

- Canadian capelin will be in a more favorable position than Norwegian capelin due to its much larger sizes, assuming that the size of Norwegian capelin is the same as the size before the closure of the fishery. The preference for larger sizes is expected to continue in the Japanese industry as long as the labour shortage exists and consumers prefer larger sizes. Trade contacts forecast that the export market for smaller sizes will be severely reduced in 1991.

Greenland	205	75	0
Denmark	32	32	0
Other	28	28	0
Total	265	135	0

* Based on 50 percent female

Prices (per 100 kg)

Year 1990	Year 1991	Year 1992	Year 1993
Imported to Japan	300-320	300-320	300-320
Domestic	320-350	320-350	320-350

* Year package 2, large capelin

Market Situation and Outlook

- Total Japanese imports of capelin in 1990 decreased by 10% from 1989.
- The market for this species is reported to have softened particularly as a result of the serious labour shortage in the Japanese fish processing industry, which has curtailed processors' willingness to process low value-added products.
- Norway has decided to reduce their capelin fishery in 1991 and has sent two missions to Japan since its announcement of the resumption. The 1991 Norwegian target quantity for the Japanese market is 2,000 metric tons of ice capelin and 2,000-3,000 metric tons of capelin roes.
- The response by Japanese importers to Norwegian capelin has not yet become clear. However, due to the industry's strong demand for capelin roe at the moment, it is reported that some importers will have to buy ice capelin as well.