

Management:

While Japan's fishing industry is the largest in the world it suffers from structural problems, labour shortages, international disputes over fishing rights and the damage from pollution to catches in domestic waters. The number of fishermen continues to decline from 457,000 in 1980 to 423,000 in 1986. The rate of decline in the offshore or long distance fisheries is particularly noticeable. On the international front Japan has concluded a number of bilateral agreements with the United States, Canada, the USSR, Korea, Australia and New Zealand. An agreement with the United States was concluded in 1983 providing for fisheries allocations in the US 200 mile zone. Since its inception allocations have been steadily reduced and stand at 104,000 tonnes in 1987, a reduction of 78 percent over 1986. Under the Japan-USSR Reciprocal Fishery Agreement concluded in 1984, Japan receives fisheries allocations in the fisheries zone of the USSR. These allocations reached 300,000 tonnes in 1987, an increase of 50 per cent over 1986. The Canada/Japan Bilateral Fisheries Agreement signed in 1984 provides for allocations in Canadian waters surplus to Canada's needs. Allocations in 1989 were 39,040 tonnes.

Landings:

See table

Aquaculture:

Japan has one of the worlds largest and best developed systems of aquaculture. In 1986, Japan produced 1.3 million tonnes representing 21 per cent by value of Japanese fish production. The production of fish seedlings is a major component of aquaculture. Currently the production and liberation of seedlings affects some 80 species of fish and shellfish. Mass production of seedlings affects only about 10 species including prawn, abalone and crab which have a long history of technological development. Cultivation of scallops is also an important developing fishery. Greater efforts will be made to improve aquacultural output in order to ensure stability of supply in the face of reduced opportunities in distant waters. However, coastal contamination by water pollutants poses a threat to development. Japan also sponsors a major program to enhance wild salmon stocks. Some two thirds of wild salmon production results from propagation efforts.

Processing Sector

The fish processing sector in Japan is highly developed. The