

DOMESTIC FISHERY

RESOURCES

Due to its geographical positioning at the midpoint of the West Pacific Ocean, between the East and South China Seas, Taiwan has a long tradition of seafood consumption. Seafood is a part of the normal daily diet of the people on Taiwan, and thus, Taiwan has a domestic fishing fleet which sources seafood globally.

Total fishery production in 1992 was 1,326,981mt showing an increase of 0.78% compared with 1,316,651mt in 1991. This production includes 737,638mt by distant water fisheries, 280,513mt by offshore fisheries, 45,401mt by coastal, 33,958mt by offshore aquaculture and 229,472mt by inland aquaculture.

MANAGEMENT

Because of the political sensitivities surrounding Taiwan's relationship with the PRC, Taiwan only maintains full formal diplomatic relations with 27 countries, but not with Canada. The majority of those countries tend to be in Central America, while South Africa is the only one of major significance. Since 1971, Taiwan has been excluded from the United Nations and all but one international intergovernmental organization, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), including organizations that regularly collect and publish fisheries information. Consequently, domestic fishery information is not widely published and relatively difficult to locate.

The political body responsible for control and regulation of the Taiwanese fishery is the Council of Agriculture. Canadian firms desiring more information concerning possible joint ventures or other commercial activities in Taiwan may contact:

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LANDINGS

Taiwanese fishery vessels total catches for 1993 equalled 1.4 million metric tonnes. The major species caught were: reef-cod 6,848mt, sea-bream 30,118mt, hair-tail 17,227mt, mackerel(s) 179,178mt, tuna(s) 228,799mt, albacore 70,347mt, sharks 55,407mt, shrimp, prawn and lobster 43,099mt and oyster 27,692mt.

AQUACULTURE

Aquaculture in Taiwan is largely focused on the development of shrimp and eels. As a result, one of the most important imports to Taiwan is high quality white fishmeal for feed purposes. Due to the increasing cost of land and labor shortages, the aquaculture industry is declining. A lot of farmers have moved to China, Thailand and Indonesia to invest in shrimp and eel farms.