

UNITED STATES IMPORTS OF SWORDFISH (1974-JUNE 1994)

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SUMMARY

Total and country-specific data are presented for U.S. swordfish imports in terms of both dressed weight and value in U.S. dollars. Total imports increased from 11.6 MT in 1975 to 1,240 MT in 1984, then jumped to 4,114 MT in 1985 and peaked in 1990 at 7,475 MT. Imports fell to 5,838 MT in 1993, and have only reached 1,741 MT through June of 1994. Swordfish imports now exceed domestic Atlantic swordfish production. In recent years, most of the imports have come from the western Pacific. Since 1990, imports have fallen from every country, except Canada, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, Bermuda, Venezuela, Uruguay, Italy and New Zealand, where total swordfish imports have steadily increased. Imports from countries such as Trinidad & Tobago, Japan, Singapore and Taiwan have fluctuated.

RESUME

Les données totales et par pays relatives aux importations d'espadon par les Etats-Unis sont données en poids vif et en dollars USA. Les importations totales sont passées de 11,6 TM en 1975 à 1.240 TM en 1984, puis ont augmenté à 4.114 TM en 1985 et à 7.475 TM en 1990. Les importations sont tombées à 5.838 TM en 1993 et n'avaient atteint que 1.741 TM à la fin du mois de juin 1994. Les importations d'espadon sont maintenant supérieures à la production nationale d'espadon de l'Atlantique. Ces dernières années, la plupart des importations provenaient du Pacifique Ouest. Depuis 1990, les importations ont diminué dans tous les pays à l'exception du Canada, d'Antigua et Barbuda, des Barbades, de Grenade, de Saint Vincent, des Bermudes, du Venezuela, d'Uruguay, d'Italie et de la Nouvelle-Zélande, où les importations d'espadon n'ont cessé d'augmenter. Les importations en provenance de la Trinité et Tobago, du Japon, de Singapour et de Taïwan ont subi des fluctuations.

RESUMEN

Se presentan datos totales y nacionales de las importaciones de pez espada realizadas por Estados Unidos, tanto en términos de peso canal como de valor en dólares estadounidenses. El total de importaciones aumentó, desde 11.6 t en 1975 hasta 1240 t en 1984, de nuevo en 1985 ascendió hasta 4114 t, alcanzando un máximo de 7475 t en 1990. En 1993, las importaciones descendieron a 5838 t y a finales de junio de 1994 sólo fueron de 1741 t. Las importaciones de pez espada sobrepasan ahora la producción nacional de pez espada atlántico. En los últimos años, la mayor parte de las importaciones procedía del Pacífico oeste. A partir de 1990, las importaciones han descendido en todos los países, exceptuando Canadá, Antigua y Barbuda, Barbados, Granada, St. Vincent, Bermuda, Venezuela, Uruguay, Italia y Nueva Zelanda, donde las importaciones de pez espada han seguido un aumento paulatino. Las importaciones procedentes de países como Trinidad y Tobago, Japón, Singapur y Taiwan han sufrido fluctuaciones.

METHODS: DATABASE DESCRIPTION

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) maintains a dataset containing monthly imports and exports of fishery related items. The master dataset contains information by commodity code, country, volume, value, and customs district. The importer of record files documentation by commodity code. The two codes now in use are for fresh and frozen swordfish other than fillets. Contact with the industry indicates that most of these products are headed and gutted carcasses. Since an importer is obligated to use the correct commodity code, any fillets are likely to be placed in a basket category for "unclassified fillets" since there is no longer a specific code.

Data were compiled for the period from 1974 to 1994. Reported weights are assumed to be actual dressed weights of imported product. It is important to note that the regional designations only represent the geographic location of the exporting country and do not represent the location of fishing grounds. For example, Japan is listed in the Pacific region, but the Japanese fleet fishes worldwide. It should also be noted that these import data do not allow the discrimination of local production (i.e. fish caught by the country exporting to the U.S.) versus fish that are imported by a country and subsequently exported to the U.S. market.

RESULTS: TRENDS IN IMPORTS

Imports of swordfish to the U.S. were relatively low (less than 1000 mt and less than \$5 million) until about 1984 (Table 1). Subsequently, the volume of imports escalated, reaching a peak of nearly 7500 mt in 1990, with a value of \$40 million (Table 1 and Figs. 1 and 2). The volume of imports has since declined steadily, although the overall value continued to increase until 1992, reaching a peak of \$42.8 million.

