



GLOBAL ATLAS OF MARINE FISHERIES

A CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF CATCHES
AND ECOSYSTEM IMPACTS



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Bulgaria's EEZ in the Black Sea is small (figure 1). The total catch allocated to Bulgaria's EEZ is dominated by the industrial sector, with a small artisanal component (figure 2A). Total domestic fisheries removals from the EEZ by Bulgarian marine fisheries were estimated by Keskin et al. (2015) to have accounted for about 6,000 t/year through the 1950s and 1960s, increased to a peak above 20,000 t/year in the early 1980s, declined back to 5,000 t/year in the early 1990s, then experienced a second peak, reaching 20,000–30,000 t/year in the 2000s. The total reconstructed domestic catch of these fisheries for the 1950–2010 time period is 1.8 times the data FAO reports on behalf of Bulgaria, the discrepancy being mainly due to recent, unaccounted for catches of rapa whelk (*Rapana venosa*). Domestic catches dominated the total removals from Bulgaria's EEZ, although some foreign catches, mainly by Spain and Turkey, also occurred over the time period (figure 2B). As

figure 2C reveals, the catch fluctuations reflected massive changes in the underlying fisheries, with a mix of large fish (e.g., bonito, *Sarda sarda*; Atlantic mackerel, *Scomber scombrus*) in the first two decades, being replaced later by sprat (*Sprattus spattus*), a small pelagic fish with high catches that contributed heavily to the first peak of the pelagic industrial fishery in the 1980s (Daskalov 2002).

REFERENCES

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Figure 1. Bulgaria has a shelf of 11,900 km² and a small EEZ of 35,100 km².

Figure 2. Domestic and foreign catches taken in the EEZ of Bulgaria: (A) by sector (domestic scores: Ind. 2, 3, 2; Art. 3, 3, 2; Sub 1, 1, 1; Rec. 1, 1, 1; Dis. 2, 2, 2); (B) by fishing country (foreign catches are very uncertain); (C) by taxon.

