

Trade between Hong Kong and Singapore References

Trade between Hong Kong and Singapore obtained from their respective import and re-export statistics is presented in Table 3.

If there was good correspondence between the statistics, imports from Singapore (1) should be equal to re-exports to Hong Kong (4) and imports from Hong Kong (3) should be equal to re-exports to Singapore (2).

This is not the case and on the whole Hong Kong values are higher than those of Singapore. The general tendency is a flux from Singapore to Hong Kong which is just the opposite to the flux which existed between 1981 and 1984. The exchange is made through sister companies, with higher grades imported in Singapore and lower grades in Hong Kong, probably in relation with the China market.

Table 3: Bêche-de-mer exchanges between Hong Kong and Singapore (T = tonnage; V = value in local currency; v = mean value per kg)

			1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	
H O N G	1	Imports	T	301	399	798	1,068	
		from	V	11,938,000	17,719,000	26,710,000	27,138,000	
		Singapore	v	39.7	44.4	33.5	25.4	
K O N G	2	Re-exports	T	152	103	123	55	
		to	V	8,551,000	7,364,000	8,157,000	3,334,000	
		Singapore	v	56.2	71.5	66.3	60.6	
S I N G A P O R E	3	Imports	T	84	30	48	18	47
		from	V	1,744	542,000	847,000	301,000	1,060,000
		Hong Kong	v	20.8	18.1	17.6	16.7	22.6
E	4	Re-exports	T	656	386	631	439	651
		to	V	3,157	4,068,000	6,977,000	4,660,000	6,221,000
		Hong Kong	v	4.8	10.5	11.1	10.6	

Beche-de-mer harvesting in the Northern Province of New Caledonia

*Source: Northern Province Fisheries Division
Kone, New Caledonia*

Forty-eight species of holothurians have been recorded in the lagoon around New Caledonia. At present, four of these are being harvested for the food market: blackfish, sandfish, teatfish and lollyfish. According to figures supplied by the four main exporters, total 1991 production was over 100 tonnes dry weight, 95 per cent of which came from the Northern Province.

Blackfish, found mainly in the northern lagoon, accounted for 68 per cent of the total. In second place came sandfish, with 28 per cent of the total catch. This species occurs primarily in the western lagoon.

Beche-de-mer is purchased unprocessed from fishermen by local groups and fishing concerns

(Népoui, Poum, Arama, Pouébo) which do all the preparation work (gutting, boiling, drying). Prices are 20 to 30 CFP francs per kilo for blackfish and 40 CFP francs per kilo for sandfish. The weight loss during processing varies from species to species. On average, 100 kg of fresh fish are required to obtain 8–9 kg of dried beche-de-mer.

These are the highest tonnages for any product from an artisanal fishery anywhere in the Territory.

After drying, the beche-de-mer, also known as trepang, is sold to exporters for between 400 and

500 CFP per kg for blackfish and between 1,000 and 1,500 CFP francs per kg for sandfish.

No estimate of potential harvest has yet been made and fishermen are now asking themselves questions about resource management, since scarcity problems have begun to emerge.

Harvesting seasons are already being applied by the people of Arama (during the crab season – April to January – bêche-de-mer fishing is suspended), while a size limit is imposed by the fishermen of Népoui, Poum and Pouébo.

Distribution of 1991 beche-de-mer production by species and by area (gross weight in kg)

	Blackfish	Sandfish	Teatfish	Lollyfish
North	826,152	516	57,024	1,140
West	166,632	392,160	0	0
East	0	0	0	0
Total	992,784	392,676	57,024	1,140

Total production (kg) **1,443,624**

Value at first sale (CFP francs) **43,308,720** (100 CFP francs ≈ US\$ 1.00)

Evolution of New Caledonian beche-de-mer exports from 1987 to 1991 (net weight in kg) by exporters and by countries (according to Customs Service statistics)

Year	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Exporters					
A	71,300	63,650	32,114	89,660	60,956
B	16,584	36,000	10,000	12,445	19,329
C	10,605	36,157	12,740	200	
D				24,293	29,685
E					3,625
F	3,100				
G				2,766	
H					100
I					
Total	101,589	135,807	54,854	129,364	113,695

Year	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Countries					
Hong Kong	46,684	125,876	54,754	122,678	109,970
Singapore	27,405	9,731		2,766	
U.S.A	19,500				
Taiwan	8,000			3,720	3,625
Japan			100	200	100
Total	101,589	135,607	54,854	129,364	113,695