Japanese Joint Fishing Ventures Stabilize

In 1977, 175 joint fishing ventures with the participation of Japanese capital were functioning around the world. In 1978 there were 192, in 1979—203, and in 1980—215. In 1981, 193 joint ventures with the participation of Japanese capital were operating in 47 nations (Table 1, 2).

The 1981 total capital value of the 193 ventures was $146.7 million, including the Japanese investment of $98.2 million (66.9 percent). In 1981, the capital value of these joint ventures in Central and South America was $51.5 million, which is 73 percent more than in 1980. The Japanese investment in these ventures was $41.1 million, which is 70 percent more than in 1980.

The 1981 capital value of joint ventures with Japanese participation in Asia and Oceania was $55.9 million, which is 13 percent less than in 1980. The Japanese investment in 1981 was $31.6 million, which is 17 percent less than in 1980. The 1981 capital value of joint ventures with Japanese participation in Africa was $6.8 million, which is five percent less than in 1980. Japanese investment was $2.65 million, which is 13 percent less than in 1980.

The capital value of joint ventures with Japanese participation in Europe was $388,000, which is 86 percent less than in 1980. The Japanese investment was $156,000, which is 91 percent less than in 1980. The capital value of the joint ventures in North America was $32 million, or 30 percent less than in 1980. The Japanese investment there decreased by 16 percent.

Below are figures of the average Japanese investment in a joint venture, by activity. Thus the average of total Japanese investments in a joint venture company was $494,143 which is 25 percent (or $99,100) more than in 1979.

Activity	*$1,000*
Trawling	$1,257
Skipjack tuna harvest	456
Whaling	786
Other harvests	113
Aquaculture	121
Refrigeration operations	337
Fish processing	389
Average	494

From April 1980 to March 1981, six new Japanese joint ventures began functioning. Among them, the largest joint venture was formed by the Japanese firm Nihon Suisan in Argentina. This venture conducts trawling for bottom species such as hake and squid. The Japanese firm Hokoku Suisan formed a joint venture in Venezuela for the catching and processing of shrimp. (The vessels of this joint venture can purchase fuel at a reduced price, which is one-tenth of the standard price of fuel in the countries of Latin America.) The four other joint ventures, which are relatively small, are located in New Guinea, Indonesia, New Caledonia, and New Zealand.

Lately, Japanese fishing firms, which are participating in the formation of joint ventures abroad, are analyzing their activities with the aim of maximizing profits. According to fish industry officials in Japan, for the next few years the number of joint Japanese fishing ventures will remain at the 1981 level or diminish somewhat. (Source: LSB 82-6.)

Table 1.—Japanese joint ventures, by region, capital value, and Japanese investment in 1981, and the percentage change from 1980.

Region	Capital value[1] of joint ventures	Change from 1980	Japanese investment[1] in joint ventures	Change from 1980
Cent. and S. America	$51.5	+73%	$41.1	+70%
Asia and Oceania	$55.9	−13%	$31.6	−17%
Africa	$ 6.8	− 5%	$ 2.65	−13%
Middle East	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Europe	$0.39	−86%	$ 0.16	−91%
N. America	$32	−30%	N/A	−16%

[1]Value listed in millions of dollars.

Table 2.—Japanese joint ventures in 1981, by region and activity.

	Number of joint ventures								
Region	Shrimping	Trawling	Skipjack tuna harvest	Whaling	Other harvest	Aquaculture	Refrig. operations	Fish processing	Total
Cent. and S. America	4	9	1	1	3	1	4	2	25
Asia and Oceania	18	3	6	0	18	29	12	18	104
Africa	3	6	3	0	0	0	3	1	16
Middle and Far East	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Europe	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
N. America	0	0	0	1	5	1	1	38	46
Total	25	19	10	2	26	31	20	60	193

Latin American Tuna Exports to U.S. Down

Despite the rapid development of the tuna fisheries in several Latin American countries, U.S. tuna imports from that region have declined sharply since 1979. Shipments from the region totaled only 37,600 metric tons (t) of tuna in 1981, a decline of 33 percent from the 56,500 t imported in 1980 and a decline of over 50 percent from the record 76,700 t imported in 1979 (Table 1). The value of tuna imported from Latin America has also declined (Table 2).

