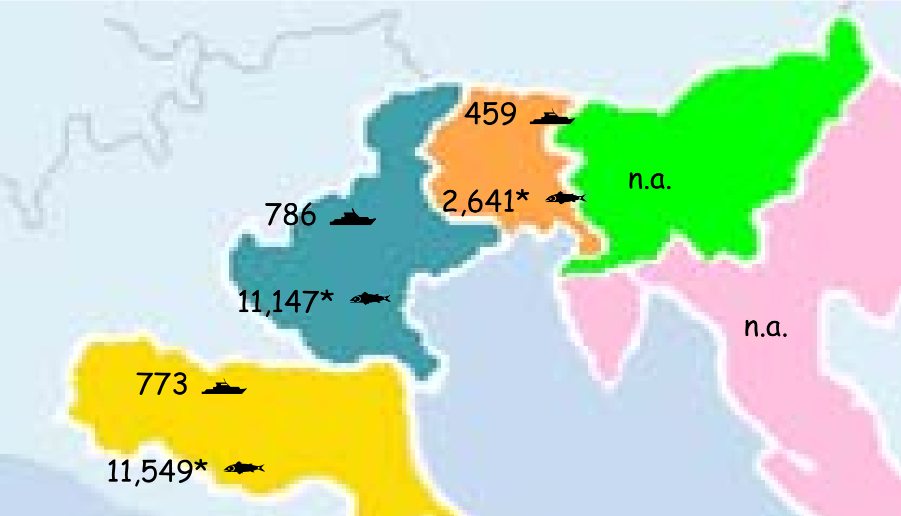
Socio-Economic Fishing and Aquaculture Observatory

