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# THE EVOLUTION OF THE FIRST- SALE PRICE IN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES IN THE INLAND TERRITORIAL WATERS OF ROMANIA

ERZSEBET OLARIU<sup>1</sup>

## Abstract

*The policy of the fishing sector in Romania, in terms of commercial fishing, envisages measures that ensure the sustainable exploitation of living aquatic resources, efficient management, stimulating those who work in this sector to unite in associative forms, the collection of statistical data, inspection and control. The policy on fishing in natural fish habitats is carried out by the National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture. This paper studies the national average fish prices for the first- sale for commercial fishing in the inland territorial waters. How to change the value of these prices for the years 2016-2020, regarding the species and the quantity. They were used the statistical data were provided by NAFA, and the quality interview. The first- sale prices are established at the first- sale points based on negotiation. The average price of the total catch of fish in Romania from 2016 to 2019 do not show large fluctuations, but in 2020 had an increase of over 30%, compared to 2019, while the amount of fish caught decreased by 25% in 2020 compared to 2019.*

**Keywords:** fishery, first-sale price,

**JEL classification:** Q22, Q31

## INTRODUCTION

According to the objective of the common fisheries policy (CFP) determined by Council Regulation No 2371/2002 to taking account of sustainable exploitation for the living aquatic resources, the Council Regulation No 1224/2009, based on the fact that the success of CFP requires the application of an effective control system, targets to establish a community control system, respecting the principle of proportionality.

The European agency which promotes the common standards for surveillance, inspection and control is the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA). In Romania the main legal regulation regarding the commercial fishing in natural fisheries habitats are the Government Emergency Ordinance No 23/2008 on fisheries and aquaculture (OUG 23), and the Order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development No 807/2016 for the approval of rules on access to living aquatic resources in the public domain of the State for the purpose of commercial fishing in natural fisheries habitats, with the exception of protected natural areas (OM 807).

The access to this living aquatic resources, for the purpose of commercial fishing in Romania is granted by the National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture (NAFA) directly to professional fishermen/divers - authorized natural persons, organized or not in professional associations, production cooperatives, associations/ organizations of fisherman, individual enterprises and family enterprises which have as their object commercial fishing. The access shall be granted on the basis of fishing permits, licenses and authorizations. The commercial fishing permit is an individual and non-transferable document which is concerned annually.

The fishing licenses shall give the right to use a certain fishing capacity for the purpose of commercial exploitation of living aquatic resources and contains the minimum requirements for identification, technical characteristics and the equipment of a European Union fishing vessel.

The commercial fishing authorization is an official document issued for a commercial fishing vessel/craft, in addition to the commercial fishing licence, which authorizing it to carry out specific fishing activities for a specified period, in a given area or for a given fishery area under specified condition.

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The catch from commercial fishing in natural fisheries habitats, excluding protected natural areas, is landed in ports/mooring points/landing points or in approved first-sale centers. From the ports/mooring points/landing points the catch is transported to the first-sale centers. In these first-sale centers takes place the first sale of the catch, with the first price set. This paper analyzes the average first sale -price for 1 kg of fish for five years in Romania, according to the quantity of catch, from 2016 to 2020. The value of paper is that this data were first presented in Romania in a paper, and the influence of the first year of Covid-19 pandemic on these prices, as well as how the catch quantity was influenced.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The data were collected by inspectors from NAFA, on the basis of sale notes. According to article 22 of Order No 807/2016, the economic operator engaged in fishing and marketing of fish, or the administrator of the first-sale center are required to draw up the sales note for each delivery and to transmit it to NAFA until 05 of each month. In the research was used the in-depth interview. Interviews were conducted from three regional service heads from NAFA.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The sales of the fish is done on a contract basis, but the price is not fixed by the contract. For each sale is a negotiation between the seller and the buyer. At present the first sale centers are owned by fishing organizations.

Usually the first sale centers sell the products, collecting their value, and only then made the payment to the sellers. This has led to dissatisfaction from fishermen, generating the desire to have their own space for sale. There are discussions for the Territorial Administrative Units to provide independent spaces for fishermen, but so far it has not materialized.

The table below shows the data collection result, in terms of the average price for 1 kg of fish and the catch in tonnes from 2016 to 2020 for the commercial fisheries in the inland territorial waters of Romania.

**Table 1 The average price per kg and the catch by fish species from 2016 to 2020**

	Species	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
		Medium price /kg lei	Catch tons	Medium price /kg lei	Catch tons	Medium price /kg lei	Catch tons	Medium price /kg lei	Catch tons	Medium price /kg lei	Catch tons
1	Freshwater bream	4.83	273.10	4.85	367.3	4.07	387.25	4.07	220.10	5.08	250.92
2	Common carp	11.30	245.75	12.00	177.4	13.20	138.20	13.20	187.93	14.24	203.71
3	Tench	5.00	25.44	5.00	29.10	4.60	34.15	4.60	38.62	6.00	6.10
4	Bleak	3.90	2.26	2.50	16.20	4.53	15.58	4.53	12.17	5.00	7.10
5	Barbel	5.50	22.47	5.50	29.30	4.77	38.90	4.77	53.01	5.25	55.28
6	Common nase	4.00	1.00	4.00	6.30	1.25	4.90	1.25	8.90	5	4.93
7	Gold fish	4.60	1815.7	5.00	1485.5	4.87	1608.51	5.00	1659.14	5.44	1317.66

8	Roaches nei	3.56	259.5	4.00	202.6	1.92	249.14	2.50	201.59	4.59	143.84
9	Rudd	3.30	24.75	3.5	39.00	3.00	53.94	3.00	27.99	4.00	14.09
10	Grass carp (=White amur)	9.53	12.50	10.00	0.10	5.40	3.71	5.00	1.80	7.48	3.64
11	Silver carp	5.78	69.5	6.00	30.40	4.72	13.17	5.00	33.19	5.56	48.63
12	Bighead carp	5.82	55.3	6.00	17.00	3.05	19.47	3.50	30.22	6.33	23.27
13	Vimba bream	4.83	34.9	5.00	37.5	2.38	39.67	3.00	28.89	5.09	45.27
14	Asp	6.40	25.20	6.50	17.70	4.34	21.75	5.00	34.63	5.51	20.28
15	White bream	4.73	31.00	5.00	48.80	2.25	28.03	3.00	30.50	5.25	38.33
16	Northern pike	10.90	150.10	11.00	185.70	10.47	220.87	11.00	191.32	10.98	102.86
17	Catfish	11.92	184.40	12.00	156.70	14.21	150.29	14.00	164.94	17.33	140.46
18	European perch	4.90	63.40	5.00	52.10	1.91	45.60	2.00	57.16	5.00	38.51
19	Pike-perch	12.25	149.64	12.5	104.80	14.42	61.65	14.00	54.76	15.96	53.92
20	Freshwater fish nei	4.33	16.10	5.00	15.00	1.65	6.48	2.00	10.35	4.16	22.61
21	Pontic shad	14.25	406.50	16.00	481.00	17.56	178.67	16.00	634.50	18.21	204.03
	Medium price/kg -lei Total capture - tons	6.74	3868.51	6.96	3499.50	5.93	3319.92	6.02	3681.64	7.98	2756.43

Source: NAFA

## CONCLUSIONS

The conditioning of a certain fishing area as well the establishment of total allowable catches, are factors which have a negative impact on production, but sustainability is paramount. The average first-sale price for 1 kg of fish for total catch was the lowest in 2018. The first year of the pandemic led to decrease in catch and an increase the average price.

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