

Japan's 1981 Fishery Product Imports High

Japanese imports of fishery products in 1981 were the second highest on record both in quantity and value at 1,129,068 metric tons (t) with ¥879,881 million (\$3,999 million), according to the customs clearance data released by the Finance Ministry (Table 1). The highest imports on record, 1,151,174 t with ¥930,738 million, occurred in 1979.

Frozen shrimp imports totaling 161,725 t worth \$1,223 million, led all other products both in quantity and value, accounting for 14 percent in quantity and 31 percent in value of the total fishery imports. Imports in eight

categories set a new record in 1981. These were shrimp, salmon, herring, salmon roe, octopus, sea bream, jack mackerel and live eel. Compared with 1980, significant gains in quantity were recorded in the imports of frozen jack mackerel (+331 percent), frozen albacore (+162 percent), frozen sea bream (+93 percent), frozen salmon (+81 percent), frozen herring (+66 percent), octopus (+58 percent), salted herring roe (+41 percent), and salted pollock roe (+36 percent), whereas sharp decline occurred in squid (-27 percent), whale meat (-25 percent) and smelt (-18 percent).

Table 1.—Japanese imports of fishery products, 1972-81

Year	Amount (t)	CIF value (10 ⁶ ¥)	Year	Amount (t)	CIF value (10 ⁶ ¥)
1972	480,649	190,338	1977	1,045,610	657,713
1973	658,425	300,074	1978	1,012,351	674,790
1974	604,141	323,239	1979	1,151,174	930,738
1975	710,414	385,529	1980	1,037,350	764,272
1976	814,516	563,468	1981	1,129,068	879,881

Top 10 fishery product imports (quantity)

Commodity	Metric tons	Commodity	Metric tons
Frozen shrimp	161,724	Frozen bigeye	42,757
Frozen octopus	100,400	Crab	31,039
Frozen salmon	70,341	Frozen yellowfin	29,557
Frozen squid	68,776	Frozen smelt	25,937
Frozen herring	50,117	Frozen jack mackerel	24,561

Top 10 fishery product imports (value)

Commodity	CIF value	Commodity	CIF value
Frozen shrimp	269,151	Salted salmon roe	30,507
Frozen salmon	74,161	Frozen bigeye tuna	27,583
Frozen squid	43,278	Live eel	25,960
Frozen octopus	39,871	Frozen yellowfin	17,276
Crab	33,075	Frozen herring	14,701

(Source: FFIR 82-7.)

Japan's 1981 Fisheries Catch Up 2% Over 1980

Japan's fisheries catch for 1981 totaled 11,336,000 t according to preliminary statistics released by the Japa-

nese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries on 31 May 1982. Japan's 1981 catch was the largest in the world and represents a 2 percent increase over the 1980 catch of 11,122,000 t (Table 1).

The marine fisheries catch, representing 98 percent of the total, amounted to 11.1 million t, an increase of about 2 percent from 1980. The total increase in the marine fisheries catch was achieved despite decreases in the catch of distant-water fisheries and marine aquaculture. Offshore and coastal fisheries easily offset the losses in the other two sectors of marine fishing.

The decreasing distant-water catch reflects the continued effect of the establishment of 200-mile fishery zones in many countries, especially in those where catch quotas for Japanese fishermen have been imposed. However, the rate of decline in the distant-water catch, which was as high as 20 percent in 1978, decreased to only 3 percent in 1981.

Japan's inland fisheries catch, composing only 2 percent of the total, decreased by 2 percent. The harvest of whales declined by 6 percent in 1981, offsetting an increase in 1980. (Source: IFR-82/88.)

Table 1.—Japan's fisheries catch, by major fisheries for 1977-81 and a comparison for 1980-81.

Fishery	Catch (x 1,000 t)					Percent change ¹
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	
Marine						
Distant-water	2,657	2,134	2,035	2,121	2,040	-3
Offshore	4,924	5,559	5,488	5,751	N.A.	N.A.
Coastal	2,107	1,990	1,953	2,037	N.A.	N.A.
Aquaculture	861	917	883	992	955	-4
Total	10,549	10,600	10,359	10,901	11,120	+2
Inland						
Aquaculture	82	90	95	94	92	-2
Other	126	138	136	128	124	-3
Total	208	228	231	221	216	-2
Grand total	10,757	10,828	10,590	11,122	11,336	+2
Whales taken (no.)	9,299	5,924	4,918	5,191	4,887	-6

¹Percentage change from 1980 to 1981

Source: U.S. Regional Fisheries Attaché, U.S. Embassy, Tokyo.

