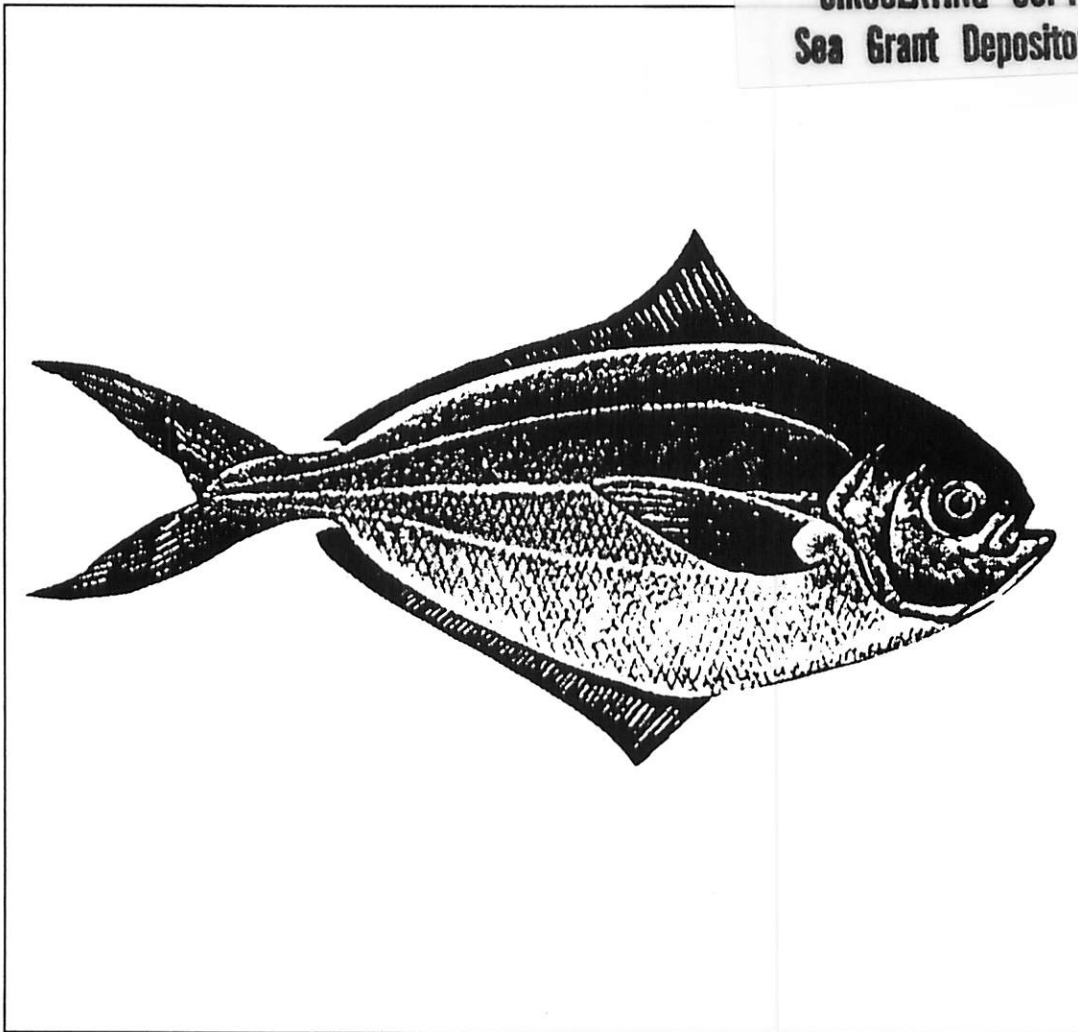


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# Guide to Laws and Regulations Governing the Importation of Seafood into Japan

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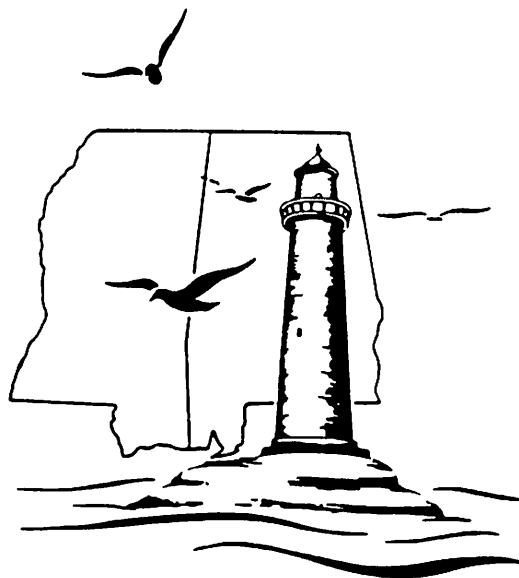
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University of Mississippi Law Center

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# **Guide to Laws and Regulations Governing the Importation of Seafood into Japan**

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December 1992

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# Introduction

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Japan is the largest fisheries trading country in the world and represents a huge market for United States fisheries products. The U.S. has run a trade surplus in fisheries products with Japan since 1977. This surplus reached \$1.6 billion in 1989. In spite of this success there is still a perception by many in the United States that the Japanese bureaucracy in collusion with domestic fishing interests seeks to impede free market access to foreign fisheries products.

In reality, the Japanese seafood market is relatively open and offers great opportunities to U.S. exporters. The regulatory and administrative framework governing the importation of fisheries products in Japan is less burdensome than that found in most nations. While a few formal and informal barriers are still in place to protect domestic producers, most observers feel that these practices are rapidly disappearing and do not present insurmountable obstacles to U.S. exporters. Instead, it is believed that marketing factors such as satisfying consumer tastes and quality requirements, providing long-term product commitments, and meeting peculiar packaging specifications are the most significant barriers that U.S. exporters must overcome.<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of this guide is to provide U.S. exporters with a summary of the laws and regulations that govern the importation of seafood products into Japan. Its discussion will be confined to Japanese laws and regulations and will not seek to offer advice on seafood marketing strategies. A number of excellent publications are already available for readers who desire additional information on finding and developing Japanese seafood markets. A list of some of these publications can be found in at page 17. The guide will also refrain from discussing commercial documentation such as sales contracts, bills of lading, or letters of credit. Commercial relationships between exporters and importers in Japan are similar to those

in other countries and do not warrant special discussion here. For more information on this topic, readers should consult any general treatise on international commercial law or one of several publications dealing with practical aspects of exporting.<sup>2</sup>

This guide has been divided into three primary categories of public legal and regulatory measures: (1) customs tariffs; (2) import quotas; and (3) sanitary laws and regulations. In the past it may have been appropriate to add a fourth category consisting of miscellaneous administrative measures that tend to impede imports; however, during the last decade most of these measures have been eliminated and therefore do not warrant special consideration.

