

Japan's 1982 Fisheries Production Reaches Record High

Japan's annual landings of fisheries and fish culture products for 1982 hit a new high, aided by a record-setting performance by the offshore fisheries and improved catches by the coastal fisheries, according to statistics re-

leased by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries. The total catch for the year was 11,388,000 metric tons (t), a 1 percent gain over the previous high of 11,319,000 t in 1981, and kept Japan the world's leading fishing nation.

Table 1.—Japan's fisheries catch by type of fishery, 1979-82.

Fishery	Catch (1,000 t)			
	1979	1980	1981	1982
Marine				
Distant-water	2,066	2,167	2,160	2,089
Offshore	5,458	5,705	5,938	6,070
Coastal	1,953	2,037	2,045	2,072
Culture	883	992	960	938
Freshwater				
Fishing	136	128	124	122
Culture	95	94	92	96
Total	10,590	11,122	11,319	11,388

Species

Major species landed by Japanese fishermen were sardine (3.3 million t), Alaska pollock (1.6 million t), mackerel (0.7 million t), and squid (0.5 million t). By species, significant gains were recorded in the catches of herring (+172 percent), jack mackerel (+42 percent), and saury (+29 percent), whereas sharp declines occurred in rockfish (-40 percent), small yellowfin tuna (-31 percent), and bluefin tuna (-24 percent).

Table 2.—Japan's marine fisheries catch by selected species, 1981 and 1982.

Species	Catch (t)		Species	Catch (t)	
	1982	1981		1982	1981
Tuna			Cod		
Bluefin	44,205	58,485	Cod	95,127	102,205
Albacore	70,043	64,082	Alaska pollock	1,566,961	1,595,302
Bigeye	131,772	110,513			
Yellowfin, large	114,219	110,008	Subtotal	1,662,088	1,697,507
Yellowfin, small	11,903	17,190			
Subtotal	372,142	360,278	Atka mackerel	102,884	122,839
Skipjack			Rockfish	16,635	27,776
Skipjack	302,982	289,286	Croaker	30,210	33,358
Frigate mackerel	17,123	16,205	Hairtail	35,948	35,097
Subtotal	320,105	305,491	Sea bream	27,435	26,567
Billfish			Spanish mackerel	5,744	6,181
Shark	44,479	47,455	Dolphin fish	13,648	12,683
Salmon	34,983	36,978	Flying fish	8,751	9,097
Saury	136,309	149,845	Sandlance	126,659	162,448
Herring	24,197	8,901	Shrimp	59,064	54,048
Sardine	3,324,749	3,339,182	Crab	90,343	76,227
			Common squid	181,721	196,830
Jack mackerel	174,213	122,231	Cuttlefish	7,661	7,072
Mackerel	717,840	908,015	Other squid	361,053	312,598
Saury	206,958	160,319	Octopus	43,206	52,236
Yellowtail	38,443	37,774	Sea Urchin	26,975	23,984
Flatfish	275,377	296,572	Shellfish	351,297	355,128

Sardine, Alaska pollock, and mackerel together accounted for 55 percent of the total marine catch for 1982. The landings by major fisheries and species are shown in Tables 1 and 2. Sardine has ranked first in quantity since 1978. The third ranking species, mackerel, at 717,840 t, showed a decrease of 21 percent over 1981.

Trade Deficit

The Japanese reported yet another fisheries trade deficit—the 12th in a row—as 1982 imports were valued at \$4.2 billion while exports reached only \$1.1 billion. During 1982, Japan imported 1.2 million t of fishery products, mostly fresh, chilled, or frozen fish. Japanese exports of fishery products totaled 715,000 t, with canned items (237,000 t) the most important.

The United States was again Japan's most important fisheries trading partner in 1982. Japanese fishery imports from the United States were valued at \$706 million while exports to the United States amounted to only \$244 million. One of the most notable developments in 1982 was the expansion of joint ventures with U.S. fishermen, primarily involving over-the-side sales of fish for processing on Japanese vessels.

The U.S. Regional Fisheries Attache for Asia at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo has prepared a 17-page report surveying the 1972 Japanese fisheries. U.S. companies can obtain a copy of this report for \$7.00 by ordering report number PB 84-116375 from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161.