The main reason for reduced tuna exports has been the imposition of tuna and tuna product embargoes by the United States on countries which seized U.S. tuna purse seiners in jurisdictions it does not recognize. Embargoes were in force on Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru, as of mid-1982. A similar embargo on Costa Rica was removed in February 1982. Two of the countries affected, Ecuador and Mexico, were formerly major suppliers of tuna to U.S. canneries.

Latin America now supplies only a small portion of U.S. tuna imports. The United States imported about 37,600 t from Latin America in 1981, only 12 percent of total U.S. tuna imports (Fig. 1). In previous years, Latin American countries supplied a greater

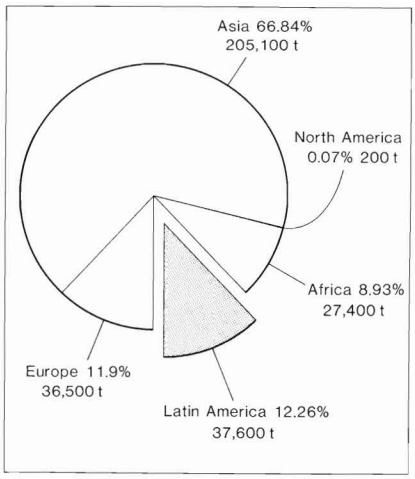

Figure 1.—United States tuna imports, 1981.

Table 1.—Latin American tuna exports to the United States, by quantity, 1977-81.

Country	Exports (t) 1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Caribbean					
Bahamas	2,700.9	529.7	—	—	—
Barbados	—	—	—	—	68.0
Bermuda	7,199.7	6,300.7	4,380.5	—	445.7
Cayman Islands	—	—	—	294.8	1,908.9
Cuba	—	—	—	—	—
Dominican Republic	244.9	—	—	—	19.1
French West Indies	—	—	59.2	14.7	56.8
Grenada	—	—	—	—	—
Haiti	—	—	—	—	—
Jamaica	—	—	—	—	—
Montserrat	—	—	—	—	—
Netherlands Antilles	5,666.3	7,670.9	11,753.9	11,837.1	2,334.5
Trinidad-Tobago	315.9	—	12.5	242.2	508.2
Subtotal[1]	16,127.7	14,501.3	16,206.1	12,388.8	5,341.2
Central America					
Belize	—	—	—	—	—
Canal Zone	789.3	—	—	—	—
Costa Rica	226.8	573.2	558.0	450.0	—
El Salvador	—	—	—	—	—
Guatemala	—	—	—	—	—
Honduras	—	4.7	—	—	—
Mexico	11,611.0	17,853.3	10,038.1	4,730.5	—
Nicaragua	775.8	2,988.4	846.0	—	—
Panama	13,616.9	14,519.9	25,685.3	16,201.7	14,297.3
Subtotal[1]	27,019.8	35,939.5	37,127.4	21,382.2	14,297.3
South America					
Argentina	—	—	—	—	12.2
Bolivia	—	—	—	—	—
Brazil	2.5	708.2	394.8	4,743.7	6,286.4
Chile	—	—	—	3.7	25.4
Colombia	—	—	—	—	—
Ecuador	11,202.7	12,535.5	17,134.1	11,845.2	—
French Guiana	—	—	—	—	—
Guyana	—	—	—	—	—
Paraguay	—	—	—	—	—
Peru	99.2	40.6	86.6	510.4	23.4
Suriname	—	—	—	—	—
Uruguay	316.9	2,654.2	710.7	1,602.9	1,639.1
Venezuela	2,540.2	9,324.4	5,066.7	4,062.0	9,970.7
Subtotal[1]	14,161.5	25,262.9	23,392.9	22,767.9	17,957.2
Grand total	57,309.0	75,703.7	76,726.4	56,538.9	37,595.7

[1]Totals may not agree due to rounding.
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Table 2.—Latin American tuna exports to the United States, by value, 1977-81.