After a brief explanation of how Japan's import system works, each of the three primary categories will be addressed. In addition, the guide will provide a list of related publications, as well as a list of government agencies in Japan and the United States that can answer specific questions.

# How Japan's Import System Works

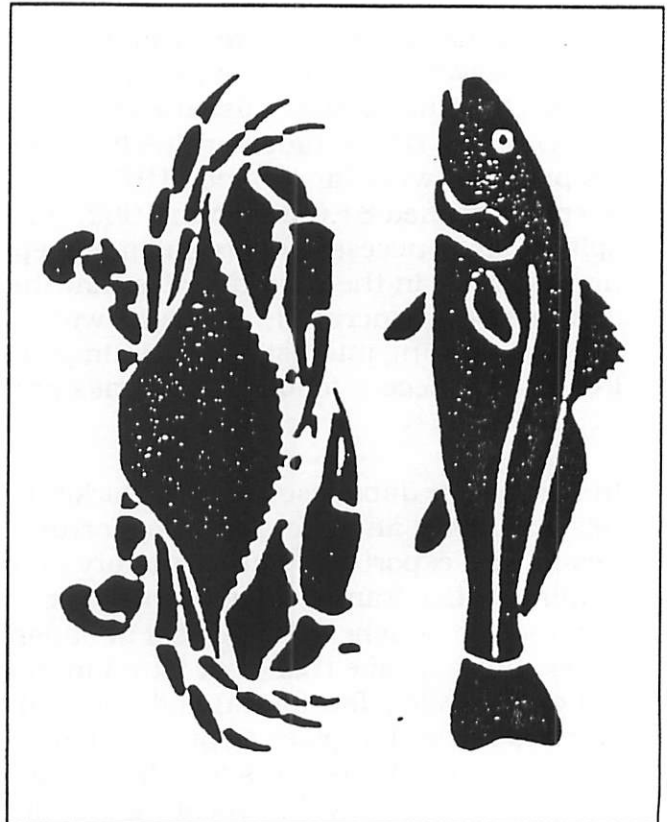
Before exporting a fisheries product to Japan it is necessary to determine whether the item is subject to any import regulations. Certain types of fisheries products may fall in the liberalized import category, which requires no tariff payments or only small payments of perhaps two percent to ten percent of value.

Other products may be subject to import quotas which place a cap on the total amount that may be imported during certain time-periods. If an import quota is in effect, the exporter must judge whether or not it is possible for a Japanese importer to obtain an import quota certificate for the item in question. If no importers with quota certificates can be found, the exporter must wait until the following quota allocation time period.

As in other countries, Japan has several laws affecting the importation and sale of certain items in order to "protect the safety and health of the people." For fisheries products the most important domestic law is the Food Sanitation Law, which creates a system of inspection and control.

The Japanese government recognizes all "usual" methods of payment of import charges. In addition to the usual methods of payment, five "special methods of settlement" may be used, but only after specific approval by the Ministry of Trade and Industry. These special methods include:

- payment in advance more than two years prior to import declaration;
- deferred payment more than two years after customs clearance;
- settlement in Japanese yen (cash), or by a check in yen, or by a yen-denominated promissory note;
- countervailing bill;
- payment of import bill by an agent in Japan rather than by the exporter overseas.



When goods which have been imported into Japan are returned to the exporter because of failure to meet standards, inferior quality, or other reasons, it is possible to receive a refund of all customs duties and consumption tax where all three of the following factors are met. First, there must be confirmation that the return of the goods was unavoidable due to non-compliance with the terms of the sales contract. Second, the goods must be transported to a bonded area within six months of importation. Last, the shape and form of the goods cannot have been altered.

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The following is a summary of the documents required before an imported fisheries product will be allowed to enter Japan:

- **Foodstuffs Import Notification Form** to the appropriate Ministry of Health and Welfare (MHW) Office. This is normally handled by the Japanese importer (see pages 13-14 below for further information on MHW inspection procedures).
- A written permit by a MHW Food Sanitation Inspector attesting that the product meets Japanese quality standards. This is also generally handled by the importer.
- A declaration of the names of any synthetic chemical compound (except flavoring agents) contained as a coloring agent or preservative in the product.
- A commercial invoice giving: (1) marks, numbers, name, full description, identification number, and quantity of the goods; (2) commercial value and unit price; (3) itemized expenses of freight, insurance, and shipping charges; (4) gross and net weights; (5) date and place of preparing the invoice; (6) destination and consignee; (7) conditions of contract relating to determination of the value of the goods; and (8) at least two copies of the invoice, all signed by the shipper.
- **Certificate of Origin.**
- **Bill of lading**, showing number of shipment; the shipper; the consignee; markings and number of packages; description of goods, including gross metric weights; and at least five copies of the bill of lading.

# Customs Tariffs

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Current customs tariff rates are found in *Customs Tariff Schedules of Japan*, which is published by the Japan Tariff Association. There are four categories of rates. The first is General Rates which are those based on the Customs Tariff Law. The second is the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Rates which are based on maximum rates agreed to by member countries under the terms of the international GATT negotiations. The third is Preferential Rates which are lower rates given to less-developed nations that meet certain legal criteria. The last category is Temporary Rates which are enacted on a temporary basis under authority of the Temporary Measures Law.

General rates are applied to countries that are not members of GATT. GATT rates are applied to GATT member countries, including all of the western industrialized nations. Preferential rates are applied to developing countries when the conditions set down by law are met. Finally, temporary rates of duty are applied in place of the other rates if the temporary rates are lower. United States exporters will therefore pay duties either in the GATT category (if a GATT rate exists) or the temporary category, whichever is lower. Examples of the tariff rates that U.S. exporters would be required to pay under the terms of the 1991 Customs Tariff Schedules are as follows:<sup>3</sup>

- Most fresh, chilled, or frozen fish—5 percent;
- Most fresh or frozen fillets and other fish meat—10 percent;
- Most dried, salted, or smoked fish—15 percent;
- Most frozen lobsters, shrimp, and crabs—3 percent;
- Most live, fresh, or chilled lobsters, shrimp, and crabs—3 to 6 percent;
- Most fresh, frozen, dried, or salted mollusks—10 to 15 percent;
- Most seafood delicacies (e.g., sea urchins, jellyfish, sea cucumbers)—10 percent;
- Most edible seaweeds—15 to 40 percent.

In addition to its standard tariff system, Japan has also adopted a tariff quota system for certain imported items. This system applies a low duty rate to imports not exceeding a specified annual volume and a higher rate on all imports in excess of that volume. Importers must apply in advance to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry to obtain a quota for the lower duty rate.