Historically, the east Pacific was the dominant region exporting swordfish to the U.S., but in recent years the western Pacific has become the greatest contributor to total swordfish imports (Table 2 and Fig. 1). Since 1990, imports have fallen from every country except Canada, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, Bermuda, Venezuela, Uruguay, Italy, and New Zealand, where total swordfish imports have steadily increased (Table 2). Imports from countries such as Trinidad and Tobago, Japan, Singapore, and Taiwan have fluctuated.

Swordfish imports now exceed domestic Atlantic swordfish production (Fig. 1).

DISCUSSION: DATABASE PROBLEMS

Although importers are required by the U.S. Customs Service to file an import declaration, errors do occur in filing the documentation. Both Customs Service and Bureau of the Census screen the data using various computerized edit routines. NMFS as a secondary user reviews the compiled data for possible errors on a monthly basis. If a possible error is discovered by NMFS, Census is

notified which in turn contacts the importer of record for clarification and a possible fix.

Potential errors tend to center around volume-value reviews. In other words the price per kilo is extremely low or high, thus indicating a problem in the recorded volume or value. The second most common error is the misidentification of countries. For years one broker declared a country of origin as Chile using the ISO code CH. Although mnemonically this would appear to be correct, CH actually indicates Switzerland. The third and most difficult to establish as a problem is the misidentification of the product or species. Once again, a broker recorded swordfish from Chile as albacore tuna. This mistake occurred because of the Chilean common name for swordfish is albacara.

Consistency in databases is paramount when numerous agencies are manipulating the same dataset albeit on their own computer systems. NMFS believes strongly in this principle thus it will not correct its master trade database without notification of an error correction from Census.

However, NMFS also believes that accurate data on imports and exports are necessary to track compliance with ICCAT management recommendations. SCRS should give additional thought to mechanisms to improve collection of these data on a timely and accurate basis.

Table 1. Annual U.S. Swordfish Imports (1974-June 1994)

YEAR	FILLET		FRESH		FROZEN		TOTALS	
	MT	\$1000	MT	\$1000	MT	\$1000	MT	\$1000
1974	29.9	29	10.0	8	0.1	na	39.9	na
1975	2.2	5	1.0	1	9.3	11	11.6	17
1976	5.0	11			27.5	45	32.5	56
1977	79.6	100			0.2	na	79.8	na
1978			9.2	20	152.2	364	161.4	384
1979			42.8	114	114.6	378	157.4	492
1980			114.1	321	102.5	311	216.6	632
1981			360.1	614	220.6	1022	580.7	1636
1982			7.9	23	541.8	2509	549.7	2532
1983			272.9	1339	375.9	1474	648.8	2813
1984			710.5	2883	529.9	2298	1240.4	5181
1985			3370.9	14886	743.7	3273	4114.6	18159
1986			4997.0	28839	431.6	1825	5428.6	30664
1987			3444.8	20574	622.1	3806	4066.9	24380
1988			3272.0	19817	735.0	4336	4007.0	24153
1989			5822.7	33802	990.4	5035	6813.1	38837
1990			6804.2	35376	671.4	3604	7475.6	38980
1991			6745.3	39415	425.5	2653	7170.8	42068
1992			5988.3	36374	894.3	6416	6882.6	42790
1993			4866.1	33252	972.0	5748	5838.1	39000
1994 (to June)			1387.8	8930	352.9	1931	1740.7	10861