Fishing in Figures

No. 26 March/April 2009

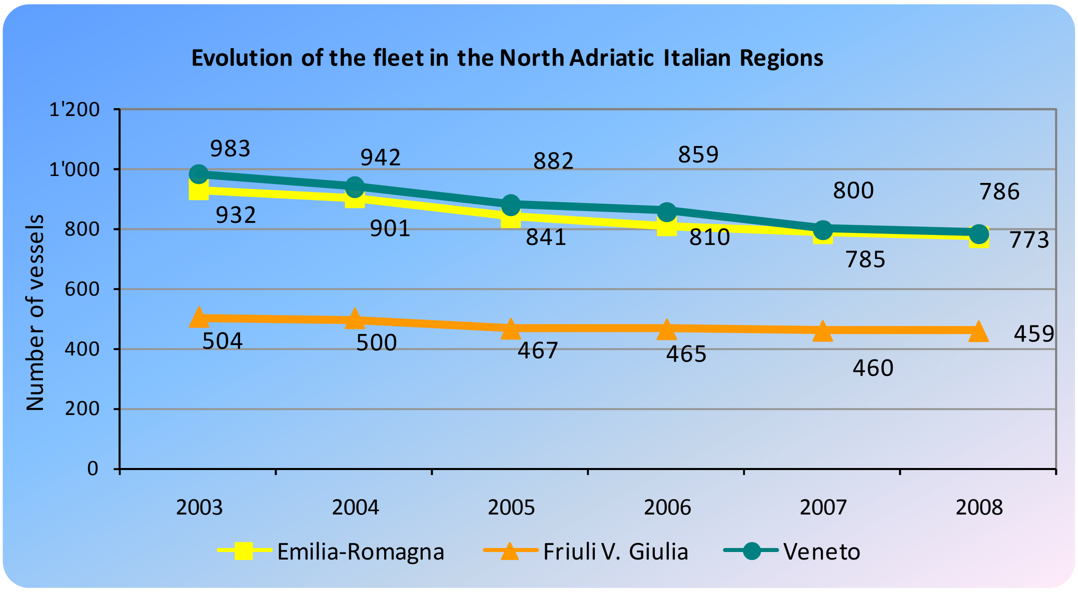
VENETO AGRICOLTURA

PRELIMINARY EVALUATIONS OF THE 2008 FISHING YEAR



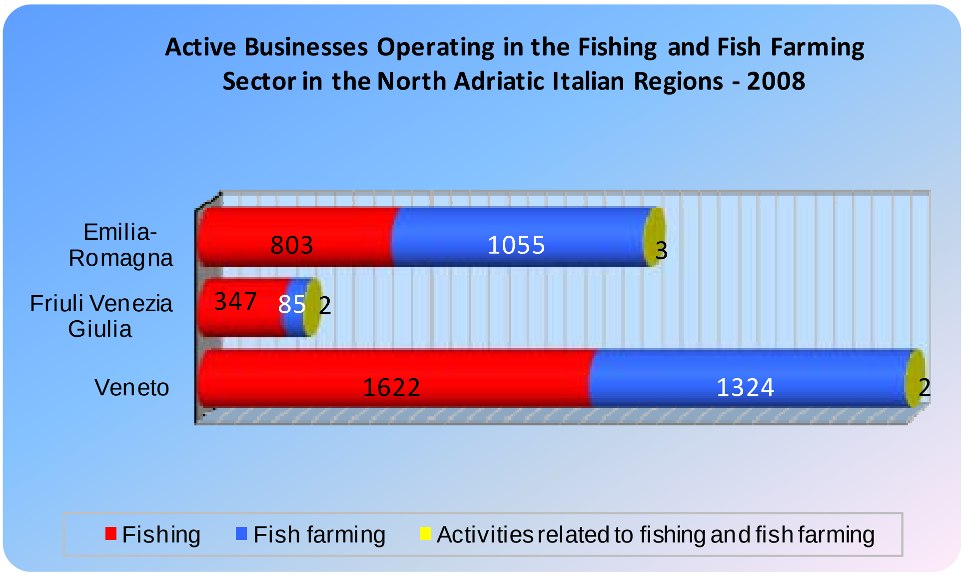
Fleet size and production (tonnes) in 2008 for the North Adriatic Italian Regions

As 2008 has recently come to a close, it is a natural time to take stock of the production year that has just ended. This issue attempts to provide a general and comprehensive overview of the main aspects of sea and lagoon fishing for this past year, leaving in-depth analyses for future issues. The data currently available relates to production (although this data is limited to the first half-year), the fleet, businesses and marketing. According to the respective national institutes of statistics for Croatia and Slovenia, the 2008 data for these countries will be available in June 2009.



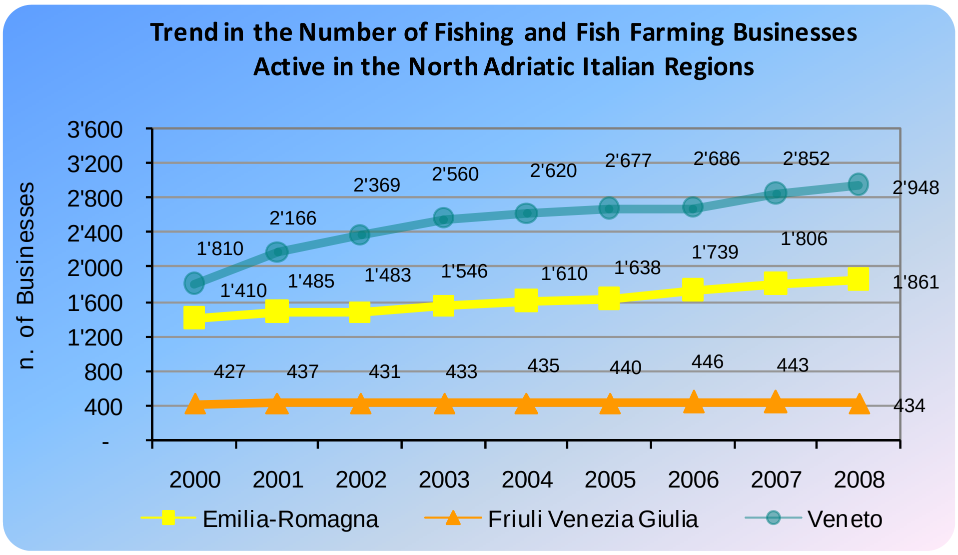
While the declining trend in the Upper Adriatic Italian fleet size continued in 2008, the data indicates that it has stabilized. In Friuli Venezia Giulia the fleet size decreased by just a single unit, according to data from the EU Fleet Register. Veneto's fleet decreased by 14 boats, while Emilia-Romagna's fleet decreased by 12 fishing vessels. The average length of a North Adriatic fishing vessel is 10.25 m, for a total power of 191,000 kW.

