

Japan Makes Major Change in Fisheries Foreign Aid Program

Japanese foreign aid program in fisheries endeavors is implemented through several semi-governmental entities. The Japan Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation is one of the largest such nonprofit making public corporations. The Foundation was established in June 1973 as a result of a strong campaign by the Japan Fisheries Association. The Association itself has a semi-governmental character, although, it is an industry lobby group, representing nearly all segments of the Japanese fishing industry, including giant corporations and federations of small cooperative associations consisting of artisanal fishermen.

In July 1972, 5 years before the establishment of the U.S. 200-nautical-mile fisheries conservation zone, the

Association drafted a bill to develop a measure to counter the effects to be created by such extended jurisdictions. The bill was never enacted, but several of the measures it proposed were forthwith implemented.

Thus, in June 1973, the Japan Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation was established. The Foundation has been mandated to aid the fisheries of foreign nations in which Japanese fishermen fish, so that both the coastal nations and the Japanese industry would benefit.

The purposes of the Foundation are fivefold: 1) To loan low interest, long-term funds to Japanese-owned or controlled fishing companies located overseas. 2) To train Japanese fisheries experts for overseas aid assignments. 3) To invite foreign fisheries trainees and leaders to visit Japan, or to be trained in Japan. 4) To aid in bilateral fisheries negotiations. 5) To station Japanese fisheries experts in coastal nations for technical development aid.

The Foundation has performed all of these functions with increasing vigor since its inception. Especially noteworthy has been the increase in the amount of money placed in low-cost loans. Initially, the Foundation's endowment amounted to 200 million yen, (US\$667,000)¹, obtained in equal amounts from the Government and the private industry. At the same time, one billion yen (US\$3.33 million) of the Foreign Ministry budget for FY73 (1 April 1973 through 31 March 1974) was set aside for use by the new aid corporation to loan during that fiscal year.

During its first 4 years of operation (through 31 March 1977) the Foundation placed 8.49 billion yen (US\$35.4 million) in loans to contractors engaged in a total of 34 projects around the world. In FY 1977 the Foundation plans to place 5 billion yen (US\$20.1 million)² in loans, and in FY 78 alone, it plans to grant loans totaling 8 billion yen (US\$33.3 million).

Along with this sharp rise in the amount of loans placed, a significant change is taking place in the Foundation's loan management. Until recently, only Japanese nationals were entitled to the low-cost loans from the Foundation. But, in October 1977, the Foundation decided to place a loan directly to the Government of Argentina.

A consortium of five Japanese fishing companies had successfully bid for the development of the fisheries in the Patagonian region of Argentina. A part of the agreement for the development was that the consortium would have two research vessels constructed according to the Argentinian specifications, and would turn them over to Argentina. However, the Foundation intervened to grant a direct loan to the host government for the construction of the vessels. In the board meeting of the Foundation held on 29 November 1977, the trustees allowed the Foundation to loan directly to host countries, thus officially introducing a significant change in the Foundation's policies. The Japanese fishing industry leaders are reportedly very pleased with the new direction the Foundation's aid program has taken. (Source: LSD 78-1.)

Corral-Grown Bluefin Tuna Sold in Japan

Bluefin tuna raised in a corral in southern Japan from baby fish weighing less than 1 kg each since 1974, made their first appearance for sale at the Tokyo Central Wholesale Market on 19 December 1977. The fish received a favorable rating by the buyers for their oil-rich meat and flavor. The corral-grown bluefin tuna ranged in size from 38 kg to 77 kg apiece, and were sold at prices between ¥3,900/kg and ¥5,000/kg (US\$7.32/lb-\$9.39/lb, at ¥242=US\$1), averaging ¥4,600/kg (\$8.64/lb). (Source: FFIR No. 78-1.)

¹According to the 1972 exchange rate.

²According to the December 1977 exchange rate.

Japan Eases Import Rules on Four Fishery Products

The Japanese Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on 14 December 1977 announced plans to add smoked herring and cuttlefish to the list of liberalized import items and to lower import tariffs on shrimp and herring roe. The liberalization on smoked herring and cuttlefish was expected to take effect early in 1978. Import tariffs on shrimp dropped from the current 5 percent to 4 percent, and those on herring roe from 15 percent to 12 percent, on 1 April 1978.