Table 2. U.S. Imports of Swordfish (dressed wt) by Country
1974 - June 1994

Region	Country	Year	MT	\$1000	Region	Country	Year	MT	\$1000
Atlantic/Pacific					Caribbean				
Canada		1975	0.2	na	Antigua/ Barbuda		1989	6.2	30
		1977	0.2	na			1993	4.5	20
		1978	9.2	20			1994	14.4	122
		1979	2.4	12	Aruba		1981	16.1	43
		1980	120.8	336			1982	41.9	130
		1981	1.5	7			1984	0.4	na
		1983	236.5	1216			1985	8.1	18
		1984	229.3	1310			1986	9.6	22
		1985	402.9	1974			1987	5.8	14
		1986	830.8	6138			1988	26.8	137
		1987	447.1	3431			1989	606.0	44
		1988	375.7	2794			1990	162.2	868
		1989	538.2	3867			1992	190.6	989
		1990	566.4	4351	Bahamas		1988	1.0	8
		1991	754.0	5849			1991	0.8	7
		1992	1135.5	9081			1993	0.3	2
		1993	1745.7	13573	Barbados		1988	22.4	157
		1994	39.1	399			1989	70.5	522
Costa Rica		1986	0.4	3			1990	0.8	8
		1988	27.8	181			1992	5.9	26
		1989	24.5	180			1993	3.5	16
		1990	148.9	1082	Cayman Islands		1984	0.1	na
		1991	127.9	787	Dominican Republic		1990	9.7	47
		1992	29.9	196	French West Indies		1981	9.1	28
		1993	5.5	32	Grenada		1989	5.3	39
		1994	10.9	70			1990	0.5	5
Mexico		1979	38.6	67			1992	0.8	3
		1980	51.3	151			1993	3.3	12
		1981	512.2	1400			1994	1.6	10
		1982	194.4	1003	Jamaica		1990	2.7	20
		1983	8.9	17	Leeward/ Windward Islands		1987	2.2	11
		1986	30.1	82			1988	30.0	99
		1987	53.3	147	St. Lucia		1989	1.2	7
		1988	121.8	574			1991	0.8	7
		1989	494.9	1859			1992	2.8	22
		1990	818.5	2706					
		1991	906.1	4251					
		1992	720.6	3865					
		1993	440.4	2449					
		1994	142.2	784					
Nicaragua		1974	6.9	11					
		1977	0.2	na					
		1980	0.2	na					
		1994	6.1	17					
Panama		1987	0.6	3					
		1988	4.8	13					
		1989	2.0	7					
		1991	28.3	95					

Region	Country	Year	MT	\$1000
Caribbean				
St. Vincent	1992	10.7	89	
	1993	13.4	99	
	1994	0.4	3	
Trinidad/ Tobago	1977	1.1	1	
	1987	80.0	382	
	1988	68.5	389	
	1989	108.0	745	
	1990	175.6	1304	
	1991	74.6	390	
	1993	186.7	1172	
Turks/Caicos	1988	8.5	53	
	1989	7.4	57	
West Atlantic				
Bermuda	1986	10.8	41	
	1993	0.5	3	
	1994	12.4	132	
Brazil	1981	9.6	38	
	1982	249.9	1080	
	1983	37.0	96	
	1984	37.0	137	
	1985	54.8	213	
	1986	130.3	616	
	1987	237.7	1618	
	1988	464.4	1274	
	1989	423.0	945	
	1990	583.1	1361	
	1991	606.6	1631	
	1992	500.5	1353	
	1993	285.5	830	
	1994	136.0	332	
Greenland	1974	5.6	2	
Suriname	1990	2.1	5	
Venezuela	1974	1.4	3	
	1979	0.7	2	
	1986	40.4	228	
	1987	2.1	7	
	1988	2.6	12	
	1989	50.2	258	
	1990	56.2	332	
	1991	74.4	336	
	1992	92.9	456	
	1993	141.5	201	
	1994	53.3	299	
Uruguay	1984	0.5	2	
	1985	6.8	21	
	1987	3.0	12	
	1989	24.8	86	
	1991	38.2	198	
	1992	118.2	575	
	1993	114.2	443	
	1994	46.8	193	

Region	Country	Year	MT	\$1000
East Atlantic				
Belgium	1987	0.5	6	
	1988	3.4	8	
	1989	2.0	14	
	1993	0.9	3	
Finland	1990	0.4	2	
France	1989	0.5	5	
	1994	0.4	3	
Germany	1982	44.3	297	
Ghana	1987	1.3	3	
Iceland	1986	0.5	2	
	1993	3.6	29	
Ivory Coast	1986	1.3	7	
Netherlands	1989	0.5	2	
	1990	17.4	117	
Norway	1984	7.1	52	
	1985	18.9	84	
	1986	6.4	43	
	1987	3.0	40	
	1989	1.3	6	
Portugal	1974	0.1	na	
	1975	0.8	2	
	1976	3.0	6	
	1978	0.4	na	
	1979	0.2	1	
	1980	0.2	1	
	1985	8.4	34	
	1986	24.2	150	
	1987	65.7	388	
	1988	82.8	474	
	1989	16.1	90	
	1990	20.2	52	
	1991	20.7	109	
Senegal	1992	7.1	33	
	1993	7.5	44	
	1994	2.4	27	
South Africa	1990	0.1	1	
	1991	0.9	6	
	1974	10.0	8	
	1978	39.8	93	
	1979	15.6	81	
	1982	1.1	3	
	1986	0.9	5	
1994	3.0	24		
Spain	1984	19.5	99	
	1985	11.6	70	
	1986	11.2	88	
	1988	11.0	71	

