

The creation of a new Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture would have a very positive impact in the fishery sector community and in the country as a whole.

II. 2. General Considerations

The production in 1989 is the largest in the history of the country, reaching 6.6 million tones. According to preliminary figures, the year 1990 showed 20% less production, representing around 5.3 million tones. This production is similar to the level reached in 1988. According to statistics, Chile is situated 6th place in the world in production, but only 15th position in relation to the value of the products exported, a clear indication of the type of primary production in the Chilean industry. The fishing industry is slowly changing towards processed fish products, more value added, and also developing the aquaculture industry as a means of offsetting the levelling of the catch. There is a tremendous potential to develop the offshore fisheries, but it appears that the local industry is not ready yet to undertake the challenge.

Even though the total production fell in 1990; the capacity of the extractive power increased. The fleet is composed of 325 industrial boats (35 called "factory" fishing boats); and around 16,000 artisanal small boats. The main growth of that capacity occurred in the austral area of the