

9. CAPELIN

Imports (MT)

| | <u>1988</u> | <u>1989</u> | <u>1990</u> | <u>1991</u> | <u>1992</u> |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Canada | 39,923 | 33,516 | 28,962 | 15,214 | 11,863 |
| Iceland | 1,518 | 4,450 | 2,563 | 131 | 2,418 |
| Norway | 273 | 1,408 | 2,407 | 3,000 | 5,141 |
| Russia | 0 | 170 | 171 | 0 | 164 |
| USA | 0 | - | 995 | 0 | 16 |
| Greenland | 0 | - | - | 0 | 5 |
| Denmark | 0 | - | - | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 95 | 381 | 79 | 266 | 224 |
| ----- | | | | | |
| Total | 41,809 | 39,925 | 35,177 | 18,611 | 19,830 |

Prices (yen/kg)

| | <u>Year ago</u> | <u>6 mo. ago</u> | <u>Last mo.</u> | <u>Feb. 93</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Importer to proc. | 380-420 | 380-480 | 380-480 | 380-480 |
| Retail* | 300-350 | 350-450 | 350-450 | 350-450 |

*yen/package 8 large capelin

Market Situation and Outlook

- Following increased import prices for Canadian capelin caused by poor landings in 1991 and 1992, Japanese processors raised their selling prices in 1991 and 1992 (by approximately 20-30% each time).
- These price increases accelerated the deterioration of consumer demand for capelin. The smaller supply at higher prices shifted many capelin processors toward processing other fish such as horse mackerel, atka mackerel, etc.
- As indicated in the following summary, a substantial decrease in the supply of such large sizes as under 40 caused by the decreased supply from Canada discouraged Japanese processors from processing capelin as small-sized capelin is more costly to process than larger sizes.