Country	Export value (US$1,000) 1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Caribbean					
Bahamas	775.2	175.2	—	—	—
Barbados	—	—	—	—	222.2
Bermuda	2,224.9	1,599.4	1,337.3	—	520.6
Cayman Islands	—	—	—	277.5	2,279.2
Cuba	—	—	—	—	—
Dominican Republic	199.7	—	—	—	35.2
French West Indies	—	—	97.3	53.0	124.2
Grenada	—	—	—	—	—
Haiti	—	—	—	—	—
Jamaica	—	—	—	—	—
Montserrat	—	—	—	—	—
Netherlands Antilles	4,319.7	7,823.9	10,072.5	14,394.8	4,576.0
Trinidad-Tobago	497.8	—	21.7	523.0	710.3
Subtotal[1]	8,017.3	9,598.5	11,528.8	15,248.3	8,467.7
Central America					
Belize	—	—	—	—	—
Canal Zone	709.1	—	—	—	—
Costa Rica	190.0	499.9	464.4	382.5	—
El Salvador	—	—	—	—	—
Guatemala	—	—	—	—	—
Honduras	—	5.6	—	—	—
Mexico	8,136.5	16,221.7	9,976.3	5,110.9	—
Nicaragua	250.4	1,598.4	715.8	—	—
Panama	10,366.9	12,605.9	23,410.3	18,799.1	18,270.8
Subtotal[1]	19,652.9	30,931.5	34,566.8	24,292.5	18,270.8
South America					
Argentina	—	—	—	—	26.8
Bolivia	—	—	—	—	—
Brazil	7.9	448.3	291.4	5,204.9	7,440.8
Chile	—	—	—	4.4	35.6
Colombia	—	—	—	—	—
Ecuador	9,853.7	7,941.9	12,186.3	11,136.4	—
French Guiana	—	—	—	—	—
Guyana	—	—	—	—	—
Paraguay	—	—	—	—	—
Peru	132.9	53.3	107.4	777.6	19.2
Suriname	—	—	—	—	—
Uruguay	428.8	4,433.9	985.1	3,382.9	2,749.4
Venezuela	1,740.5	7,858.7	2,711.3	3.068.7	12,793.5
Subtotal[1]	12,163.8	20,736.1	16,281.5	23,574.9	23,065.3
Grand total	39,834.0	61,266.1	62,377.1	63,116.7	49,803.8

[1]Totals may not agree due to rounding.
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Table 3.—U.S. tuna imports by area, 1977-81.

Area	Exports (1,000 t)				
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Asia	164.9	205.7	198.4	201.5	205.1
Latin America	57.3	75.7	76.7	56.5	37.6
Europe	28.1	17.9	11.3	17.7	36.5
Africa	13.0	33.3	27.0	23.2	27.4
North America	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total[1]	264.5	332.7	313.5	299.0	306.9

[1]Totals may not agree due to rounding. Note: Totals may not agree with tuna import data published in "Fisheries of the United States" as Bureau of the Census data does not include shipments from American Samoa. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Table 4.—Latin American tuna exports to the United States, 1977-81.

Product	Exports (1,000 t)				
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Fresh or frozen	56.8	75.4	76.6	56.0	37.6
Canned	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.5	negl.
Total	57.3	75.7	76.7	56.5	37.6

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

proportion of U.S. tuna imports. The 75,700 t imported from Latin America in 1978, for example, was over 20 percent of all U.S. tuna imports (Table 3).

The major Latin American suppliers of tuna to the U.S. market in 1981 were Panama, Venezuela, and Brazil. The United States has imported tuna from Panama and Venezuela for several years. Brazil has recently begun to develop a tuna fishery, and as a result, the United States began to import significant quantities in 1980. The United States also imports tuna from several other Latin American countries (i.e., the Netherlands Antilles and the Cayman Islands), but this tuna is mostly taken by foreign vessels registered in those countries for a variety of tax and legal reasons. The tuna is mostly caught in the eastern Pacific and transshipped in Panama.

The United States imports primarily frozen tuna which is then packaged at canneries in southern California and in Puerto Rico. Almost all of the 37,600 t of tuna imported from Latin America in 1981 was shipped frozen (Table 4). The United States imported only negligible quantities of canned tuna from Latin America in 1981, primarily because embargoes were in place on the major Latin American tuna canning countries, Mexico and Ecuador. Frozen tuna enters the United States duty free, while tariff duties, especially the 35 percent duty on tuna canned in oil, tend to limit imports of canned tuna from Latin American as well as from other exporting countries.

The Latin American Fishery Export Market

The Latin American region is the world's smallest export market for fishery products (Fig. 1). Most Latin American countries import only small quantities of fishery products and several of the major countries in the region have initiated ambitious fishery development projects which will further reduce the demand for imported seafood.

In 1980, Latin American countries imported 0.4 million metric tons (t) of fishery products, about 4 percent of the 9.2 million t traded worldwide (Table 1). The value of Latin American fishery imports was an even smaller proportion of the world fisheries trade, amounting to only 2 percent of all imports (Table 1).

