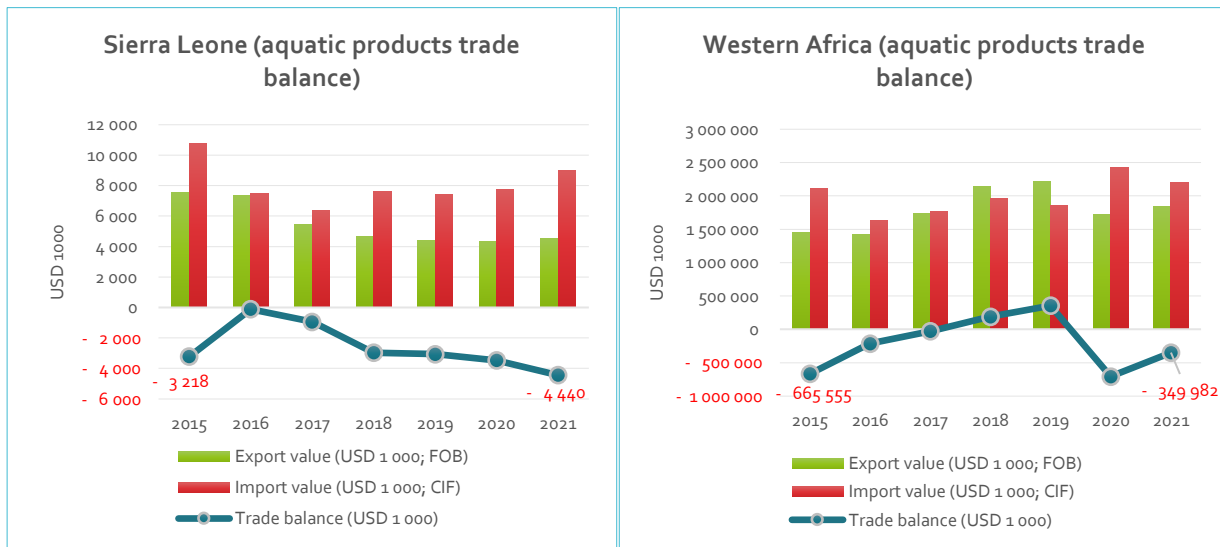
Sierra Leone (2015–2021): Aquatic products export quantity was greater than import quantity prior to 2020, which was different from the pattern in Western Africa. The prices of aquatic products export were lower than import prices, which was opposite to the pattern in Western Africa.



Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global Fisheries commodities production and trade 1976-2021 (FishStatJ; www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj).

Notes: Includes all aquatic commodities recorded in the data source; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic products. CIF = Cost, insurance and freight; FOB = Free on board.

Aquatic products trade deficits in Sierra Leone increased from USD 3.218 million in 2015 to USD 4.44 million in 2021, while the deficits in Western Africa declined from USD 665.555 million to 349.982 million.



Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global Fisheries commodities production and trade 1976-2021 (FishStatJ; www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj).

Notes: Includes all aquatic commodities recorded in the data source; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic products. CIF = Cost, insurance and freight; FOB = Free on board.

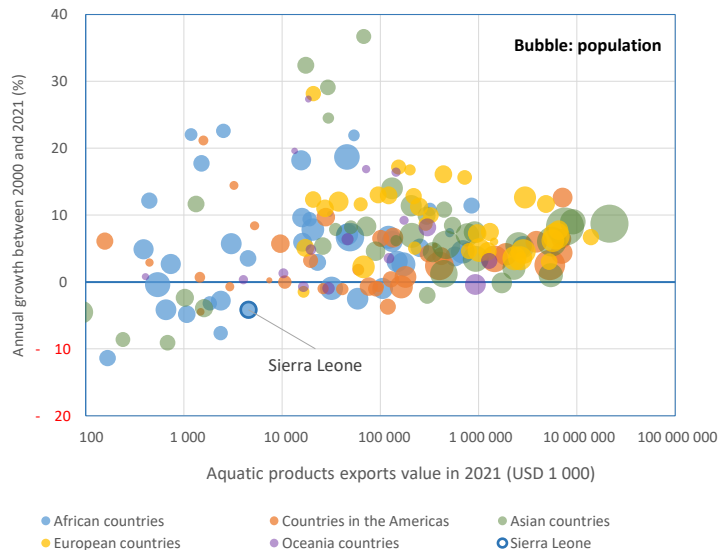
Export

Sierra Leone's export of aquatic products declined from USD 11.055 million in 2000 to USD 4.555 million in 2021, as opposed to increased exports in Western Africa, Africa, and world.

Status and trend of aquatic products exports (2000–2021)

Country/area	Aquatic products export value (USD 1 000)		Annual growth (%)
	2000	2021	
World	55 833 945	177 482 619	5.7
Africa	2 739 300	7 920 221	5.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	1 656 102	4 739 014	5.1
Western Africa	601 107	1 850 568	5.5
Top 10 largest exporters of aquatic products in Western Africa, 2021			
1. Mauritania	87 190	846 558	11.43
2. Senegal	260 373	572 141	3.82
3. Ghana	78 472	147 932	3.07
4. Côte d'Ivoire	128 876	104 961	-0.97
5. Cabo Verde	838	53 775	21.92
6. Nigeria	12 473	48 900	6.72
7. Saint Helena	3 995	30 678	10.19
8. Guinea-Bissau	2 887	19 025	9.39
9. Guinea	4 778	16 101	5.96
10. Sierra Leone	11 055	4 555	-4.13

Status and trends of global aquatic products export: 2021 vs. 2000



Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global Fisheries commodities production and trade 1976-2021 (FishStatJ); www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstati.

Notes: Includes all aquatic commodities recorded in the data source; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic products.

Sierra Leone's export of aquatic products (2000 versus 2021):

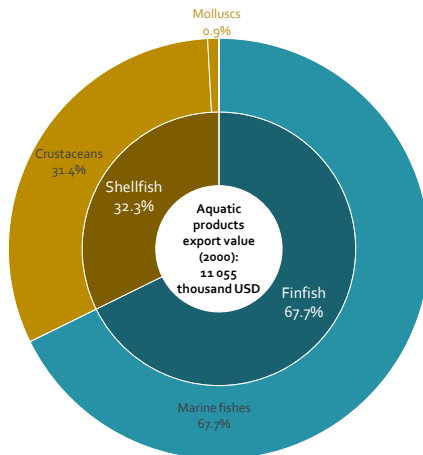
Aquatic commodities export declined from USD 11.055 million in 2000 to USD 4.555 million in 2021.

The share of finfish increased from 67.7 percent to 69.8 percent, reflecting the increase in the share of freshwater fishes, while that of marine fishes declined from 67.7 percent to 61.6 percent.

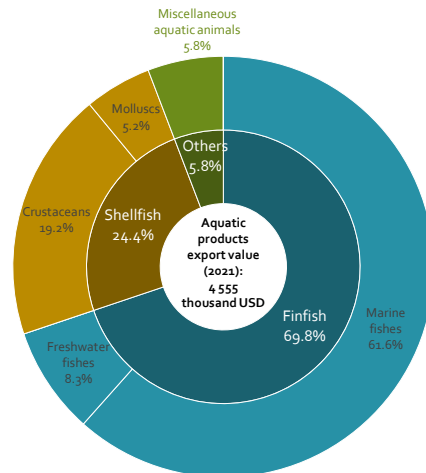
The share of shellfish declined from 32.3 percent to 24.4 percent, reflecting the decline in the share of crustaceans from 31.4 percent to 19.2 percent, while that of molluscs increased.

The share of miscellaneous aquatic animals increased to 5.8 percent.

Sierra Leone (2000)

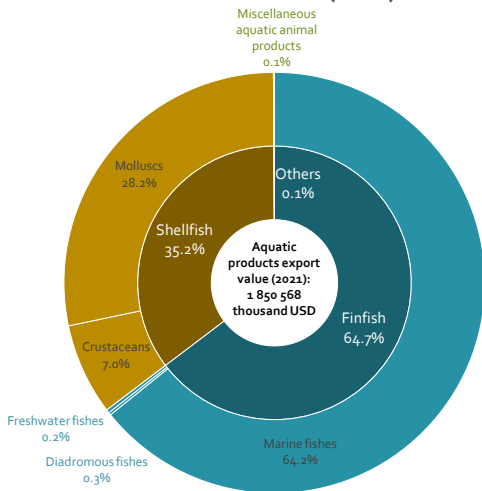


Sierra Leone (2021)

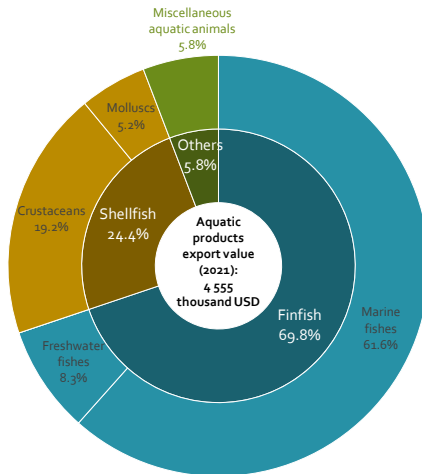


Sierra Leone's export of aquatic products in 2021 comprised mostly marine fishes (61.6 percent), followed by crustaceans (19.2 percent), freshwater fishes (8.3 percent), miscellaneous aquatic animals (5.8 percent), and molluscs (5.2 percent). The composition was more diverse than Western Africa.

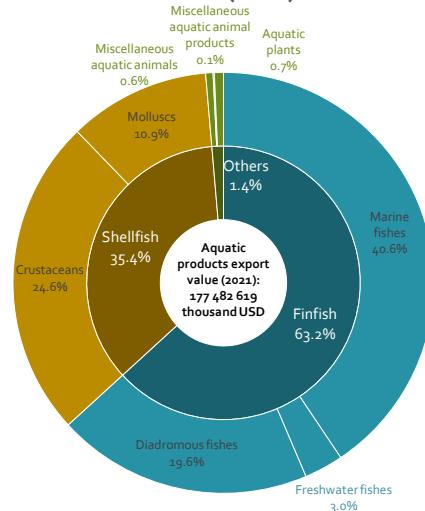
Western Africa (2021)



Sierra Leone (2021)



World (2021)



Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global Fisheries commodities production and trade 1976-2021 (FishStat); www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj).

