

the proposed system, the provinces will be responsible for gathering the basic farm information, which the Department of Fisheries and Oceans will then compile annually at the national level.

B. Potential Benefits of Aquaculture Development in Canada

The Norwegian and Scottish experiences with aquaculture suggest that substantial socio-economic benefits can be derived by fostering the growth of this industry. They also suggest some constraints which are discussed in Section "C". The development of the Canadian aquaculture industry has some specific advantages as outlined below.

1. Employment

Aquaculture is able to create a significant number of direct job opportunities for Canadians. The industry's potential for direct job creation is obviously tempered by the fact that it is relatively knowledge — and capital — intensive and requires specific environmental and water conditions depending on the species to be cultured. Direct job creation potential, however, will be supplemented by a significant level of indirect job creation in related service industries such as fish processing, fish feed manufacturing and fish farming equipment manufacturing.

According to the Canadian Aquaculture Producers Council, the growth of salmon aquaculture on the West coast alone has already resulted in the creation of a substantial number of jobs: 113 active farm sites in British Columbia account for 632 on-farm workers and 326 indirect jobs in service industries. The Council expects that the number of direct jobs will increase to 2,700 over the next two years with the number of indirect jobs increasing to just over 1,000.¹

The Bay of Fundy salmon aquaculture industry with 33 active sites and a production level of 1,300 tonnes in 1987 provided the equivalent of 150 person-years of direct employment and 114 person-years of indirect employment.²

The ratios of indirect to direct employment in Canadian salmon aquaculture is lower than the 1:1 ratio commonly advanced in Norway. Two factors can account for this: on the one hand, supplies and services are being imported, since this sector has yet to develop to its full extent in Canada; on