1. Catches and Fishing Grounds

The output of the Japanese fishing and culture industries amounted to about 1,100,000 t in 1967, despite about 37% of the world’s total output (fishmeal). The output has been on the rise since 1960. By type of industry, there has been a big rise in the output of the distant water fisheries, sea culture, inland water fisheries, and culture, but the output of coastal fisheries has been stagnant. The output of the whaling industry has been decreasing from year to year since 1966 due to the increasingly rigid international control. By sub-species, the output fluctuates to a great extent, depending on the year. Particularly since 1968, however, there has been a marked rise in the output of Alaska pollock in the North Pacific.

The output of the fishing and culture industries has increased from year to year and reached about ¥1,640,000,000,000 in 1973. In the coastal fisheries, sea culture, inland water fisheries and culture, the ratios of their output value to the total value is larger than that of their output quantity to the total quantity.

In recent years, large-sized fishing boats have made their appearance one after another, and they are operating practically in every sea of the world. With respect to distant water fishing grounds, Japan is confronted with many problems, such as restrictions put on fishing operations under bilateral treaties on fisheries, expansion of the territorial waters and the existence of exclusive fishing zones.

2. Coastal Fishing Grounds and Farms

In view of the changes in the oceanographic conditions and the migratory habit of fish, the fishing grounds change, depending on the year as well as season.

In general, herring areas are distributed along the flow of the Kuroshio current. Their fishing season extends from June to October for the east coast of Honshu from November to March for the south coast, and from May to August for the area stretching along the Tsushima current from the southern tip of Sakhalin to the northern part of Shikoku.

Sardines are distributed in areas south of latitude 41° N. in the Pacific. The fishing season extends from May to October for the east coast of Honshu, from March to July for the south coast and from February to October for the south coast of Kyushu.

The fishing season for herring extends from April to May for the east coast of Hokkaido, from January to December for the area stretching from the north coast of Hokkaido and the coast of Sakhalin to the southern part of Shikoku and from January to May for the coast of Korea.

Sardines are distributed along and somewhat off the coasts of Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu, excluding the offshore area stretching from Shikoku Island to the northern end of Honshu Island, and off Yura Island. The fishing season extends from September to January for the coast of Hokkaido Prefecture, from July to March for the coast of Tottori Prefecture, from February to October for the coast of Mie Prefecture, and from November to December for the coast of the Kii Peninsula.

Sardines are distributed along and somewhat off the coasts of Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu, including the area stretching from the northern end of Honshu Island to the northern end of Shikoku Island, and off Yura Island. The fishing season extends from May to November for the coast of Tottori Prefecture, from February to November for the coast of the Izu Peninsula, and from November to December for the coast of the Kii Peninsula.

Mackerels are distributed along the offshore areas of the Japanese archipelago, excluding Okinawa and the area extending from Yunesu Island to the area stretching from Notsu Island to Kyushu Island by way of the Yaeyama Islands, and also along the area stretching from the East China Sea to the coast of Korea by way of the area stretching south of Tsushima Island and the area stretching south of Sakhalin Island.

Sardines are widely distributed in the areas surrounding the Sea of Japan, the North Pacific area stretching from latitude 40° N to 50° N and also the area off the west coast of North America. The fishing season is in November for the area of the Hota and Buiji prefectures, from September to October for the area stretching from Kagoshima to Shikoku, and from January to April for the area stretching from Kyushu to Shikoku, and from January to April for the area stretching from the southern tip of Shikoku to the coast of the Kii Peninsula.

Alaska pollock are distributed along the North Pacific, Bering Sea, and the area of Okhotsk Sea, and also off Kamchatka, Japan, and the coast of the Bering Sea. The fishing season is from June to October for the area near latitude 46° N in the Bering Sea and from March to May for the area north to Alaska Peninsula.

Sardines are distributed on the edge of the East China Sea’s continental shelf stretching from the southwestern part of Kyushu Island to the area off the coast of Honshu Island.

In coastal fishing grounds, pollution of the water and soil is taking place, and the environment is deteriorating due to the development of irrational industrial complexes and other factors. In culture grounds, intensive utilization of the sea surface is in progress, as breeding technology has been advanced.

Sunset Points of the Legend and Map Compilation

For the distribution of fishing areas, data were used from the Fishery Agency and its fishery research institutes and laboratories in various parts of Japan. Data from the Fishery Agency’s fishery research institutes and laboratories as well as the number of farms operating entities classified by prefecture, and the number of farms in the 5th Census of Fisheries were used to show the distribution of farms.

8. Changes in Catches by Major Fish Species

9. Abundance of Fishing Grounds (1949-1951)
CATCHES AND FISHING GROUNDS

(Fishing areas for which International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna has been operational...)

CATCHES BY FISHING AREAS

- Plaice, haddock, etc.
- Cod, hake, pollock, etc.
- Blue whiting, haddock, etc.
- AWSA, scup, menhaden, etc.
- Swordfish, bluefin tuna, etc.
- Seabass
- Whiting
- Station of fish stock
- Rocks of fixed or near fixed fishing gear

Fishing areas in which ICCAT has been operational

- Western area
- Eastern area
- Southern area
- Northern area
- Gulf of Mexico

Fishing area for which International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna has been operational for 10 years...

Fishing area in which ICCAT has been operational for 15 years...

Fishing area in which ICCAT has been operational for 20 years...

Fishing area in which ICCAT has been operational for 25 years...

Fishing area in which ICCAT has been operational for 30 years...

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Fishing area in which ICCAT has been operational for 495 years...

Fishing area in which ICCAT has been operational for 500 years...