

Abstract

Today's aquaculture and capture fisheries in Japan

Author: Takeshi Yamane

Address: Faculty of Agriculture, Kinki University, 3327-204 Naka-machi, Nara, 631-8505, Japan

Emails: yamanety@yahoo.co.jp

Key words: Aquaculture and Fisheries production, relationship between aquaculture and fisheries, Japan.

Global capture fisheries and aquaculture production reached 75.1 and 21.0 million tons (excluding aquatic plants), respectively in 2009 (FAO SOFIA 2010; excluding China). For the past five years, capture fisheries has been gradually decreasing, while on the other hand, aquaculture shows an increasing trend. From the point of view of human consumption, the demand for aquatic products has been increasing. However, per capita food fish supply remained at 13.7kg levels from 2006 to 2009. In Japan, during the past decade, marine capture fishery and aquaculture production has remained at four million tons and one million ton levels, respectively. In 2010, aquaculture production reached 220,000 tons, consisting mostly (about 90%) of *Pagrus major* and *Seriola quinqueradiata*. From early 1990s, marine fish products from aquaculture showed a gradual decline. One can realize clearly that on the reverse side of aquaculture production, there are huge amount of baitfish that are consumed. Currently, almost all marine fish resources have been fully exploited, while the ratio of non-food uses/human consumption has been decreasing. Focusing on aquaculture production, the baitfish problem under given socio-economic conditions constitute a limiting factor. There is a need to discuss and find appropriate measures concerning the issue of consumption exceeding production. Although there is currently a rising demand for aquatic products, increase in global capture fisheries remains sluggish. The purpose of this study is to evaluate fundamental aspects of the relationship between aquaculture and capture fishery product in Japan viewed against the background of global fisheries.