

Herring:

There are two peaks in Japan for eating herring (spring and autumn) and the domestic market for herring in other seasons is weak. The current domestic wholesale prices are ¥220-230/kg for Norwegian 300-350 gm size, and ¥230-240/kg for 350 gm & up. The wholesale price for Canadian herring is ¥220-230/kg for the size 400 gm & up, and ¥180/kg for 300-400 gm size. It is estimated these prices will increase in autumn. However, the price of herring in the autumn is also affected by the landings of saury which is caught in autumn. In recent years, saury has been very abundant which has had an adverse effect on the market price of herring and imports of food herring. Imports of herring into Japan are in the form of frozen round fish with other forms such as fillets having limited import potential.

Capelin:

Canada maintained a strong dominance of the Japanese imports of capelin in 1989 with exports of 33,516 mt or 84 percent of the market. Only roe bearing females are shipped to Japan. These are sold to processors who simply dry them partially and put them into retail packages. The head is left on and there is no removal of the roe or guts, the entire fish is consumed, normally prepared by grilling. Importers expressed concern that the small size capelin in 1989 pushed up processing costs and reduced profitability. Other suppliers to the Japanese market include Iceland 4,456 mt, Norway 1,408 mt, the U.S.A. with 357 mt, and the Soviet Union with 170 mt.

Cod (Black):

Wholesale prices for frozen Alaska/Canada black cod have strengthened since 1989 and in March 1990 were ¥790-910/kg for 3-4 lb size, ¥840-860/kg for 4-5 lb size, ¥930-950/kg for 5-7 lb size, and ¥930-950/kg for 7 lb & up. The U.S.A. dominates the market with exports of approximately 26,000 mt in 1989 as opposed to the only other supplier, Canada with 3,300 mt. Imports from Canada have increased steadily since 1985. The value of exports from Canada is approximately \$20 million Cdn on a CIF basis.

Northern Shrimp:

Japanese imports of northern shrimp in 1988 and 1989 were 26,000 mt and 27,000 mt respectively. Major exporters are Greenland (13,800 mt in 1988 and 16,210 mt in 1989, Canada (1,600 mt in 1988 and 3,000 mt in 1989), Iceland (3,600 mt in 1988 and 3,000 mt in 1989), Norway (3,800 mt in 1988 and 2,300 mt in 1989), and Denmark (2,700 mt in 1988 and 2,700 mt in 1989). Shrimp imported into Japan in the form of fresh (or chilled) are limited to southern shrimp species from Southeast Asia; all northern shrimp