

7. HERRING ROE ON KELP

Imports (MT)

	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>
Canada	206	218	262	303	305
USA	399	285	409	355	584
Other	39	22	17	20	11
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Total	644	525	688	678	901

Prices - Tokyo wholesale (yen/kg)

	<u>Year ago</u>	<u>6 mo. ago</u>	<u>Last mo.</u>	<u>Feb. 93</u>
Canadian Product	6000-7000	5500-7500	5000-6000	5000-6000

Market Situation and Outlook

- While the supply of herring roe on kelp from Canada and San Francisco has been quite stable in the past, the increase in supply from Alaska has been noteworthy the past few years.
- Increasing imports from the United States and declining prices have been quickly changing the nature of this product which has so far been defined as high-class chimmi (delicacy).
- While most Canadian herring roe on kelp is still used as a very expensive item for high-class Japanese restaurants and gift boxes, a substantial portion of low-priced herring roe on kelp is now sold at supermarkets for general consumption at home or in the food service industry. Some trade people hold that the younger generation and middle-aged housewives prefer this product to salted herring roe.