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Sweden

Fishery Products

Annual

2000

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Report Highlights:
Swedish catches in seafisheries reached a total of 328,816 metric tons valued at US $ 116 million in 1999, down 18 percent in quantity compared to 1998. US share of the Swedish market has been reduced to 2 percent. Imports from the United States decreased by 30 percent in 1999 to 2,000 metric tons, mainly due to the strong dollar versus the Swedish krona. However, aggressive marketing by U.S. exporters of species such as salmon, small lobsters, crabs and catfish would strenghten U.S. share.

Includes PSD changes: Yes
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes
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Executive Summary

The fishing industry represents a minor part of Sweden’s economy but is nonetheless very important in some coastal areas. Since Sweden joined the EU in 1995, marketing and production is regulated by the EU’s common fisheries policy and dependent on fisheries in other countries within the EU.

Swedish sea-fisheries are by tradition concentrated in the North Atlantic where the important species for consumption are cod, herring, mackerel, deepwater prawn and Norway lobster. Fish for reduction has lately become an important source of income to Swedish fishermen. In the Baltic Sea, the major species are cod, salmon and herring.

Swedish catches in sea-fisheries (wild catch) decreased in 1999 compared to 1998 both in volume and value. A total of 328,861 metric tons valued at US$116 million was caught. A large part of the North Atlantic catch is usually landed in Denmark. In 1999, 40 percent of the catch was landed in Denmark compared to 35 percent in 1998. The volume landed in Denmark decreased however, to 128,754 metric tons, down 10 percent from 1998.

Imports of fish and fish products have been increasing during the last year, due to a declining domestic production, and will likely continue to increase in the next five year period. However, U.S. share has declined. The U.S. was for several years the fourth largest supplier of fish and fish products in Sweden after Norway, Denmark and Iceland. In 1999 the U.S. was only the ninth largest supplier. Norway and Denmark together account for over 75 percent of total imports to Sweden. U.S. imports to Sweden declined somewhat immediately following Sweden’s EU accession in 1995. More recent years trade levels had returned to pre-EU levels, but declined again by 30 percent last year. The U.S. share of the Swedish market is rather small, about 2 percent. However, aggressive marketing by U.S. exporters of species such as salmon, small lobsters, crabs and catfish would strenghten U.S. share of this potential market. Crayfish and pacific salmon are the main species currently imported from the U.S.

Consumption of fresh fish in Sweden is relatively stable, while consumption of processed and prepared fish products is increasing. Altogether the consumption of fish and fish products is increasing, partly as a result of intensive marketing by the Swedish organization "Svensk Fisk". "Svensk Fisk", which was supported by the industry and the Swedish government, closed down in June of this year according to plan. This organization had achieved its goal of reestablishing the popularity of fish. The increasing consumption is also a result of increased consumer confidence in local catch. Pesticide levels in finishing waters have diminished as have Cesium levels which were after effects of the Chernobyl accident.

Production

The catch in sea fisheries (wild catch) amounted to 328,861 metric tons in 1999, down 8 percent compared to 1998. By tradition, a large part of the catches are landed in Denmark. In 1999 128,754 tons of the Swedish catch was landed in Denmark, down from 141,377 tons in 1998. However, about 40 percent of total catch was landed in Denmark in 1999 compared to about 35 percent in 1998. In value, total landings amounted to SEK 962 million (US $ 116 million). Value was higher in 1998 at SEK 1,045 million (US $ 131 million). The US dollar again strengthened vis-a-vis the Swedish krona in 1999. The average exchange rate went up to 8.26 to US $ 1.00 from SEK 7.95 to US $ 1.00. During 2000 the dollar has strengthen further and the rate on September 26 was

SEK 9.67 to US $ 1.00.

Of the catches for human consumption, herring is the principal species in Sweden, followed by cod. In 1999, these species accounted for 14 and 6 percent, respectively, of total landings. Fish for reduction is the largest single commodity, amounting to 75 percent of the total 1999 catch. Landings and fish species have been fairly constant during the past several years, and are expected to remain at the same levels for the foreseeable future. However, the sea-fishing industry problems which include low profitability, reduction of stock (such as cod in the Baltic Sea), households changing eating habits and international competition, especially from farmed fish.

