

Sources indicate that China is not likely to import large quantities of fisheries products from Canada because our prices are much too high (mainly due to the high cost of freight). In 1988, the three main exporters of aquatic products to China were North Korea (\$32 million US), Burma (\$17.4 million US) and the USSR (\$14.2 million US), three socialist countries with rather cheap manpower and subsidized industries, and on top of it, of course, the friendship price (it is not clear whether or not these figures include barter trade or not). The three main other fish exporters to China are Uruguay (\$6.6 million US), Brazil (\$3.4 million US) and Argentina (2.6 million US), all developing countries also with labour forces much cheaper than Canada.

Another frequently mentioned reason to maintain or scale down current aquatic products imports, is the economic austerity programme and retrenchment policy of the Chinese government. The much needed hard currency must primarily go into infrastructure and productive projects, or simply improve existing aquatic products facilities in order to raise output. For example, there is a plan to develop 400,000 hectares of breeding pools for fish and shrimp in Shandong province by the year 2000. This plan is a part of a global project called "Yellow River Delta Development Programme", listed as one of China's eight key agriculture development projects by the State Council. Interested Canadian exporters are advised that the following governing bodies are responsible for the fisheries sector in China.

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