Japan Opens First U.S. Fish Trade Offices

The Japanese Fisheries Association opened a fisheries trade office in Washington, D.C., last fall. The office is part of an agreement between both governments to facilitate trade. Japan agreed to staff the office with people knowledgeable in trade and technology and to provide information regarding the Japanese fishery market.

The Washington office of the Japan

Fisheries Association is headed by Hiroyuki "Hugh" Takagi, a veteran Japanese fisherman and trade official, who has been helpful in expanding U.S. joint ventures and trade. U.S. officials accepted the trade office offer after the Japanese proposed it as the way to assist U.S. firms to penetrate Japan's extensive fishery products mar-

ket.

Those wishing information may call Hugh Takagi or Hirochika Katayama at (202) 965-2993 with questions about potential Japanese buyers, quality, technology, tariffs, non-tariff barriers, and other trade-related problems.

A second office, located in the Seattle, Wash., office of the Japan

Deep-sea Trawlers Association opened in January. The U.S. fishing industry is invited to take advantage of these facilities which were agreed to by U.S. and Japanese fishery officials last July. They were part of U.S.-Japan negotiations on fisheries trade, as mandated by the Magnuson Act and the amendments made to it in 1980.

Japanese Tell Overseas Fisheries Aid, 1973-83

Japanese Government sources report that at least US\$64 million was used for fishery grants, loans, and scientific cooperation in 1982 (US\$1.00 averaged 249 yen during 1982). However, the exact amount of Japanese aid to foreign countries in 1982 is not known because some fisheries assistance is a small component of agricultural projects or other assistance programs and is thus difficult to identify.

The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs granted over \$28 million in 1982 to foreign governments, mostly for the purchase of fisheries equipment. The Foreign Ministry's budget for fisheries grants has increased from \$11 million in 1977 to \$33 million in 1983. Since the beginning of the grant program in 1973, grants have been divided about evenly among Asia, Micronesia, Africa, and Latin America. The Japanese Foreign Ministry, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), also provides grants to foreign governments for fishery projects. These technical assistance grants accounted for an undetermined portion of JICA's total \$95 million budget in 1982 (which also included nonfishery assistance).

The Japanese Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation (OFCF), which is funded by the Japan Fisheries Agency, provides indirect loans to a foreign government (or company)

through Japanese joint venture partners. The OFCF loaned \$37 million in 1982, and was authorized to loan almost twice as much (\$63 million in 1983).

The Japan Marine Fishery Resource Research Center (JAMARC), a semi-governmental organization, also

provides fisheries aid, though JAMARC primarily conducts research for the Japanese fishing industry. JAMARC provides scientific information on fisheries to foreign countries and involves foreign scientists in its research, especially work conducted off their countries. The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo has prepared a 15-page report surveying Japanese overseas fisheries aid during 1973-83. U.S. companies can obtain a copy of this report for \$7.00 by ordering report number PB84-108661 from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161. (Source: IFR 83/129.)

Peru Explores Squid Fishing

The Peruvian Ministry of Fisheries (MIPE) and private fishermen began exploratory squid fishing last year for the first time. MIPE has obtained assistance from both FAO and Japan for the project. FAO provided a \$158,000 grant which enabled MIPE to purchase fishing gear and hire Japanese squid fishing experts.

The goals of the MIPE project include utilizing idled anchovy boats, learning squid fishing methods, determining the economic viability of the fishery, identifying the most profitable squid products to produce, and increasing export earnings. MIPE is especially interested in utilizing species not taken by Peruvian fishermen and officials stress that their major concern is to acquire the necessary fishing technology. MIPE points out that the Japanese have

a large fleet involved in the squid fishery and personnel with extensive experience. For those reasons, MIPE has been particularly eager to obtain Japanese technical assistance.

MIPE signed a contract with Peruvian vessel owners and loaned the fishermen funds needed to purchase automatic fishing gear, auxiliary motors, shipyard services, and various equipment so the anchovy boats could be fully equipped for exploratory squid fishing.