The tariff quota system is different from the import quota system that will be discussed in the next section of this guide because no direct restrictions are placed on the volume that may be imported as long as the importer is willing to pay the higher duty rate. The tariff quota system only applies to specific items. Currently, U.S. exporters of fisheries products need not worry about the tariff quota system because fisheries products are not on the list of restricted items. However, exporters should be aware of the system in case fisheries-related items are added to the list in the future.

In summary, Japanese fisheries-related tariff policy encourages imports of most unprocessed fresh or frozen fish and shellfish by keeping these duty rates relatively low by world standards. Higher rates are placed on most mollusks, seafood delicacies, and edible seaweeds to protect domestic producers. Domestic fish processors are also given some protection by higher tariff rates on processed fish products.



# Import Quotas

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In addition to tariffs, it is common for all nations to place import quotas on certain categories of goods. Unlike tariffs, which allow unlimited imports as long as duty rates are paid, import quotas place a limit on the total amount of imports that may enter the country during a specific period of time. If the allocated quota for a specific species has already been met, foreign exporters will not be allowed to market their products in Japan until the next quota period. Clearly, import quotas have the potential to be much more disruptive to exporters than tariffs.

In the years just following World War II, Japan prohibited the importation of all but emergency goods to protect scarce foreign currency reserves. Japan's fishery Import Quotas (IQs) were instituted in 1949 under authority of Article 9 of the Import Trade Order (Cabinet Order No. 414 of 1949), pursuant to authority granted in Article 52 of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Control Law (Law No. 228 of 1949).

After 1955, the Japanese economy began to strengthen, and the United States put pressure on Japan to liberalize some of its import restrictions. During the period between 1959 and 1978, import restrictions on most fisheries products were eliminated with the exception of several categories of fisheries commodities that continue to be covered by IQs. The fisheries IQ system currently consists of: (1) quantitative import ceilings by species product, which include pollock, pollock surimi and pollock roe, Pacific herring, Atlantic herring, and squid; and (2) a single broad ceiling based on U.S. dollars for the category of "fish and shellfish," which includes species such as Pacific cod, hake, mackerel, jack mackerel, whiting, merluccius, sardine, and others.

## Statutory Basis For IQs<sup>1</sup>

Japan's fisheries IQ system is controlled by the "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade

Control Law" (Law No. 228 of 1949). This law provides general guidance and authority to various agencies that administer fisheries imports. Actual restrictions are provided in cabinet orders, ministerial ordinances, notifications, and notices in accordance with three basic trade control orders issued by the Japanese Cabinet: (1) "Export Trade Control Order" (Cabinet Order No. 378 of 1949), (2) "Import Trade Control Order" (Cabinet Order No. 414 of 1949), and (3) "Foreign Exchange Control Order" (Cabinet Order No. 260 of 1980). The allocations of IQs are primarily governed by Article 9 of the "Import Trade Control Order of 1949," which provides as follows:

(1) A person desiring to import goods published as subject to IQ allocation, as provided for in paragraph 1, article 3, may not be granted approval of import provided for in paragraph 1 or 2, article 4, unless he first obtains an IQ allocation for the goods as a result of the application made to the Minister of MITI. However, this provision shall not apply when the import is effected by a person entrusted to do so by the person granted the IQ allocation. In that case, it comes under a special stipulation by the MITI Minister.

(2) Allocation of the import quota, pursuant to the provision of the preceding paragraph, shall be made by quantity. However, when it is difficult, or not appropriate, to make the allocation in terms of quantity, it may be made in terms of value.

(3) When the MITI Minister allocates an import quota in accordance with the provision of paragraph 1, he shall do so with the prior consent of the Minister with jurisdiction for that commodity and shall have consultations with that Minister.

(4) The Minister of MITI, when he has made an allocation, as provided for in paragraph 1, shall issue a Certificate of Import Quota Allocation to the person granted the allocation.

(5) The procedure relating to the allocation of import quota shall be prescribed by a MITI ordinance.

### **Administrative Procedure to Receive an IQ**

Import quotas are usually allocated twice a year. Interested parties are informed of impending quota allocations when they are published in the "Important Notices" section of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry's *Official Bulletin* and in the Japan External Trade Organization's *Daily Newsletter*. The information provided includes the name of the item, address for sending an application form, date of receipt of applications, eligibility of applicants, total volume of the quota, and the quota criteria. Notices of quota allocations are published in Japanese only. Import application forms are submitted to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. Quotas are allocated on the basis of the published quota criteria. Successful applicants receive an "Import Quota Certificate" that indicates the volume of imports to which they are entitled. Once the certificate is issued, the holder may obtain an import license from an authorized foreign exchange bank.

Although foreign exporters may apply for "Import Quota Certificates" in their own name, it is much more common for them to sell their fisheries products to Japanese import firms or trading companies that have already obtained the requisite quota certificate. There are several reasons why it is difficult for a foreign exporter to obtain a certificate. First, MITI generally places very narrow time restrictions on the period that applications will be accepted. It is not uncommon, for example, to require potential applicants to apply in person between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on a specific day. Sometimes very short notice is given between the publication of the quota allocation announcement and the required

application date. Moreover, every aspect of the application process is carried out entirely in Japanese. Unless an exporter has an employee or agent permanently based in Japan, it will generally be impracticable to obtain a quota allocation certificate.

### **Type of Quota Allocation**

Japan has broken its IQs into Special and General categories. Special IQs are allocated to hotels, oceangoing vessels and international aircraft, and foreign trade exhibitions in Japan. Each requested import item in this category can be granted in addition to the IQ quantities set for each item under the General IQ. The General IQ is allocated to species or products that may have a significant effect on domestic supply and demand.

Japan's fishery IQs are divided among five recipient groups:

(1) *Traders' Quota*: The traders quota is, in turn, divided into four categories:

- Traders' Quota (with past import record);
- First-Come-First-Served Quota;
- New Traders' Quota (no past import record); and
- Japanese Factoryship Quota (for the purchase of Soviet-caught pollock in the Soviet 200-mile zone).

(2) *Users' (Processors') Quota*: Ensures supplies of imported raw materials for Japanese processors. A "letter of intent for an import order" must first be obtained from the Director-General of the Fishery Agency of Japan before submitting an IQ application to MITI.

(3) *Joint Venture Quota*: Allocated to Japanese individuals or companies having a 40-percent capital investment in a distant water project.

(4) *Fishermen's Quota*: Allocated to Japanese fishermen to support their access to foreign waters in return for imports of non-liberalized fish.

(5) *Overseas Fishery Development (OFD) Quota*: Applicable only to pollock surimi manufactured by U.S. processors.

