

9. CAPELIN

Imports (MT)

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>
Canada	31,520	13,482	39,923	33,516	28,962
Iceland	2,246	8,897	1,518	4,450	2,563
Norway	1,058	1,325	273	1,408	2,407
USSR *	219	-	0	170	171
USA	368	199	0	-	995
Greenland	202	76	0	-	-
Denmark	52	-	0	-	-
Other	226	28	95	381	79
Total	35,891	24,007	41,809	39,925	35,177

* based on 50 percent female

Prices (yen/kg)

	<u>Year ago</u>	<u>6mo.ago</u>	<u>Last mo.</u>	<u>Feb. 91</u>
Importer to proc.	300-320	300-320	280-300	280-300
Retail*	320-390	320-390	320-390	320-390

*yen/package 8 large capelin

Market Situation and Outlook

- Total Japanese imports of capelin in 1990 decreased by more than 10% from 1989.
- The market for this species is reported to have softened particularly as a result of the serious labour shortage in the Japanese fish processing industry, which has curtailed processors' willingness to process low value-added products.
- Norway has decided to reopen their capelin fishery in 1991 and has sent two missions to Japan since its announcement of the resumption. The 1991 Norwegian target quantity for the Japanese market is 3,000 metric tons of roe capelin and 3,000-4,000mt of capelin roes.
- The response by Japanese importers to Norwegian capelin has not yet become clear. However, due to the industry's strong demand for capelin roe at the moment, it is reported that some importers will have to buy roe capelin as well.