

5 Consumption Trends

Table 5

Sea Urchin Roe: Apparent Consumption (Metric Tons)

	1982	1984	1986	1988
Domestic Production*	3 117	2 875	2 769	2 540
Imports	2 397	2 636	3 601	4 651
Total	5 514	5 511	6 370	7 291

*Converted to roe.

Apparent consumption of sea urchin roe has increased quite substantially since 1984, and expectations are that this growth will continue in the years ahead. Based on increased consumption and decreased or stable domestic production, sea urchin provides excellent potential for new exports from Canada.

6 Product Forms Imported

Sea urchin is imported into Japan in various forms, including live, fresh, salted, steamed, dried, and prepared in alcohol. The breakdown of 1988 imports by product type is shown below.

The major supply sources of fresh sea urchin roe are the United States, Republic of Korea and Canada. Fresh sea urchin roe is extracted from the shell in the exporting country, sorted on trays and shipped by air for sale on Japanese wholesale markets such as Tsukiji. In both Canada and the United States, fresh sea urchin roe is sourced primarily from the west coast.