Notes: Includes all aquatic commodities recorded in the data source; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic products. Species groups less than 0.1 percent of the total value not labelled in the charts.

Sierra Leone's export of aquatic products in 2021 comprised primarily marine fishes not identified, miscellaneous marine crustaceans, and flounders/halibuts/soles.

Sierra Leone's aquatic products export, 2021

Top 10 export species groups in terms of quantity				Top 10 export species groups in terms of value			
ISSCAAP groups	Product weight (tonnes)	Share of the country's total export of all aquatic commodities (%)	Share of world export of the same species group (%)	ISSCAAP groups	FOB value (USD 1 000)	Share of the country's total export of all aquatic commodities (%)	Share of world export of the same species group (%)
1. Marine fishes not identified	1 613	56.46	0.02	1. Marine fishes not identified	1 525	33.48	0.01
2. Miscellaneous marine crustaceans	545	19.07	0.37	2. Flounders, halibuts, soles	919	20.18	0.03
3. Flounders, halibuts, soles	283	9.89	0.05	3. Miscellaneous marine crustaceans	860	18.88	0.15
4. Herrings, sardines, anchovies	195	6.81	0.01	4. Miscellaneous freshwater fishes	376	8.26	0.01
5. Squids, cuttlefishes, octopuses	100	3.50	0.00	5. Herrings, sardines, anchovies	297	6.53	0.01
6. Miscellaneous freshwater fishes	83	2.90	0.01	6. Sea-urchins and other echinoderms	265	5.81	0.03
7. Miscellaneous pelagic fishes	22	0.76	0.00	7. Squids, cuttlefishes, octopuses	235	5.15	0.00
8. Sea-urchins and other echinoderms	10	0.34	0.02	8. Miscellaneous pelagic fishes	33	0.73	0.00
9. Shrimps, prawns	5	0.18	0.00	9. Sharks, rays, chimaeras	30	0.65	0.01
10. Sharks, rays, chimaeras	2	0.08	0.00	10. Shrimps, prawns	15	0.32	0.00
<i>Others</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.00</i>		<i>Others</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.01</i>	
Aquatic products	2 857	100.00	0.01	Aquatic products	4 555	100.00	0.00

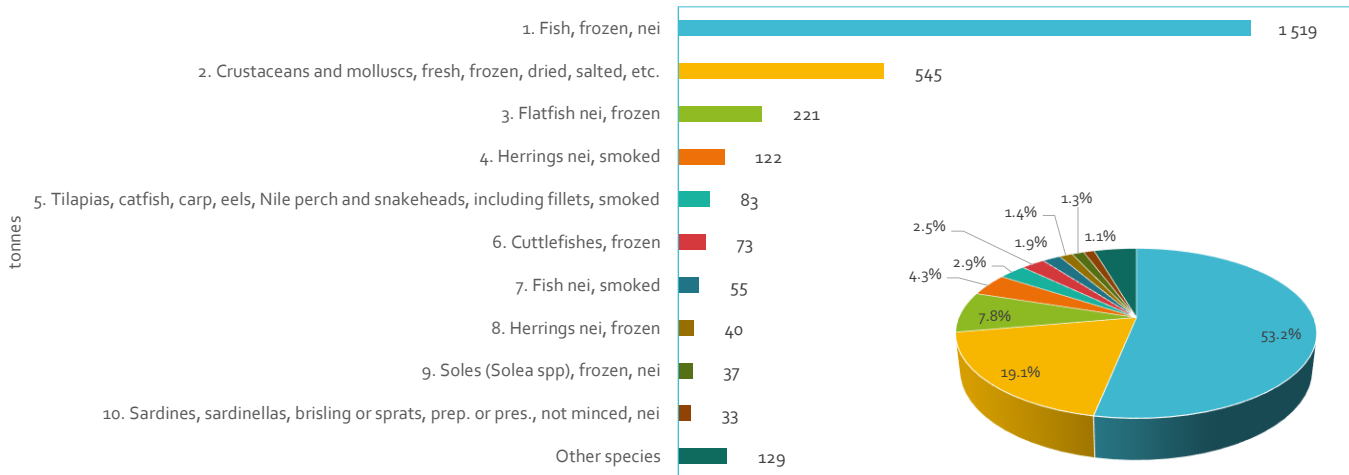
Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global Fisheries commodities production and trade 1976-2021 (FishStatJ)

www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstati

Notes: Includes all aquatic commodities recorded in the data source; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic products. FOB = Free on board; ISSCAAP = International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants.

Sierra Leone's export of aquatic products (quantity; 2021)

Sierra Leone's top 10 exports of aquatic products (quantity; 2021)

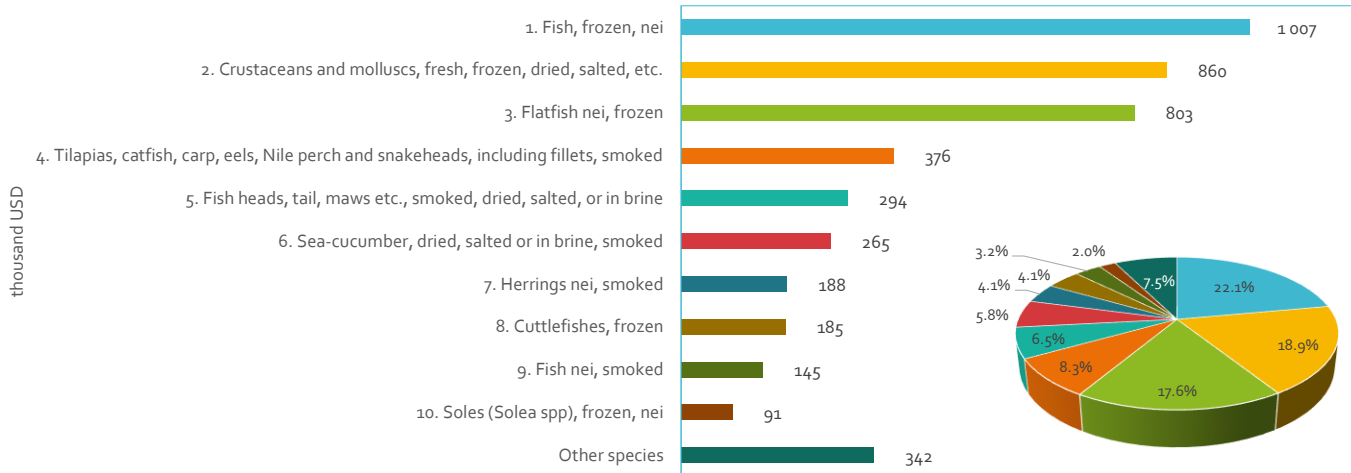


Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global Fisheries commodities production and trade 1976-2021 (FishStatJ; www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj).

Notes: Includes all aquatic commodities recorded in the data source. Nei = not elsewhere included.

Sierra Leone's export of aquatic products (value; 2021)

Sierra Leone's top 10 exports of aquatic products (value; 2021)



Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global Fisheries commodities production and trade 1976-2021 (FishStat); www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstat/).

Notes: Includes all aquatic commodities recorded in the data source. Nei = not elsewhere included.

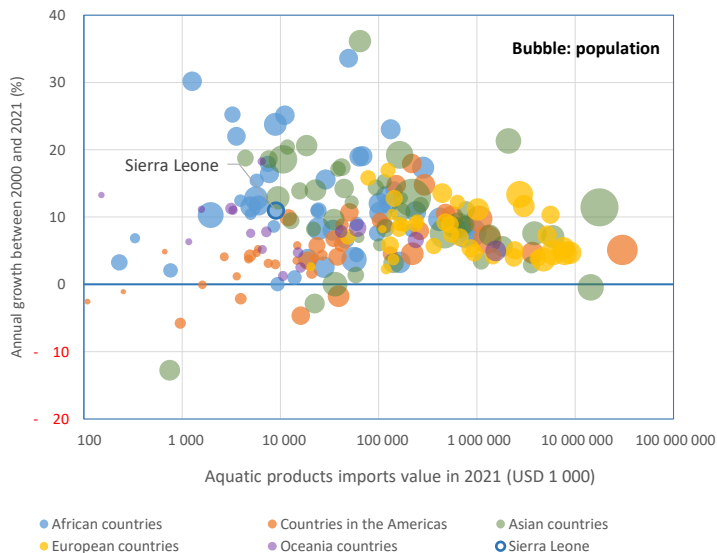
Import

Sierra Leone's import of aquatic products increased from USD 1.015 million in 2000 to USD 8.995 million in 2021; the 10.95 percent annual growth was higher than sub-regional, regional, and world averages.

Status and trend of aquatic products imports (2000–2021)

Country/area	Aquatic products import value (USD 1 000)		Annual growth (%)
	2000	2021	
World	61 033 551	174 964 717	5.1
Africa	958 036	5 389 509	8.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	743 753	3 976 382	8.3
Western Africa	435 938	2 200 550	8.0
Top 10 importers of aquatic products in Western Africa, 2021			
1. Nigeria	188 485	896 421	7.71
2. Côte d'Ivoire	132 147	755 415	8.66
3. Ghana	83 646	163 891	3.25
4. Benin	8 656	117 679	13.23
5. Mali	1 747	68 049	19.05
6. Senegal	1 651	63 419	18.97
7. Togo	11 975	45 818	6.60
8. Burkina Faso	1 381	28 833	15.57
9. Liberia	2 766	24 512	10.95
10. Sierra Leone	1 015	8 995	10.95

Status and trends of global aquatic products import: 2021 vs. 2000



Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global Fisheries commodities production and trade 1976-2021 (FishStatJ); www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstati).

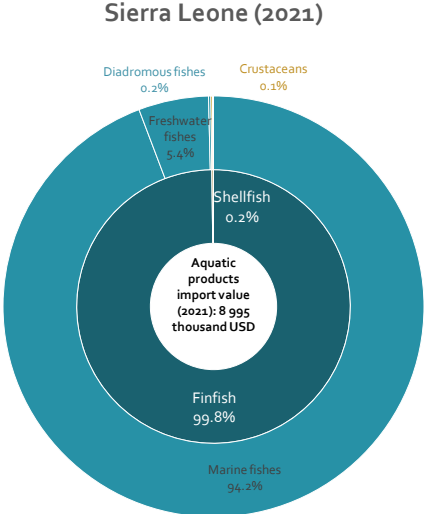
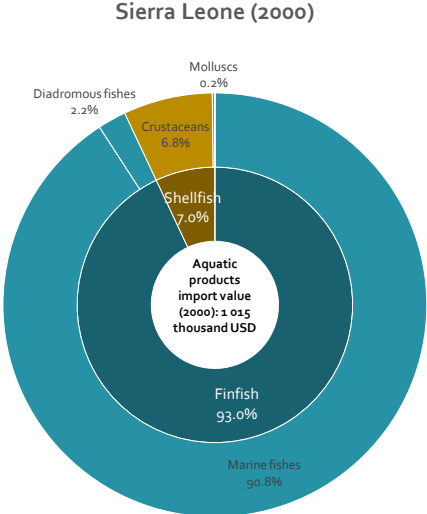
Notes: Includes all aquatic commodities recorded in the data source; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic products.