Tuna Fishing Off Ecuador Picks Up

Ecuadorean officials report that tuna have returned to Ecuadorean coastal waters and hope that this may signal a revival of the country's depressed tuna industry. Many believe that tuna fishing

was poor during the 1982-83 season because of the unusually warm water associated with the El Niño phenomenon.

Industry sources report that tuna schools appeared in Ecuadorean waters during November, earlier and in larger quantities than usual. Normally the tuna season off Ecuador does not begin until December, but already in November local fishermen were reporting excellent catches. The Ecuadorean tuna catch in November 1983 was 5,600 metric tons (t), a 60 percent increase over the 800 t taken during the same period of 1982. Most of the fishing was south of Salinas, about 50-60 miles off the coast, and the predominant species landed was skipjack tuna. Fishing was so good that one small Ecuadorean tuna

seiner reportedly capsized because it tried to land too many fish. Reports from Manta, Ecuador's principal tuna port, indicate that cold stores were filled and that canneries were running at full capacity. Fishermen were also experiencing delays in unloading their catch because of the lack of space available in Manta's cold stores.

Ecuadorean fishermen operate from Costa Rica to Peru. During October 1983, several Ecuadorean fishermen were operating off Peru in an area claimed by both Peru and Ecuador. Peruvian authorities reportedly seized nine Ecuadorean and one Mexican seiner during November. A second Mexican seiner was reportedly detained by Ecuador, but not seized. Most of the Ecuadorean seiners were small

"bolicheras." The vessels were taken to the port of Talara and fined from \$2,500 to \$102,000 per vessel. The two largest fines were to the *Don Cesar* (\$102,000) and the *Clemenza* (\$47,000).

The improved fishing was welcome news for the Ecuadorean tuna industry. Many pressing problems, however, continued to plague local tuna companies. First, prices on the international market were depressed. Second, companies have been unsuccessful at resuming sales to the United States, even though the U.S. tuna embargo had been removed. Third, import controls in Venezuela, resulting from that country's balance of payments difficulties, had restricted sales to one of Ecuador's primary export markets. (Source: IFR-83/139.)

Icelandic Cod Stocks Decreasing

Iceland's cod catch through September 1983 totaled only 252,000 metric tons (t), compared with 326,000 t for the same period in 1982. The total 1982 catch of 382,000 t was itself much less than the 1981 total of 460,000 t and Icelandic scientists recommended a TAC of only 200,000 t for 1984. However, it is expected that the Icelandic fishing industry will have to take about 250,000 t to remain economically viable.

Some observers believe that the decreased cod catch in 1982 and 1983 has been caused by the overfishing of capelin on which cod feeds. The Icelandic

Government banned all capelin fishing in July 1982, but the measure apparently came too late and the decreased capelin biomass is now affecting cod populations. U.S. cod imports, however, are not affected, for the time being. Iceland's cod exports to the U.S. through September 1983 totaled 22,846 t, down only 98 t from such exports for the same period in 1982. One probable reason is the high value of the U.S. dollar (compared with other European currencies).

Peruvian Catch of Finfish Plummets

The impact of the 1982-83 El Niño in the eastern Pacific is clearly shown by

the disastrous catch reported by Peruvian fishermen. Press reports from Lima revealed that Peruvian fishermen caught only 184,000 metric tons (t) of fish in the second quarter of 1983, a 64 percent decline from the 512,000 t taken during the first quarter of the year. Peruvian fishermen usually take most of their annual catch in the first 6 months of the year.

Unless catches improved later, Peru could report a 1983 fisheries catch below 1 million t, which would be a decline of over 70 percent from the 3.5 million t taken in 1982. It would be the smallest catch reported by Peru since the country developed a major fishmeal industry in the 1960's. Fishermen report that anchovy, once the mainstay of the fishing industry, had virtually disappeared. The Marine Fisheries Institute (IMARPE) recommended closing the anchovy fishery for up to 5 years.

However, the abnormally warm water off Peru has apparently caused an increase in scallop catches. Several companies have reportedly leased unused government processing facilities in Pisco and planned to export to the United States. One U.S. fisherman was reportedly conducting experimental scallop fishing under contract with a local company late in 1983.