In 1997, the EU Commission ordered a report on the profitability of the European fishing fleet. The Swedish Board of Fishery is responsible for the report from Sweden. The first part of the Swedish report covers vessels fishing for Atlantic herring, mackerel and sprat (pelagic segment). The catches are from the Atlantic, Skagerak, North Sea, Kategatt and the Baltic Sea. Most of these catches are used for fish meal/oil production. This sector of sea-fishing accounts for 44 percent of total landed value of SEK 445 million, 85 percent of total landings and about about 14 percent of Sweden's professional fishermen. Profitability within the sector is good. It is technically and economically the most advanced within the Swedish fishing fleet.

The number of professional fishermen in Sweden is estimated at 2,353. Of this total, 221 are inland water fishermen. Since 1995 the number of professional fishermen has decreased by 25 percent, a development that will likely continue. There are 1,214 registered fishing vessels over 8 meters in length.

Sweden is a member of the International Fisheries Commission for the Baltic Sea, which sets quotas for member countries. Over-fishing of cod in the Baltic Sea has been a serious problem for several years. Another organization, the International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES), earlier recommended a total halt of cod fishing in the Baltic seas. This was strongly opposed by Sweden and the EU. As a result such drastic measures were not taken. Cod fishing is the most (economically) important part of the Swedish fisheries' industry, which has already been seriously hurt by the dwindling resources of cod in the Baltic. The 2000 quotas are given below (Sweden's approximate shares in parentheses):

Herring	490,000 tons	(102,471 tons)
Sprat	400,000 tons	(15,312 tons)
Cod	105,000 tons	(21,653 tons)
Salmon	450,000 number	(123,652 tons

*Salmon quotas are given in number of fish.

Total TACs (Total Allowable Catch) for herring, sprat and cod are lower than in 1999. The Commission earlier decided on a plan for Baltic salmon harvests which has been further developed and agreed upon by the member states. The total allowable salmon catch for 2000 has been increased by 40,000 tons compared to 1999, but is still at a low level. A low TAC reduces the catch of wild salmon so that more fish can return to their home rivers for spawning. As a result of this policy, an improvement in the number of wild salmon has been observed in certain rivers during the period 1997-2000. The 2001 salmon TAC was set at the same level as for 2000.

The cod TAC has again been reduced from 126,000 tons in 1999 to only 105,000 tons in 2000.
For 2001, the TAC was maintained at the year 2000 level. The Swedish cod catch stabilized at 20,000 tons in 1999 after years of declining a trend. The average price to fishermen increased somewhat in 1999, from SEK 14

to SEK 14.50.

One positive effect of Swedish membership in the EU is that the procedure to transfer quotas between member countries has become much easier than from third countries. If member countries are in agreement, the transfer can take place immediately. The only requirement is that the Commission be notified.

The 1999 figures regarding the catch in inland waters by professional fishermen in Sweden are not available yet. In 1998 the catch amounted to 1,575 metric, valued at SEK 33.3 million (US$ 4.18 million). The most important species in inland fishing are pike-perch, eel and whitefish. The 1998 catch was comparatively low. The average for the past 10 years has been around 2,100 metric tons, and is forecast to remain around that volume for the next few years.

Aquaculture in Sweden is comparatively small. In 1999, the yield amounted to 4,337 metric tons of fish for human consumption. This when converted to round fresh weight, is the equivalent of 5,109 metric tons, about the same amount as the year before. Rainbow trout is the principal species, comprising approximately 87 percent of total yield. Other aquaculture species, listed in order of production volume, include crayfish, char, trout, blue mussels and eel.

The number of enterprises in 1999 engaged in aquaculture was 408, of which 285 produced fish for consumption and 12 produced blue mussels. In addition,147 establishments cultivated fry for stocking. To replenish supplies, 2.8 million fry of salmon and trout were released during the year, mainly in rivers running to the Baltic.

Consumption

Consumption of fresh fish has declined by more than half since the 1960's. In 1999, fresh fish consumption amounted to 5.7 kilograms per capita, almost the same level as in 1998. A major reason for the decline in fresh fish consumption is that the younger generation does not know haw to prepare and cook fish. The Chernobyl accident and reports on pesticide residues found in lake fish heightend consumer health concerns and diminished consumption.. Consumption of processed and prepared fish products has been gradually increasing, and now amounts to 6.7 kilograms/capita. An increase in product assortment has apparently had a positive affect on consumption.

