1. Fishing Ports and Fishermen

The number of designated fishing ports in Japan was 3,814 as of December 31, 1989. They are classified as follows: 3,732 including 36 inland water ports and fishing ports of type 1, 128 were fishing ports of type 2, 129 including 12 ports of special type 5 were fishing ports of type 1, and 6 were fishing ports of type 2.

There were 112,202 fishing boats registered and belonging to fishing ports, with a total tonnage of 1,447,940 tons. Of these, 90,024 were powered fishing boats (1,398,465 tons in total) and 16,176 were non-powered boats (13,125 tons in total). The number of fishing boats increased by 13.4% during the last decade; however, 6.7% of the vessels newly added were vessels of less than 8 tons, resulting in a drop of about 1 thousand.

The following are the total number of vessels used fishing ports: 79,500 (11,820,560 tons) used the type 1 fishing ports, 26,006 (2,638,180 tons) used the type 2 fishing ports, 16,176 (13,125 tons) used type 2 fishing ports and 5,410 (1,185,480 tons) used type 3 fishing ports. In all, 112,202 fishing vessels (14,479,484 tons) collectively called fishing ports.

The number of persons engaged in fishing was 46,863 as of November 1, 1989. Of them, 43,576 were employed in the field of fishing, and 3,287 were engaged in auxiliary fields. The ratio of those on land to those engaged in the field of fishing was 79:21, and 77.2% of those on land were 30-39 years old, and 92.7% were aged 60 years or more. The number of persons engaged in the fishing industry is decreasing due to a reduction in fishing, etc. caused by the enforcement of international regulations on fishing, deterioration of fishing management, and so on. Workers are at the same time, growing older.

[Subtotal Points of the Legend and Map Compilation]

All fishing grounds are grouped into 5 categories and are indicated, however, ports which were used by boats weighing less than 30,000 tons in total annually were excluded from type 1 fishing ports.

Persons engaged in fishing refers only to those who work at sea. This map indicates those who engaged in fishing for 30 days or more in the year preceding the survey period.

2. Fishing Grounds

In 1989 Japan divided its fishing grounds into 5 categories under multilateral and bilateral agreements.

The following are the main multilateral agreements Japan is a party to as of 1989:
- The Fisheries Treaty of Japan, USA and Canada concluded in 1958. The Treaty is for the conservation of whale in the Atlantic concluded in 1986 and the Treaty on Fishing in the Southeast Atlantic negotiated in 1971. Japan is also a party to the following bilateral agreements: Fisheries Agreement of Japan and USA (1953), Agreement of Japan and the Soviet Union Concerning Fishing of the Off Coast of Both Countries (1967) and Agreement of Japan and the Soviet Union Concerning Cooperation (1965). Fishing grounds for the main types of fish are as follows: tuna can be caught in many areas such as the sea near Japan, the eastern central Pacific, off Chagos is the western part of the Indian Ocean, and the area of Angola in the south-west Atlantic. The two main fishing grounds for Alaska pollock are the Beringa Peninsula and Alaska Islands in the Northern Pacific. The main fishing grounds for haddock are in the sea near Japan and in the center of the Pacific. As for squid, the sea near Japan, the sea off the coast of Argentina, which is in the southern, western, Atlantic, and the sea off the coast of New Zealand, which is in the southwestern Pacific, are the main fishing grounds. On the other hand, most sardines caught is in the sea near Japan.

The Japanese fishing industry finds itself in a difficult international situation. Japan is being forced to reduce fishing because of a drastic cut in the amount of fishing quotas and enforcement of fishing regulations.

2. Catches by Fishing Areas

In 1988 the catches (production) of the Japanese fisheries and aquaculture amounted to 12,796,815 tons. This accounted for approximately 57% of the total catches in the world. Catches increased by 5% from the previous year.

As for the catches of each species, catches of Alaska pollock decreased because of the establishment of the moratorium on fishing conservation zone, while catches of sardines greatly increased due to the development of large and medium conservancy net and rocket fishing. Regarding the fishing area, 85% of the total catches were caught in the northwestern Pacific, while 15% were caught in the 6 fishing areas in the Pacific.

In 1988. J227,609 million yen was earned by fishing production, showing an increase of 7%. Imports of marine products increase every year and accounted for 20% of the total food products distributed domestically.

[Subtotal Points of the Legend and Map Compilation]

While-catch decreased because stronger restrictions were enforced. While-catch for commercial purposes was suspended in the Antarctic Ocean in April 1982, while that in the sea along the coast was also suspended in March 1983. In 1986, 1,446 strays were caught, accounting for 3,220,600 million yen in 1986.

3. Catches by Region of Sea and Catches of Inland Water Fisheries

The catches of sea fish in 1988 were 11,308,276 tons. Considering the ratio by division, 60% were deep-sea fish, 16% were shallow-living, and 24% were coastal fish. As for the catch of sardines, Hokkaido, with 1,419,477 tons, ranked highest, followed by Shikoku with 1,238,720 tons, and Tokyo with 844,986 tons. Regarding the species of sardine, 95%, 97% of the catch, the largest, were sardines, 52% were Alaska pollock and 9% were anchovies. Thus, these three species accounted for the majority of the catches.

The catches of inland waters totalled 186,522 tons. Of these, 30.5% were caught in rivers and 69.5% in lakes and reservoirs. As for the species, catches of crucian were greatest, accounted for 27.3% of the total catches, followed by eel with 31.4%, salmon with 20.7% and cranefish with 7.8%.

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FISHING PORTS AND FISHERMEN

(1986)

FISHING PORTS
- Type 1 fishing ports
- Type 2 fishing ports
- Type 3 fishing ports
- Type 4 fishing ports

TOTAL TONNAGE OF FISHING BOATS USING THE PORTS IN A YEAR
(Boats over 300 thousand tons are represented)

AVERAGE TONNAGE OF FISHING BOATS
Local boats based in home port
- 20 tons and over
- 15 tons and over but less than 20 tons
- 10 tons and over but less than 15 tons
- 5 tons and over but less than 10 tons
- 5 tons and over but less than 5 tons
- Less than 5 tons

Other fishing boats
- 100 tons and over
- 50 tons and over but less than 100 tons
- 25 tons and over but less than 50 tons
- 25 tons and over but less than 10 tons
- Less than 25 tons

PERSONS ENGAGED IN SEA FISHERIES (1 dot represents 100 persons)

Fishings ports and fishing taxa - visable as of December 31, 1986
Persons engaged in fisheries - visable as of November 1, 1986
Persons engaged in fisheries (1 dot = 100 thousand persons)
(Excludes ports in which declaration by fishing boats are less than 300 thousand tons
from Type 1 fishing ports but includes those Type 2 fishing ports from Type 1 fishing ports)

1: 4,000,000