Sierra Leone's import of aquatic products (2000 versus 2021):

Aquatic commodities import increased from USD 1.015 million in 2000 to USD 8.995 million in 2021., with the share of finfish increased from 93 percent to 99.8 percent.

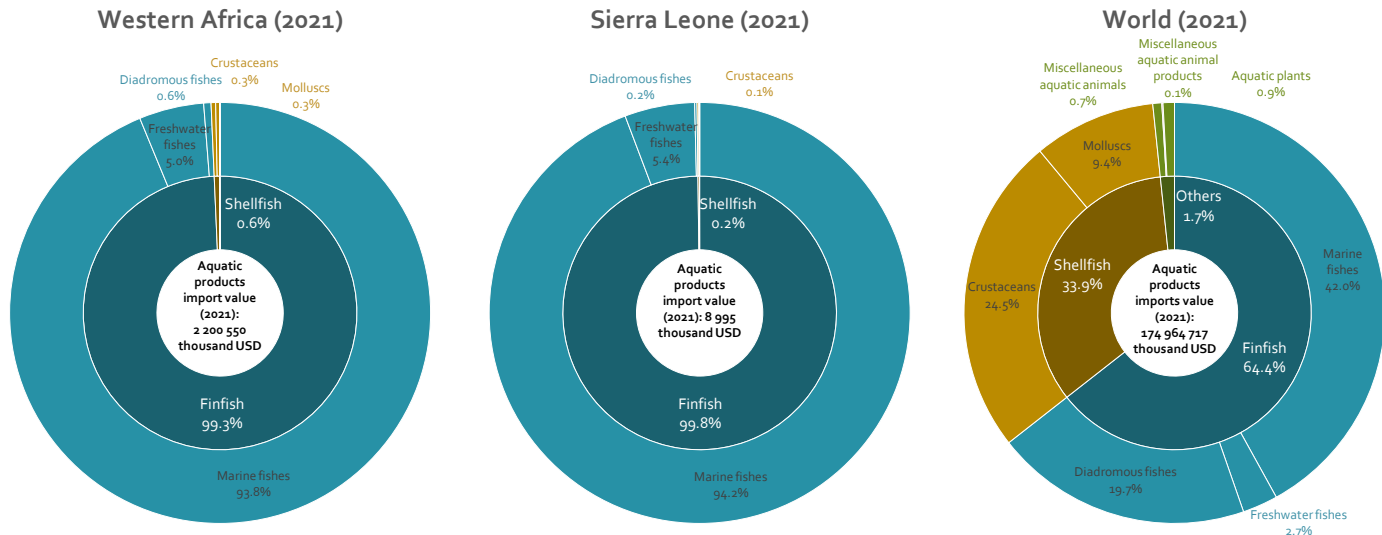
The share of freshwater fishes increased to 5.4 percent, while that of diadromous fishes declined to 0.2 percent.

The share of shellfish declined from 7 percent to 0.2 percent.



Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global Fisheries commodities production and trade 1976-2021 (FishStatJ; www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj).
 Notes: Includes all aquatic commodities recorded in the data source; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic products. Species groups less than 0.1 percent of the total value not labelled in the charts.

Sierra Leone's import of aquatic products in 2021 comprised mostly marine fishes (94.2 percent). The taxonomic composition was similar to Western Africa yet much less diverse than the world import.



Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global Fisheries commodities production and trade 1976-2021 (FishStat); www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj).

Notes: Includes all aquatic commodities recorded in the data source; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic products. Species groups less than 0.1 percent of the total value not labelled in the charts.

Sierra Leone's import of aquatic commodities in 2021 primarily comprised herrings/sardines/anchovies and marine fishes not identified. Tilapias accounted for 9.07 percent of the country's aquatic import in terms of volume and 5.38 percent in terms of value.

Sierra Leon's aquatic products import in 2021

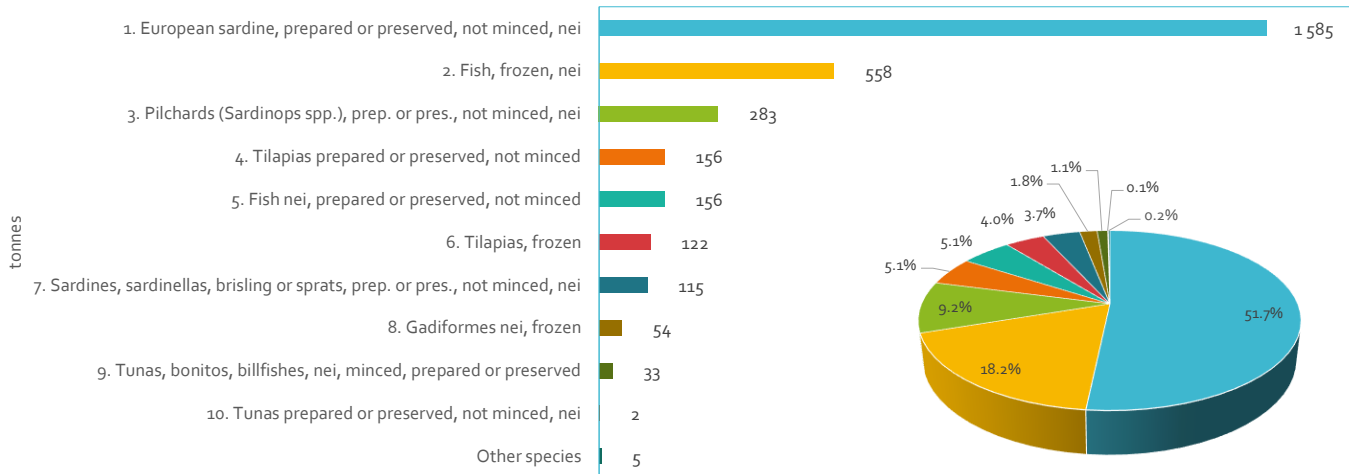
Top 10 import species groups in terms of quantity				Top 10 import species groups in terms of value			
ISSCAAP groups	Product weight (tonnes)	Share of the country's total import of all aquatic commodities (%)	Share of world import of the same species group (%)	ISSCAAP groups	CIF value (USD 1 000)	Share of the country's total import of all aquatic commodities (%)	Share of world import of the same species group (%)
1. Herrings, sardines, anchovies	1 984	64.64	0.07	1. Herrings, sardines, anchovies	6 963	77.41	0.15
2. Marine fishes not identified	714	23.28	0.01	2. Marine fishes not identified	1 314	14.61	0.01
3. Tilapias and other cichlids	278	9.07	0.05	3. Tilapias and other cichlids	484	5.38	0.03
4. Cods, hakes, haddocks	55	1.80	0.00	4. Tunas, bonitos, billfishes	170	1.89	0.00
5. Tunas, bonitos, billfishes	35	1.13	0.00	5. Cods, hakes, haddocks	29	0.33	0.00
6. Shrimps, prawns	1	0.03	0.00	6. Salmons, trouts, smelts	16	0.18	0.00
7. Salmons, trouts, smelts	1	0.02	0.00	7. Shrimps, prawns	11	0.13	0.00
8. Miscellaneous aquatic invertebrates	0	0.01	0.00	8. Miscellaneous aquatic invertebrates	2	0.02	0.00
9. Squids, cuttlefishes, octopuses	0	0.01	0.00	9. Scallops, pectens	2	0.02	0.00
10. Mussels	0	0.00	0.00	10. Crabs, sea-spiders	1	0.01	0.00
<i>Others</i>	0	0.00		<i>Others</i>	2	0.02	
Aquatic products	3 069	100.00	0.01	Aquatic products	8 995	100.00	0.01

Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global Fisheries commodities production and trade 1976-2021 (FishStatJ; www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj).

Notes: Includes all aquatic commodities recorded in the data source; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic products. CIF = Cost, insurance and freight; ISSCAAP = International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants.

Composition of Sierra Leone's import of aquatic products (2021; in terms of quantity)

Sierra Leone's top 10 imports of aquatic products (quantity; 2021)

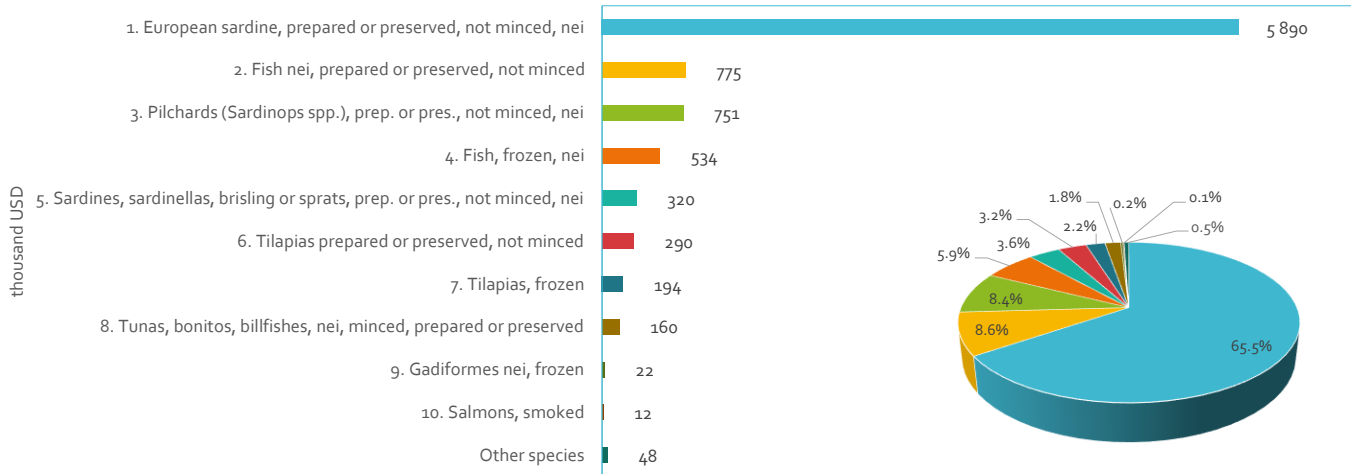


Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global Fisheries commodities production and trade 1976-2021 (FishStatJ); www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstati).

