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Sweden

Fishery Products

Annual

2001

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Report Highlights:
Imports of fish and fish products by Sweden have been increasing during the past years, due to a declining domestic production, and will likely continue to increase. U.S. share has declined, however. In 2000, the U.S. was the tenth largest supplier with a market share of about 0.5 percent. The strength of the dollar against the Swedish krona and stiff competition from neighbouring countries are the main factors affecting the market and U.S. trade. However, the quotas for fishing in the Baltic sea are diminishing, which may increase possibilities for U.S. cod exports to Sweden.

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. In 2000, a total of 332,400 metric tons valued at USD 104 million was caught. In 1999, a total of 328,900 metric tons valued at USD 116 million was caught.

Imports of fish and fish products have been increasing during the past years, due to a declining domestic production, and will likely continue to increase. The U.S. was for the past decade (until 1997) among the fourth largest supplier of fish and fish products to Sweden after Norway, Denmark and Iceland. However, U.S. share has declined and in 2000, the U.S. was the tenth largest supplier with a market share of about 0.5 percent. The strength of the dollar against the Swedish krona and stiff competition from neighboring countries are the main factors affecting the market and U.S. trade. Norway and Denmark together account for over 80 percent of total imports to Sweden, with 65 percent and 17 percent shares respectively.

Unlike other EU countries, the BSE and FMD crises in Europe seem to have had little impact on Swedish consumption of fish. Sweden has been thusfar BSE and FMD free and meat consumption has not been much affected. Consumption of fresh fish in Sweden is relatively stable, while consumption of processed and prepared fish products is increasing. Overall, the consumption of fish and fish products is increasingm. This is partly attribulable to the successful promotions of the Swedish organization Svensk Fisk and the general perception among Swedes that fish is healthy alternative to meat.

The average exchange rates used in this report are:
2000 SEK 9.18 to US$ 1.00
1999 SEK 8.26 to US$ 1.00

Production

The Swedish catch in sea fisheries (wild catch) amounted to 332,408 metric tons in 2000, up 1 percent from 1999. In value, total landings amounted to SEK 955 million (USD$ 104 million), down from SEK 962 million (US $ 116 million) in 1999.

Of the catches for human consumption, herring is the principal species in Sweden, followed by cod. In 2000, these species accounted for 17 and 6 percent, respectively, of total landings. Catches have been fairly consistent during the past several years, but are expected to decrease in the coming years. The sea-fishing industry is having problems which include low profitability, reduction of stock, and international competition, especially from farmed fish. Fish for reduction is the largest single commodity, amounting to 71 percent of the total 2000 catch. Cod is the most economically important catch of the Swedish fisheries industry because it yields the best margins. However, the dwindling resources of cod in the Baltic have seriously injured the cod fishing. In 2000, the cod catch was stable at 20,151 metric tons compared to 19,662 metric tons in 1999. The herring catch increased to 56,229 metric tons, from 46,090 metric tons in 1999.

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. The 2002 quotas are given below (Sweden's approximate shares in parentheses):

	2001	2002
Herring	372,000 tons (88,874)	260,000 (61,410)
Sprat	355,000 tons (60,871)	380,000 tons (12,970)
Cod	105,000 tons (23,653)	76,000 tons (15,203)
Salmon	450,000 fish (123,652)	450,000 fish (123,652)

*Salmon quotas are given in number of fish.

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, the decline in fishermen will likely continue due to reduced profitability and reduced catch. There are 1,214 registered fishing vessels over 8 meters in length.

The 2000 figures on catch in inland waters by professional fishermen in Sweden are not available yet. In 1999 the catch amounted to 1,487 metric tons, valued at SEK 35.3 million (US$ 3.85 million). The 1999 catch was comparatively low. The average for the past 10 years has been around 2,000 metric tons. The most important species in inland fishing are pike-perch, eel and whitefish. Domestic production of crayfish is fairly small, about 10 metric tons. Fishing in private waters is popular, but the quantities of catches are difficult to estimate.

Aquaculture in Sweden is comparatively small. In 1999, the yield amounted to 4,337 metric tons of fish for human consumption, which was 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 blue mussels, char, eel, trout, and crayfish.