Consumption of frozen fish remains at around 1.9 kilograms/capita per year. Crustaceans and molluscs which have been increasing in popularity as a result of better availability and lower prices now amount to about 3.1 kilograms/capita.

Trade

Requirements (Dnr 540/95) for the importation into Sweden of fish and fishery products issued by the Swedish National Food Administration (NFA) are in accordance with the EU Council Directives 91/492 and 91/493/EEC of 22 July 1991. Fish and fishery products may be imported into Sweden only if they:

1) come from establishments approved by the NFA,

2) bear the stipulated stamps or seals

3) are accompanied by a health certificate (public and animal health certificate) according to the model prescribed by the NFA,

4) have been notified to the border inspection post in the prescribed manner.

Contacts at NFA for further information on the above matters are:

Senior Inspector Peter Bradenmark, fish questions
Senior Veterinary Inspector Lillemor Wodmar, lists of establishments approved to export to Sweden and questions relating to certificates, etc. (U.S. exporters should note that Swedish approval is required regardless FDA approval)

National Food Administration
P.O. Box 622
S-751 26 Uppsala, Sweden
Tel.: (46-18)17 55 00, FAX: (46-18)10 58 48
Internet: www.slv.se

Regarding labeling, it is important to note that Sweden will not accept the name salmon only on a label for any species other than the Atlantic salmon (Salmo Salar). Pacific salmon (Oncorhyncus spp) must be labeled “Pink salmon or “Keta salmon”. This restriction is based on a voluntary agreement between fish suppliers and traders. The Federation of Swedish Fish Industries & Wholesalers has published a list of acceptable common names. The list is available in Swedish only. Questions concerning labeling may be directed to FAS/Stockholm.

Crayfish

Swedes consider crayfish a very special delicacy. In Sweden they are cooked according to unique recipes using brin, dill and beer. The crayfish are served whole, in the shell, at festive occasions which usually take place in August. Consumption is estimated at around 3,000 tons per year, of which 2,500 tons are imported. Louisiana became a major supplier in the middle of 1980's when Turkish supplies dwindled due to pests. Imports in 1998 and 1999 are shown in the following table.

Table 1. Imports of crayfish, cooked, frozen in 1998 and 1999.

Country of Origin	1998	1998	1999	1999
	Quantity Metric Tons	Value 1,000 SEK	Quantity Metric Tons	Value 1,000 SEK
USA	490	29,748	195	14,285
PRC	1,340	42,516	2,173	74,528
Spain	233	388	111	4,763
Turkey	86	4,421	117	7,154
Denmark	234	8,882	138	6,193
Norway	125	6,982	135	7,801
Other	141	5,856	21	945
World	2,649	98,793	2,890	115,669

In 1998 there was a dramatic decline in imports of crayfish from the U.S. Imports decreased from 1,409 metric tons in 1997 to 490 metric tons in 1998. In 1999, imports declined even further to 195 metric tons. The decline is mainly due to a supply shortage in Louisiana, and the fact that the U.S. dollar again increased against the Swedish krona. Crayfish from China are very competitive. Note, however, that the PRC figures also include crayfish tails. Another factor hampering U.S. product is the fact that consumption is declining. The old traditional crayfish parties in August have become less important with the availability of crayfish year-round. Thecrayfish celebrations related to old domestic fishing rules which prohibited fishing until the first Wednesday in August, and sales until the second Thursday in August. These rules are no longer in effect. As can be seen above, the import price averages SEK 73 per kilogram from the U.S. and SEK 35 from the PRC. The retail price in August 2000 was SEK 100 (Spain), SEK 70 to 80 (Chinese), all in packages of 1 kilogram. As a comparison, domestic fresh crayfish sold at SEK 450/kg. Exchange rates are given at the end of this report.

Domestic production is fairly small. At 9 tons in 1999 the production remained at the same level as in 1998. These figures include the commercial aquaculture production. Fishing in private waters is popular but the quantity of catches are difficult to estimate. The domestic astacus variety more or less died out during the middle of the 1900's because of the crayfish pest which was introduced in Sweden early in the century. Recently, the U.S. signal crayfish has been implanted. It is doing very well in Swedish lakes because of its resistance to traditional pests. Clean water is viewed as an essential element for producing a seafood product that will do well in the Swedish market.