Mexican Tuna Catch, 1983

Arturo Zepeda Vazques, President of the Mexican National Fishing Industry Board, has stated that Mexico's 1983 tuna catch (Jan.-Sept.) totaled only 20,000 metric tons (t), down 40 percent from the 35,000 t taken during the same period in 1982. Zepeda said this represented a loss of 1.8 billion pesos to Mexico's tuna industry.

Zepeda believes that the primary cause of the decline was El Niño. Other problems, however, have also affected the Mexican tuna fishery. Mexico's fishermen have had trouble selling their tuna landings and some reduced their fishing effort. In addition, domestic production costs had been rising at a rapid rate.

The West African Fisheries Conference

Under the auspices and the encouragement of the European Economic Community (EEC), a ministerial-level conference was held in Libreville, Gabon, last November to discuss the establishment of a regional fisheries organization for the countries along the Gulf of Guinea. Participating were representatives of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe, and Zaire. The conference focused on a comprehensive fisheries study of the Gulf of Guinea recently completed by the EEC. The EEC study included estimates of fishery resources, maximum sustainable yields, and a proposal for several regional cooperation and development programs.

The main accomplishment of this first conference was the opening of a dialogue on fisheries among the countries bordering the Gulf. The participants agreed that the main primary objectives are the harmonization of national fishing regulations and the management and control of fishing operations. The participants also agreed on three projects to promote fisheries which were originally proposed in the EEC study:

- 1) Establish a marine fisheries research center at Pointe Noire, Congo.
- 2) Create a regional school for marine fisheries at Cap Esterias, near Libreville, and purchase a fisheries training vessel from the EEC to enable the students to gain practical experience.
- 3) Establish an artisanal fishing center which would include the necessary infrastructure such as an ice plant and a repair shop for small boat motors.

The EEC is reportedly willing to provide substantial technical assistance to the Gulf of Guinea countries, most of which are former colonies of EEC-member countries. The EEC is promoting the establishment of the new organization and, at the request of the participating countries is making recommendations on how it could be organized as well as on how it should function.

The EEC was to submit a formal proposal on the new organization for the approval of the participating countries by 31 May 1984. A second meeting

is expected shortly thereafter to take the next step in establishing the organization. (Source: U.S. Embassy, Libreville.)

EEC-CANADIAN FISHING AGREEMENT

In January 1982, an agreement between the European Economic Community (EEC) and Canada was signed that gave Canada preferential duty rates for imports into the EEC in return for EEC fishing rights in Canadian waters. The agreement period was to have run from 1 January 1982 to 31 December 1987. However, Canada suspended issuance of fishing licenses to the EEC early in 1983 in response to what Canada termed as nonabidance of the 1982 agreement.

The United Kingdom (UK), Canada's largest EEC importer of Canadian products, objected to the large volumes of Canadian cod entering the UK market at reduced tariff rates. The UK reduced the amount of Canadian cod allowed to enter the UK at the preferential rate to a 10 percent share of the total negotiated cod quota. Canada looked upon this as an effort to keep them out of the UK market.

The EEC Canadian agreement of 1982 has now been renegotiated with the following results: In return for a better access to EEC markets where Canadian fisheries products will benefit from significantly lower import duties on frozen seafoods, EEC fishermen will be allowed to fish in Canadian waters until 1987 with the following yearly limits: 1984, 19,000 t; 1985, 20,000 t; 1986, 22,000 t; and 1987, 24,000 t.

Polish Squid Catch Leaps

Polish press reports indicate that the Polish squid catch totaled 120,000 metric tons (t) in 1982, a 600 percent increase over the 20,000 t taken in 1981. Almost all of the catch was landed in the southwest Atlantic off Argentina.

Argentine exporters have demanded that their Government reduce the Polish fishing effort because the Polish catch has affected squid prices on world markets.

In response, the Argentine Government has cancelled the special transshipping rights granted to Polish vessels during the 1982 Falklands crisis, when the Polish Government supported the Argentine position. The Argentine Government, however, has been unable to reduce the Polish fishing effort because it is mostly conducted outside Argentina's 200-mile Territorial Sea, or in the British-controlled 150-mile exclusion zone around the Falklands.

