

Inventory of Fish Products in Southeast Asia

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Summary

In response to a request of the 17th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 1984, MFRD undertook a compilation of fish products available in the region, the quality of the products and constraints to their marketing and promotion.

Questionnaires on products were sent to Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand covering 11 product aspects.

The study showed that most quality problems were concentrated in the category of traditional products — particularly smoked, dried and fermented items.

No serious problems were found among cured, boiled and powdered products which in any case are produced in small quantities. Among canned products, high rejection rates in export markets is a source of concern. Apart from raw material shortages, no serious problems emerged on frozen products and fish meal.

Overall the compilers believe the compilation will be useful in identifying available products and highlighting certain problems. Since the problems are socio-economic as well as technical, the compilers believe they can best be tackled by local technologists working cooperatively with professional colleagues from throughout the region.