Region	Country	Year	MT	\$1000
East Atlantic				
Switzerland	1985	1.3	3	
	1986	3.9	24	
	1987	10.4	99	
	1988	1.5	12	
	1989	3.8	15	
	1990	10.9	30	
United Kingdom	1986	0.6	4	
	1987	0.4	3	
	1988	0.8	5	
Mediterranean				
Cyprus	1986	23.7	206	
Czechoslovakia	1988	3.6	31	
Greece	1984	5.3	32	
	1985	24.1	185	
	1986	63.6	417	
	1987	1.6	7	
	1988	1.2	9	
Iran	1986	0.6	6	
	1987	1.1	8	
Italy	1988	0.7	5	
	1989	7.8	47	
	1992	2.0	17	
	1993	3.9	27	
Morocco	1985	2.3	17	
	1986	0.2	2	
	1988	0.1	2	
Pakistan	1987	21.2	70	
Yugoslavia	1986	5.8	12	
East Pacific				
Chile	1983	6.5	24	
	1984	14.1	72	
	1985	156.3	804	
	1986	450.6	2658	
	1987	981.1	6719	
	1988	1859.7	12659	
	1989	4123.1	25573	
	1990	4354.5	24066	
1991	4041.1	26142		
1992	3320.3	21067		
1993	2227.3	15942		
1994	789.6	5711		

Region	Country	Year	MT	\$1000
East Pacific				
Ecuador	1975	3.3	7	
	1976	6.3	13	
	1977	66.5	79	
	1985	9.7	27	
	1986	373.9	1505	
	1987	420.1	1261	
	1988	53.0	158	
	1989	112.0	493	
	1990	274.3	1149	
	1991	281.7	924	
1992	264.5	707		
1993	203.3	551		
1994	43.9	131		
El Salvador	1992	4.0	18	
	1993	0.7	6	
Peru	1978	10.6	22	
	1979	4.0	9	
	1980	6.6	22	
	1981	9.1	24	
	1982	6.2	28	
	1984	1.6	9	
	1985	2.1	5	
1986	10.5	17		
1987	1.1	5		
1988	3.4	na		
1989	11.0	78		
1991	5.0	39		
1994	0.4	3		
West Pacific				
Australia	1985	0.1	3	
	1993	0.7	3	
	1994	0.8	4	
China	1985	5.4	32	
	1986	1.0	5	
	1990	0.3	1	
Fiji	1990	8.1	39	
	1991	6.0	38	
	1992	7.9	42	
	1993	5.4	25	
French Polynesia	1994	0.5	2	
Hong Kong	1991	2.0	4	
Indonesia	1990	1.0	3	
	1991	11.2	63	
	1992	1.0	7	

VOLUME OF IMPORTS

Region	Country	Year	MT	\$1000
West Pacific				
Japan	1975	7.3	7	
	1978	94.4	237	
	1979	72.2	287	
	1980	447.1	1361	
	1981	23.2	96	
	1982	81.8	363	
	1983	176.1	863	
	1984	328.0	1420	
	1985	662.7	3162	
	1986	217.5	1179	
	1987	337.9	2439	
	1988	313.1	2086	
	1989	315.1	1729	
	1990	139.7	812	
	1991	30.8	231	
	1992	221.9	2284	
1993	129.6	1408		
1994	75.4	745		
Macao	1986	16.6	51	
Malaysia	1991	1.5	7	
Micronesia	1994	1.6	6	
New Zealand	1985	16.0	67	
	1986	4.6	21	
	1987	0.7	2	
	1988	0.4	1	
	1991	6.9	39	
	1993	16.7	57	
1994	14.7	71		
Papua New Guinea	1987	3.0	17	
Philippines	1978	0.3	na	
	1979	5.9	2	
	1980	0.4	1	
	1982	0.2	1	
	1984	2.7	4	
	1985	1.7	7	
	1986	7.2	30	
	1987	0.7	3	
	1988	0.3	2	
	1992	16.9	61	
1993	10.4	57		
Saudi Arabia	1993	0.6	5	
Singapore	1982	52.8	328	
	1986	14.4	27	
	1988	185.4	933	
	1989	74.0	252	
	1990	43.6	234	
	1991	44.8	319	
	1992	193.7	1473	
	1993	68.2	396	
	1994	52.7	293	