U.S. exporters will most likely deal with Japanese importers who have obtained some variety of "Traders' Quota." The importance that the Japanese government places on the distinction between traders with a past import record and those with no past import record should be noted. In the past it was not uncommon for small importers to acquire quota allotments knowing that they would never use them and then to sell them to larger import firms for a sizeable commission. To curb this illegal abuse of the IQ system, the Japanese government scrutinizes the past import record of all quota applicants. If importers fail to use up their allocations in any given period, it is more difficult for them to acquire future allocations.

#### **Prior Approval and Confirmation**

Japan supplements its IQ system with a "Prior Approval" and "Prior Confirmation" system. Before fisheries products may be imported into Japan, an importer must get "prior approval" to make sure that the item is not in violation of domestic law or international treaty. Examples of violations would be the importation of whale meat from non-International Whaling Commission nations, or imports of salmon from Taiwan. "Prior confirmation" requires that the origin of imported whale meat be confirmed to have come from an International Whaling Commission nation. Neither of these supplemental systems is designed to serve as a quantitative restriction on imports. Further, because of their narrow scope of application, it is unlikely that U.S. exporters will be affected significantly by the

"Prior Approval" and "Prior Confirmation" systems.

#### **Japan's IQ System as an Impediment to U.S. Exports**

The Japanese government claims that U.S. exporters should not be hurt by its import restrictions because the ceiling for each quantitative IQ is high enough to accommodate most exports. The validity of this assertion is generally acknowledged by Japanese importers and the U.S. government<sup>5</sup>; however, there are still some aspects of Japan's IQ system that have the potential to impede U.S. exports.

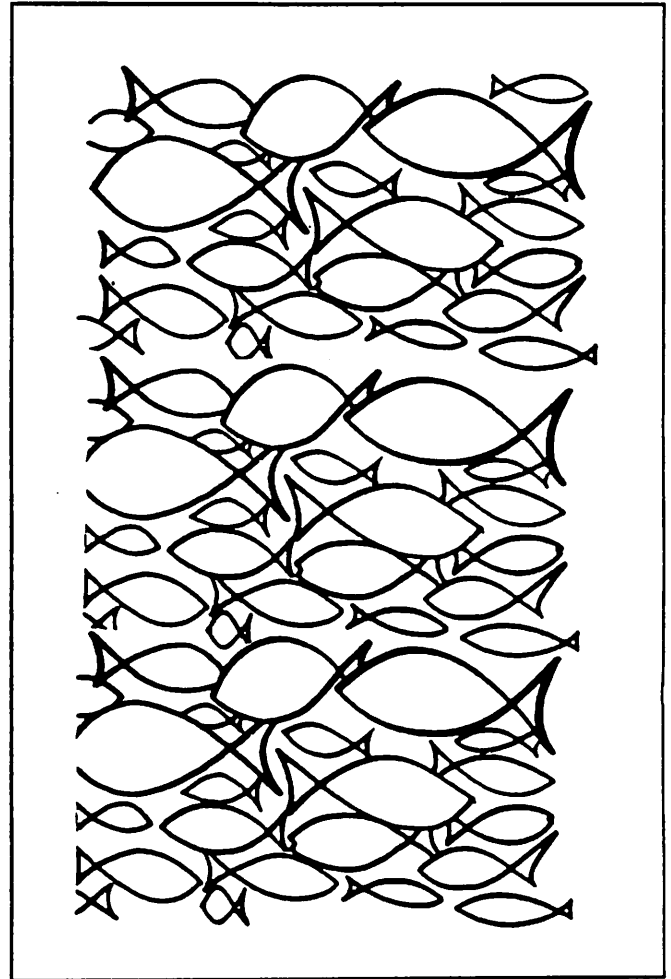
As mentioned earlier, most of Japan's quota allocations are placed on specific fisheries products or species such as pollack surimi, squid, or Atlantic herring. However, one "catch-all" quota allocation category contains several fisheries products lumped together with a ceiling capped in American dollars rather than metric tons. This category is listed as "Fish and Shellfish" and includes: Pacific cod, hake, whiting, merlucius, mackerel, Jack mackerel, yellowtail ("buri" or "hamachi" in Japanese, different from yellowfin tuna), sardines, saury, scallops, shellfish adductor muscles (in any forms except smoked), plus broiled/dried small fish (mostly sardine and anchovy) for use as soup flavoring (called "niboshi" in Japanese).

While the quota ceilings on most species or product-specific categories may be sufficiently high so as not to impede American imports, there is concern that the "fish and shellfish" category may create a significant barrier for U.S. exporters. For example, if Japanese importers seek U.S.-caught mackerel due to a sudden decline in the supply of domestic catch, they may not be able to acquire the U.S. product if the IQ limit had already been reached by previous allocations to other species which fall within the same "fish and shellfish" quota category.

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Japan's continued use of this "catch-all" quota category has been the subject of bilateral discussions between the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Fisheries Agency of Japan at their semi-annual fishery trade consultations.

Another potential impediment to U.S. exports involves the question of how fisheries products caught or processed by joint ventures are categorized under the IQ system. Currently, joint-venture production is treated identically to ordinary Japanese imports. This means that pollack surimi produced by Japanese/U.S. joint ventures falls within the quota allocation for that product. In addition, joint-venture production of hake surimi off Washington, Oregon, and California falls under the controversial IQ for "fish and shellfish." Clearly, Japan's IQ system has the potential to impede some U.S. exports, especially those that fall in the "fish and shellfish" quota allocation category. There have been reported cases in which individual shipments of certain fisheries products have been kept out of Japan after the quota ceiling has been reached. However, relative to many other nations, such as member states of the European Economic Community, Japan's system is remarkably liberal. Very few Japanese importers or U.S. exporters have expressed significant concern in recent years about not being able to acquire quota allocation certificates for specific fisheries products. Moreover, several products such as scallops, adductors of shellfish, and squid were scheduled to be taken off the IQ list in 1991.



# Food Sanitation and Inspection Laws

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All imported foodstuffs are governed by the Japanese Food Sanitation Law (JFSL). JFSL charges the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MHW) with the responsibility of inspecting all imported fisheries products. All imported foodstuffs are screened by inspection officials at the port of entry.

A foodstuff Import Notification Form must be submitted to the Food Sanitation Inspector's Office, which has jurisdiction over the area where the item is to be imported. (A list of these inspection offices can be found at Appendix B.) The inspector may decide that the item need not undergo a full inspection and allow the importer to pass through customs.<sup>6</sup> Should the inspector decide that an inspection is warranted, the item is inspected on the spot or at a quarantine station. If it passes inspection an official stamp is affixed on the form and the importer is allowed to proceed through customs. If an item fails inspection it will be detained for either: (1) return to the country of origin; (2) destruction; or (3) reconditioning in a bonded factory upon approval by the MHW. In certain instances, seafood that does not pass inspection may be allowed conditional entry if, for example, it will only be consumed by animals. (For a summary of Japan's food inspection procedure, see Appendix C).