U.S. Trade Missions Aid Overseas Seafood Sales

A variety of U.S. Trade Missions have been scheduled by the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), U.S. Department of Agriculture, in several foreign nations to promote U.S. food exports. In June 1984 FAS has sponsored the Kor-Hotel Food Exhibit in Seoul, Republic of Korea, featuring institutional food and U.S. seafood companies so oriented were invited to participate. Further details are available from Evans Brown, Export Programs Division, FAS, USDA, Room 4945, South Building, Washington, DC 20250. And, in September, FAS was coordinating a food product display in Caracas, Venezuela. More information is available from William Scholz, Export Programs Division, FAS. Also in September, FAS was organizing a food exhibit in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and the contact again is William Scholz. For the FAS September food exhibit in Lagos, Nigeria, seafood firms may contact Evans Brown for further information. The telephone number for both Scholz and Brown is 202-447-3031.

Thailand's Fisheries Trade Rises in 1982

Thailand reported that 1982 fishery exports increased in value by 17 percent over 1981, from \$416 million to \$487 million (Table 1). In quantity, exports increased only 1 percent over 1981 to 323,400 metric tons (t). Shellfish accounted for over half of all exports, with shrimp and cuttlefish the principal commodities. Thailand's major markets, Japan (\$169 million) and the United States (\$71 million), took nearly 50 percent of the exports (Table 2). Principal U.S. imports were canned fish and frozen shellfish (Table 3).

Thailand's 1982 fishery imports increased by 22 percent in value over 1981, but decreased slightly in quantity (3 percent), mainly because fewer

Table 1.—Thailand's foreign trade in fish and fishing products, 1981-82.

Item	1981		1982	
	Metric tons	U.S. dollars ¹	Metric tons	U.S. dollars ²
Fishery imports				
Fresh, frozen and live fish	11,329.7	9,490,559	14,255.9	14,916,222
Salted, dried and smoked fish	528.0	1,997,479	237.3	2,259,329
Crustaceans and mollusks, fresh, frozen, dried, salted, and cooked	27,185.0	8,571,173	21,812.3	8,409,614
Canned fish and fish preparations including crustaceans & mollusks	257.4	356,829	731.0	717,666
Fish and fish preparations, preserved but not canned, including crustaceans & mollusks	7,762.8	1,729,148	8,686.8	1,762,029
Total	47,062.9	22,145,188	45,723.3	28,064,860
Fishery Exports				
Fresh, frozen and live fish	57,436.5	37,235,472	53,695.1	31,829,970
Salted, dried and smoked fish	3,488.7	4,847,525	2,875.6	4,363,774
Crustaceans and mollusks, fresh, frozen, dried, salted, and cooked	71,532.3	200,420,761	86,147.1	248,768,750
Canned fish and fish preparations including crustaceans & mollusks	44,194.6	98,152,200	66,000.9	138,454,572
Fish and fish preparations, preserved but not canned, including crustaceans & mollusks	143,018.8	74,995,784	114,653.0	63,268,990
Total	319,670.9	415,651,742	323,371.7	486,686,056

¹Conversion rate, 21.82 Baht = US\$1

²Conversion rate, 23.00 Baht = US\$1

Table 2.—Thailand's fisheries imports and exports by country (1982) and value (in \$US).

Country	Value
Imports	
Burma	\$7,945,659
Malaysia	5,155,624
Maldives	3,706,353
Japan	2,409,448
Hongkong	2,037,253
U.S.A.	1,299,871
Singapore	1,115,116
Bangladesh	666,493
Australia	652,982
Rep. of Korea	443,856
Norway	372,593
Philippines	287,028
United Kingd.	238,050
Canada	152,426
Others	1,415,751
Total	\$28,228,725
Exports	
Japan	\$168,646,346
U.S.A.	71,317,721
France	33,442,265
Italy	28,122,255
Hongkong	26,346,404
Australia	24,607,633
Malaysia	21,478,004
Singapore	20,661,129
W. Germany	17,264,642
United Kingd.	15,134,466
Indonesia	8,640,739
Netherlands	7,735,083
Sweden	6,005,449
Canada	5,018,065
Belgium	3,597,466
Nigeria	2,419,328
Sri Lanka	2,388,515
Denmark	2,386,967
Spain	2,146,630
Saudi Arabia	2,073,427
Others	17,253,522
Total	\$486,686,056

Table 3.—Thailand's fisheries exports to the United States, 1982.

