

Bristol Bay.

- Due to the increased imports and lower quality, the domestic selling prices of most Alaskan roe herring to Japanese processors became very low and it was reported that a huge loss was incurred by the US industry and Japanese importers.
- As the consumption of migaki-nishin has declined, trade is concerned that a substantial portion of the carcasses of Alaskan roe herring after roe extraction will be used as materials for fish meal.
- Imports of Icelandic herring used for such products as hiraki (butterfly) and 'soft' migaki (soft-type fillets) decreased significantly in 1992 because the size of fish was too small.
- Russian red-feed herring which was packed by Russians reportedly amounted to 4,000-5,000 metric tons. However, the quality of this herring processed by Russians is not considered marketable in Japan. On the other hand, Russian herring for which Japanese trade sent technicians and bought on site amounted, reportedly, to approximately 2,000 metric tons and this herring is said to be competitive against Icelandic herring.
- It is reported that the 1992 Norwegian autumn herring fishery decreased to almost half the level of 1991. Despite such decreased landings, domestic wholesale prices from importers started at Yen 185-195 (Yen 210 in the year before).
- Norwegian herring is mainly sold to general consumers in round form.
- The Japanese consumer market for food herring sold in thawed, round form is limited mainly to northern Japan and this market is held to be fairly small, for which trade expects no great expansion.
- Herring is also competing on the consumer market with such low-priced, mass consumption fish as saury, horse mackerel, sardine, and squid. Mackerel now being imported in great quantity from abroad is also a strong competitor for food herring.
- While a significant portion of Canadian Atlantic herring imported into Japan is sold to end users in round form, fillets of herring imported from Canada have been well accepted in Japan for further processing into marinated herring, especially as a result of the labour shortage in Japan.