Two measures have been instituted to speed up the food import notification process. It is possible to submit notification from seven days prior to the scheduled date of arrival of the cargo. If inspection is not necessary the forms will be returned promptly and the importer may proceed directly through customs. A second measure allows items that are imported into Japan on a continuous basis to need only one set of import notification forms. Once a copy of the import notification form has been received, notification is not necessary each time the same item is imported during a fixed period of time. It should be noted that these simplification procedures are primarily de-

signed to handle prepared and packaged foods and would likely not be applicable for items such as fresh or frozen fish. Exporters should also be aware that foreign seafood quality inspection documents, such as the certificate issued by the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, may be taken into consideration by Japanese inspectors but are not conclusive proof for purposes of meeting Japan's quality standards.

Once imported fisheries products are allowed entry, they are treated identically to domestic products. Prefectural or municipal health officials have been granted authority to spot-check any food item that is marketed within their jurisdictions. If found substandard, the goods may be withdrawn from sale or destroyed.

## General Requirements of Food Sanitation Law

JFSL prohibits the importation or sale of any food product that is decomposed; that is contaminated or is suspected of being contaminated with any poisonous or deleterious substance or pathogenic microorganisms; or that may injure human health for other reasons. In addition, it bans foods containing synthetic chemical food additives that are not specifically permitted by law.

MHW has promulgated a complex set of standards and criteria prescribing how foods may be manufactured and the types of chemicals or food additives that may be used in their production. It has also established strict food packaging and labeling standards.

A detailed discussion of these MHW regulations is beyond the scope of this guide and can be found elsewhere.<sup>7</sup> However, exporters should be particularly careful to ensure that all ingredients and packaging requirements under Japanese law have been met. A number of additives that may be legally used in the United States or other nations

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may be prohibited in Japan. The requirements for preservatives and food coloring should be closely monitored prior to export.

In addition to mandatory government standards, there are also several voluntary industrial standards currently in effect. For example, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries has established hundreds of standards for a wide variety of agricultural and fisheries products under the Japanese Agricultural Standards Law. These so-called JAS standards are only quasi-voluntary because many importers will require that they be met as a condition for acceptance of the goods. Inspections under the JAS system are conducted by non-governmental organizations such as the Japan Frozen Foods Inspection Corporation or the Japan Canned Food Inspection Corporation.

The Japan Marine Products Importers Association, which accounts for nearly 85 percent of all fisheries products imported into the country, has also established voluntary quality standards for several varieties of seafood including shrimp, salmon, and squid. Compliance with these standards is also determined by inspection by non-governmental organizations. Translations of the JAS standards are available from Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Standards Information Service, Information Services Department. Addresses of JETRO offices in the United States may be found in Appendix A.

## Conclusion

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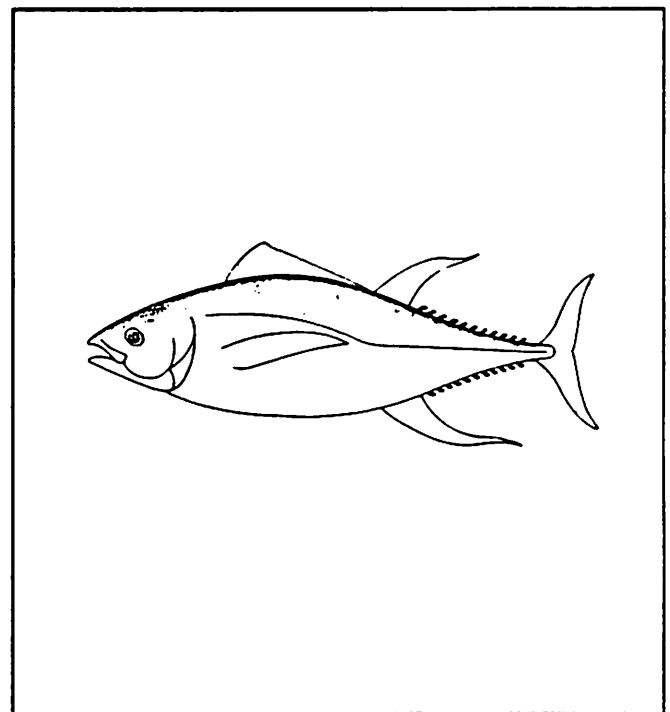
The legal framework governing the importation of fisheries products in Japan consists primarily of customs tariffs, import quotas, and food sanitation laws and regulations. It has been shown that Japan's import system is no more onerous for exporters than most other systems around the world. However, U.S. exporters are not encouraged to try to market their product in Japan on their own. For all but the most experienced exporters, it is best to work with reputable Japanese import firms or seafood brokers. These firms not only have the contacts necessary to market the product once it enters the country, but also take care of many of the regulatory matters such as finding a buyer with the requisite quota allocation certificate and handling customs and inspection requirements.

Continued international pressure should be placed on Japan further to reduce tariff rates and liberalize its import quota allocation system, especially the miscellaneous "fish and shellfish" category. Liberalization of quotas on pollack, herring, and squid products should also be a top priority for U.S. trade negotiators.

U.S. exporters should be very aware of Japan's food sanitation laws and regulations. Japan places tight controls on seafood quality and prohibits a large number of commonly used food additives and preservatives. It is essential that exporters keep up to date on these standards and comply with them strictly.

Most observers acknowledge that Japanese importers continue their traditional practice of offering slightly higher prices for domestically produced fisheries products than for imported product. While this situation may be irritating to foreign suppliers, it should be recognized that preferences given to Japanese producers are a product of culture and language and should not be attributed to Japan's legal framework or government policy. Although less of a problem

than in years past, Japanese importers still tend to feel more comfortable dealing with other Japanese. This characteristic of giving business preference to one's countrymen is certainly not unique to Japan, and should not deter U.S. exporters from trying to enter the Japanese market. If U.S. exporters are sensitive to Japanese values and customer needs, the market is certainly large enough to offer opportunities for domestic and foreign producers alike.



## References

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<sup>1</sup> Interview with Dr. R. Byron Siegel, Fisheries Attache', U.S. Embassy, Tokyo, August 16, 1991.

<sup>2</sup> For example, see U.S. Department of Commerce, *A Basic Guide to Exporting*, NTC Publishing Group, 1989. See also Resources Marketing Institute, Ltd., *Exporting U.S. Fishery Products to Japan*, prepared for the U.S. Embassy, Tokyo, 1982; and Michael W. Wascom, *An Exporting Guide for the Louisiana Fisheries Industry*, L.S.U. Coastal Fisheries Institute, 1985.