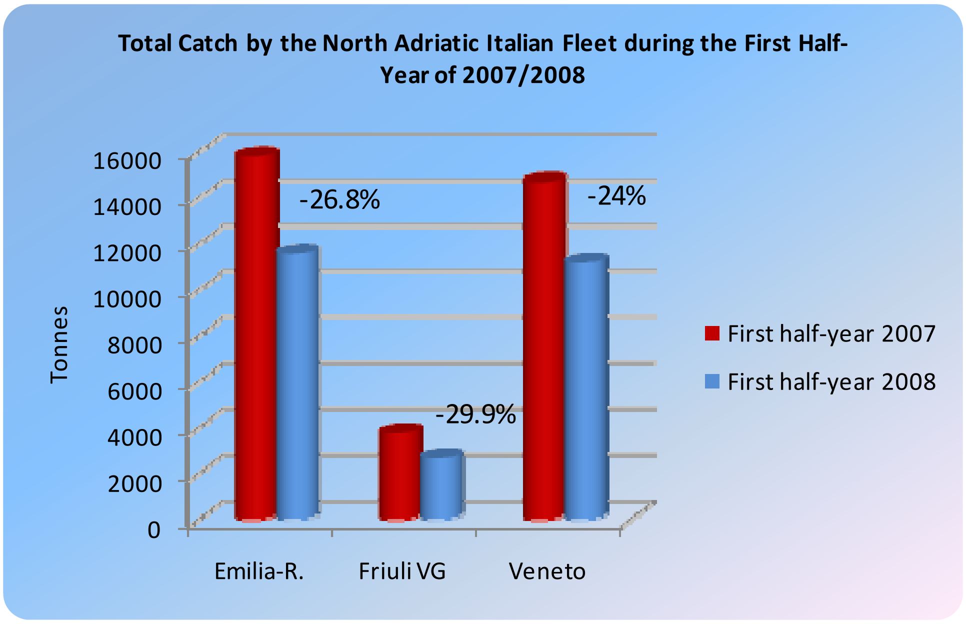
Source: Data processed by the Socio-Economic Fishing and Aquaculture Observatory based on EU Fleet Register data



In 2008, there were 5,243 businesses operating in the fish and seafood sector in the Upper Adriatic, 2,772 of which were involved in fishing and 2,464 in aquaculture. Veneto had the largest number of active businesses, followed by Emilia-Romagna, where aquaculture is the predominant activity, and then Friuli Venezia Giulia.

The positive growth trend in the number of companies involved in primary fish and seafood production continued in 2008, once again indicating an increase of more than 3% in Veneto and Emilia-Romagna compared to the previous year, while there was a 2% decline in Friuli Venezia Giulia.