Notes: Includes all aquatic commodities recorded in the data source. Nei = not elsewhere included.

Composition of Sierra Leone's import of aquatic products (2021; in terms of value)

Sierra Leone's top 10 imports of aquatic products (value; 2021)

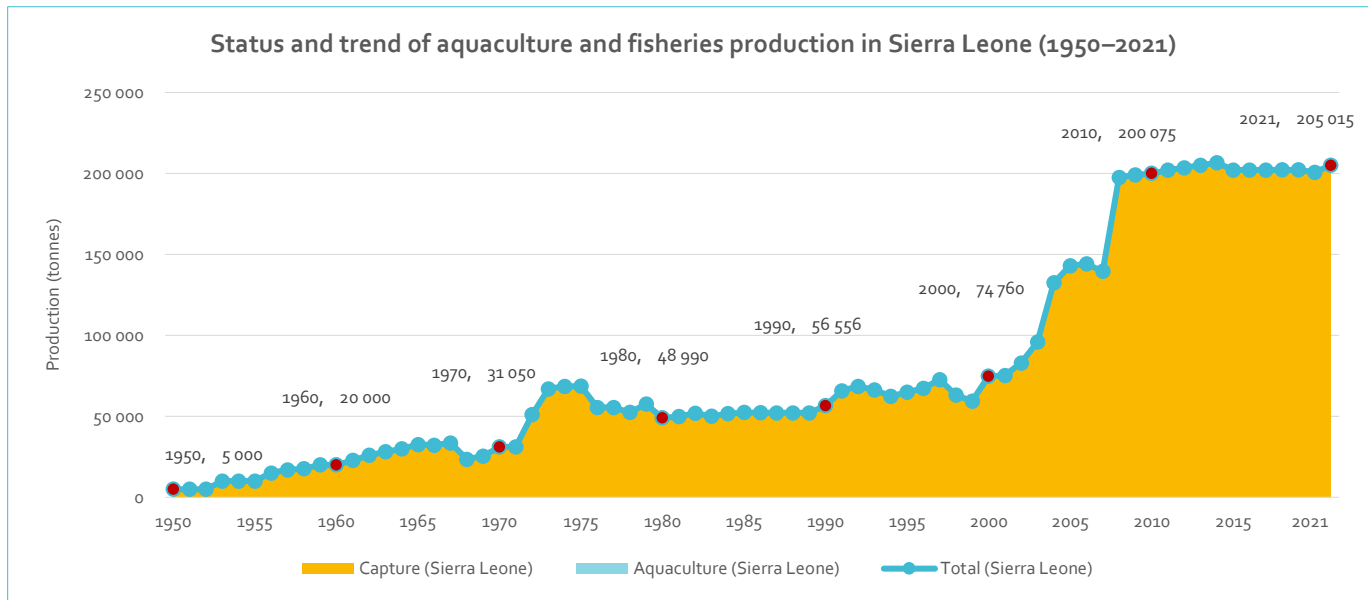


Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global Fisheries commodities production and trade 1976-2021 (FishStatJ); www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj).

Notes: Includes all aquatic commodities recorded in the data source. Nei = not elsewhere included.

Total fisheries production

Sierra Leone (1950–2021): Total fisheries production increased from 5 000 tonnes in 1950 to ~200 000 tonnes since the 2010s, which primarily reflects capture fisheries production. The contribution of aquaculture was invisible in the chart.



Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global production by production source 1950–2021 (FishStatJ; www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj).

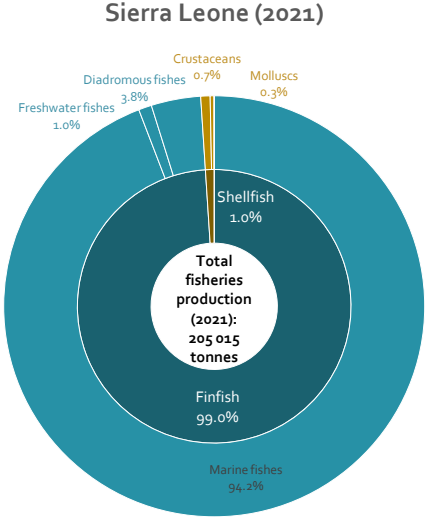
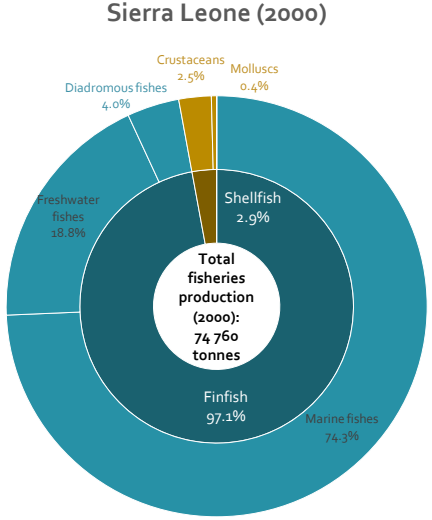
Notes: Production covers all aquatic species measured in tonnage; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic species.

Total fisheries production in Sierra Leone (2000 versus 2021):

Total fisheries production increased from 74 760 tonnes in 2000 to 205 015 tonnes in 2021.

The share of marine fishes increased from 74.3 percent to 94.2 percent, while the shares of other taxonomic groups have declined.

Most notably, the share of freshwater fishes declined from 18.8 percent to 1 percent.

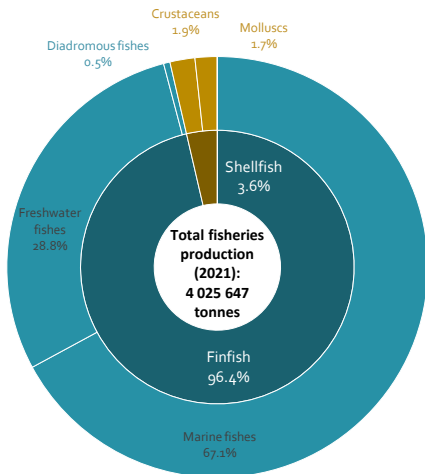


Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global production by production source 1950-2021 (FishStatJ; www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstaj).

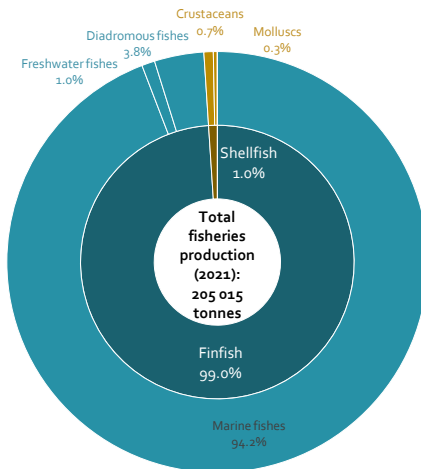
Notes: Production covers all aquatic species measured in tonnage; see slide #4 for the scope of aquatic species. Species accounting for less than 0.1 percent of total production not labelled in the charts.

Nearly 95 percent of total fisheries production in Sierra Leone (2021) came from marine fishes; the share was much higher than sub-regional and world averages. The 1 percent share of freshwater fishes was lower than sub-regional and world averages; so was the shellfish share. The 3.8 percent share of diadromous fishes was higher than sub-regional and world averages.

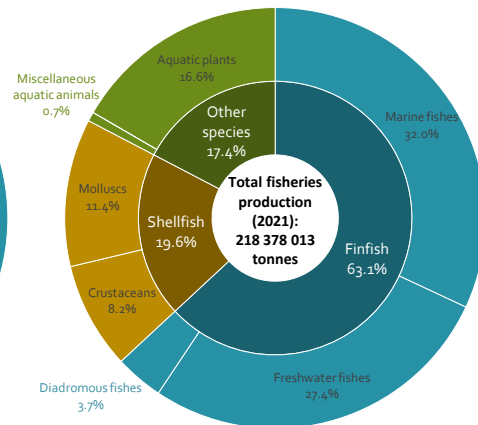
Western Africa (2021)



Sierra Leone (2021)



World (2021)



Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global production by production source 1950-2021 (FishStat); www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj.

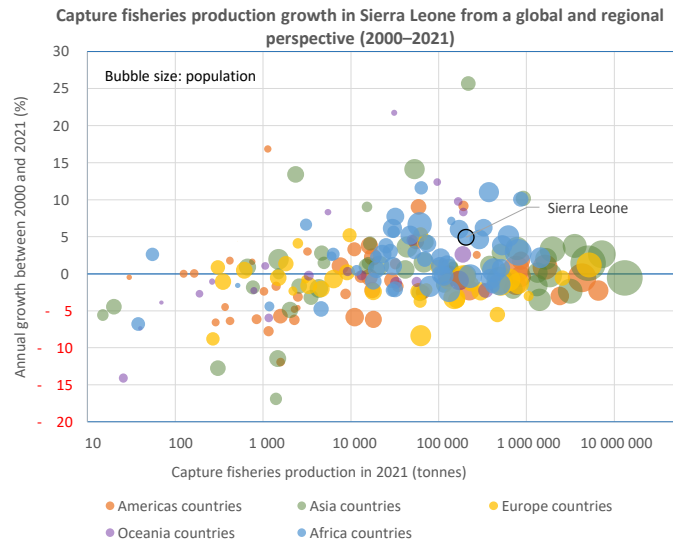
Notes: Production covers all aquatic species measured in tonnage; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic species. Species accounting for less than 0.1 percent of total production not labelled in the charts.

Capture fisheries production

Sierra Leone was the 6th largest capture fisheries country in Western Africa in 2021. Its capture fisheries production increased from 74 730 tonnes in 2000 to 204 900 tonnes; the 4.92 percent annual growth was higher than sub-regional, regional, and world averages.