<sup>3</sup> This summary is for comparative purposes only and describes the approximate ranges of tariffs in each of the listed categories. Specific fisheries products may have tariffs above or below the cited figures. For official tariff rates, see *Customs Tariff Schedules of Japan*, published annually by the Japan Tariff Association.

<sup>4</sup> Much of the material on import quotas in this section, including the translations of Japanese laws, come from an excellent report by Mr. Yoshio Nasaka, Economic Fisheries Specialist, U.S. Embassy, Tokyo, entitled *Japan's Fishery Import System*, NOAA Document F/IA23:PN IFR-88/27, March 24, 1988.

<sup>5</sup> Interview with R. Byron Sigel, see supra note 1.

<sup>6</sup> An initial examination is made of the content of the statements and any attached documents. If necessary, this is followed by a more detailed examination based on (1) the existence of any past rules violations, (2) whether the cargo is the first shipment of the food item to Japan, (3) whether contact has been received from customs suspecting a rule violation, (4) whether the information in the notification form concerning food sanitation is sufficient, and (5) whether it is necessary, because of conditions related to food sanitation in the country from which the items have been exported, for the food items to undergo an organoleptic inspection, a bacteria inspection, or a detailed physiochemical inspection.

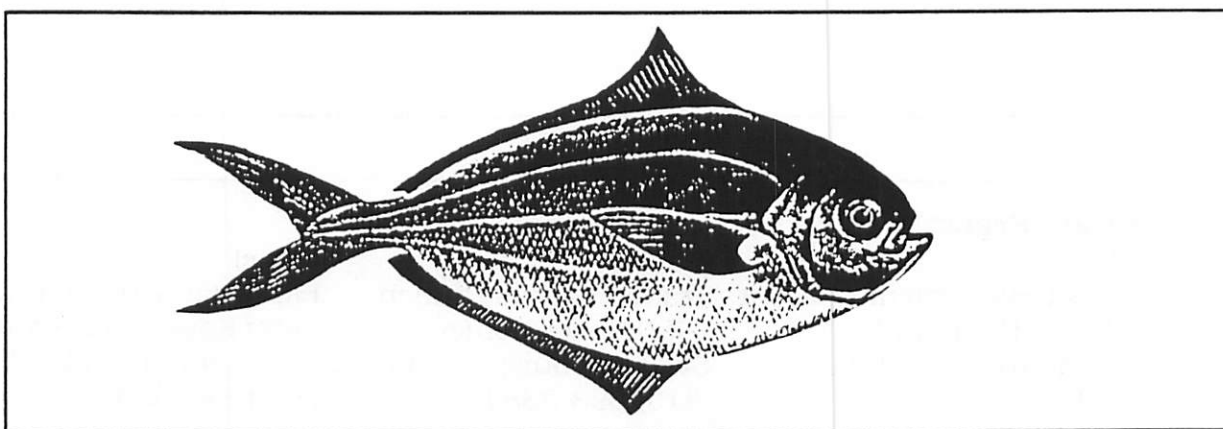
<sup>7</sup> An updated summary of these standards can be obtained from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Utilization Research, Washington, D.C. 20235.



## Further Reading

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# Appendix A

## Governmental Organizations to Contact for More Information

### In the United States

#### National Marine Fisheries Service Offices

##### Central Office

**\*Director**  
Office of Trade and  
Industry Services  
1335 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(301) 427-2351

**\*Chief**  
Trade Services Division  
1335 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(301) 427-2379

**\*Chief**  
Financial Services Division  
1335 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(301) 427-2390

**\*Chief**  
Utilization Research and Services Division  
1335 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(301) 427-2358

**\*Chief**  
Inspection Services Division  
1335 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(301) 427-2355

##### Northeast Region

**\*Chief**  
Services Division  
1 Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930  
(508) 281-3600  
Telex: 940007 NMFS GLOS

**\*Chief**  
Trade Analysis Branch  
1 Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930  
(508) 281-3600  
Telex: 940007 NMFS GLOS

**\*Chief**  
Financial Services Branch  
1 Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930  
(508) 281-3600  
Telex: 940007 NMFS GLOS

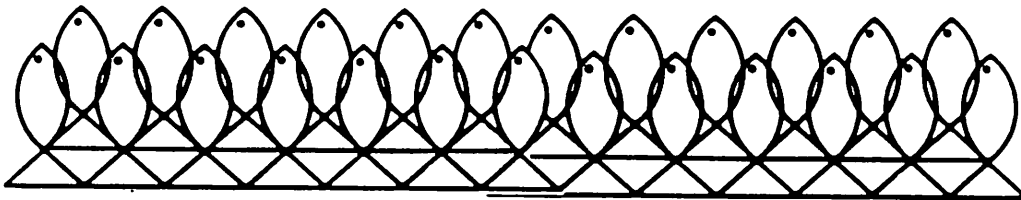
##### Southeast Region

**\*Chief**  
Fisheries Development Division  
9450 Koger Boulevard  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702  
(813) 893-3271

**\*Chief**  
Trade Analysis Branch  
9450 Koger Boulevard  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702  
(813) 893-3384

**\*Chief**  
Financial Services Branch  
9450 Koger Boulevard  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702  
(813) 893-3148

**\*Chief**  
Economic Analysis Branch  
9450 Koger Boulevard  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702  
(813) 893-3830



**Northwest Region**

\*Chief  
Trade and Industry Services Division  
7600 Sand Point Way N.E.  
BIN C15700 (Building 1)  
Seattle, WA 98115  
(206) 526-6117  
TWX: 910-444-2786 NMFS SEA  
FAX: (206) 526-6426

\*Chief  
Financial Services Branch  
7600 Sand Point Way N.E.  
BIN C15700 (Building 1)  
Seattle, WA 98115  
(206) 526-6117  
TWX: 910-444-2786 NMFS SEA  
FAX: (206) 525-6122

**Southwest Region**

\*Chief  
Trade and Industry  
Services Division  
300 South Ferry Street  
Terminal Island, CA 90731  
(213) 514-6677

\*Leader  
Trade Analysis Program  
Trade Analysis Program  
300 South Ferry Street  
Terminal Island, CA 90731  
(213) 514-6679

\*Chief  
Financial Services  
Financial Services 300  
Branch  
300 South Ferry Street  
Terminal Island, CA  
90731  
(213) 514-6680

**Alaska Region**

\*Chief  
Industry Services Division  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, AK 99802  
Telex: 45377 NMFS AKR JN

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## Japanese Government Offices in the United States

**\*JETRO New York**  
McGraw-Hill Building  
44th Floor  
1221 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10020-1060  
(212) 997-0400

