

# Fisheries

## Kent's fishing fleet

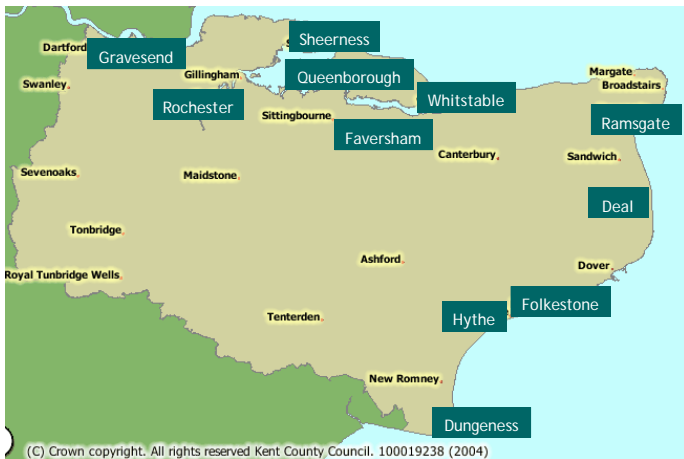
Kent has approximately 131 licensed fishing vessels. 84 of these are operating full time and 15 are part-time or seasonal vessels. The remaining 32 are either operating on an angling basis or are laid up. Servicing these vessels are approximately 180 fishermen, employed on a full or part-time basis.

The fleet is primarily comprised of vessels under 10m in length, with an average length of 9.5m and very few trawlers up to 17m. There are few new vessels, the average age being 20 years.



Most vessels fish out to a 20-25 nm limit, using a variety of fishing methods including pair trawling, multi-rig trawling, drift/fixed netting, pots and dredgers.

The main landing ports of Kent are shown in the map below.

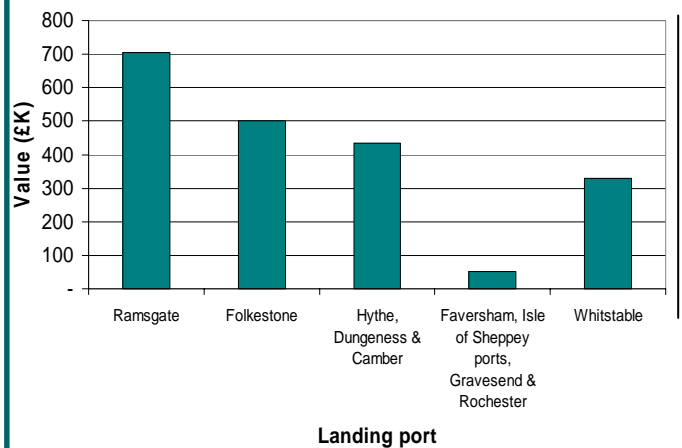


## Value of Kent's fishing industry

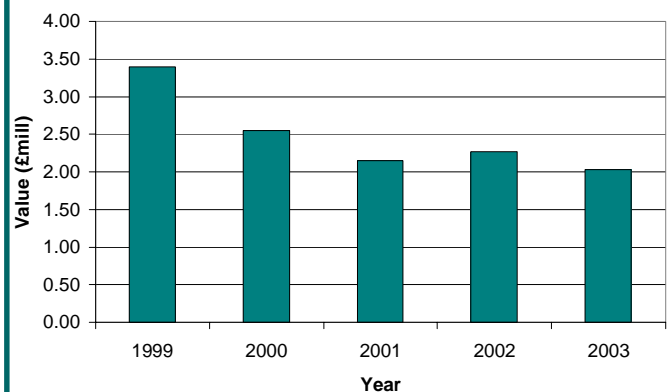
Despite individual fish landings being relatively modest, a number of the catch landed in Kent carries a relatively high value. The table below demonstrates the top ten commercial value species landed in Kent (2003).

Fish	Value (£)	Tonnage
Sole	786,841.72	143.39
Bass	308,230.57	60.66
Cod	176,019.97	117.08
Lobster	136,374.37	16.27
Plaice	110,214.15	76.59
Scallops	105,043.11	114.07
Skate/Rays	96,643.14	116.89
Whelks	77,496.39	180.83
Crabs	73,805.16	44.03
Oysters	60,114.10	16.12

The chart below demonstrates the value of the landed catch at each of the landing ports in Kent in 2003. The total value of that year's catch was £2.02 million.