Status and trend of capture fisheries production, 2000 versus 2021

Country/area	Capture fisheries production (tonnes)		Annual growth (%)
	2000	2021	
World	94 777 809	92 342 717	-0.12
Africa	6 812 485	10 387 406	2.03
Sub-Saharan Africa	5 255 546	8 294 042	2.20
Western Africa	1 940 125	3 637 272	3.04
Top 10 largest capture fisheries countries in Western Africa, 2021			
1. Mauritania	114 456	860 217	10.08
2. Nigeria	441 377	805 210	2.90
3. Senegal	436 005	513 957	0.79
4. Ghana	454 346	392 762	-0.69
5. Guinea	91 513	325 120	6.22
6. Sierra Leone	74 730	204 900	4.92
7. Mali	109 870	107 100	-0.12
8. Côte d'Ivoire	80 323	105 295	1.30
9. Benin	32 324	74 615	4.06
10. Guinea-Bissau	6 315	63 221	11.59



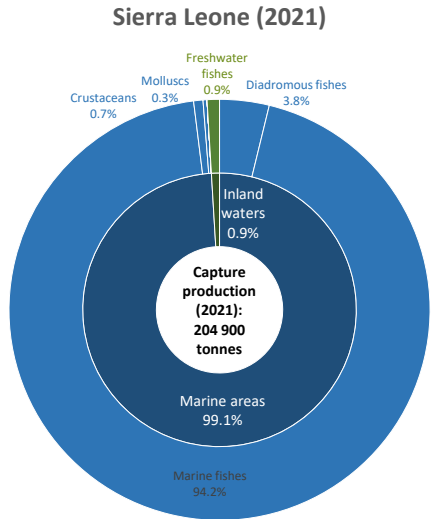
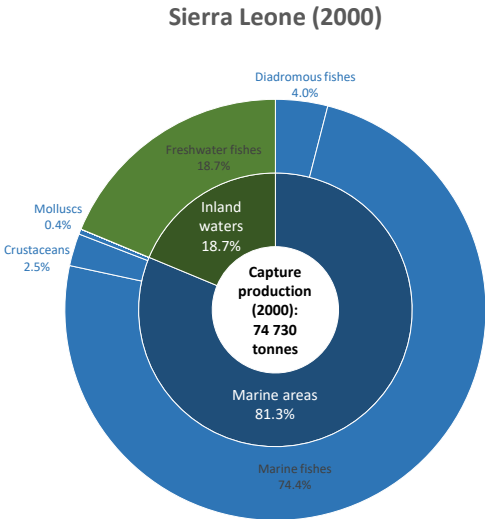
Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global capture production 1950-2021 (FishStatJ; www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstaj).

Notes: N.a. = not available. Country grouping based on UN-OHRLS and UN M49 standard. Production covers all aquatic species measured in tonnage; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic species.

Capture fisheries in Sierra Leone (2000 versus 2021):

Capture fisheries production increased from 74 730 tonnes in 2000 to 204 900 tonnes in 2021.

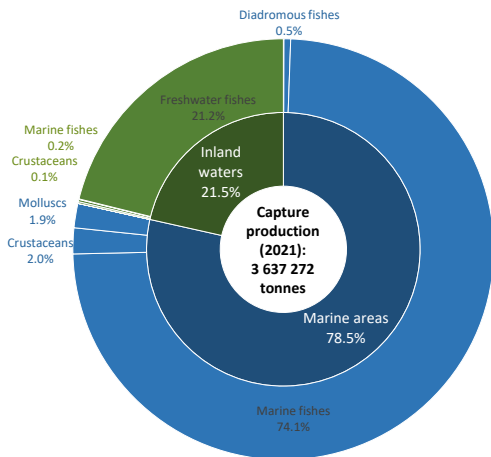
The share of inland fisheries declined from 18.7 percent to less than 1 percent.



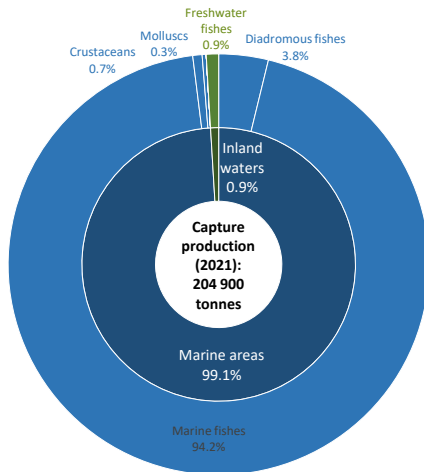
Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global capture production 1950-2021 (FishStatJ; www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj).
 Notes: Production covers all species measured in tonnage; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic species. Marine areas including coastal areas. Species accounting for less than 0.1 percent of total production not labelled in the charts.

Inland fisheries contributed 0.9 percent of Sierra Leone's capture fisheries production in 2021, as opposed to 21.5 percent in Western Africa and 12.3 percent in the world.

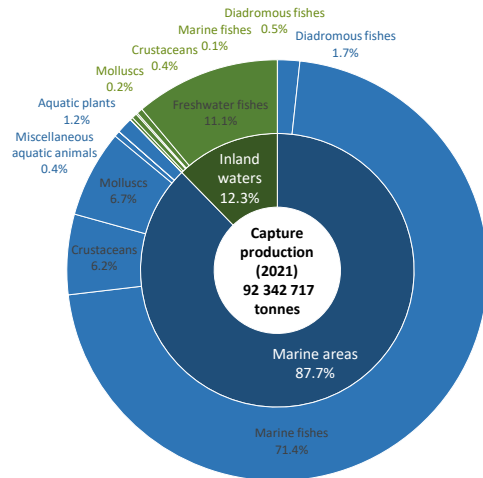
Western Africa (2021)



Sierra Leone (2021)



World (2021)



Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global capture production 1950-2021 (FishStatJ; www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj).

Notes: Production covers all species measured in tonnage; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic species. Marine areas including coastal areas. Species accounting for less than 0.1 percent of total production not labelled in the charts.

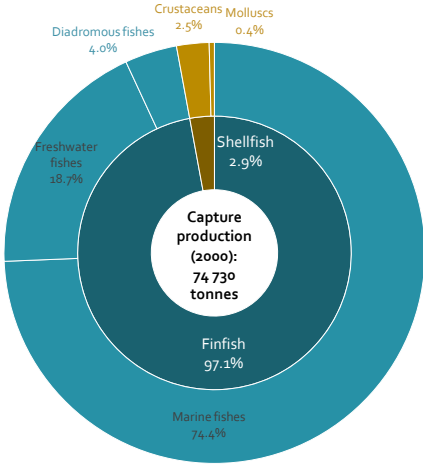
Taxonomic composition of capture fisheries production in Sierra Leone (2000 versus 2021):

Capture fisheries production increased from 74 730 tonnes in 2000 to 204 900 tonnes in 2020.

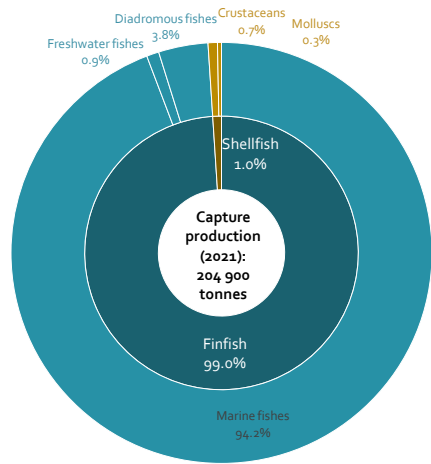
The share of marine fishes increased from 74.4 percent to 94.2 percent, while those of other species groups have declined.

Most notably, the share of freshwater fishes declined from 18.7 percent to less than 1 percent.

Sierra Leone (2000)

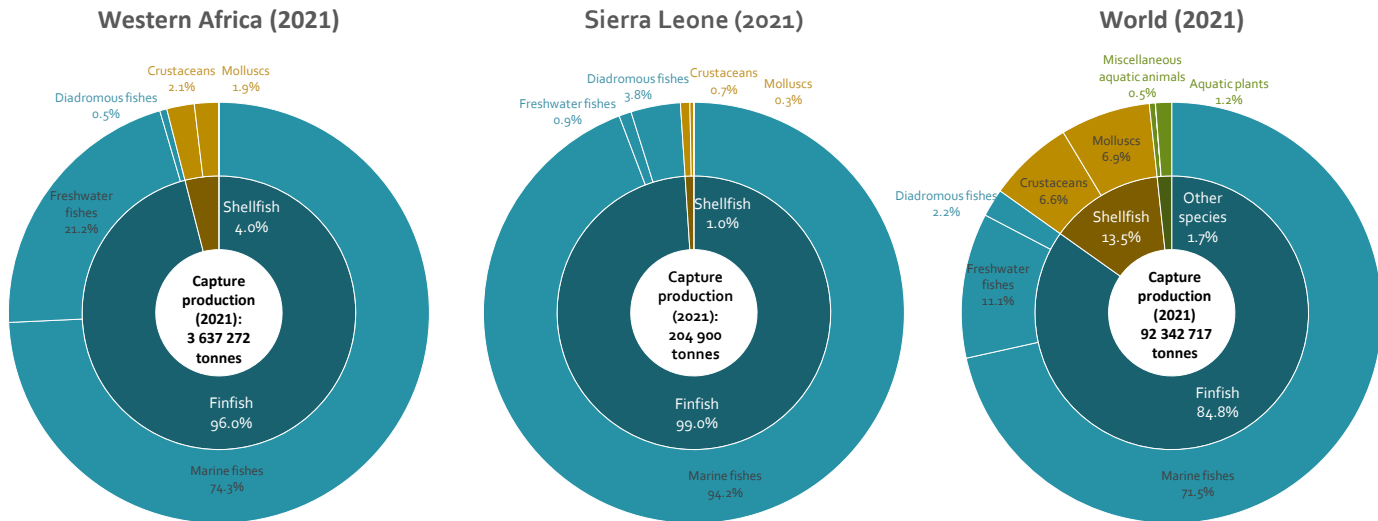


Sierra Leone (2021)



Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global capture production 1950-2021 (FishStatJ; www.fao.org/fishery/statistics/software/FishStatJ/en).
 Notes: Production covers all species measured in tonnage; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic species. Species accounting for less than 0.1 percent of total production not labelled in the charts.