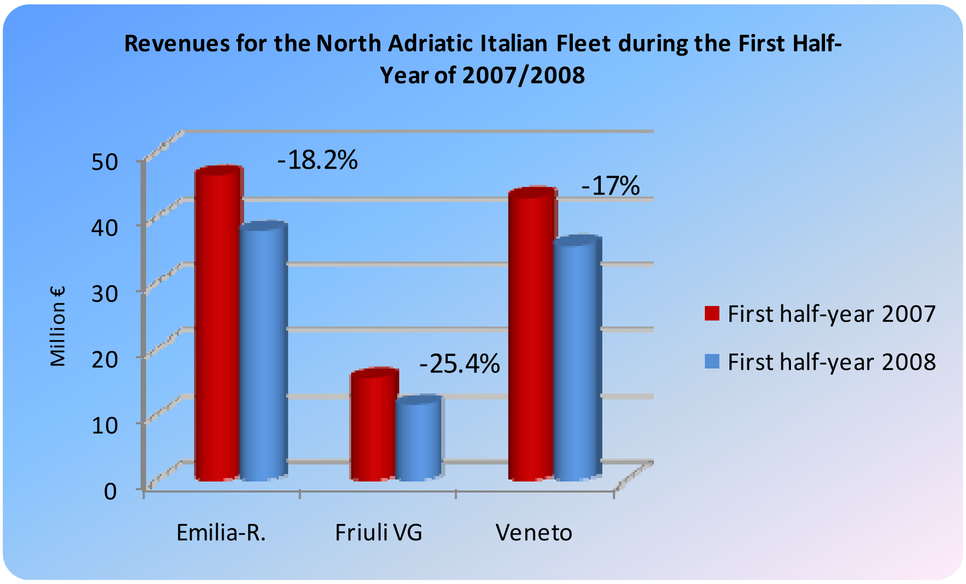


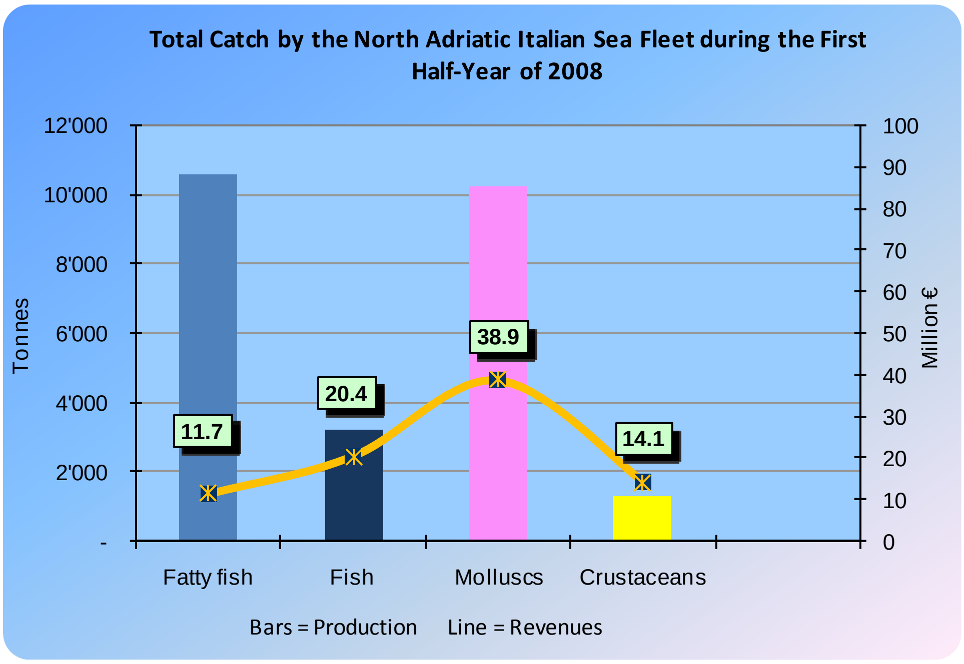


The sea fishing fleet's catches, on the other hand, decreased significantly during the first half of 2008 with respect to the same period in 2007. This decline was more marked in Friuli Venezia Giulia (almost 30%) than in Emilia-Romagna and Veneto, though the latter regions experienced a *production decrease above the national average (approximately 20%).*

Source: Data processed by the Socio-Economic Fishing and Aquaculture Observatory based on data from Infocamere and IREPA (Economic Research Institute for Fishing and Aquaculture)