Commodity	Volume (t)	Value (US\$)
Fish preserved in airtight containers	12,237.5	\$28,479,834
Crustaceans, mollusks prepared or preserved in airtight containers	5,211.7	16,566,751
Shrimps, prawns, lobsters fresh, chilled, frozen	3,699.4	15,270,202
Fish sauce	3,779.7	2,558,578
Flours and meals of crustaceans or mollusks	2,273.5	2,088,442
Other fish, frozen	627.6	1,541,557
Shrimps, prawns, lobsters salted in brine, dried	229.3	1,276,220
Other fish fillets, fresh, chilled	308.0	725,930
Cuttlefish salted in brine, dried	75.5	488,962
Other fish dried	101.8	384,138
Other crustaceans, mollusks, fresh, chilled, frozen	90.2	307,341
Other fish preserved not in airtight containers	112.8	343,598
Fish live for aquarium	64.1	256,483
Cuttlefish fresh, chilled, frozen	135.4	181,635
Ark-shells fresh, chilled, frozen	131.2	178,670
Cuttlefish not in airtight containers	6.6	73,320
Fish maws and roes dried, smoked	5.0	73,299
Other crustaceans simply boiled	30.5	62,493
Other fish fresh, chilled	24.9	57,368
Fish salted or in brine	12.8	43,104
Blachan not in airtight containers	18.2	42,087
Fish, live	15.2	35,605
Other crustaceans, mollusks salted in brine, dried	15.2	34,078
Shark's fins not in airtight containers	11.0	32,068
Fish smoked	3.5	30,342
Blachan in airtight containers	13.6	27,987
Crabs, crab meat fresh, chilled, frozen	15.6	26,039
Other crustaceans, mollusks prepared or preserved, not in airtight containers	3.8	17,723
Octopus salted in brine, dried	2.4	16,937
Jellyfish salted in brine, dried	6.7	16,307
Cuttlefish in airtight containers	7.3	14,062
Fish maws, roes in airtight containers	4.5	12,337
Fish maws, roes not in airtight containers	2.8	12,052
Oyster sauce	2.8	8,933
Other fish fillets frozen	2.9	6,517
Squids salted in brine, dried	0.6	6,514
Shrimps, prawns, lobsters simply boiled	1.9	5,978
Asari fresh, chilled, frozen	6.5	5,594
Other items	2.5	7,626
Total	29,293.9	\$71,317,721

shellfish were imported. Thailand imported almost \$1.3 million worth of Fishery products from the United States during 1982. (Source: IFR-83/140.)

South African Marine Fisheries Changing

The overall South African fish catch and production of fishery products during 1982 continued at about 1981 levels. Recent changes in the government's pelagic fishery management program, however, have been controversial and were expected to affect the fishing industry in 1983.

The demersal fish catch was 195,500 t in 1982, an increase of 5 percent from 1981 and a reversal of the previous 2 years of decreases. Hake accounted for 73 percent (142,800 t) of the total demersal catch. Fish meal production was maintained at 1981 levels, but there was a sharp decrease in fish oil production.

South Africa has restricted foreign fishing off its coast in recent years. The government has only authorized a few countries (Japan, Taiwan, Israel, and Spain) to take small quantities of certain species (predominantly hake) within South Africa's 200-mile exclusive fishery zone during 1982.

The 1982 pelagic fish catch of 377,000 metric tons (t) was based almost entirely on anchovy (306,160 t or over 80 percent of the total pelagic catch). Fishermen reported a decline in the pilchard and horse mackerel fisheries, and changes made by the South African Government in the pelagic fishing seasons and catch quotas to avert a collapse of the resource were not well accepted by the fishing industry.

