# From feed to food

### The potential of small pelagic fish for sustainable food production

**SDG214 Spring 2025** 





214.6

The problem today...

 Global food demand expected to increase by up tp 62% by 20501

> **27%** of all marine landings were not used for human consumption<sup>2</sup>

Over 90% are food-grade or prime food-grade fish<sup>2</sup>

High

nutrient

content

Figure 2: Composite nutrient richness scores

averaged across 12 nutrients for 11 food

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50% -

40%

30% -

20%

10%

% daily requirements

Small pelagic fish: found everywhere, foraging herbivorous or carnivorous **keystone species** anchovies, sardines herring, capelin...)<sup>3</sup>

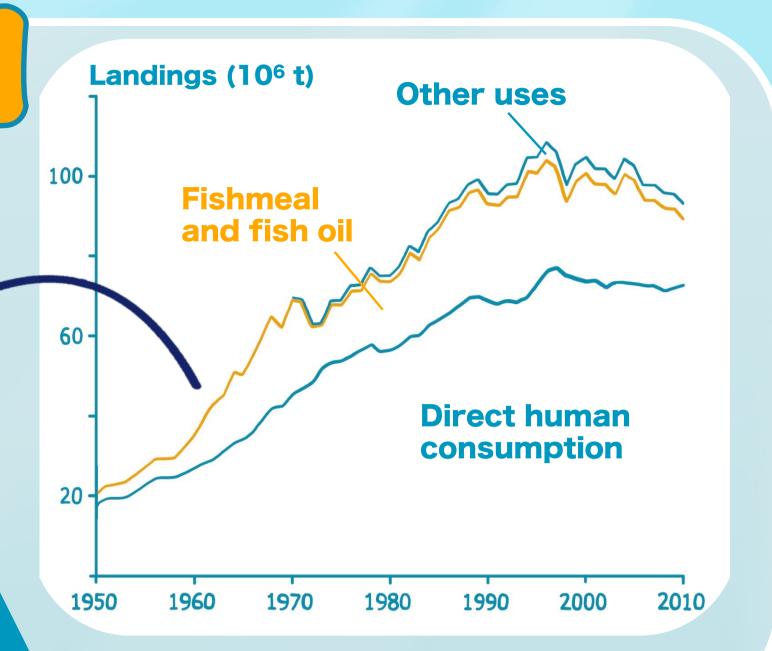
O Veg & fungi

O Livestock

O Capture fishery

& aquaculture

products<sup>4</sup>



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Figure 1: Use of global industrial and artisanal marine landings excluding discarded catch<sup>2</sup>

## Sustainable fishing

- The lowest grenhouse gas emission vs nutrient value ratio<sup>4</sup>
- No fertilizers, no water, no food
  - Schooling pelagic fish: catches of big amounts on **short time without huge** impact<sup>7</sup>

**Demersal trawling for** crustaceans: affect benthic assemblages and invertebrates<sup>8</sup>



**GHG** footprint (g CO<sub>2</sub> eq.)

O Veg & fungi

O Livestock

000

O Capture fishery

& aquaculture

000

100 000 -

10 000 -

1 000

100



«There is only one way to obtain significantly more food from the ocean: to harvest seafood that is from a lower trophic level than today» 6

#### Health benefits

**→** Source of omega-3 fatty acids<sup>3</sup>

#### **Important protein content**

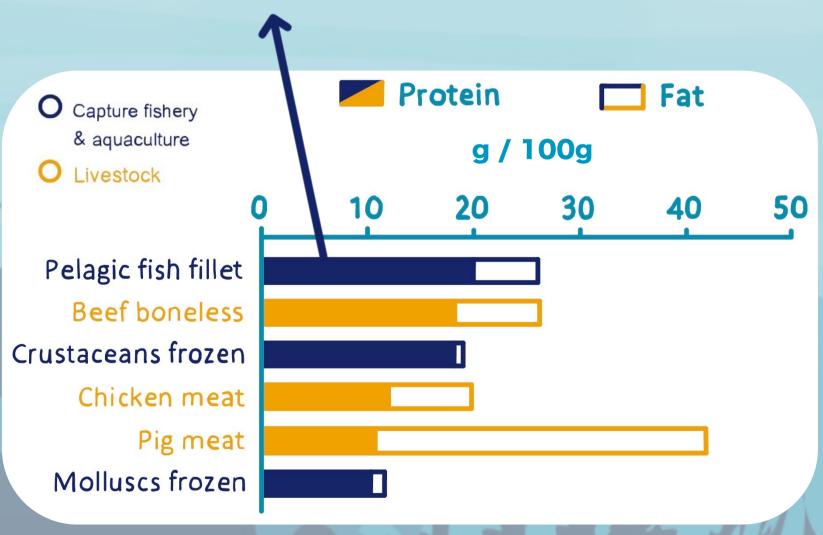


Figure 3: Composition retail weight as purchased in 100g of different foods<sup>5</sup>

#### Shift in our consumption

- Public awareness campaigns
  - Highlight nutritional benefits
- **Ecolabeling and certification**

Grilled mackerel<sup>11</sup>

- Improving accessibility, affordability
- Culinary promotion, ready-to-eat products



Marinated anchovies<sup>12</sup>

Inspired by a Swedish initiative where chefs made insects appealing through creative dishes, similar strategies can boost the popularity of small pelagic fish<sup>9</sup>



Sardine pasta<sup>13</sup>





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