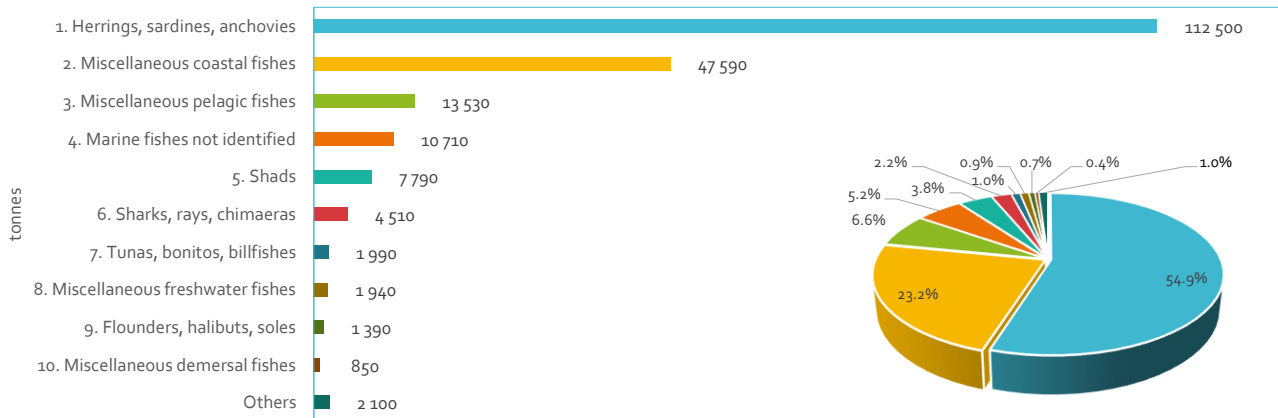
Marine fishes accounted for 94.2 percent of Sierra Leone's capture fisheries production in 2021; the share was higher than world and sub-regional averages. The 0.9 percent share of freshwater fishes was lower than both world and sub-regional averages; so was the share of shellfish. The share of diadromous fishes (3.8 percent) was higher than both sub-regional and world averages.



Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global production by production source 1950-2021 (FishStatJ; www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj).
Notes: Production covers all species measured in tonnage; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic species. Species accounting for less than 0.1 percent of total production not labelled in the charts.

Taxonomic composition of Sierra Leone's capture fisheries production (2021)

Top-10 ISSCAAP groups in Sierra Leone's capture production quantity (2021)

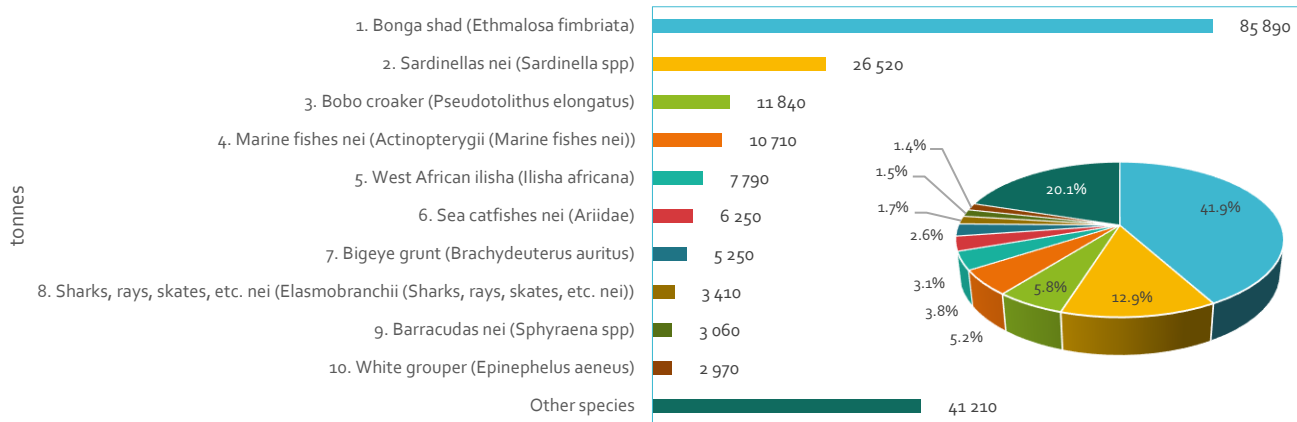


Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global capture production 1950-2021 (FishStatJ). www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj

Note: **ISSCAAP** = International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants.

Species composition of Sierra Leone's capture fisheries production in 2021

Top-10 ASFIS species items in Sierra Leone's capture production quantity (2021)



Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global capture production 1950-2021 (FishStatJ). www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj

Notes: The common and scientific names of a species follow the names adopted in the database. Nei = not elsewhere included. ASFIS = Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System. www.fao.org/fishery/collection/asfis/en

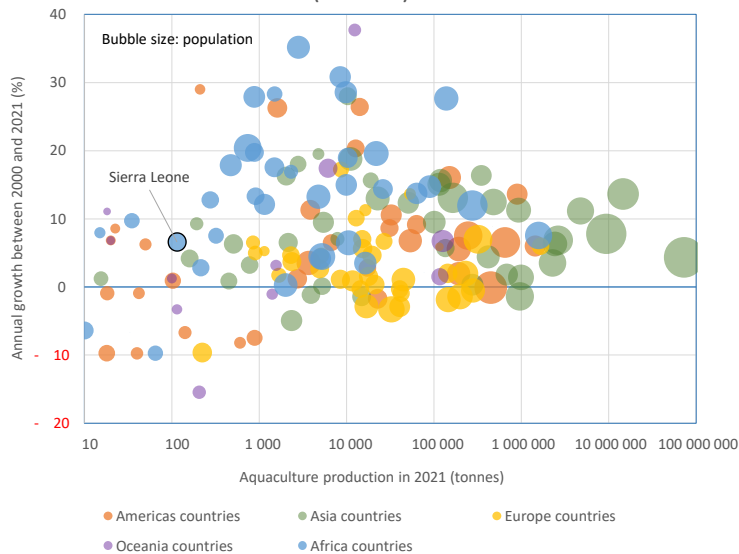
Aquaculture production

Aquaculture production in Sierra Leone increased from 30 tonnes in 2000 to 115 tonnes in 2021. The 6.61 percent annual growth was higher than the world average, yet lower than sub-regional and regional averages. The country's 115 tonnes of production in 2021 was ranked the 12th among the 15 aquaculture countries in Western Africa.

Status and trends of aquaculture production, 2000 versus 2021

Country/area	Aquaculture production of all species (tonnes)		Annual growth (%)
	2000	2021	
World	43 016 624	126 035 297	5.25
Africa	451 264	2 418 844	8.32
Sub-Saharan Africa	107 338	809 782	10.10
Western Africa	32 146	388 375	12.60
Aquaculture countries in Western Africa, ranked by production in 2021			
1. Nigeria	25 718	275 645	11.96
2. Ghana	5 000	89 380	14.72
3. Mali	30	8 484	30.84
4. Côte d'Ivoire	1 197	5 720	7.73
5. Benin	n.a.	4 150	n.a.
6. Senegal	104	1 151	12.13
7. Guinea	n.a.	1 150	n.a.
8. Togo	20	882	19.76
9. Burkina Faso	5	878	27.90
10. Niger	15	472	17.85
11. Liberia	22	275	12.78
12. Sierra Leone	30	115	6.61
13. Gambia	5	35	9.71
14. Cabo Verde	n.a.	28	n.a.
15. Guinea-Bissau	n.a.	10	n.a.

Aquaculture growth in Sierra Leone from a global and regional perspective (2000–2021)

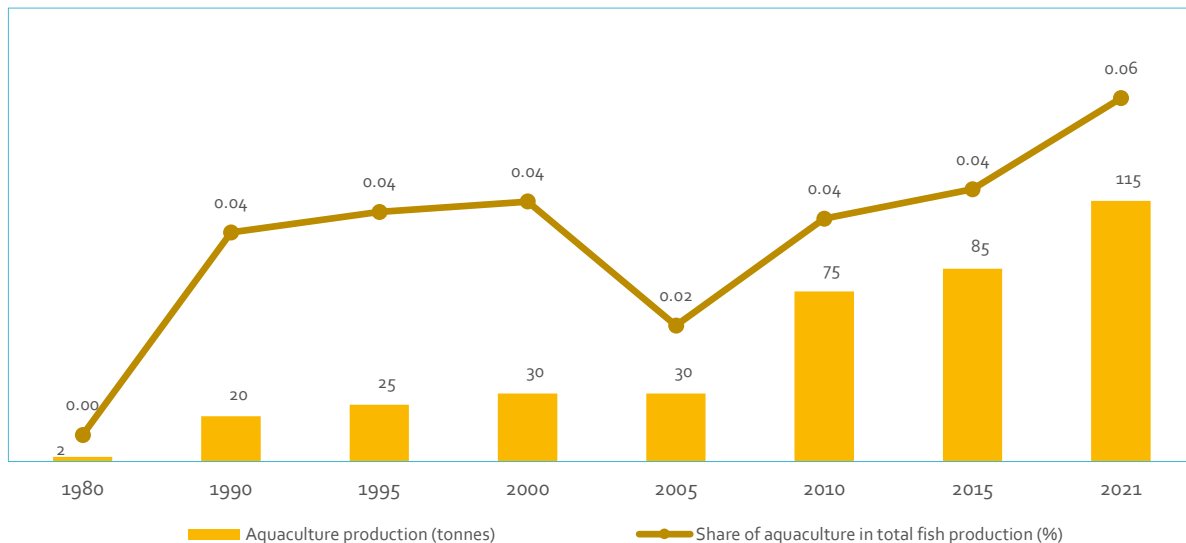


Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global aquaculture production 1950–2021 (FishStatJ; www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstati).

Notes: Production covers all aquatic species measured in tonnage; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic species.

Aquaculture production in Sierra Leone increased from 2 tonnes in 1980 to 115 tonnes in 2021; the share of aquaculture in total fisheries production reached 0.06 percent in 2021.

