REVIEW

PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION

The NMFS calculation of per capita consumption is based on a "disappearance" model. The total U.S. supply of imports and landings is converted to edible weight and decreases in supply such as exports and inventories are subtracted out. The remaining total is divided by a population value to estimate per capita consumption. Data for the model are derived primarily from secondary sources and are subject to incomplete reporting; changes in source data or invalid model assumptions may each have a significant effect on the resulting calculation.

U.S. per capita consumption of fish and shellfish was 14.6 pounds (edible meat) in 1997. This total was 0.2 pounds less than the 14.8 pounds consumed in 1996. Per capita consumption of fresh and frozen products was 9.9 pounds, 0.1 pound less than 1996.

Fresh and frozen finfish accounted for 6.1 pounds while fresh and frozen shellfish consumption was 3.8 pounds per capita. The fresh and frozen finfish includes approximately 0.9 pound of farm raised catfish. Consumption of canned fishery products was 4.4 pounds per capita in 1997, a decrease of 0.1 pound from 1996. Cured fish accounted for 0.3 pound per capita, the same as in previous years. Imports of edible seafood made up 61 percent of the consumption.

PER CAPITA USE. Per capita use is based on the supply of fishery products, both edible and non-edible (industrial), on a round-weight equivalent basis without considering beginning or ending stocks, defense purchases, or exports. The per capita use of all edible and industrial fishery products in 1997 was 63.9 pounds, up 1.8 pounds compared with 1996.