

Prices: Tokyo wholesale (yen/kg) frozen, netted, dressed 4-6 lb

	<u>Year ago</u>	<u>6 mo. ago</u>	<u>last mo.</u>	<u>Feb. 93</u>
Cdn sockeye				
troll	1500-1550	1500-1700	1400-1500	1400-1500
net	1400-1450	1200-1300	1300-1400	1300-1400
Cdn coho	900-960	900-950	850-900	850-900
Bristol sockeye	1350-1400	880-1000	700-850	600-780

Market Situation and Outlook

- On a round fish basis, the Japanese catch of fall chum decreased from 180,000 metric tons in 1991 to 131,000 metric tons in 1992, a 27% decrease. Catches in Hokkaido decreased by 36% from 127,000 metric tons in 1991 to 82,000 metric tons in 1992. Landings decreased in other areas, such as Sanriku, as well.
- While landings of Alaskan pink salmon decreased significantly in 1992, the total catch of salmon in Alaska in 1992 is reported to have been over 300,000 metric tons. The substantial increase in the catch of sockeye (reportedly, a 29% increase as compared to 1991) contributed to an estimated increase in Japanese imports of Alaskan salmon from 80,000 metric tons in 1991 to 100,000 metric tons in 1992.
- Total Japanese imports of salmon in 1992 rose to 175,000 metric tons, an increase of 13.8% from 1991.
- A small inventory carried over from 1991 to 1992 and a forecast of a decrease in supply from Alaska in 1992 set the domestic wholesale price at the beginning of the 1992 season for sockeye salmon at a fairly high level as compared to 1991 (Yen 1,000-1,130 per Kg for dressed, IQF No.1 4/6 lbs).
- However, once the landings of Alaskan sockeye were found to be abundant, the price went down drastically. The price of Bristol Bay sockeye, dressed, IQF, 4/6 lbs went down to Yen 830-850 per kg toward the end of October and to Yen 780 in November. This low price level still prevails.
- The abundant landings at Cook Inlet also led to a drastic price erosion from the starting price of Yen 1,150 per kg to Yen 900-950 (dressed, 4/6 lbs).
- While Canadian landings of sockeye salmon were expected to decrease substantially at the beginning of the 1992 season, total exports to Japan were at almost the same level as in 1991. The starting wholesale price of Yen 1,350 for net, dressed went down to Yen 1,150-1,250, Yen 1,800 for trawl, sea frozen to 1,700-1,750 and Yen 1,600 for trawl, land frozen to