

DOMESTIC FISHERY

LANDINGS

The growth of the fish catch in South Korea has slowed down in the past ten years. Between 1970 and 1980, it rose from 935,461 tons to 2,410,346 tons, a compound annual rate of 9.9%, but between 1980 and 1990 it rose to only 3,274,506 tons, at an average rate of 3.1%. Over the long term the rise in the catch has outstripped that in tonnage of the fishing fleet, which increased at an average rate of 4.9% a year from 358,365 tons in 1969 to 976,731 tons in 1990. This was the result principally of bigger boats rather than more boats. Their number rose by 1.8% a year from 68,355 to 99,658, but their average size rose from 5.2 tons to 9.8 tons. The fishing industry remains an important source of export earnings, largely based on the wide variety of marine life available in the waters surrounding the Korean peninsula.

SPECIES

The most recent statistics for the South Korean domestic catch are Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) data for 1990. Nominal catches for that year indicate approximately 129 different species accounted for within the national catch. Leading species in order of magnitude for 1990 include: 1) Alaska pollack, *theragra chalcogramma* (378,200 MT); 2) squids, *loliginidae*, *ommastrephidae* (264,970 MT); 3) Pacific cupped oyster, *crassostrea gigas* (248,900 MT); 4) Japanese pilchard, *sardinops melanostictus* (177,300 MT); 5) chub mackerel, *scomber japonicus* (158,910 MT); 6) threadsail filefish, *stephanoiepis cirrhifer* (154,530 MT); 7) other marine fish, *osteichthyes* (135,190 MT); 8) Japanese anchovy, *engraulis japonicus* (126,060 MT); 9) largehead hairtail, *trichiurus lepturus* (99,460 MT); and, 10) Japanese (Manila) clam, *venerupis japonica* (81,430 MT).

EXPORTS

South Korean exports of fishery products have remained consistent at approximately US\$1.5 billion per year since 1987. Based on FAO data, total exports for 1990 equalled 414,499 metric tonnes valued at US\$1,363,296,000. Broken down by the seven main commodity groups, total exports were as follows: 1) fish, fresh, chilled or frozen (266,231 MT); 2) crustaceans and molluscs (68,669 MT); 3) fish, canned (52,099 MT); 4) crustaceans and molluscs, canned (18,486 MT); 5) fish meals (4996 MT); 6) fish, dried, salted or smoked (4015 MT); and, 7) fish oils (3 MT).