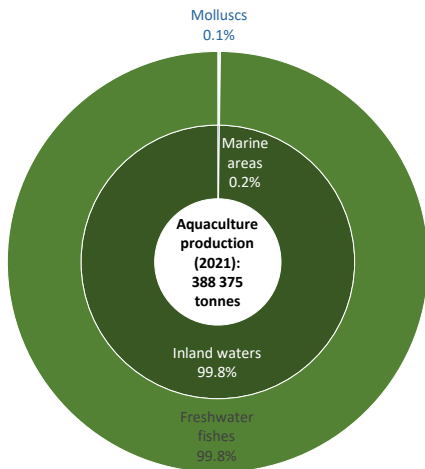
Sierra Leone: aquaculture's share in total fisheries production



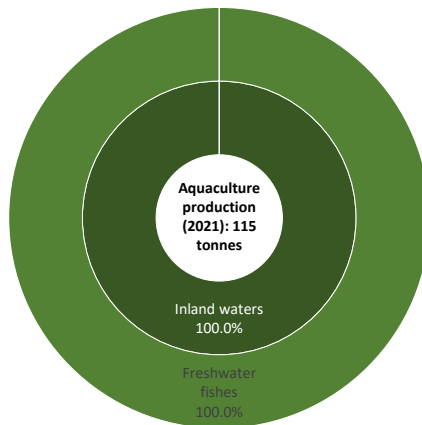
Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global aquaculture production 1950-2021 (FishStat); www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj.
Notes: Production covers all aquatic species measured in tonnage; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic species.

Inland aquaculture accounted for 100 percent of Sierra Leone's aquaculture production in 2021, as opposed to 99.8 percent in Western Africa and 44.7 percent in the world.

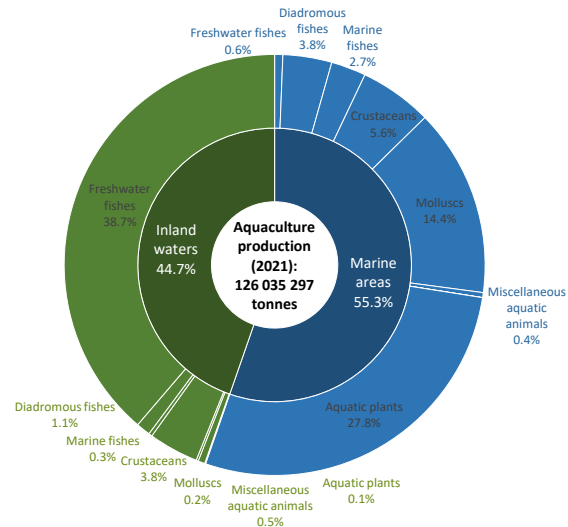
Western Africa (2021)



Sierra Leone (2021)



World (2021)

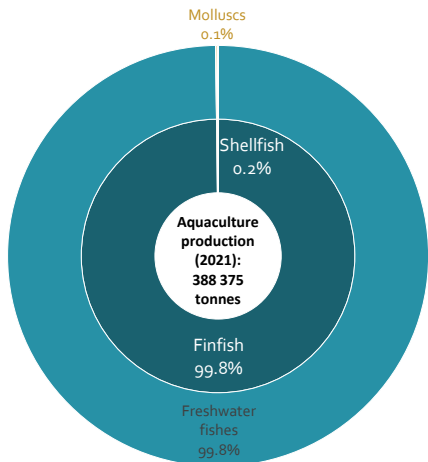


Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global aquaculture production 1950-2021 (FishStatJ; www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstati).

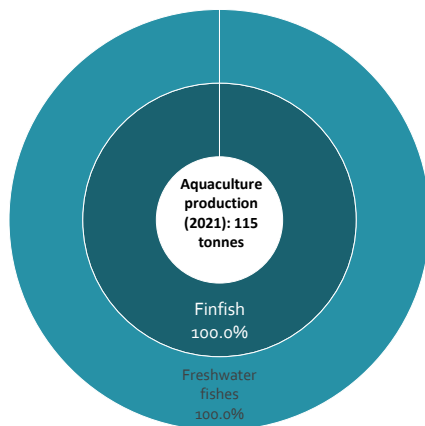
Notes: Production covers all aquatic species measured in tonnage; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic species. Species group less than 0.1 percent of total production may not be labelled.

Freshwater fishes accounted for nearly 100 percent of Sierra Leone's 115 tonnes of aquaculture production in 2021, as opposed to 99.8 percent in Western Africa and 39.3 percent in the world.

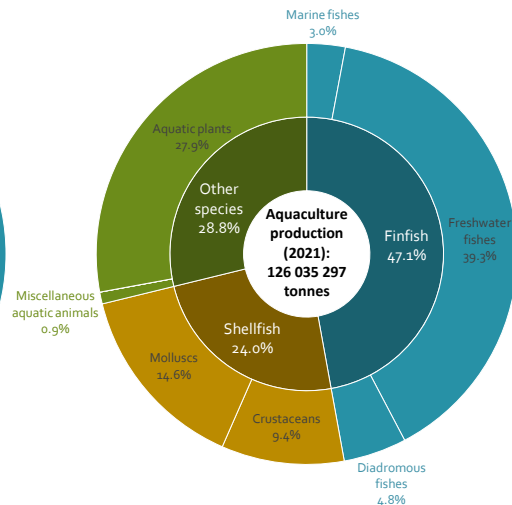
Western Africa (2021)



Sierra Leone (2021)



World (2021)

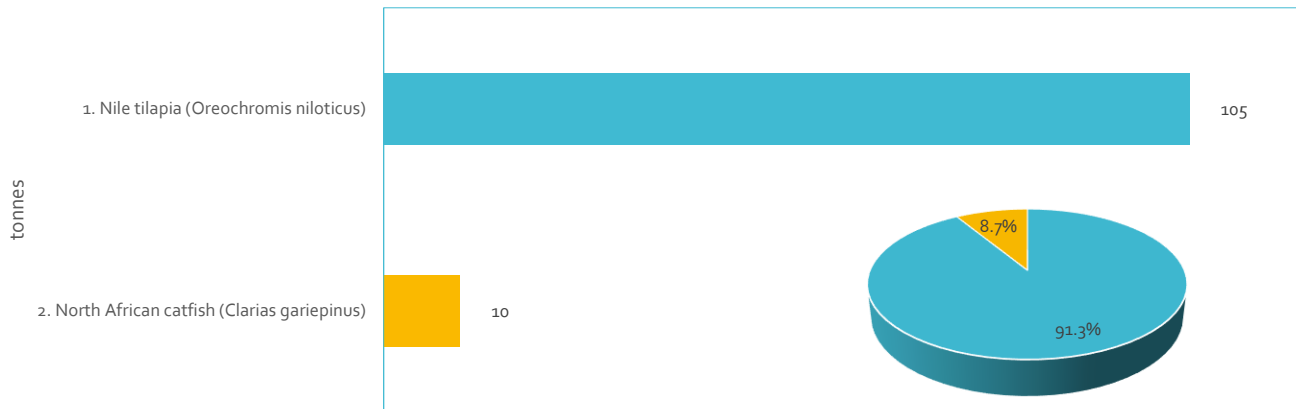


Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global aquaculture production 1950-2021 (FishStatJ; www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstati).

Notes: Production covers all aquatic species measured in tonnage; see [slide #4](#) for the scope of aquatic species. Species group less than 0.1 percent of total production may not be labelled.

Nile tilapia accounted 91.3 percent of Sierra Leone's 115 tonnes of aquaculture production in 2021, while the rest 8.7 percent came from catfish.

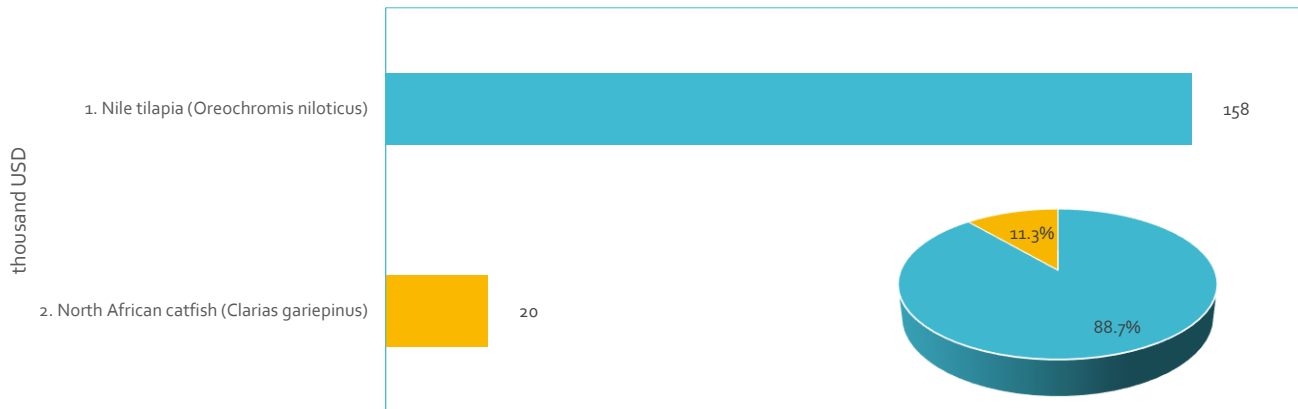
ASFIS species items in Sierra Leone's aquaculture production quantity (2021)



Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global aquaculture production 1950-2021 (FishStatJ). www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj
Notes: The common and scientific names of a species follow the names adopted in the database. Nei = not elsewhere included. Species item less than 1 percent of total production may not be labelled in the pie chart. ASFIS = Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System. www.fao.org/fishery/collection/asfis/en

Nile tilapia accounted 88.7 percent of Sierra Leone's USD 158 000 of aquaculture production in 2021, while the rest 11.3 percent came from catfish.