Ecuadorean Fisheries Research Progresses

The Ecuadorean Fisheries Institute (Instituto Nacional de Pesca or INP), is managing eight research projects ranging from biological studies of marine fish populations to the development of new fishery products as part of the government's 1980-84 fisheries development plan. The INP, through the South Pacific Permanent Commission, is also cooperating with Chile, Peru, and Colombia in several important marine research projects. These include an analysis of the El Niño phenomenon and a study, funded by the United Nations, on the environmental pollution in the Eastern Pacific.

Marine Species

The first three projects are biological studies of pelagic species: Mackerel, thread herring (pinchagua), and sardine. Three other INP projects deal with a variety of environmental and fishery subjects. The first of these is a marine geological study of coastal sediments, but this project is still in a preparatory stage. The INP hopes to get funding from the state oil monopoly (CEPE) for this project. CEPE is interested, but has made no definite commitment.

The second project is an aquaculture study focusing on the pond culture of marine shrimp, Ecuador's single most important fishery. Shrimp pond culture has grown spectacularly since 1975 and now produces over half of the \$80 million worth of shrimp exported to the United States in 1981.

A third study will survey environmental pollution in the Gulf of Guayaquil. This area of mangrove estuaries is of crucial importance, both as a nursery ground for shrimp and as a source of newly discovered offshore natural gas. The INP Director, Roberto Jimenez, is particularly interested in this last project which will examine the trade-offs between management of renewable natural resources and development of coastal oil and gas resources. The study will also suggest ways to harmonize the potentially conflicting uses.

Processing Technology

Under the INP processing technology project, a "pilot plant," in essence a small factory producing new or non-traditional fishery products, will be constructed. This project, of all the eight INP projects, has perhaps the greatest potential social impact. INP researchers are studying a wide variety of subjects including the use of solar fish dryers, the production of fish silage for use as a high protein animal feed, and the development of an inexpensive salted fish cake for human consumption.

Research on new methods of salting and smoking fish is particularly interesting to the INP since these techniques of preservation were in widespread use in the 1940's and 1950's, but lost favor with the advent of freezing technology. Much of the project will be carried out by extension workers in an effort to convince producers and low-income consumers to accept the appropriate technology and new products.

Freshwater Rivers

The last of the eight INP projects is called Proyecto Aguas Interiores (Inland Fisheries Project) and is concerned principally with water quality in rivers. The INP's research programs are widely diversified and offer numerous opportunities for scientific co-operation with United States research institutes, either directly or under various regional programs. Both INP Director Jimenez and his assistant, Lucia Solorzano, have studied in the United States and are extremely enthusiastic about their work. They have both expressed an interest in developing contacts with U.S. scientists and research institutes and have already established cooperative programs with other countries.

The INP has received at least two separate donations of scientific equipment from the Government of Japan. It has also used a vessel and scientific personnel under the United Kingdom's foreign aid program. The INP is now transforming its laboratory facilities in Guayaquil into what it believes will be one of the best fishery research labora-

tories in Latin America. (Source: IFR-82/64.)

Shrimp Bycatch Data Bank at Hull College

The Hull College of Higher Education in the United Kingdom (U.K.) is establishing a data bank on shrimp bycatch. Researchers from many different countries have been studying ways of utilizing the incidental finfish bycatch of the shrimp trawler fleet for years. The Center for Fisheries Studies at the college plans to develop a major international data base on this subject.

Center officials are currently researching the topic and contacting experts. The project will accumulate data on shrimp fisheries, the quantity and species composition of the finfish bycatch, and the potential and current utilization of the bycatch. The Center hopes eventually to produce global statistics on the bycatch.

The Center has already prepared a comprehensive listing of reference sources and some statistics, using both computer and manual searches, and hopes to make its reference lists and statistics available to other researchers by mid-1982. U.S. researchers interested in exchanging information can contact the Center by writing to: Pauline Godkin, Center for Fisheries Studies, Hull College of Higher Education, Queen's Gardens, Hull, North Humberside, England HU1 3DH.