Most of the region's imports go to only five countries: Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. These five countries imported 281,000 t, or 77 percent of all fishery products imported by Latin America in 1980.

Latin American fishery imports declined sharply in 1980, totaling only 370,000 t, almost a 10 percent decline from the 400,000 t imported in 1979. This contrasts with an 18 percent growth rate for each of the previous two years (Tables 2, 3). The actual dollar value of imports did not change from 1979 to 1980, but when inflation is accounted for, the real value in constant dollars declined by over 10 percent.

Brazil

Brazil is Latin America's leading importer of fishery products (Figure 2). Brazil imported nearly $90 million worth of seafood in 1980, mostly salted cod (Bacalao) from Scandinavia. In an attempt to reduce Brazil's large trade deficit, the government is trying to limit imports by maintaining high

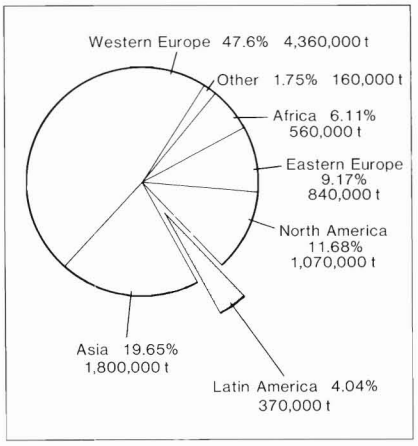

Figure 1.—World fishery imports by continent, 1980.

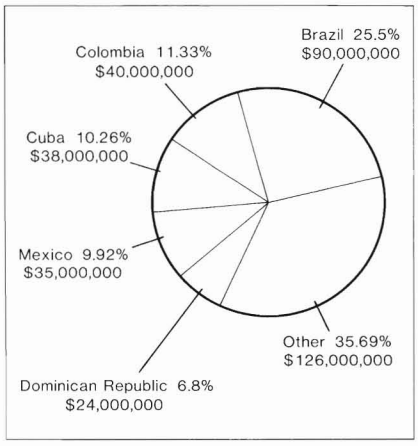

Figure 2.—Latin American fishery imports by country and value, 1980.

Table 1.—World fishery imports by area, quantity, and value, 1980.

Area	Quantity		Value	
	1,000 t	Percent	Million dollars	Percent
Western Europe	4,360.1	47	6,702.5	44
Asia	1,844.4	20	4,246.1	28
North America	1,068.0	12	2,933.2	19
Eastern Europe	840.3	9	447.0	3
Africa	559.3	6	464.8	3
Latin America	366.8	4	353.0	2
Other	160.2	2	146.8	1
Total	9,198.9	100	15,293.5	100

[1]Totals may not agree due to rounding.
Source: FAO "Yearbook of Fishery Statistics," 1980.

tariffs and other trade barriers on most fishery products, while promoting domestic production with an aggressive fisheries development program. Fishery imports peaked in 1979, declined by 16 percent in 1980, and preliminary 1981 data suggest that they have continued to decline.

Colombia

Colombia is Latin America's second leading importer of fishery products, especially fish oil for industrial purposes. Current statistical data on Colombian imports is unavailable, but some observers believe that there is good potential for expanded shipments of low-cost fish for the country's rapidly expanding population.

Cuba

Cuban fishery imports have remained relatively constant in both value and quantity. The imports are

Table 2.—The value of Latin American fishery product imports, 1977-80.

