

## SEAFOOD MARKET IN BRIEF

### *Bahrain*

Bahrain is not a large importer of fish and seafood products with total imports of US\$3.55 million in 1992, a figure that has remained relatively steady over the past five years. Of that total, US\$2.4 million represented fish, fresh, chilled or frozen; US\$550,000 represented imports of crustaceans and molluscs; and US\$400,000 was comprised of canned fish. Bahrain is encompassed by the Gulf of Arabia and has a long tradition of consuming species caught in those waters. Common species traditionally consumed by the citizens of Bahrain include: emperors {Lethrinidae}, rabbitfish {Siganus spp.}, swimcrabs {Portunus spp.}, shrimp {Penaeus spp.}, slipper lobsters {Scyllaridae}, groupers {Epinephelus spp.}, snappers {Lutjanus spp.}, cuttlefish, bobtail squids {Sepiidae, Sepiolidae}.

### *Kuwait*

Imports of fish and seafood into Kuwait dropped off dramatically in 1992 to US\$8.5 million as a result of the Gulf War, but had totalled US\$27.7 million back in 1989. The majority of imports to Kuwait are comprised of fish, fresh, chilled or frozen, however, significant volumes of canned fish were also brought into the country. Based on tradition, common species consumed in Kuwait include: natantian decapods {Natantia}, hilsa shad {Tenualosa ilisha}, groupers {Epinephelus spp.}, silver pomfret {Pampus argenteus}, mullets {Mugilidae}, and croakers, drums {Sciaenidae}.

### *Oman*

Oman is a large exporters of fish and seafood {US\$35 million in 1992}, but imports have increased as of late and totalled US\$3.2 million in 1992. Most imports are comprised of fish, fresh, chilled or frozen, but quantities of fish, dried, salted or smoked, and crustaceans and molluscs were also imported. Traditional species consumed in Oman include: pelagic percomorphs {Perciformes}, Spanish mackerel {Scomberomorus commerson}, barracudas {Sphyraena spp.}, carangids {Carangidae}, porgies, seabreams {Sparidae}, and broupers, seabass {Serranidae}.

### *Qatar*

Qatar is a limited importer of fish and seafood {US\$2.1 million in 1992}, with canned fish comprising a majority of imports. Common species consumed within Qatar include: groupers {Epinephelus spp.}, jacks, crevalles {Caranx spp.}, queenfish {Scomberoides spp.}, golden trevally {Gnatanodon speciosus}, carangids {Carangidae}, and emperors {Lethrinidae}.

### *United Arab Emirates*

The United Arab Emirates as a whole are significant importers and exporters of fish and seafood products, and there is a meaningful processing capacity within a few of the Emirates. Total imports for 1992 were US\$15.4 million largely comprised of canned fish {US\$5.7 million}, and fish, fresh, chilled or frozen {US\$5.3 million}. Common species consumed in the United Arab Emirates include: Indian oil sardine {Sardinella longiceps}, stolephorus anchovies {Stolephorus spp.}, Indian mackerel {Rastrelliger kanagurta}, Spanish mackerel {Scomberomorus commerson}, scads {Decapterus spp.}, and snappers, jobfish {Lutjanidae}.