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TOYO BLACK COD (SABLE FISH)
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1988 - 1987 1988 - 1987 1988 - 1987
 2,000 2,000 2,000 2,000 2,000 2,000

Imports * (MT dressed)

	1988 est.	1987	1988	1989
Canada	2,500	2,752	3,163	2,816
U.S.A.	28,000	25,083	27,188	22,591
Other	0	30	210	42
Total	30,500	27,865	30,558	25,449

Prices of Tokyo varieties (yen/kg) (Frozen Alaska/Canada)

Year and	6 mo. ago	Last mo.	Feb. 91
7 lb 2 oz	200-250	280-320	1300-1400 1500-1550
5-7 lbs	220-250	280-320	1300-1400 1500-1550
4-5 lbs	240-250	290-320	1350-1370 1450-1500
3-4 lbs	250-270	290-320	1350-1380 1450-1480

* Beginning January 1, 1987 Black cod is a separate category in the import statistics.

Market Situation and Outlook

- Black cod is one of a few exceptional species for which the market price has gone up in 1990.
- The market price of this species continues to rise as a result of a supply smaller than the demand for it.
- This short supply situation has been caused by a decrease in imports from the United States due to a decrease in the quota for US GAP (Domestic Annual Processing), as well as the discontinuation of supply by Japanese vessels which used to by-catch this species.
- Some trade contacts hold that the meat of this fish, which contains rich fat, suits the taste of Japanese consumers and this is another reason for the price hike.