Policy

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) held its annual meeting in Stockholm on

September 8, 2000. The organization was founded in 1899. Within the North Atalntic area, ICES is the coordinating organization for environmental research and protection and the use of stock resources. The 19 member states include North America in the west, the Baltic countries in the east, and Spain and Portugal in the south.

The Swedish National Food Administration (NFA) distributes food health information pamphlets to the public. These contains information on pesticide residues in food products together with consumption recommendations. For example, NFA has been instrumental in educating retailers and consumers on handling and preparation of the butterfish (a new-to-market fish sourced mainly from Japan and Korea). Other areas of NFA responsibility include monitoring levels of mercury in fish from Swedish lakes and inlets. Mercury levels have been highest in northern pike, pikeperch, perch, burbot and eel. DDT and PCB residues are found in fish such as herring, salmon and sea trout from the Baltic Sea. Dioxin residues have also been found in the above-mentioned species in the Baltic Sea. Cesium-137 is apparent in some fish from inland waters in areas affected by the Chernobyl accident in 1986. The county Boards monitor controls of fish for human consumption to ensure that products with higher than allowable levels of residues do not enter the market.

Government Fisheries Administration Officials are:

The Ministry of Agriculture, Stockholm
Minister of Agriculture: Ms. Margareta Winberg
Fisheries Expert Adviser: Mr. Tommie Sjostrom

The National Board of Fisheries
(Fiskeriverket), Gothenburg
Director General: Mr. Karl Olov Oster

The Board is divided into three departments, i.e., Fisheries, Research and Administration. One further department, Swedmar, deals with international assistance and development work. The objectives of the Board are to achieve stability of catches and to maximize long-term yields in both the fishing industry and aquaculture. To these ends the Board involved itself in financial assistance, stock regulating measures (which include a licensing system), price regulations, international negotiations and the provision of information and advice. More information is available at Internet:www.fiskeriverket.se

The Institute of Marine Research
(Havsfiskelaboratoriet), Lysekil
Head of Institute: Mr. Jan Thulin

The Institute of Freshwater Research
(Sotvattenlaboratoriet), Stockholm
Head of Institute: Mr. Stellan Hamrin

Swedish organizations for professional fishermen:

The Swedish Fishermen's Federation
(Sveriges Fiskares Riksforbund (SFR))
President: Mr. Reine J. Johansson

The Federation is the link between the Swedish authorities and the fishermen. Virtually every professional fisherman is a member of this organization.

Following are the regional organizations:
The Swedish West Coast Fishermen’s Central Association
(Svenska Vastkustfiskarnas Centralforbund (SVC))

The Fishermen’s Association of Skane
(Skanes Fiskareforbund (SF))

The Swedish South Coast Fishermen’s Central Association
(Svenska Sydkustfiskarnas Centralforbund (SSC))

The Swedish East Coast Fishermen’s Central Association
(Svenska Ostkustfiskarnas Centralforbund (SOC))

The Swedish Inland Fishermen’s Central Association
(Svenska Insjofiskarnas Centralforbund (SIC))

Marketing

None of the nonprofit trade promotion groups funded by FAS is active in Sweden. However, promotional efforts by Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute has resulted in increased sales of pacific salmon. One of the activities, which entailed a change of consumer packaging, greatly enhanced the appeal of the product.

The major canning company in Sweden is ABBA Seafood. ABBA (AktieBolaget Broderna Ameln) includes production and marketing of ABBA fishery products in Sweden, Denmark and Germany. In addition, marketing offices have been established in Norway, Poland, Finland and Austria. In Sweden, ABBA produces pickled herring in glass jars, anchovies and caviar (Kalle's caviar in a tube). Other important fish industries include Skandiakonserv AB (pickled herring, lye fish production), Findus, recently purchased by EQT Scandinavia and Swedish Investor (producing ready-made dishes), Felix (pickled herring), and Festab AB (gratins, breaded fish products, fish sticks, etc. for the institutional market).

The United States is the ninth largest supplier of fish and fish products to Sweden. Imports from the United States in 1999 amounted to US$ 9.3 million. It is estimated that at least another USD 10 million of fish/fish products from the U.S.has been imported by Sweden. These imports, however, are shown as imports from the Netherlands.