South Africa's west coast pilchard catch decreased from 318,000 t in 1960 to only 35,000 t in 1982, but the anchovy catch increased from 300 t in 1963 to 307,00 t in 1982. Indications were that too many juvenile fish were being taken in the anchovy fishery, as occurred in the pilchard fisheries in the past, according to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Fisheries (DEAF).

The following changes began with

the 1983 fishing season:

1) The season for anchovy and pilchard was divided into two periods. The first half began 1 January and was to last until half the 1983 quota of 380,000 t (190,000 t) had been caught. The second phase of the season began 1 October and lasted until 15 December.

2) Beginning in 1983, the pilchard catch can be used only for canning and not for reduction to fish meal.

3) Underutilized pelagic fishes (herrings, lantern fish, mackerel, and maasbanker) did not have catch quotas in 1983.

4) Deep-sea hake quotas for 1983 were reduced from 136,000 t to 120,000 t (coastal trawler catch reduced from 9,000 to 7,940 t; deep-sea trawler catch reduced from 119,150 to 105,135 t; and foreign trawler catch reduced from 7,850 to 6,925 t). South Africa's Navy has helped patrol fishery grounds to prevent illegal foreign fishing.

The Fisheries Department also recommended a change from the January-August catching season for anchovy and pilchard to provide the fish a 6-month period to mature and spawn; too many juvenile fish were being taken before sexual maturation under the previous arrangement. DEAF decided not to decrease the pelagic fish quota below 380,000 t because it believed such a move would adversely impact private vessel owners and might lead to increased fish meal prices.

John Wiley, Deputy Minister of DEAF, in announcing the changes, said that the "New Deal" could succeed only if the industry is prepared to accept responsibility for honestly monitoring their own catches and fully cooperating with DEAF to ensure that quotas are not exceeded and irregularities are corrected.

Then, on 2 September, Wiley announced new measures to control the country's endangered pelagic fishery resources. Wiley said that the Government accepted most of the recommendations made by the Alant Commission of Enquiry. After discussions with all interested parties, he felt that he had the support of the fishing industry.

The 1984 fishing season was scheduled to begin on 15 January. Wiley

said that the introduction of a two-phase seasonal quota system as a new control measure should limit the anchovy catch to 15,000 t in the coming season in the area east of Cape Point. Of this, west coast registered boats would be limited to 8,000 t and Gansbaai fishermen on the east coast to 7,000 t. He warned against catching pilchards and said that private boat owners and quota holders should cooperate. There would be no specific quotas for fishing off the west coast. The Government will monitor mackerel, red eye, maasbanker, lantern fish and anchovy, however, on a weekly basis to ensure that there are no excessive catches. Once sufficient fish are caught, the season will be closed immediately. Such a decision will be made, however, only after extensive research is done during the season, Wiley stated.

Wiley also announced the closure of all fishing in Walker Bay, in a straight line from Mudge Point to Danger Point, as an experimental measure. The area would become a sanctuary like False Bay, with no fishing permitted. Gansbaai fishermen will have to fish further afield, east of the Cape Point area.

The U.S. Consulate General in Cape Town has prepared a 16-page report on the South African fishing industry in 1982. U.S. companies can obtain a copy of this report for \$7.00 by ordering report number PB 83-242-479 from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161. (Sources: IFR-83/20, 98, 101.)

Note: Unless otherwise credited, material in this section is from either the Foreign Fishery Information Releases (FFIR) compiled by Sunee C. Sonu, Foreign Reporting Branch, Fishery Development Division, Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Terminal Island, CA 90731, or the International Fishery Releases (IFR), Language Services Biweekly (LSB) reports, or Language Services News Briefs (LSNB) produced by the Office of International Fisheries Affairs, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Washington DC 20235.

Canada Restructures Newfoundland Fishery

The Canadian Federal Government and the Provincial Government of Newfoundland reached an impasse in late summer on plans to restructure the Newfoundland fishing industry. Federal and provincial officials had been discussing the restructuring of the Province's fishing industry since Canadian Federal Fisheries Minister, Pierre de Bane, announced a Federal restructuring plan on 19 July. De Bane announced that the Canadian Federal Government would unilaterally reorganize the Newfoundland deep-sea fishing industry by creating a new "super-company." The Minister indicated that the new company would be formed around a merger of three Newfoundland fishing companies, Fishery Products Ltd.¹, the Lake Group Ltd., and John Penny and Sons Ltd. Financing of the company was reportedly to be partially met, with C\$75 million² in financing from the Canadian Federal Government.