Country or dependency	Value (US$1,000,000)				Major commodity
	1977	1978	1979	1980	
Caribbean					
Antigua	0.8F	0.8F	0.8F	0.8F	Fish: Dried or salted
Bahamas	1.6	1.6F	1.6F	1.6F	Fish: Canned
Barbados	1.9	1.9F	1.9F	1.9F	Fish: Canned
Bermuda	3.0	3.3	3.8	3.8F	Shellfish
Cayman Isl.	0.2F	0.2F	0.2F	0.2F	Fish: Canned
Cuba	39.0	31.3	38.1	38.1F	Fish: Fresh or frozen
Dominica	0.5	0.6	0.6F	0.6F	Fish: Dried or salted
Dom. Rep.	14.4	14.5	19.6	23.7	Fish: Dried or salted
Grenada	0.5F	0.5F	0.5F	0.5F	Fish: Dried or salted
Guadeloupe	4.8	5.7	7.1	8.1	Fish: Dried or salted
Haiti	1.7	1.7F	1.7F	1.7F	Fish: Dried or salted
Jamaica	11.9	18.0	17.8F	17.7	Fish: Canned
Martinique	7.8	10.7	12.9	12.3	Fish: Dried or salted
Montserrat	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Neth. Ant.	4.7	4.7F	4.7F	4.7F	Fish: Fresh or frozen
Puerto Rico	NA	0.2	0.2	0.2	NA
St. Kitts	0.3	0.3F	0.4	0.4F	Fish: Dried or salted
St. Lucia	0.7	0.8	0.8F	0.8F	Fish: Dried or salted
St. Vincent	0.4	0.4	0.4F	0.4F	Fish: Dried or salted
Trinidad-Tobago	4.6	7.6	7.7	10.4	Fish: Dried or salted
Turks and Caicos	negl.	negl.	negl.	negl.	NA
Subtotal[1]	98.8	104.8	120.8	127.9	
Central America					
Belize	0.3	0.4	0.4F	0.4F	Fish: Canned
Costa Rica	1.5	1.5	2.7	2.7F	Fish meal
El Salvador	2.4	2.3	2.3F	2.3F	Fish: Canned
Guatemala	1.2F	1.2F	1.2F	1.2F	Fish: Canned
Honduras	1.5	1.1	1.4	2.0	Fish: Canned
Mexico	12.0	20.5	29.7	35.3	Fish: Fresh or frozen
Nicaragua	1.6	0.9	0.7	1.4	Fish: Canned
Panama	2.6	3.6	4.9F	4.9F	Fish: Canned
Subtotal[1]	23.1	31.5	43.3	50.2	
South America					
Argentina	6.9	10.0	10.0F	10.0F	Fish: Fresh or frozen
Bolivia	2.7	3.9	1.7	1.7F	Fish: Canned
Brazil	54.2	71.5	106.5	89.6	Fish: Dried or salted
Chile	1.5	2.4	2.4F	2.4F	Fish: Canned
Colombia	27.9	39.7	39.7F	39.7F	Fish: Canned
Ecuador	negl.	negl.	negl.	negl.	Fish oil
Fr. Guiana	3.0	3.4	6.7	12.0	Shellfish
Guyana	negl.	negl.	negl.	negl.	Shellfish: Canned
Paraguay	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Peru	0.4	0.4F	0.4F	0.4F	Fish: Canned
Suriname	1.7F	1.7F	1.7F	1.7F	Fish: Canned
Uruguay	0.8	1.0	1.0F	1.0F	Fish oil
Venezuela	11.0	19.9	20.7	16.5	Fish: Canned
Subtotal[1]	110.0	153.9	190.6	174.9	
Grand total	231.9	290.2	354.7	353.0	

[1]Totals may not agree due to rounding.
NA = not available; negl. = negligible; F = FAO estimate. Source: FAO "Yearbook of Fishery Statistics," 1980.

Table 3.—Latin American fishery product imports, 1977-80.

