

# CANADA REPORTS

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## Aquaculture: an emerging industry

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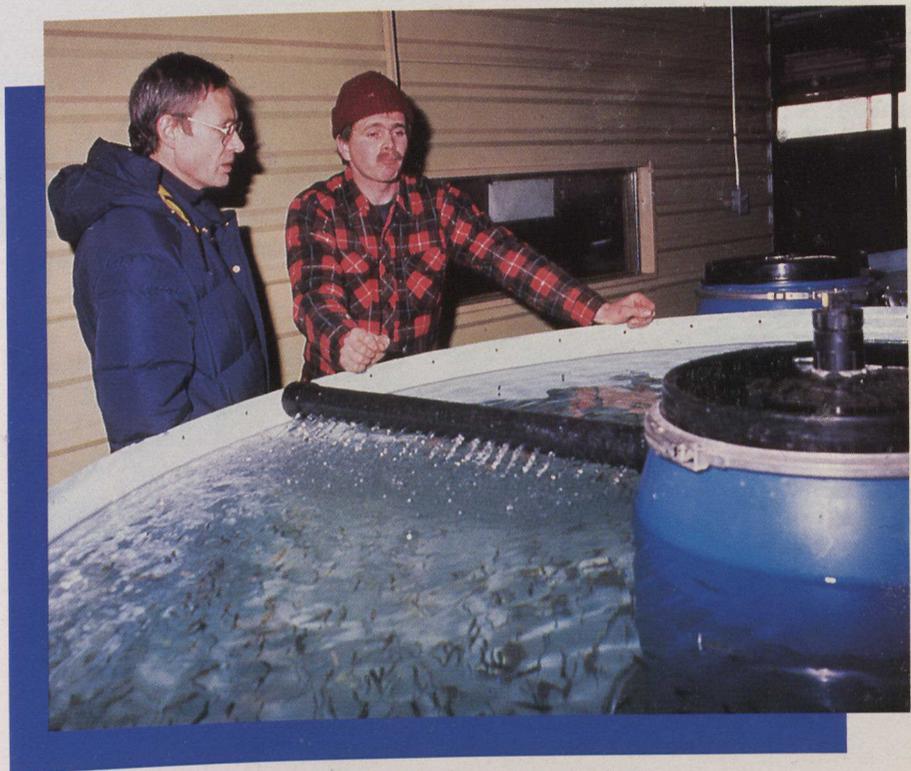
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Fisheries and Oceans

Intensive trout culture production facilities in Prince Edward Island.

Canada, a major fishing nation and the world's largest fish trading country, has until recently had limited interest in developing its aquaculture industry. While annual production, estimated at some 6 000 tonnes and valued at more than \$15 million, has been fairly constant over the past decade, the industry is now widely considered to be on the threshold of sustained economic and commercial development. The British Columbia government predicts, for example, that, in that province alone, aquaculture will generate at least \$130 million in annual revenues in the next ten years.

Since the beginning of the Canadian commercial aquaculture industry, ventures have included: the production of rainbow trout in hatcheries, farms, and ponds; "grow-out" of Atlantic, coho, and chinook salmon in sea-pens; "off-bottom" rearing of oysters and mussels; depuration of clams; hatching and growing of abalone; impoundments of herring and sablefish; and on-shore rearing and holding of lobsters and Irish moss.