Market Situation and Outlook

Sujiko

- The supply of Japanese domestic sujiko is estimated to have decreased from 1,500 metric tons in 1991 to 1,000 mt in 1992 due to poor landings of fall chum.

- While imports of pink salmon sujiko from Alaska decreased from 2,800 mt in 1991 to 1,800 m/t in 1992, the increase of sockeye salmon sujiko, from 3,200 mt in 1991 to 4,200 mt in 1992, has compensated for the decrease of pink salmon sujiko.

- The supply of other salmon species' sujiko from Alaska also decreased in 1992: chum sujiko from 900 mt to 800, coho sujiko from 400 mt to 310 mt and king salmon sujiko from 160 to 100. As a result, the total supply of sujiko from Alaska decreased from 7,460 in 1991 to 7,210 m/t in 1992.

- Imports of Canadian sujiko decreased from 780 mt in 1991 to 637 mt in 1992.

- The abundant catch of sockeye salmon in Kenai and Bristol beyond the processing capacity available is said to have lowered the quality of sujiko from these areas substantially and led to price reductions.

- Imports of Russian sujiko increased from 240 mt in 1991 to over 428 mt in 1992, a 78.3% increase.

- As the quality of Russian sujiko improved, Russian sockeye salmon sujiko wholesaled at Yen 4,000-4,400 per kg and pink salmon sujiko at Yen 3,000-3,300 per kg.

- Prices of sujiko from Alaska are Yen 3,000-3,300 for Bristol Bay sockeye salmon sujiko, Yen 3,000-3,500 for Kenai sockeye sujiko and Yen 2,200-2,500 for pink salmon sujiko.

- In 1993, however, the price of sujiko has shown an upward turn. The inventory carried over from 1992 to 1993 is estimated at 1,200 to 1,300 mt (800 mt from 1991 to 1992) and is reported to have already decreased to less than 1,000 mt, which has made the market tight.

Ikura

- Poor landings of fall chum in Japan reduced the production of ikura from 6,300 mt in 1991 to 4,800 mt in 1992. Imports of ikura in 1992 were 1,239 mt and the total inventory carried over from 1991 to 1992 was approximately 2,000 mt. The total supply of ikura in 1992 was estimated to be approximately 8,000 mt.