

Market Situation and Outlook

Sujiko

- The import of sujiko increased by only 5.1% from the previous year. Import from Canada increased by 11.3% over 1989, while imports from the United States decreased by 4%.
- The imports from European countries and Chile are products from farmed salmon. Despite their comparatively small quantities, these imports cannot be ignored. They have been gaining their new positions in the Japanese market for sujiko through sales in the period from January to May, which has been an important period for the sales of the inventory of sujiko domestically manufactured and imported from North America.
- Prices in January and February 1991 were lower than the prices of a year ago due to the considerably larger inventory carried over to 1991 (a 22 % increase compared to the 1989 year-end inventory).
- The price in December 1990 was 3200-3600 for #1 chum roe and ¥1800-2000 for #1 pink roe.

Ikura

- The abundant catch and resulting price erosion of Japanese fall chum in 1990 led to an increase in the production of ikura.
- As a result, the total production of ikura from 1990 Japanese fall chum is estimated to have reached between 7,700 and 8,000 metric tons. This quantity is very high in comparison to prior years: 4,700 metric tons in 1987, 5,300mt in 1988, and 6,200mt in 1989.
- As a result, the ikura market softened in 1990 and prices toward the end of 1990 differed greatly according to grades: special grade ¥4500-5000 per kg, first grade ¥4300-4500, second grade ¥3500-4000, and third grade ¥2500-3000. At the end of 1989, the price of special grade was ¥5700-5800, and even the third grade was sold at ¥4200-5300.