

Beef may overtake seafood in Japan

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A government fisheries report says beef consumption may soon surpass seafood in Japan.

The report says high prices for seafood -- spurred by strong demand in China and elsewhere -- and a growing taste for meat is making beef a more popular choice, Kyodo News said Wednesday.

Seafood purchases have been on a downward trend since 1965, while meat consumption has doubled in that time.

A survey by the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Finance Corp. said 70 percent of Japanese housewives in their 30s do not fillet fish and 10 percent do not grill it.

Seafood consumption is rising in China, Europe and the United States, leading to higher seafood prices and reduced purchases by Japanese importers, the news service said.

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