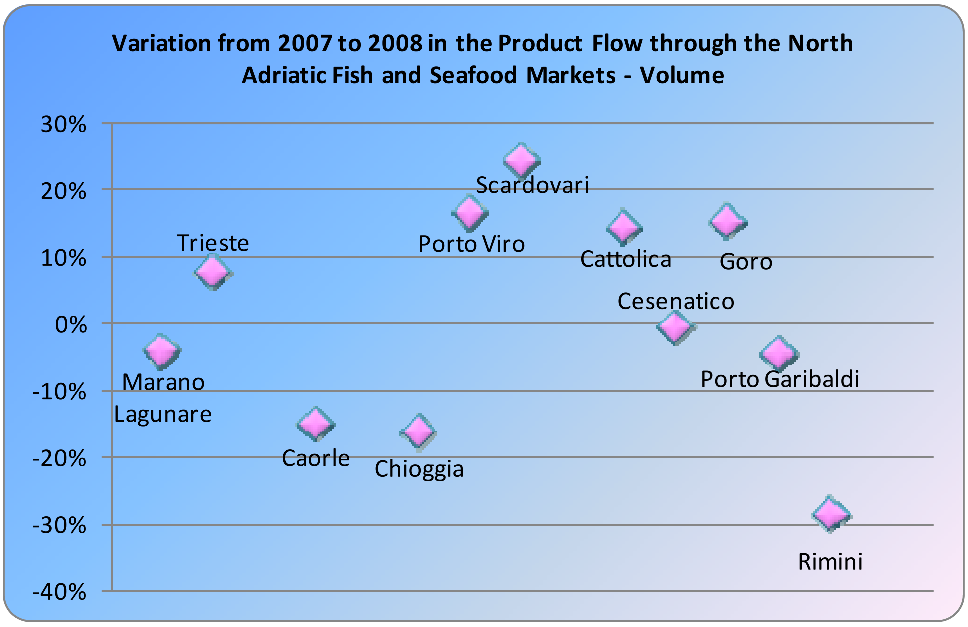
There was also a decline in revenues from sea fishing catches, albeit less marked than the decline in catches. Prices increased as a result of the decrease in the supply; however, this price increase was unable to compensate for the overall loss in revenue.



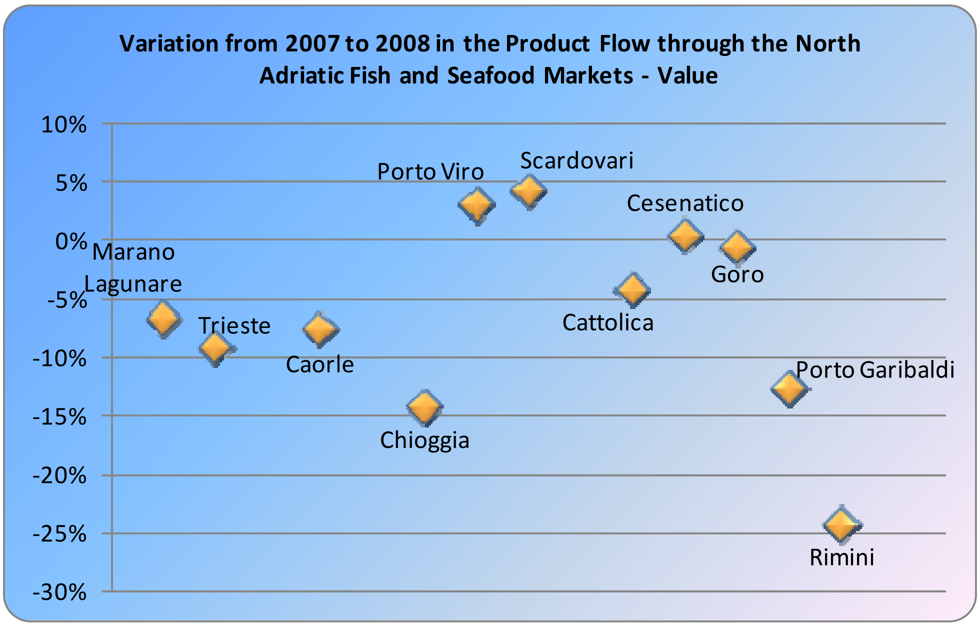


Looking at the details, the Upper Adriatic regions strengthened their position as large producers of fatty fish and molluscs: during the first half-year of 2008, these regions produced over 10,600 tonnes of fatty fish, with a value of 11.7 million Euros, and 10,232 tonnes of molluscs, with a value of almost 39 million Euros.
These two categories were distantly followed by catches of fish in general (3,200 t) and crustaceans (1,290 t).

