

Government support

While the private sector has led in the development of the aquaculture industry in Canada, both the federal and provincial governments have adopted measures to encourage commercial aquaculture development.

At the First Ministers Conference in Halifax in November 1985, aquaculture was identified as an important sector for further cooperative development. In Winnipeg, in June, the fisheries ministers endorsed a statement of some "National Policy Goals for Canadian Aquaculture". The statement is the government's first major commitment to developing aquaculture.

Based on the combined efforts of industry and governments, some of the main goals are:

- to increase the high value, marketable species of fin fish and shell fish in all regions of Canada;
- to improve the quality and expand the variety of Canadian fish and fish products;
- to improve the reliability of supply of Canadian fish and fish products marketed in Canada and abroad;

- to create new employment and enriched income opportunities in the production of fish;
- to encourage long-range stability in the country's fish production sector through diversity and continuity of supply; and
- to promote development of appropriate technologies for intensive fish, shell fish and marine plant production.



Winter harvesting of cultured mussels in Prince Edward Island.

Fisheries and Oceans

CIDA programs

Many of Canada's international efforts in aquaculture are through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Early programs, one in Thailand and the other in El Salvador, were implemented in the 1970s.

By 1980, four projects were operative, one in each of four countries of Southeast Asia, which had aquaculture as a major component. The four are action-oriented small projects in coastal villages in Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia. More recent projects are being planned and implemented in Ghana, Sri Lanka and Brazil.

For the most part, CIDA's aquaculture projects involve the construction of buildings, training and development of related technology. Other ventures in developing countries have been largely in research and development with some feasibility studies and environmental impact assessment ■



Milkfish fry being gathered for the Bayawan, Philippines Fishermen's Co-operative where they will be raised to fingerlings size. This is a major activity of the CIDA-funded Bayawan small-scale fisheries development project.

CIDA