**\*JETRO San Francisco**  
Qantas Building, Suite 501  
360 Post Street  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
(415) 392-1333

**\*JETRO Chicago**  
401 North Michigan  
Avenue, Suite 660  
Chicago, IL 60611  
(312) 527-9000

**\*JETRO Los Angeles**  
725 South Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
(213) 624-8855

**\*JETRO Houston**  
1221 McKinney  
One Houston Center  
Suite 2360  
Houston, TX 77010  
(713) 759-9595

**\*JETRO Atlanta**  
245 Peachtree Center  
Avenue, Suite 2012  
Marquis One Tower  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
(404) 681-0600

**\*JETRO Denver**  
Suite 1410  
1200 Seventeenth Street  
Denver, CO 80202  
(303) 629-0404

**\*Embassy of Japan Commercial Section**  
2520 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20008  
Tel: (202) 234-2266  
Telex: 89 540

\*Mr. Tomohiro Asakawa  
 Fisheries Trade Specialist  
 American Embassy Tokyo  
 Commercial Section  
 Tokyo, Japan  
 APO San Francisco, CA 96503  
 Telephone: (81) (3) 224-5077  
 Fax: (81) (3) 589-4235

\*Forestry and Fisheries  
 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki,  
 Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100  
 Tel: 03-502-8111

\*Ministry of Health  
 and Welfare  
 1-2 Kasumigaseki,  
 Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100  
 Tel: 03-503-1711

\*Japan Marine Products  
 Importers Association  
 1014 Yurakucho Building  
 1-10-1 Yurakucho  
 Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100  
 Tel: 03-214-3407

\*American Consulate--  
 Fukuoka Commercial  
 Section  
 5-26 Ohori 2-chome  
 Chuo-Ku  
 Fukuoka (810), Japan  
 Box 10  
 FPO Seattle 98766  
 Tel: (092) 751-9331/4

\*Ministry of Agriculture  
 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki  
 Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100  
 Tel: 03-502-8111

\*Fisheries Administration  
 Department  
 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki  
 Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100  
 Tel: 03-503-8111

\*Environmental Health  
 Bureau, 1-2 Kasumigaseki,  
 Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100  
 Tel: 03-503-1711

\*American Embassy  
 Commercial Section  
 American Consulate  
 10-1 Akasaka, 1-chome  
 Minato-ku, (107)  
 Tokyo, Japan  
 APO San Francisco 96503  
 Tel: 583-7141  
 Telex: 242118

\*American Chamber of  
 Commerce in Japan-  
 Tokyo  
 c/o Burroughs Com. Ltd.  
 13-1, Shimomiyabicho  
 Shinjuku-ku  
 Tokyo 162), Japan  
 Tel: 03-235-3327  
 Telex: 2322378 Burtok J

\*Fishery Agency  
 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki  
 Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100  
 Tel: 03-502-811

\*Fisheries Marketing  
 Division  
 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki  
 Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100  
 Tel: 03-503-8111

\*Food Sanitation Division  
 1-2 Kasumigaseki,  
 Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100  
 Tel: 03-503-171

\*American Consulate  
 General--Osaka  
 Commercial Section  
 Sankei Building, 9th  
 4-9, Umeda 2-chome  
 Kita-Ku  
 Osaka (530) Japan  
 APO San Francisco 96503  
 Tel: (06) 341-2754/7

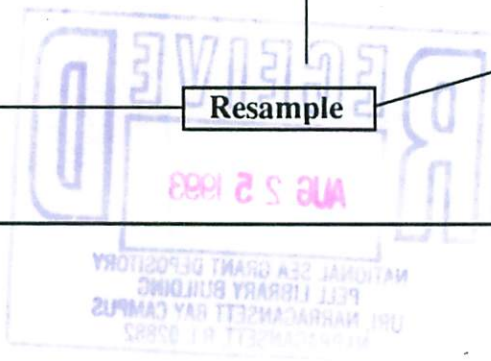
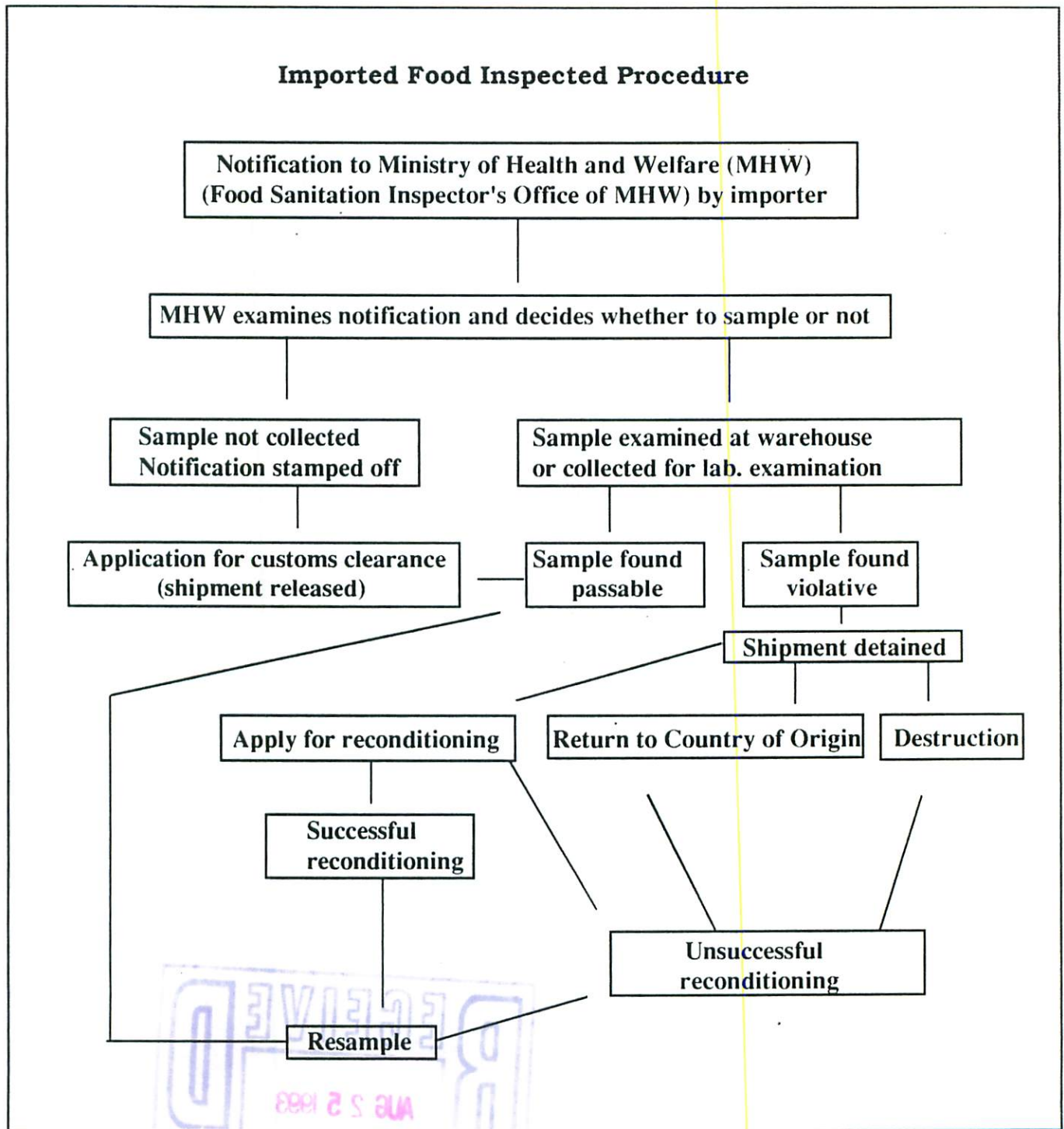
\*American Chamber of  
 Commerce in Japan-  
 Okinawa  
 P.O. Box 235, Koza  
 Okinawa City, (904), Japan  
 Tel: 098935-2684  
 Telex: J79873 NANSEI OK  
 Cable: AMCHAM OKINAWA

