

11. CRAB SECTIONS

<u>Japanese catch (MT)</u>				
	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	est <u>1987</u>
King	137	351	123	200
Snow	6,900	10,322	13,586	9,000
Blue	4,638	5,227	5,327	4,000
Other	87,467	84,080	74,715	67,000
Total	99,142	99,980	93,751	80,200
<u>Imports (MT)</u>				
	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	Jan-Jul <u>1987</u> <u>1988</u>
Canada	8,789	7,680	5,839	3,470 4,713
USA	11,333	14,398	22,612	18,333 23,206
S/Korea	2,739	4,444	7,180	2,188 185
N/Korea	228	2,041	8,814	4,502 75
China	7,376	11,009	8,210	5,160 3,695
USSR	1,333	3,155	3,748	874 742
Total	33,887	44,418	60,024	35,768 34,030
<u>Prices - Tokyo wholesale (yen/kg)</u>				
	<u>Sep/87</u>	<u>Mar/88</u>	<u>Aug/88</u>	<u>Sep/88</u>
Canadian size 2L (5kg pack)	1850/1750	-	1900/1850	1900/1850
Canadian size L	1600/1550	-	1600/1550	1600/1550
Alaska Size 2L	1550/1500	1500	1500	1500

Market Situation and Outlook

- Demand for crab, as for other high grade seafood species, is exceptionally strong with near doubling of imports during past 3 years.
- Due to tight supply situation, particularly from Canada, prices have increased at wholesale level by about 40% during last 18 months. Japanese crab catch was also significantly down in 1987.
- Prices are expected to remain firm into next season; the only factor limiting Canadian exports will be resource availability.