As the chart below demonstrates, 2003's landing value was the lowest in five years and over £1.3 million less than the landing value in 1999.



## Facts and figures

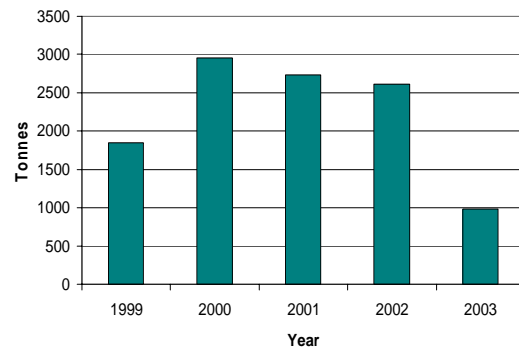
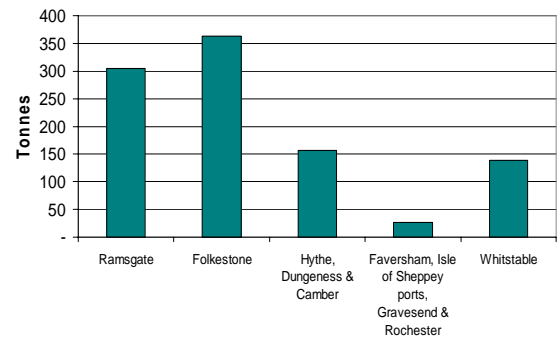
- Kent has c.131 licensed fishing vessels.
- Approximately 180 fishermen are employed in Kent.
- The majority of Kent's fishing fleet is made up of vessels under 10m
- In 2003 Kent's most valuable landing was sole, with a value of £786,842.
- In 2003 landings at Ramsgate were the most valuable, at £704,759 whilst landings at Folkestone were the greatest tonnage at 363.
- Total landings for Kent in 2003 were valued at £2.02 million.
- Values of landings in Kent have declined by 40% over the past five years.
- The total weight of landings in Kent for 2003 was 987 tonnes - a reduction on the past three year's landings.

(Facts and figures based on 2003 statistics)

(Statistics obtained from Defra's Fish landings by port records).

## Kent's sea fishery landings

Over the sheet the value of Kent's landings were detailed. The tables across demonstrate the tonnage landed at Kent's ports - for 2003 the total landing was 987 tonne. The first table shows the tonnage landings for 2003 and the second table demonstrates the decline in landings over the past three years.



## Fisheries management

Fish stocks are an important resource that must be preserved through effective management of fish stocks and sustainable fishing activity.

The aim of fisheries management is to conserve fish stocks and their habitats and to ensure that commercial fish populations are not over exploited. Management also works to protect the marine species and habitats that are not exploited commercially from the effects of fishing.

European waters are managed through the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), which aims to ensure rational and sustainable exploitation of fish stocks through policies which protect resources whilst reflecting the needs of the fishing industry. This is achieved by regulating both the level of fishing activity and the quantities of fish caught.

Fishing activity is regulated through a licensing scheme, which controls the size of the fleet. To keep the fleet the same sustainable size additional licences cannot be granted, although they can be transferred subject to existing licensing rules.

Quantities of fish caught are controlled through the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) system, allocated as quotas to each of the member states. In the UK the quota is divided up annually between producer organisations, the non-sector and the under-10 metre fleet (the division under which most of Kent's fleet falls). Generally, these quotas are based on this historic fishing activity of the fleet. The UK is responsible for ensuring that landings by their fishing fleets do not exceed their quotas.

Quotas are based on scientific advice and relate to the level of activity that a fishery can sustain - hence overfishing of a quota can endanger stocks. Therefore if a quota is exceeded, the EU will deduct quota from any Member State and may also implement legal proceedings and substantial fines.



### Sources of information:

- <http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/publications/fishports/default.asp>
- [www.defra.gov.uk/fish/sea/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/fish/sea/index.htm)
- [www.mfa.gov.uk/default.htm](http://www.mfa.gov.uk/default.htm)
- [www.cefas.co.uk](http://www.cefas.co.uk)
- [www.vliz.be/projects/SAIL/](http://www.vliz.be/projects/SAIL/)

