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Market Development Reports

Fishing Ban in South China Sea Provides Market Opportunity for U.S. Seafood Products 1999

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Report Highlights:

Starting June 1, 1999, the mainland Chinese Government imposed a two-month fishing ban in the South China Sea. The purpose of this year's fishing ban in June and July is to preserve the South China Sea's ecology.

The Hong Kong Agriculture and Fisheries Department estimated 25% of normal supply would temporarily disappear from the local market. The price of fish is expected to rise in Hong Kong. Post encourages U.S. seafood exporters to consider the Hong Kong market, as this is a golden opportunity for U.S. seafood products to gain market share in Hong Kong.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report

Hong Kong [HK1], HK

Starting June 1, 1999, the mainland Chinese Government imposed a two-month fishing ban in the South China Sea.

Years of overfishing in several seas around China have significantly depleted marine resources, caused a decline in the output of aquatic products and decreased fishermen's incomes. Between 1996 and 1998, China enforced consecutive mid-summer fishing moratoriums on all its sea areas, except the South China Sea. The bans successfully helped to protect stocks of hairtail and other cash fish in the Yellow, Bohai and East China seas, allowing them to grow and reproduce. The purpose of this year's fishing ban in June and July is to preserve the South China Sea's ecology. To promote sustainable fisheries development, and help fishes to recover in the South China Sea, the ministry decided to extend the summertime fishing moratorium to South China Sea.

According to the report from South China Morning Post (June 02, 1999): "The Hong Kong Agriculture and Fisheries Department estimated 6000 tonnes of seafood - 25% of normal supply - would temporarily disappear from the local market." According to our contact in the Hong Kong Government's Fish Marketing Organization (FMO), wholesale market seafood supplies are down by at least 75%. (Fish Marketing Organization is a non-profit-making organization operated by the Hong Kong Agriculture & Fisheries Department. The major function of FMO is to operate the seven seafood wholesale markets in Hong Kong and provide training and financial aids to fishermen.)

The price of fish is expected to rise in Hong Kong. However, it is still uncertain how much the fish price will increase. Our contact in the Fish Marketing Organization urged us to encourage U.S. seafood exporters to consider the Hong Kong market, as this is a golden opportunity for U.S. seafood products to gain market share in Hong Kong.