The data furnished by the fish and seafood markets for the entire year of 2008 indicates a certain degree of variability in the trends for product flow, recording an average decrease of 9%. Aside from the markets in Venice, Pila and Grado (which have provided only partial data), the others recorded a change from the 2007 values, ranging from +24% in Scardovari to -28% in Rimini.

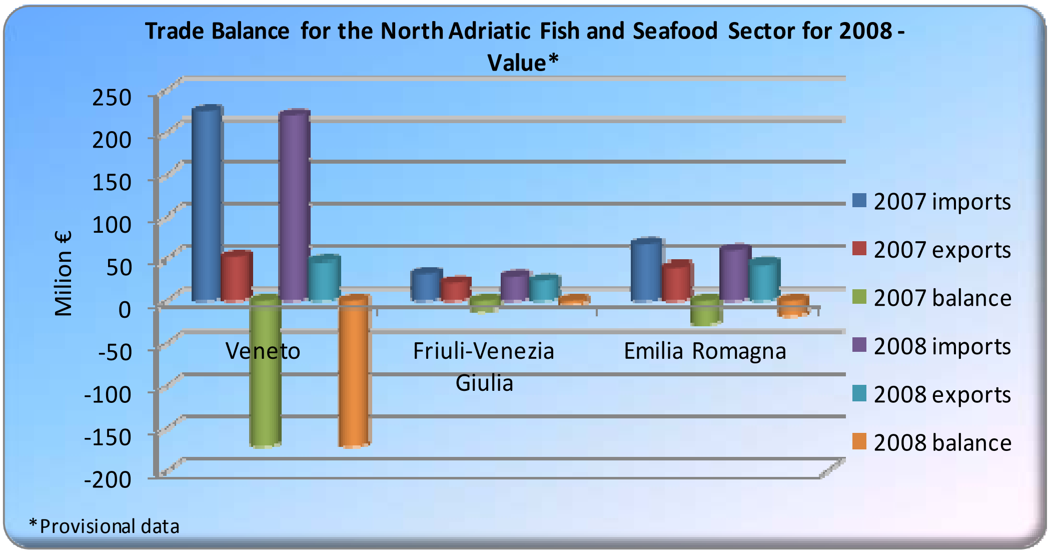


Source: Data processed by the Socio-Economic Fishing and Aquaculture Observatory based on data from IREPA (Economic Research Institute for Fishing and Aquaculture) and the fish and seafood markets.



Total turnover for the North Adriatic fish and seafood markets decreased an average of 12% in 2008 from 2007. The majority of the markets also recorded a considerable reduction in the value of the transactions: the only markets recording increases were Scardovari (4%) and Port Viro (3%), while the others experienced decreases of between 1%, in Goro, and 24%, in Rimini.

Finally, the trade balance for the fish and seafood sector was essentially stable for the last two years in Veneto (172 million Euros), while it experienced a significant reduction in Friuli Venezia Giulia (from 11 to 5 million Euros) and Emilia-Romagna, where the balance decreased from 27 to 16 million Euros.



Source: Data processed by the Socio-Economic Fishing and Aquaculture Observatory based on data from the fish and seafood markets and ISTAT (Italian National Institute of Statistics)

Talk to us…. To propose any particular topic for upcoming issues of the newsletter, discuss issues in more depth or simply voice your opinion, email us at: lapescainnumeri@adrifish.org

<u>In the next issue</u>:
Inland Water Fishing in the North Adriatic Regions

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