

FOREWORD

As part of its study, your Committee travelled to Norway and Scotland to study advances made by those countries in aquaculture. Your Committee also visited aquaculture facilities across Canada where a number of expert witnesses, industry participants and government officials presented their views. Your Committee is pleased to present its findings on aquaculture in this country, particularly saltwater marine aquaculture.

Aquaculture, especially salmon farming, is making substantial advances in Norway and Scotland. The climatic and geographical conditions of these countries are similar to those prevailing on Canada's western coast and in some areas of its eastern seaboard although climatic conditions there are generally harsher. Canada is blessed with extensive marine habitat on both coasts, yet the development of Canadian aquaculture has been slow. This is of some concern to the Committee. Through this report the Committee seeks to make Canadians aware of the opportunities offered by this industry, to facilitate its further development and to outline the precautions necessary for the protection of the environment, the wild fisheries and the interests of other resource user groups. While salmon growing will necessarily be the leading edge of this industry, the outlook is also positive for the cultivation of other species, particularly molluscs, such as oysters, mussels and scallops, as well as of marine finfish, such as halibut and sablefish.