

- Trade estimates that the catch of common squid in Japanese waters in 1990 was 150,000 metric tons, red squid 110,000mt and the catch by Japanese vessels was 12,000mt in New Zealand waters and 90,000mt in Argentine waters (the total catch in these two countries' waters was approximately 250,000mt in 1989).
- While some industry contacts forecast that the resources in New Zealand and Argentine waters have deteriorated and will take some time to recover, the fisheries which started in these two countries' waters in December 1990 are reported to have improved from the poor catches at the beginning of this season.
- The overall size of squid consumption in Japan is said to be approximately 520,000mt per annum. The 1991 market outlook depends on the catch in Japanese waters.

Country	1988	1989	1990	1991
USA	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.3
Argentina	1.0	0.1	0.2	1.1
New Zealand	1.4	4.8	1.3	1.4
Other	11.7	13.7	11.7	11.7
Sub-total	45.2	22.7	25.4	25.5
"Manga" cuttlefish	61.2	67.4	61.2	61.2
Grand total	106.4	119.7	106.4	106.4

Prices (wholesale volume frozen size 21-25 (case of 8 bags))

Year	200-250	250-300	300-350	350-400
Common squid	150-180	200-250	250-300	300-350
Argentine Illex	250-300	300-350	350-400	400-450

Market Situation and Outlook

While the catch of squid in foreign waters was decreased by a reduction in the number of vessels involved in the fishery, the catch in Japanese waters was very high.