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.

The major canning company in Sweden is ABBA Seafood. ABBA (AktieBolaget Broderna Ameln) includes processing and marketing of ABBA fishery products in Sweden, Denmark and Germany. In addition, marketing offices have been established in Norway, Poland, Finland and Austria. ABBA Seafood is a part of the Norwegian group Orkla Foods. Other important fish processing industries include Findus, Felix, and Festab AB. In the past 38 years (until 2000), Findus has been by owned the international food company Nestlé, but was a year ago acquired by EQT, a private equity firm. Felix is also a part of the Orkla group and Festab AB is a part of the Norwegian Domstein Group.

Consumption

Unlike in other EU countries, the BSE and FMD crises in Europe seem to have had little impact on Swedish consumption of fish. In Sweden, these crises have had little impact on meat consumption. However, the EU ban on using meat and bone meal (MBM) in animal feed has led to a somewhat increased demand for fish meal, since fish meal is still allowed in pig and poultry feed. The European Commission did include fish meal in its proposal on banning the use of MBM in animal feed. However, several member countries, among them Sweden and Finland, were strongly against this proposal. Supported also by the Veterinary Committee, the EU Ministers of Agriculture decided to exempt fish meal from the ban.

Previously, food consumption was estimated annually by the National Board of Agriculture (BOA). Now, Statistics Sweden (SCB) has this responsibility. Data for the year 2000 are not yet available from SCB. In 1999, fresh fish consumption amounted to 5.7 kilograms per capita per year, almost the same level as in 1998. Total consumption is estimated at about 50,510 metric tons

Consumption of processed and prepared fish products has been gradually increasing, and amounted to 6.7 kilograms/capita in 1999. Total consumption is estimated at about 59,372 metric tons. 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. Total consumption is estimated at about 16,837 metric tons. Consumption of crustaceans and molluscs, which have been increasing in popularity as a result of better availability and lower prices, amounted to about 3.1 kilograms/capita in 1999 for a total consumption 27,470 metric tons.

Swedes are purported to be the number one crayfish consumer in the world. Swedes consider crayfish a very special delicacy. They are cooked according to unique recipes using brine, dill and beer. Consumption is estimated at around 3,000 tons per year, of which 2,500 tons are imported.

Trade

In 2000, total imports of fish and fish products into Sweden amounted to USD 629 million. Imports from the United States amounted to USD 4.4 million, which makes the United States the tenth largest supplier of fish and fish products to Sweden. It is estimated that a substantially greater amount of fish and fish products has been imported by Sweden than is apparent from trade data because of transshipment via the Netherlands. These imports are shown as imports from the Netherlands.

Pacific salmon is the main species imported from the U.S. Currently, Norway and Denmark dominate the Swedish import market for fish. Together they account for over 80 percent of total imports by Sweden, with individual shares of 65 percent and 17 percent, respectively. 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. cod exports to Sweden may increase.

Total imports of crayfish by Sweden amounted to 3,022 metric tons in 2000, compared to 2,890 metric tons in 1999. The U.S. used to be the largest supplier in the Swedish market. However, from 1997 to 2000, imports of U.S. crayfish have decreased from 1,409 tons to zero. The decline is mainly due to a supply shortage in Louisiana. Crayfish from China and Turkey are very price competitive. Crayfish from China are regarded as lower in quality than U.S. crayfish.

Policy

Since it became a member of the European Union in 1995, Sweden has adhered to the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) of the EU.

The European Commission (EC) proposal on implementing thresholds for dioxin in fish would hit hard on Swedish salmon, eel, and Baltic herring industry. The presence of dioxin in Swedish fish/catch is much higher than the proposed thresholds would allow. The Swedish Board of Agriculture (BOA) considers the proposed thresholds to be unreasonably low and questions if health benefits of lower thresholds match the lost benefits of eating fish. If the proposal would be adopted, the Swedish rendering industry would be severely hurt (sprat and Baltic herring). Furthermore, lower thresholds would probably lead to a prohibition of sales of fat fish like salmon and eel from the Baltic Sea. According to BOA, Sweden would be most affected by the EC proposal since Sweden has no fishing waters in the Atlantic.

