

Black Cod (Sablefish)

The market will absorb virtually all that Canada can supply. As Japanese domestic landings decrease, total imports continue to rise and reached 30,000 tonnes in 1988. Canada accounts for only a relatively modest share of imports with 3,200 tonnes in 1988. Product is graded 3-4 lbs, 4-5 lbs, 5-7 lbs, and 7 lbs and up. Sales in Japan are mainly in filleted and sliced form packaged in a tray.

Smelt

The market is long established with a major constraint being limitations on supply. Canadian smelt is exported in both fresh and frozen form as whole or dressed product. In 1987 exports to Japan were 5100 tonnes valued at approximately \$8 million.

Salmon Roe

This product is like salted herring roe imported in finished form. Canada is the major supplier after the United States of salted salmon roe. In 1988 Canada exported 1,325 tonnes valued at \$15.5 million. Canada supplies both Sujiko (salmon roe) and Ikura (fall chum roe).

Sea Urchin Roe

Sea urchin roe or "uni" is an expensive delicacy in Japan. Imports come largely from the USA, South and North Korea and China. In 1988 Canada supplied 453 tonnes of live fresh, chilled urchin and 55 tonnes of frozen product. Uni is called a "perfect" food in Japan, high in protein and vitamins and thought to promote virility. The total import market in 1987 was 2,129 tonnes but imports increased sharply in 1988 to 4,651 tonnes. This product offers excellent opportunity for expanded business.