

AQUACULTURE

The United Kingdom has well-developed trout, salmon and shellfish farming industries. Trout farms are mainly in England and Wales, while salmon farms are in Scotland including the Shetland Isles. Trout production has been relatively stable during recent years with 1990 production of approximately 15,000 MT, and salmon production has expanded to 32,350 MT in the same year. Shellfish culture is generally on a smaller scale and ranges from enhancement of wild stocks to suspended culture. Species which are cultivated include mussels, oysters, scallops (King and Queen) and Manila clams. During 1990, approximately 7,000 MT of mussels were harvested, 850 MT of native oysters, 600 MT of Pacific oysters, 200 MT of scallops, and about 50 MT of Manila clams. The Republic of Ireland also has a strong shellfish farming sector and supplies the United Kingdom market with suspended culture mussels.

SHETLAND OIL SPILL

As a result of the major oil spill which occurred off the coast of the Shetland Islands earlier in the year, the Shetland Salmon Farmers Association decided that all salmon from inside the affected zone that were tested, were tainted or badly tainted, and should be destroyed according to scientists from the Scottish Office of Agriculture and Fisheries (SOAFD). A total of 2.5 million fish are believed affected from 16 different salmon farms at an estimated value of £35,000,000. In response, the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC), which is paid into by oil companies, indicated it would pay compensation for the slaughter of harvestable salmon contaminated by the Shetland oil spill. It is unknown what effect this will ultimately have on the 1992 smolts which would not be due for harvest until 1994.

As of June 1993, harvestable salmon have been slaughtered and compensation has been paid out by the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund. There has yet to be a decision made with respect to smolts. In addition, the U.K. fisheries authorities are slowly reducing the restrictions on other species in the contaminated area, but not for shellfish. By most accounts, the damage caused by the spill to the fisheries sector in the U.K. has less of an impact than was first predicted.