Federal restructuring plans were delayed, however, by the Bank of Nova Scotia. The Bank placed two of the fishing companies, which were to form the new super-company, Fishery Products Ltd. and the Lake Group Ltd., in receivership during August. Shareholders of the third company, John Penny and Sons Ltd., had previously voted to dissolve the company and place it in voluntary liquidation. Fishery Products Ltd. was resisting the takeover by the Bank and took the matter to the Provincial Supreme Court on 1 September. In court, company officials alleged that the Bank of Nova Scotia contravened antimonopoly laws and, furthermore, conspired with the Canadian Federal Government to take possession of its assets.

Newfoundland's Premier Brian Peckford, at a press conference then, criticized the Bank's actions. He stated that as a result, the Bank of Nova Scotia

had only two options open to it because of the receivership actions. The Bank would have to eventually sell the assets of the companies, either by private sale, or public bidding. Premier Peckford said that the Province was seriously

considering buying the assets of the three major companies in order to deflect "others from outside the Province now attempting to take full control of the fishing industry of Newfoundland and Labrador." (Source: IFR-83/89.)

Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium

The Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium (WATS) was held in San Jose, Costa Rica, 17-23 July 1983. The Symposium was sponsored by the International Oceanographic Commission Association for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE), with support by NMFS, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the Canadian International Association, and 36 of the 38 countries in the WATS region. Topics discussed included: Status of Turtle Species, Research Techniques, Habitat Alteration Impacts, Utilization, Conservation, Culture, Enforcement and Regulation, and Management Options.

The first product of the Symposium was "Sea Turtle Manual of Research and Conservation Techniques." The second product was the "National Report Form," a volume of instructions and 21 tables for recording available sea turtle data for each of the countries. The third product was the "WATS Computerized Data Base."

The final session, "Future Actions," was chaired by the President of WATS, Manuel Murillo, and conducted by the national representatives. They recommended that the initiative of WATS be continued, and that WATS-II convene in 1987. The National Marine Fisheries Service will serve as caretaker for the data base until a permanent agent is assigned.

A WATS Steering Committee, formed in 1979, consisted of the following members: Manuel Murillo, President; Robert Lankford, Administrator; Fred Berry, Secretary; and Peter Bacon, Harvey Bullis, Archie Carr, Jorge Caranza, Colin Higgs, Herb Kumpf, Hank Reichart, and Horace Walters. Also, a

Technical Team was formed to promote and aid sea turtle research, survey, and data gathering. Team members included: Larry Ogren, Coordinator; Karen Bjorndal, Ken Dodd, John Fletemeyer, Juan Gonzalez, Rene Marquez, Anne Meylan, Peter Pritchard, Doon Ramsaroop, Jack Woody, and six members of the Steering Committee. Marie Teresa Koberg guided local preparations for the meeting.

In 1980, the IOCARIBE Secretary and Administrator of WATS contacted the appropriate Ministers of the 38 area countries, requesting that each country officially participate in the Symposium effort, designate a national representative to the Symposium, and prepare a national report on the populations and socioeconomics of sea turtles.

Sea turtle research, stimulated throughout the area during 1980 through June 1983, consisted of interviews, nesting beach, and aerial beach surveys. The goal of conducting at least one aerial beach survey for the entire shoreline of the Atlantic continental Americas, from North Carolina to Brazil, was 99 percent completed. Several of the larger islands were also surveyed.

At the Symposium, 31 national representatives participated, representing 33 countries. The participating countries were: Anguilla, Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadalupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Surinam, Trinidad-Tobago, Turks-Caicos, U.S. Virgin Islands, United States of America, and Venezuela. (Source: IFR-83/107.)

¹Mention of trade names or commercial firms does not imply endorsement by the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA.

²During August 1983 the Canadian dollar traded for about US\$0.85.