All four items named in the announcement represent products for which Japan must depend heavily on foreign supply. Japan's domestic production of smoked herring shrank to 322 tons in 1975 and further to 133 tons in 1976 as a result of the total ban of Japanese herring fishery in the Soviet 200-mile zones in the Okhotsk Sea. Japan is currently importing about 60 percent of its demand for cuttlefish from Spain, the Canary Islands, and South Yemen. Imports of shrimp, the largest of all fishery items imported into Japan in value, amounted to 126,000 tons worth ¥223,100 million (US\$921.9 million, at ¥242=US\$1) for 1976, and those of herring roe to 12,000 tons worth ¥28,900 million (US\$119.4 million) for the same year. This is the first time in about 4 years that Japan expanded import liberalization to fishery products. (Source: FFIR No. 78-1).

ROK Claims Canned Oyster Export Lead

The Republic of Korea surpassed Japan to become the largest exporting country of canned oyster at the end of October 1977, announced a source close to canned oyster exporters in Seoul. South Korea's exports of canned oyster during the first 10 months of 1977 were worth more than US\$1 million, exceeding by more than 50 percent 1977 export target of \$11 million.

South Korea's successful expansion of canned oyster exports are attributed

to the acceptance of the export prices and the consequent rise in demand for the Republic of Korea products in U.S., Australian, and European markets, according to the same source. By country of destination, the sale of South Korean canned oyster to the end of October 1977 was: \$15 million (target \$7 million) to the United States, \$1.424 million to Australia, \$0.344 million to Europe, and \$0.833 million to other countries. (Source: FFIR No. 78-1.)

Japan's 1977 Saury Catch More Than Twice 1976 Mark

Saury landings by the Japanese coastal fishery up to 20 November 1977, reached 230,000 metric tons, more than double the comparable 1976 landings, according to the National Association of Saury Fishery. Because of the unusually heavy landings of small to medium-size fish measuring about 26 cm in length, the seasonal average price to 10 November remained low at ¥161/kg (\$593/short ton at ¥246=US\$1), down 16 percent from the comparable 1976 average price. (Source: FFIR 77-16.)

USSR, Japan Conclude Bilateral Fishery Pact

On 16 December 1977, the Soviet Union and Japan signed in Moscow a protocol extending the USSR-Japan Fisheries Interim Agreement, and established 1978 catch allocations for each other, the NMFS Language Services Branch reports. The agreement allows the Soviet fishermen to catch 650,000 t of fish in Japanese 200-mile zone, and the Japanese fishermen to catch 850,000 t in the Soviet zone. The main species in the new Soviet allocations are sardine and mackerel, amounting to 318,000 t or nearly half of their total allocations, and the major species in the new Japanese allocations is Alaska pollock, taking up 40 percent or 345,000 t of the total Japanese allocations.

Japanese fishermen reportedly caught about 550,000 t of Alaska pol-

lock in the Soviet zone from January 1977 to the present. The 1978 allocation for this species, being 40 percent below the actual catch for 1977, will necessitate the revocation of 17 medium trawler permits. Moreover, the Japanese crab and shrimp fisheries in the Soviet zone experienced similar reductions of allocations. Some permit revocations will be inevitable in these fisheries, also.

Japanese reports emphasize the significance of the 200,000 t difference between the two allocations. However, Japan has allowed the Soviets to maintain their historic catch level in the Japanese zone, but received in return only about 50 percent of its own historic catch in the Soviet zone. (Source: LSD 78-1.)

Fish, Harbor Work Get \$18.4 Million in Canada

Canada's Fisheries and Environmental Department is spending \$18,386,000 under the Federal Labor Intensive Projects (FLIP) program over the first nine months of 1978. This allocation, third largest among the 15 departments participating in the program, will be spent largely on fisheries management and small craft harbors projects, with lesser amounts on ocean and aquatic sciences and environmental management activities.

Fisheries and Environment Minister Roméo LeBlanc said the program will provide over 14,000 work-months of employment, particularly in the Atlantic provinces, Quebec, and in western Canada. Projects will range from the building and repair of fishing and recreational docking facilities to clerical and general labor activities at regional management and research centers.

LeBlanc said departmental FLIP allocations include \$17,317,000 for the Fisheries and Marine Service—comprising \$9,978,000 for small craft harbors, \$6,177,000 for fisheries management, and \$1,162,000 for ocean and aquatic sciences; also \$939,000 for Environmental Management Service and \$130,000 for Atmospheric Environment Service projects.