Region	Country	Year	MT	\$1000
West Pacific				
South Korea	1980	0.9	3	
	1982	2.0	1	
	1983	14.9	37	
	1984	1.3	2	
	1985	15.5	64	
	1987	37.4	234	
	1988	2.8	19	
	1991	0.7	2	
	Sri Lanka	1993	1.1	5
	Taiwan	1974	15.9	13
1976		20.8	32	
1977		12.8	20	
1978		6.8	10	
1979		18.0	31	
1980		9.1	17	
1982		28.6	90	
1983		168.6	560	
1984		611.4	2135	
1985		1435.6	4842	
1986		1510.4	5827	
1987		810.5	3805	
1988		237.6	1075	
1989		363.4	1768	
1990	228.5	1172		
1991	87.8	564		
1992	129.5	797		
1993	207.2	1029		
1994	150.8	652		
Thailand	1984	1.7	6	
	1990	5.0	10	
	1991	18.5	34	
	1992	8.6	24	
	1993	4.4	19	
West Samoa	1990	0.2	1	

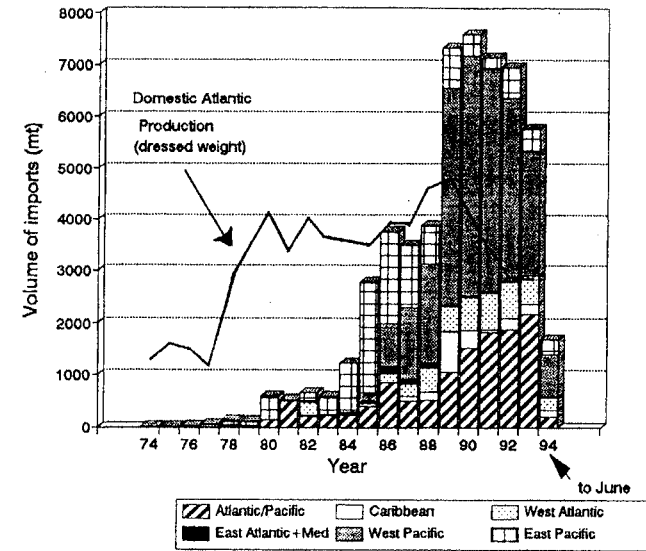


Fig. 1. Volume of swordfish imports (mt) to the U.S. by region (stacked bars), compared with domestic Atlantic production (line graph). All quantities expressed in terms of dressed weights.

VALUE OF IMPORTS

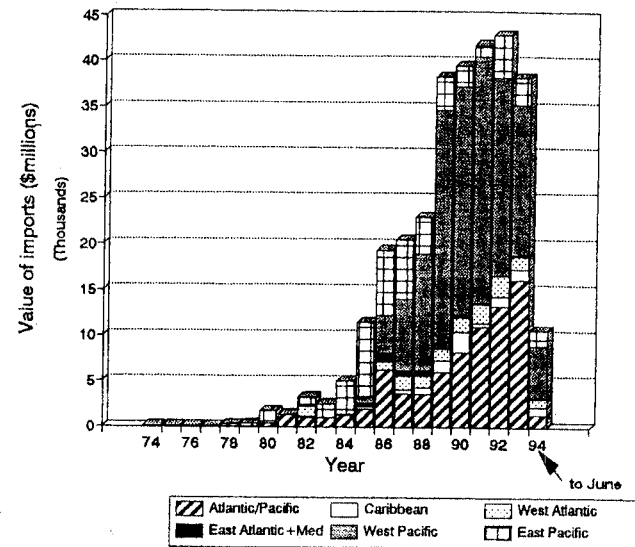


Fig. 2. Value of swordfish imports (\$U.S.) to the U.S. by region, 1974 to June 1994.