EC "Guide Prices" Set to Protect Fishermen

The European Community (EC) Council has adopted regulations establishing 1982 guide prices for selected fishery products, intervention prices for fresh or chilled sardines and anchovies, and producer prices for tuna intended for canning. These new prices are part of an EC program to protect its fishermen from an unstable market for fishery commodities and competition from cheap foreign imports.

The program is based on guide

prices which are determined by averaging the EC wholesale prices of the produce during the last 3 years. This guide price is then used as a base price to determine other support prices such as reference, intervention, and producer prices. Reference prices are minimum import prices calculated as percentages of the guide price. When the import price of a product falls below the

reference price, intervention measures are automatically triggered.

The EC regulations extend the 1981 guide prices for mackerel, anchovy and herring, and increase guide prices for other species from 2 to 6 percent. There were, however, some points of controversy among the EC member countries. Belgium, Ireland, and the United Kingdom indicated interest in

protecting their domestic markets from cheap imported fish and consequently favored higher guide prices than those originally proposed by the Commission. The Federal Republic of Germany, Denmark, and the Netherlands were generally satisfied with the proposals. After considerable debate, the new proposals were adopted. (Source: IFR-82/15.)

West European, Canadian Fisheries Ministers Listed

The NMFS Division of Foreign Fisheries Analysis, which regularly monitors fishery developments throughout the world, has prepared the following list of West European and Canadian fisheries ministers and directors. Five independent fishery

ministries exist in Denmark, France, Iceland, Ireland, and Norway. In Sweden, the National Board of Fisheries also functions independently. In the other European countries, the agencies responsible for fisheries are under different ministries, usually the Ministry

of Agriculture where their titles range from Minister of State and Under Secretary, to Director General. The fishery ministers and directors in Western Europe and Canada, as of April 1982, are listed below.

Belgium
Karel Michielson
Inspector in Chief—Director
Fishery Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Minister: Albert Lavens
Rue de Stassart 35
B-1050 Brussels, Belgium

Canada
Romeo LeBlanc
Minister of Fisheries
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E6

Denmark
Karl Hjortnaes
Minister of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Borgergrade 16
1300 DK-K
Copenhagen, Denmark

European Economic Community
Giorgios Kontogeorgis
Fisheries Commissioner
Commission of the European Communities
Rue de la Loi, 200
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Faroe Islands¹
Peter Reinert
Fisheries Minister
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Stormgade 10-12
DIC-1470 Copenhagen, Denmark

¹The Faroe Islands are part of the Danish realm.

Finland
Heikki Suomus
Department of Fisheries and Game
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Hallituskatu 3
00170 Helsinki 17, Finland

France
Louis Le Pensec
Ministre de la Mer
Ministere de la Mer
3 Place de Fontenoy
75007 Paris, France

Germany (FRG)
Gero Moecklinghoff
Ministerial Dirigent
Ministry for Food, Agriculture
and Forestry
Rochusstrasse 1
53 Bonn, FRG

Greece
Constine Simitis
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
22 Menandrou Street
Athens, Greece

Iceland
Steingrimur Hermannsson
Minister of Fisheries
Ministry of Fisheries
Lindarbae, Lindargata
Reykjavik, Iceland

Ireland
Patrick Power
Minister for Fisheries
22 Upper Merrion Street
Dublin 2, Ireland

Italy
Donato dell' Bovi
Director General for Maritime Fishing
Viale Asia; 0144 Rome, Italy

Netherlands
J. de Koning
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
P.O. 20401
2500 EK. The Hague, Netherlands

Norway
Hallstein Rasmussen
Director General of Norwegian Fishing
Ministry of Fisheries
Raadstuplass 10
Postboks 185-186
5001 Bergen, Norway

Portugal
Goncalves Viana
Secretary of State for Fisheries
Rua do Ouro 181-1, Lisbon, Portugal

Spain
Gonzalo Vazquez
Director General of Maritime Fisheries
Ruiz de Alarcon 1, Madrid, Spain

Sweden
Lennart Hennarz, Director General
National Board of Fisheries
Fack, 403 10; Gotenburg, Sweden

United Kingdom
W. E. Mason, Fisheries Undersecretary
Fisheries Department
Horseferry Road
London SW1P, 2AE: England, UK