Top-10 ASFIS species items in Sierra Leone's aquaculture production value (2021)



Data source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global aquaculture production 1950-2021 (FishStatJ). www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/fishstatj
Notes: The common and scientific names of a species follow the names adopted in the database. Nei = not elsewhere included. Species item less than 1 percent of total production may not be labelled in the pie chart. ASFIS = Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System. www.fao.org/fishery/collection/asfis/en

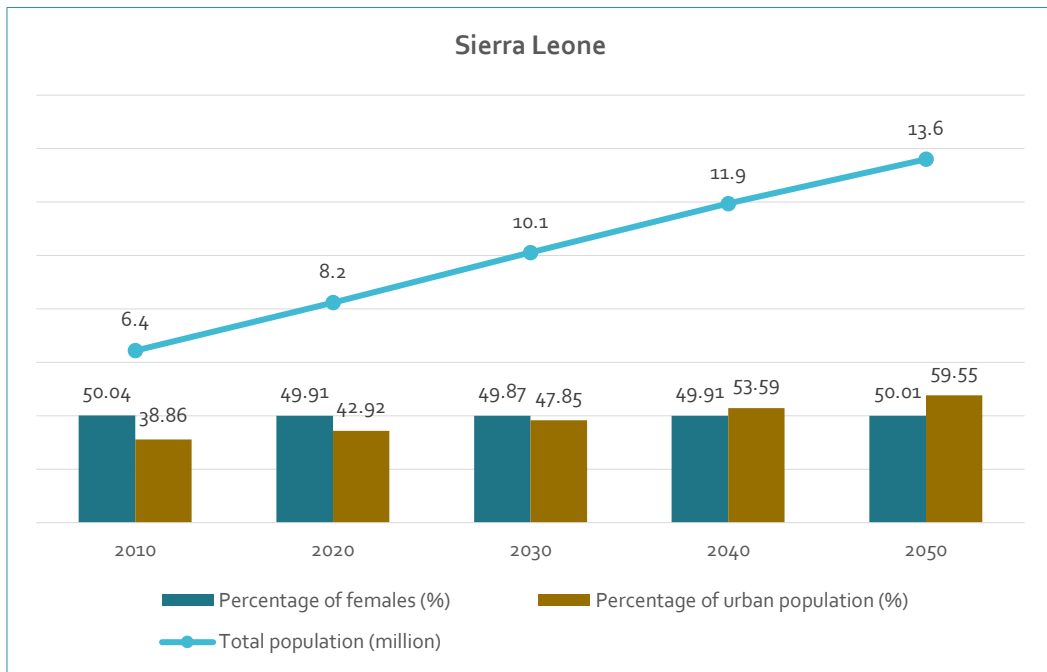
Outlook

Population prospects in Sierra Leone (2010–2050):

Total population is expected to more than double from 6.4 million in 2010 to 13.6 million in 2050.

The ratio of urban population is expected to reach nearly 60 percent in 2050.

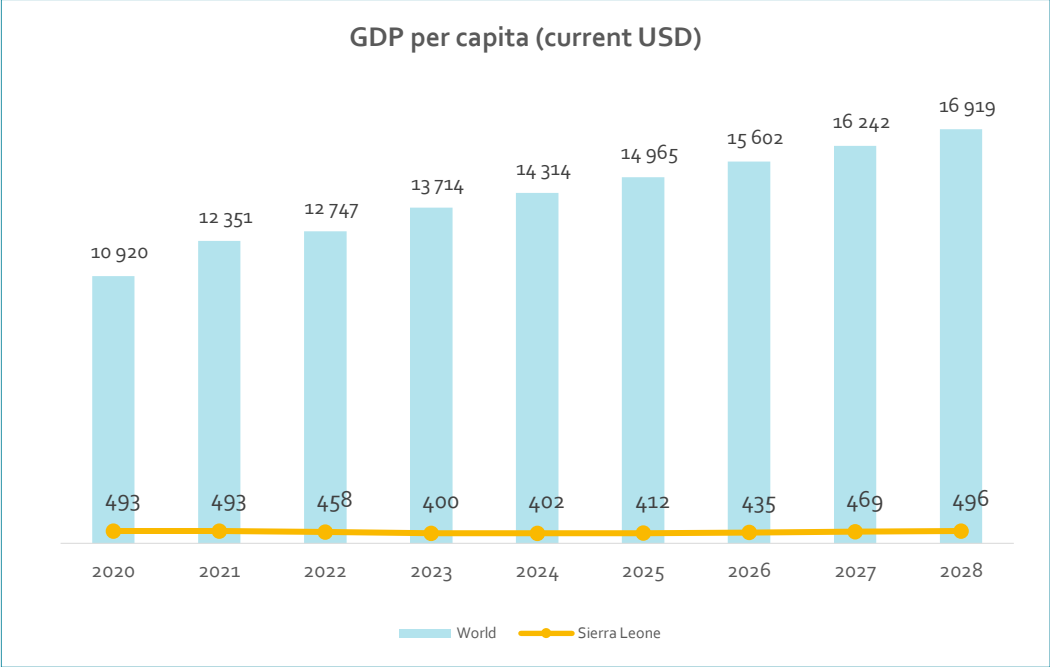
The female ratio is expected to surpass 50 percent in 2050.



Data sources: United Nations World Population Prospects (2022 revision; <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population>). United Nations World Urbanization Prospects (2018 revision; <https://population.un.org/wup>).

Sierra Leone's GDP prospects (2020-2028):

According to IMF's projection, Sierra Leone's GDP per capita is expected to decline from USD 493 in 2020 to USD 400 in 2023 then increase back to USD 496 in 2030.



Data sources: Per capita GDP equal to total GDP from IMF World Economic Outlook Database (April 2023; <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2019/01/weodata/download.aspx>) divided by population from UN World Population Prospects (2022 Revision; <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population>).

Sierra Leone (2020–2030): Aquaculture growth potential from a demand-side perspective

Sierra Leone	Projection to 2030 (population growth)		
	Baseline (2020)	Year 2030	2030 compared to baseline
1. Per capita fish and seafood demand (kg/capita/year)	25.28	25.28	-
2. Population (thousand)	8 234	10 105	1 871
3. Total fish and seafood demand (tonnes)	208 128	255 427	47 298
4. Fish and seafood supply from aquaculture (tonnes)	115	186	71
5. Supply-demand gap (tonnes)			-47 228
<p><i>Notes:</i> Fish and seafood includes finfish, crustaceans, molluscs and miscellaneous aquatic animals. 1. Sierra Leone's per capita fish and seafood consumption in 2019 (25.28 kg) is treated as baseline. 2. Population data from UN World Population Prospects (2022 revision). 3. Equal to (1) x (2). 4. According to FAO Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global aquaculture production 1950-2021 (FishstatJ), Sierra Leone's aquaculture production increased from 85 tonnes in 2017 to 115 tonnes in 2021. Following the linear trend during 2017–2021, the country's aquaculture production could reach 186 tonnes in 2030. 5. Equal to (4) - (3).</p>			

- Given the 25.28 kg baseline per capita fish and seafood consumption, 255 427 tonnes of fish and seafood will be needed to satisfy the demand of Sierra Leone's 10 105 thousand total population in 2030, which is 47 298 tonnes higher than its 208 128 tonnes of baseline fish and seafood demand in 2020 when the population was 8 234 thousand.
- Sierra Leone's aquaculture production increased from 85 tonnes in 2017 to 115 tonnes in 2021. Following this trend linearly, the country's aquaculture production would reach 186 tonnes in 2030. The 71 tonnes of extra supply compared to the baseline would nevertheless be insufficient to cover the 47 298 tonnes of extra fish and seafood demand driven by population growth only, with a deficit of 47 228 tonnes.
- Sierra Leone's aquaculture production would need to reach 47 413 tonnes in 2030 (412-time growth; 82.61 percent annually between 2020 and 2030) in order to generate enough extra supply to cover the 47 298 tonnes additional demand driven by population growth.

Sierra Leone: Aquaculture growth potential from a supply-side perspective

- Sierra Leone's share in world aquaculture production tonnage (0.0001 percent):
 - lower than** its share in world land area (0.05 percent).
 - lower than** its share in world population (0.11 percent).
- Sierra Leone's share in world inland aquaculture production (0.0002 percent):
 - Smaller than** its share in world surface area of inland waterbodies (0.01 percent).
 - Smaller than** its share in world renewable water resources (0.29 percent).
- Sierra Leone's share in world marine aquaculture production (0 percent):
 - lower than** its share in world coastline length (0.05 percent).
- While the comparisons provide some general idea of the aquaculture growth potential based on the country's natural resource endowments, they only offer a rough indication. More comprehensive assessments are necessary to determine the suitability and availability of these resources for aquaculture development.

Sierra Leone	Share of world total (%)
Total country area (excluding coastal waters, 2020) ¹	0.05
Surface area of inland waterbodies (2020) ²	0.01
Coastline length (2019) ³	0.05
Total renewable water resources (2020) ¹	0.29
Population (2021) ⁴	0.11
Aquaculture production (all areas, 2021)⁵	0.0001
Aquaculture production (inland waters, 2021)⁵	0.0002
Aquaculture production (marine areas, 2021)⁵	0

Data sources: 1. FAO AQUASTAT main country database (November 2020; downloaded on 29 April, 2023). 2.FAOSTAT Land Cover database (CCI_LC; updated on 15 July, 2022; downloaded on April 29, 2023). 3. The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), United States of America. Website accessed on 20 May 2019; coastline length of world equal to the sum of coastline length of 265 countries and territories listed in the data source. 4. United Nations World Population Prospects (2022 revision). 5. FAO. 2023. FAO Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global aquaculture production 1950-2021 (FishStatJ).

Further reading

FAO FISHERIES DIVISION NASO/ NALO FACTSHEETS:

- The National Aquaculture Sector Overview (NASO) collection provides a general overview of the aquaculture sector at national level in a concise and comprehensive product. The NASOs contain detailed information on the history of aquaculture; its human resources and farming systems; and development trends and issues, among others. More than 100 NASO factsheets are available in five languages at: www.fao.org/fishery/en/naso/search
- The National Aquaculture Legislation Overview (NALO) consist of a series of comparative national overviews of aquaculture laws and regulations from the top 40 aquaculture producing countries. NALO factsheets have been prepared in collaboration with the FAO Development Law Service and are updated on a regular basis. The NALO collection is available in several languages at: www.fao.org/fishery/en/nalo/search

MORE INFORMATION ON WAPI:

- World Aquaculture Performance Indicators (WAPI) is a process to generate information and knowledge products for evidence-based policymaking and sector management. Key WAPI information/ knowledge products include data analysis tools, technical papers and policy briefs. For more details, visit our webpage at: www.fao.org/fishery/en/statistics/software/wapi
- World Aquaculture Performance Indicators (WAPI) banner: www.fao.org/3/CA0198EN/ca0198en.pdf
- *World Aquaculture Performance Indicators (WAPI) – Information, Knowledge and Capacity for Blue Growth* (brochure): www.fao.org/3/I9622EN/i9622en.pdf
- *The Potential of World Aquaculture Performance Indicators as a Research and Educational Tool* (FAN article, April 2017): www.fao.org/3/a-i7171e.pdf#page=44
- *Report of FAO Expert Workshop on Assessment and Monitoring of Aquaculture Sector Performance, Gaeta. Italy, 5–7 November 2012* (FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report 1063): www.fao.org/3/a-i3539e.pdf