Country or dependency	Imports (1,000 t)				Major commodity
	1977	1978	1979	1980	
Caribbean					
Antigua	0.6F	0.6F	0.6F	0.6F	Fish: Dried or salted
Bahamas	0.5F	0.5F	0.5F	0.5F	Fish: Canned
Barbados	1.5	1.5F	1.5F	1.5F	Fish: Canned
Bermuda	0.8	0.9	1.4	1.4F	Shellfish
Cayman Isl.	negl.	negl.	negl.	negl.	Fish: Canned
Cuba	77.4	89.6	91.4	91.4F	Fish meal
Dominica	0.8	0.4	0.4F	0.4F	Fish: Dried or salted
Dom. Rep.	13.6	12.0	14.8	17.4	Fish: Canned
Grenada	0.7F	0.7F	0.7F	0.7F	Fish: Dried or salted
Guadeloupe	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.9	Fish: Dried or salted
Haiti	2.4	2.4F	2.4F	2.4F	Fish: Canned
Jamaica	11.6	15.3	19.2F	15.4	Fish: Fresh or frozen
Martinique	4.6	4.9	5.2	4.5	Fish: Dried or salted
Montserrat	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Neth. Ant.	2.2	2.2F	2.2F	2.2F	Fish: Fresh or frozen
Puerto Rico	NA	0.2	0.2	0.2	NA
St. Kitts	0.2	0.2F	0.2F	0.2F	Fish: Dried or salted
St. Lucia	0.3	0.4	0.4F	0.4F	Fish: Dried or salted
St. Vincent	0.3	0.3	0.3F	0.3F	Fish: Dried or salted
Trinidad-Tobago	2.7	4.7	3.6	4.3	Fish: Dried or salted
Turks and Caicos	negl.	negl.	negl.	negl.	NA
Subtotal[1]	122.8	139.5	147.8	146.7	
Central America					
Belize	0.2	0.2	0.2F	0.2F	Fish: Canned
Costa Rica	2.6	1.9	4.0	4.0F	Fish meal
El Salvador	2.0	2.1	2.1F	2.1F	Fish: Canned
Guatemala	1.4F	1.4F	1.4F	1.4F	Fish: Canned
Honduras	1.5	1.0	1.2	2.0	Fish: Canned
Mexico	18.7	32.9	55.4	41.0	Fish meal
Nicaragua	2.0	0.9	0.4	0.7	Fish: Canned
Panama	1.6	2.1	2.8F	2.8F	Fish: Canned
Subtotal[1]	30.0	42.5	67.5	54.2	
South America					
Argentina	9.7	9.3	9.3F	9.3F	Fish: Fresh or frozen
Bolivia	4.7	7.1	3.3	3.3F	Fish: Canned
Brazil	64.7	65.9	94.8	70.7	Fish: Fresh or frozen
Chile	0.9F	1.8	1.8F	1.8F	Fish: Canned
Colombia	46.5	60.9	60.9F	60.9F	Fish oil
Ecuador	negl.	negl.	negl.	negl.	Fish oil
Fr. Guiana	1.7	1.6	2.8	3.3	Shellfish
Guyana	negl.	negl.	negl.	negl.	Shellfish: Canned
Paraguay	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Peru	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	Fish: Canned
Suriname	2.0F	2.0F	2.0F	2.0F	Fish: Canned
Uruguay	0.7	1.0	1.0F	1.0F	Fish: Canned
Venezuela	5.5	14.1	12.6	13.4	Fish: Canned
Subtotal[1]	136.6	164.0	188.9	165.9	
Grand total	289.4	346.0	404.2	366.8	

[1]Totals may not agree due to rounding.
NA = not available; negl. = negligible; F = FAO estimate. Source: FAO "Yearbook of Fishery Statistics," 1980.

primarily low-cost frozen fish and fish meal.

Mexico

Mexico imported $35 million worth of fishery products in 1980, an increase of 16 percent from the $30 million imported in 1979. The quantity of imports, however, declined by 25 percent during the same period. These divergent trends are the result of changes in the composition of Mexico's imports. Mexico is rapidly developing a domestic fish meal industry. As a result, the country has had to import less fish meal, a low cost commodity, but has increased imports of more costly edible commodities. Julio Berdegue, President of Mexico's National Chamber of the Fishing Industry, estimates that Mexico will be self-sufficient in fish meal production by 1983. Some U.S. exporters report a strong market in Mexico for many edible seafood products. Mexican imports of edible commodities in the future, however, will be limited by the country's aggressive fisheries development program and various import restrictions designed to assist the domestic fishing industry.

Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic imported $24.7 million worth of fishery products in 1980, a 25 percent increase over 1979 shipments. Dominican importers have significantly increased fish purchases since 1979, when an outbreak of African swine fever forced the the slaughter of the country's pig population, a major source of protein for the domestic market. Canned fish accounted for most of the increase in 1980 imports. (Source: IFR-82/100.)

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) or Language Services Biweekly (LSB) reports produced by the Office of International Fisheries Affairs, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Washington, DC 20235.

Latin American Hake Exports to U.S. Decline

Latin American countries developed hake fisheries in the mid-1970's to supply groundfish to the United States and western Europe. Most of the hake is exported as frozen blocks. Declining cod catches in several countries had created as strong demand for these Latin American exports.

Hake block shipments to the United States reached a record high of 18,000 metric tons (t), worth $24 million, in 1979 (Table 1), but have declined since then. Rising costs and government exchange rate controls in Argentina caused many exporters to increase their prices. As a result, importers in the United States have turned to other suppliers.

The expansion of cod fisheries in Canada and Iceland have provided alternatives for U.S. importers. In 1981, shipments of hake from Latin America to the United States declined to only 11,100 t, worth $16.7 million. The decline in shipments from Argentina has been particularly sharp, and Uruguay actually replaced Argentina as the principal hake supplier to the U.S. market in 1981. (Source: IFR-82/73.)

