

10. BLACK COD (SABLE FISH)

Imports * (MT dressed)

	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>
Canada	3,162	3,285	2,816	3,272	2,719
U.S.A.	27,186	26,041	23,591	20,892	17,252
Other	210	28	42	114	187

Total	30,558	29,354	26,449	24,277	20,258

Prices - Tokyo wholesale (yen/kg) frozen Alaska/Canada

	<u>Year ago</u>	<u>6 mo. ago</u>	<u>Last mo.</u>	<u>Feb. 93</u>
7 lb & up	1330-1350	1050-1120	850-900	840-950
5-7 lbs	1330-1350	1050-1120	850-900	840-950
4-5 lbs	1310-1330	950-1000	850-900	850-930
3-4 lbs	1260-1310	900-950	750-800	750-800

Market Situation and Outlook

- Despite a considerable decrease in imports in 1992 from both Canada and the United States, black cod has not yet recovered from its soft market of 1991.
- Chilean mero which is also used as kirimi (slices) in Japan acted as a substitute for black cod when the price of black cod went up sharply. The wholesale price of mero is only Yen 350 per kg for dressed and Yen 500 for fillet.
- Other species which are competing against black cod in the market are salmon, especially sockeye salmon and sole imported from Russia, as these two species are used for kirimi as well.