

FISHERIES MARKET REPORT - JAPAN

General Outlook

- For the first time in many years Japan's imports of fishery products decreased in 1989 both in volume and dollar value terms.
- The rapid import expansion which had occurred since the yen hike in 1985 was not sustainable. During 1989 inventories of most species became unduly burdensome which resulted in many price declines and also reduced import tonnage.
- 1989 could be considered a year of correction after a period of rapid growth. For many species the inventories are now more in line with demand and the outlook for 1990 is quite optimistic.
- The weakening Japanese yen, however, will put pressure on pricing of imports for 1990.
- Canadian export performance in 1989 was in line with the general trend. As shown in the table on the next page, Canadian exports of herring roes suffered badly and crab exports were way down from 1988 levels. However, for 1990 it would appear that Canadian fishery exports should increase by at least \$100-150 million and continue to move toward the \$1 billion target which should be reached in a few years time.

Japanese Fish Imports - total

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>
Volume(000MT)	1,869	2,075	2,414	2,288
Value \$C millions	9,325	11,424	13,437	12,410
\$US millions	6,829	8,448	10,966	10,564
Yen billions	1,138	1,234	1,405	1,450

NOTE: Currency table on Page 20