Table 1.—Latin American exports of hake blocks to the United States, by quantity and value, 1975-81.

	Exports (1,000 t)							Export value ($1,000,000)						
Country	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Argentina	1.4	4.8	6.6	11.3	11.9	6.8	4.6	0.9	3.3	6.7	13.5	16.4	10.3	6.9
Brazil	negl.	—	—	negl.	0.1	—	—	negl.	—	—	negl.	0.1	—	—
Chile	—	—	—	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.2	—	—	—	0.2	0.2	0.4	1.7
Peru	0.6	0.4	—	0.2	0.3	1.2	negl.	0.2	0.2	—	0.2	0.1	0.4	negl.
Uruguay	—	0.1	0.1	1.6	5.4	4.5	5.2	—	negl.	0.1	2.0	7.7	7.4	8.1
Total[1]	2.0	5.3	6.8	13.3	18.0	12.8	11.1	1.1	3.6	6.9	15.9	24.6	18.5	16.7

[1]Totals may not agree due to rounding. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

A "Quality Assurance" Program for Japan's Fish

The Japanese Fishery Agency has begun an experimental operation to label frozen fish with "Quality Labels." The label will inform the consumer of the last day of sale of the product (or the freshness date), the packaging date of the product, the name and address of the processor, the name of the fish, the directions for defrosting, and, if possible, a simple recipe. By labeling frozen fish with such information, the Agency hopes to bring back consumers who have become unfamiliar with fish products. The information is also aimed at helping young housewives who may not know how to determine the freshness of the fish or how to cook it.

The Agency will also monitor the distribution system to insure low-temperature storage of the fish, from the landing of the fish to the store. The Agency would also like to establish a uniform quality control system through this experimental operation.

During 1982, 2,000 metric tons of fish, including species of mackerel and pike, were labeled. The fish did not pass through central markets but were distributed directly from fishery cooperatives in the area where the fish were caught to designated retail stores in the cities. Half of the cost (US$500,000) needed to inspect and label the fish will be paid by the Japanese Government. The Agency reportedly wishes to extend the labeling to refrigerated fish if the labeling receives support from the consumer.

Fishery Officials of Africa and the Middle East

The Division of Foreign Fisheries Analysis, Office of International Fisheries Affairs, NMFS, NOAA, has prepared the following list of African and Middle Eastern fishery officials. The list is accurate as of July 1982. Information for the Canary Islands, Chad, Comoro Islands, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Namibia, Reunion, Transkei, and Zaire is unknown.

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Japan's Marine Culture Production, 1969-80

The culture of jack mackerel, sea bream, scallop, yellowtail, and oyster in Japan has grown by 190,240 metric tons (t) or 68 percent from 278,180 metric tons (t) to 468,420 t between 1969 and 1980. In 1980, oyster culture remained greatest at 261,323 t vs. 149,449 t for the second-ranked species, yellowtail (Table 1). Total production for the five marine species for the year was 468,420 t; the total for the 12-year period was 4,337,450 t.

Cultured scallops, with a 40,403 t harvest in 1980, were down 42,810 t from the highest production year, 1977, when 83,213 t were harvested. Production of sea bream and jack mackerel have grown from zero in 1969 to 14,973 t and 2,272 t, respectively, in 1980. (Source: FFIR 82-3.)

Table 1.—Japanese marine culture production of selected species, 1969-80.

	Production (in metric tons)					
Year	Jack mackerel	Sea bream	Scallop	Yellowtail	Oyster[1]	Total
1969	—	—	—	32,722	245,458	278,180
1970	7	454	5,674	43,354	190,799	240,288
1971	57	930	10,361	61,855	193,846	267,049
1972	127	1,380	23,049	77,059	217,373	318,988
1973	378	2,741	39,297	80,439	229,899	352,754
1974	619	3,298	62,651	92,946	210,583	370,097
1975	920	4,462	70,313	92,407	201,173	369,275
1976	704	6,572	64,946	101,786	226,278	400,286
1977	743	8,245	83,213	115,098	212,779	420,078
1978	809	11,315	67,750	121,956	232,068	433,898
1979	1,461	12,492	43,622	155,053	205,509	418,137
1980	2,272	14,973	40,403	149,449	261,323	468,420
Total	8,097	66,862	511,279	1,124,124	2,627,088	4,337,450

[1]With shell.