

issued. A parallel federal example would exist if, for navigational waters protection purposes, an exemption was not granted by the Ministry of Transport, a site lease would not be granted by the province. The Committee is of the opinion that every reasonable effort must be made to encourage aquaculture development. In consequence, the federal government must ensure in its agreements with the provinces that nothing interferes with this objective especially as relates to the issuing of aquaculture permits.

In British Columbia, negotiations on an aquaculture MOU are fairly advanced. There remain however a few fundamental disagreements on the respective roles of both levels of government vis-à-vis the aquaculture industry that will in all probability only be resolved at the ministerial level. For example, a fundamental disagreement flows from the BC government's position that the federal government cannot delegate authority that it does not have, such as allowing or preventing an aquaculture project to proceed, this position being based on the belief that aquaculture is not a fishery. The Committee recognizes the need for the federal government to continue to exert its jurisdictional powers to conserve and protect the fishery resource as well as fish habitat and health. A recognition of this jurisdiction and responsibility should be the basis of all aquaculture MOU's and agreements with the provinces.

53. During its meetings with industry representatives, the Committee heard repeated calls from industry for speedy finalization of these agreements, thus removing a major impediment to aquaculture development, the lack of clearly defined jurisdictions. This lack results in the duplication of government activities, deters the development of adequate support policies and makes it difficult for the industry to know the level of government to address when seeking advice on technical, scientific or financial problems. It also inhibits spending in support of industry as governments generally seek to keep their spending in their own areas of jurisdiction to ensure that they receive full political credit.

c) Industry Regulation

As a result of the industry's current stage of development, there is lack of regulation; for example, salmon farmers are not subject to Health and Product Safety Regulations such as those applying to farmers in agriculture. There are no government standards for the time required to ensure that salmon has eliminated any medication before being marketed. In the absence of the necessary scientific knowledge to resolve this situation, the BC