

It is also notable that most of the Japanese sardine caught during the peak years was processed for animal feed, and was not put towards human consumption.  
(Refer to Figure 3: Fish and shellfish production)

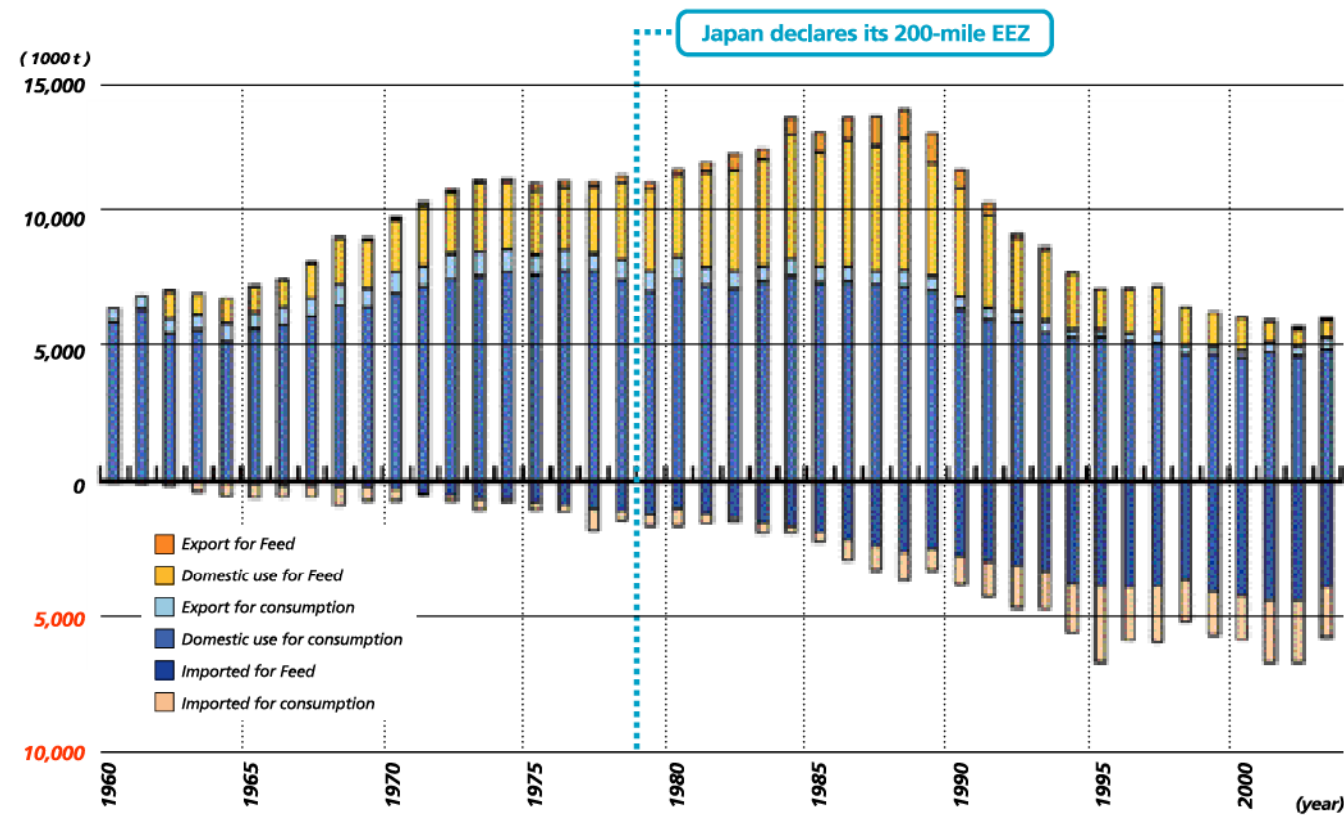
More and more Japan is leaning towards imports for the long-term supply of seafood, and it seems clear that the amount of Japanese sardine for consumption is virtually unaffected by the decline in the sardine catch.

In the past the government has tried to prove that the decline in the catch of Walleye Pollock was due to the predation by whales, and later also tried to prove that sperm whales were feeding on a large number of Neon flying squid (the same species consumed by humans). They failed to provide any evidence in both cases. Moreover, according to the press release by the Fisheries Agency, the industry does not seem too concerned about the Neon flying squid fishery, as it is a low priority fishery.

Prediction of Northern Pacific Neon Flying Squid Catch  
<http://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/release/18/091202.pdf>

It is true the whales are eating commercially valuable species. However, again, this by no means can be named as the major cause of the decline in catch. Claiming that 'the opening of the commercial whaling will decrease the whale population and our fish catch will increase', will only validate those who think that the Japanese government is only trying to ensure their whale meat supply.

### Fish and shellfish production

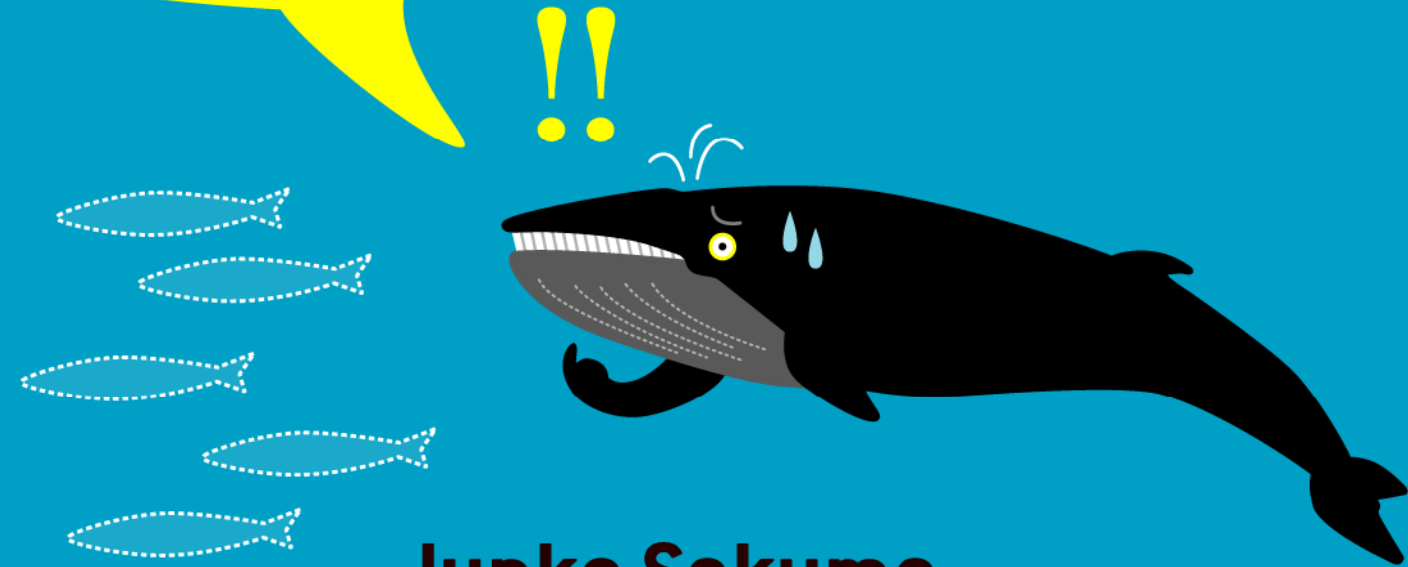


Source: Table. Food Supply and Demand

# Whales are eating up all the fish? .....

# NO WAY!!

A questionable debate: A rebuttal using the data from National Research Institute of Fisheries Science, Fisheries Research Agency



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