The Swedish organization Svensk Fisk (Swedish Fish) is supported by the industry and the Swedish government. The organization's goal is to increase fish consumption through communicating the benefits of eating fish to consumers. The organization closed down in June, 2000, according to plan. In August of this year however, the organization re-started its activities. The Swedish Government is supporting the organization with a initial capital of SEK 5 million (USD 550,000).

The Swedish National Environmental Protection Agency has provided SEK 16.2 million (USD 1.8 million) of funding to a research project called MARBIPP (Marine Biodiversity, Patterns and Processes). These funds are available for use to year 2003. The aim of the project is to create a base for ensuring sustainable development by learning about biodiversity along the coasts of Sweden.

Marketing

As mentioned earlier, U.S. exports to Sweden, in general, have been hampered by the strength of the U.S. dollar. In addition, duty-free imports from fellow EU member states, the EU's barriers against imports from third countries (import tariffs on fish products ranges between 2 and 23 percent), and the short shipping distances from EU countries compared to overseas shipping times have made the competitive environment difficult. However, the quotas for fishing in the Baltic Sea are diminishing, which may increase possibilities for U.S. cod exports to Sweden. Furthermore, if the EU proposal on thresholds for dioxin is adopted, the market prospects for fat fish like salmon and fish for reduction may improve.

In Sweden, three organizations, ICA, COOP Norden and Axfood control about 80 percent of the retail market. These organizations are, along with Hartwig AB, Olle and Pandalus, the principal importers of seafood in Sweden.

Statistical Section

PSD Table

PSD Table						
Country	Sweden					
Commodity	Groundfish, Whole/Eviscerated				(MT)	
	Revised	2000	Preliminary	2001	Forecast	2002
	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	350000	332400	350000	310000	0	280000
Intra-EC Imports	50000	42665	50000	50000	0	60000
Other Imports	150000	151594	150000	165000	0	175000
TOTAL Imports	200000	194259	200000	215000	0	235000
TOTAL SUPPLY	550000	526659	550000	525000	0	515000
Intra-EC Exports	215000	237296	215000	215000	0	205000
Other Exports	35000	25502	35000	35000	0	35000
TOTAL Exports	250000	262798	250000	250000	0	240000
Domestic Consumption	300000	263861	300000	275000	0	275000
Other Use/Loss	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Utilization	300000	263861	300000	275000	0	275000
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	550000	526659	550000	525000	0	515000

Trade Matrices

Export Trade Matrix			
Country	Sweden		
Commodity	Groundfish, Whole/Eviscerated		
Time period	CY	Units:	Metric tons
Exports for:	1999		2000
U.S.	126	U.S.	158
Others		Others	
Denmark	129968	Denmark	160587
France	20910	France	19417
Germany	11130	Germany	13733
Italy	9529	United Kingdom	8329
United Kingdom	7456	Italy	8142
Finland	6392	Finland	6646
Netherlands	6370	Estonia	5705
Belgium	4142	Netherlands	5445
Estonia	1818	Belgium	4299
Latvia	380		
Total for Others	198095		232303
Others not Listed	22806		30337
Grand Total	221027		262798

Import Trade Matrix			
Country	Sweden		
Commodity	Groundfish, Whole/Eviscerated		
Time period	CY	Units:	Metric tons

Imports for:	1999		2000
U.S.	2031	U.S.	1185
Others		Others	
Norway	111568	Norway	126158
Denmark	28936	Denmark	32406
Iceland	4665	PRC	4102
PRC	4495	Netherlands	4082
Netherlands	3729	Iceland	3911
Thailand	3628	Thailand	3802
Canada	2644	Canada	2158
Germany	2566	Germany	1276
Estonia	1514	Russia	1403
Russia	795	Estonia	1311
Total for Others	164540		180609
Others not Listed	16459		12465
Grand Total	183030		194259

Price Table

Prices Table			
Country	Sweden		
Commodity	Groundfish, Whole/Eviscerated		
Prices in	SEK	per uom	
Year	1999	2000	% Change
Dec			
Average year	30.85	29.75	-3.6
Exchange Rate	9.18	Local currency/US $	