Starting in 1988, the United States became the principal supplier of crayfish to Sweden. Previously, Turkey had been the leading supplier until Turkish waters were hard hit by the crayfish fungus which earlier had all but wiped out the native Swedish crayfish population. The import of crayfish from the U.S. has dropped by 85 percent within the past two years, however. The drop is due to the strengthening dollar versus the Swedish krona and also because of supply a surplus in Sweden as well as a supply shortage in Louisiana. Each year, beginning in early August, Swedes hold crayfish parties which are a national tradition dating back centuries. About 3,000 tons of the special dill flavored crayfish are consumed per year, of which approximately 2,500 tons are imported. Only frozen, precooked crayfish is imported from the United States, primarily from Louisiana, where several Swedish wholesalers have established their own factories and oversee the production. The crayfish, which must not be less than 9 cm in length, are cooked in a special dill flavored brew according to old Swedish recipes.

U.S. exports to Sweden, in general, have been hampered by the strength of the U.S. dollar. Currently, Norway and Denmark dominate the Swedish import market for fish. Considering their geographical nearness to Sweden, these countries will most likely keep their dominating position. However, because the quotas for fishing in the Baltic sea are diminishing, possibilities for U.S. salmon and cod exports to Sweden may increase.

The average exchange rates used in this report are:
1998 SEK 7.95 to US$ 1.00
1999 SEK 8.26 to US$ 1.00
September 2000 SEK 9.67 to US$ 1.00

Statistical Information

PSD Table

PSD Table						
Country	Sweden					
Commodity	Groundfish, Whole/Eviscerated				(MT)	
	Revised	1999	Preliminary	2000	Forecast	2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/2000		01/2001		01/2002
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Production	400000	328,900	0	350000	0	350000
Intra-EC Imports	65000	40000	0	50000	0	50000
Other Imports	135000	143000	0	150000	0	150000
TOTAL Imports	200000	183000	0	200000	0	200000
TOTAL SUPPLY	600000	511900	0	550000	0	550000
Intra-EC Exports	415000	203000	0	215000	0	215000
Other Exports	55000	18000	0	35000	0	35000
TOTAL Exports	470000	221000	0	250000	0	250000
Domestic Consumption	130000	290900	0	300000	0	300000
Other Use/Loss	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Utilization	130000	290900	0	300000	0	300000
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	600000	511900	0	550000	0	550000

Export Table

Export Trade Matrix			
Country	Sweden		
Commodity	Groundfish, Whole/Eviscerated		
Time period	CY	Units:	Metric tons
Exports for:	1998		1999
U.S.	111	U.S.	126
Others		Others	
Denmark	145,502	Demark	129,968
France	17,898	France	20,910
Germany	10,319	Germany	11,130
Finland	8,068	Italy	9,529
Italy	7,565	United Kingdom	7,456
Latvia	6,913	Finland	6,392
Estonia	5,775	Netherlands	6,370
United Kingdom	5,645	Belgium	4,142
Netherlands	4,163	Estonia	1,818
Belgium	3,565	Latvia	380
Total for Others	215413		198095
Others not Listed	18,620		22,806
Grand Total	234144		221027

Import Table

Import Trade Matrix			
Country	Sweden		
Commodity	Groundfish, Whole/Eviscerated		
Time period	CY	Units:	Metric tons
Imports for:	1998		1999
U.S.	3,025	U.S.	2,031
Others		Others	
Norway	103,210	Norway	111,568
Denmark	25,828	Denmark	28,936
Iceland	5,379	Iceland	4,665
Thailand	4,103	PRC	4,495
Netherlands	3,024	Netherlands	3,729
Germany	2,633	Thailand	3,628
PRC	2,624	Canada	2,644
Russia	2,151	Germany	2,566
Estonia	1,823	Estonia	1,514
Canada	1,820	Russia	795
Total for Others	152595		164540
Others not Listed	10,867		16,459
Grand Total	166487		183030

Prices Table

Prices Table			
Country	Sweden		
Commodity	Salmon,imported		
Prices in	SEK	per uom	
Year	1998	1999	% Change
Dec	31	30.85	-0.48%
Exchange Rate	8.26	Local currency/US $	