

10. BLACK COD (SABLE FISH)

Japanese catch (estimated)

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
MT Dressed	2,000	2,000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Imports * (MT dressed)

	1986 est.	1987	1988	1989	1990
Canada (MT)	2,600	2,756	3,162	3,285	2,816
U.S.A.	18,000	25,083	27,186	26,041	23,591
Other	0	30	210	28	42
Total	20,600	27,869	30,558	29,354	26,449

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

	Year ago	6 mo. ago	Last mo.	Feb. 91
7 lb & up	930-950	980-1020	1300-1400	1500-1560
5-7 lbs	930-950	960- 980	1300-1400	1500-1560
4-5 lbs	840-860	950- 970	1350-1370	1480-1500
3-4 lbs	790-810	920- 950	1320-1350	1460-1480

* 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 DAP (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.