

Crab

Japan is the world's major import market for crab. Canada's snow crab exports are in the form of sections. Virtually all of Canada's exports of snow crab sections are graded. Main grades are 5-8 oz sections and 8 oz and up sections.

Atlantic Herring Roe

The Atlantic herring roe is extracted from fresh herring, packed in polyethylene-lined 9 kg (20 lbs.) boxes which are plate frozen and shipped to Japan. Japanese "reprocessors" then thaw the raw product, which they utilize in their secondary manufacturing processes. Canadian roe exports have increased four fold since 1984. With exports of some 8,300 tonnes in 1988 valued at \$73 million, Canada dominates the Japanese market. Frozen roe is a highly versatile raw material used to make a variety of "flavoured" end products. Many of these products are favoured by younger Japanese.

Capelin

Japanese demand is primarily for roe bearing female capelin although limited quantities of male capelin are also sold. The product must be 95 percent female, frozen in 10 or 15 kilogram cartons with a maximum 10 per cent overpack. Canadian capelin destined for Japan is generally only of the larger size with a count of less than 40 pieces per kilogram. Canada is now the major supplier of female capelin to Japan with exports of some \$92 million in 1988 on a delivered basis.

Lobster

Lobster has been one of the more dynamic species in Japan in recent years. The demand is for live lobster, and lobster in the shell (frozen in brine). In the case of whole lobster, whether live or frozen in brine, Japanese buyers prefer animals with full claws and complete appendages. The major growth prospect is now appearing in frozen product as distribution spreads down the chain to family restaurants and supermarket chains. Canadian lobster exports for 1988 were \$22 million.

Redfish

This product is a relatively new Canadian export. The market is for whole, headless and gutted redfish, which have been scaled. Skin colour is very important to the Japanese and the preference is for bright red colour. In 1988 Canadian exports increased substantially to 3,018 tonnes from 2,766 tonnes in 1987. The total import market increased from 34,000 tonnes in 1987 to 59,000 tonnes in 1988.