# Appendix B

## Food Sanitation Inspectors Offices In Japan

Name of Office	Address	Telephone
Sanitation and Food Inspection Division, Otaru Quarantine Station	Otaru Kowan Gohdoh Chosha, 5-3, Minato-machi, Otaru-shi, Hokkaido 047	Tel: 0134-23-4161 Fax: 0134-25-6069
Food Inspection Division Narita Airport Quarantine Station	2159, Aza-Tennamino, Oaza Komaino, Narita-shi, Chiba 282	Tel: 0476-32-6740 Fax: 0476-32-6741
Baraki Isolated Room, Food Inspection Division, Narita Airport Quarantine Station	Tokyo Air-Cargo City Terminal Bldg., 2526 Baraki, Ichihara-shi Chiba 272	Tel: 0473-28-6323 Fax: 0473-28-6323
Officers Stationed at Tokyo Airport Detached Office, Narita Quarantine Station	International Terminal Bldg., 5-6 Haneda Kuko 2-chome, Oota-Ku, Tokyo 144	Tel: 03-471-7913
Food Inspection Division Tokyo Quarantine Station	Tokyo Kowan Gohdoh Chosha 9-35, Koonan 3-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108	Tel: 03-471-4116 Fax: 03-471-4116
Food Inspection Division, Yokohama Quarantine Station	Yokohama Dai-ni Kowan Gohdoh Chosha, 1-1, Kaigan-dori, Naka-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 231	Tel: 045-201-0505 Fax: 045-201-3302
Sanitation and Food Inspection Division, Niigata Quarantine Station	Niigata Kowan Gohdoh Chosha, 5-4, Ryugashima 1-chome, Niigata-shi, Niigata 950	Tel: 0252-44-4405 Fax: 0252-41-7404
Sanitation and Food Inspection Division, Shimizu Quarantine Station	Shimizu Kowan Gohdoh Chosha, 9-1, Hinodecho, Shimizu-shi, Shizuoka 424	Tel: 0543-52-4540 Fax: 0543-53-1364
Supervisory Food Inspector, Nagoya Quarantine Station	Tsukiji-cho 11-1, Minato-ku, Nagoya-shi, Aichi 455	Tel: 052-661-4133 Fax: 052-661-4136
Officers Stationed at Yokkaichi Branch Office, Nagayo Quarantine Station	Yokkaichi Kowan Gohdoh Chosha, 5-1, Chitoshicho, Yokkaichi-shi, Mie 510	Tel: 0593-51-0182 Fax: 0593-51-7666
Supervisory Food Inspector, Osaka Quarantine Station	Osaka Kowan Gohdoh Chosha, 10-3, Chikko 4-chome, Minato-ku, Osaka-shi Osaka 552	Tel: 06-571-3523 Fax: 06-571-1803
Sanitation and Food Inspection Division, Osaka Airport Quarantine Station	Airport bldg., 555, Hotarugaike Nishi-machi 3-chome, Toyonaka-shi, Osaka 560	Tel: 06-856-6597 Fax: 06-841-7494
Food Inspection Division, Kobe Quarantine Station	1-1, Tooyahamachi, Hyogo-ku, Kobe-shi Hyogo 652	Tel: 078-681-1965 Fax: 078-651-7401
Food Inspection Division, Moji Quarantine Station	Moji Kowan Gohdoh Chosha, 3-10, Nishikaigan 1-chome, Moji-ku, Kitakyushu-shi,	Tel: 093-321-2611 Fax: 093-332-4129
Shimonoseki Isolated Room, Food Inspection Division	Fukuoka 801 Shimonoseki Gyokoh Bldg., 16-2, Yamatomachi 10chome, Shimonoseki-shi, Yamaguchi 750	Tel: 0832-66-1402 Fax: 0832-66-1402
Supervisory Food Inspector, Hakata Quarantine Station	Fukuoka Kowan Gohdoh Chosha, 1-22 Okihama-machi, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka 812	Tel: 092-271-5873 Fax: 092-291-3369
Officers Stationed at Fukuoka Airport Detached Office, Hakata Quarantine Station	778-1, Oaza-Simousui, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka 812	Tel: 092-621-5327 Fax: 092-621-3645
Sanitation and Food Inspection Division, Nagasaki Quarantine Station	931-1, Tomachi 3-chome, Nagasaki-shi Nagasaki 850	Tel: 0958-78-4450 Fax: 0958-76-8627
Sanitation and Inspection Division, Kagoshima Quarantine Station	Kagoshima Kowan Gohdoh Chosha, 18-2-31, Izumicho, Kagoshima-shi, Kagoshima 892	Tel: 0992-22-8670 Fax: 0992-23-5297
Sanitation and Food Inspection Division, Naha Quarantine Station	Naha Kowan Gohdoh Chosha, 11-1, Minatomachi 2-chome, Naha-shi, Okinawa 900	Tel: 0988-68-4519 Fax: 0988-61-4372

Source: Japan External Trade Organization,  
Trade Procedure Guide for Export to Japan,  
March, 1990



Source: National Marine Fisheries Service,  
Office of Utilization Research,  
*Summary of the Requirements of Japan for  
the Importation of Fish and Fishing  
Products*, February, 1984.

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# **Guide to Laws and Regulations Governing the Importation of Seafood into Japan**

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