

The aquaculture industry will complement the wild fisheries by improving the quality and continuity of the supply of Canadian fisheries products both domestically and internationally. Traditional fisheries should benefit from aquaculture production as the markets for all fisheries products expand. A particularly interesting example of the symbiotic relationship which can occur between the two industries is a type of aquaculture being developed in Newfoundland. Live cod caught in the in-shore trap fishery during their summer migration are transferred to sea-cages where they are fed and fattened for marketing at a later date. This type of activity demonstrates a number of interesting advantages such as providing cod fishermen with an additional outlet at possibly higher prices and a stabilizing factor in the offer of fishery products.

Canadians have never consumed large quantities of fisheries products although per capita consumption figures have been steadily rising over the past decade. In addition to cultural factors, a number of reasons for this low consumption rate can be advanced. Supply often varies substantially according to season and there are distribution and transportation problems in making fresh fish available in a country as large as Canada. As a result, the Canadian domestic market has been often serviced as a residual market by the traditional fishing industry, especially as export markets provide the highest returns.

The aquaculture industry has the potential to complement the traditional fishing industry as a year-round supplier of varied and quality products. Aquaculture can help expand the domestic market for fish products by overcoming the distribution and transportation problems of supplying fresh fish to consumers. Some types of aquaculture could conceivably be carried out near major population centres far from the coast. This is already being done to some extent by trout farmers in Western and Central Canada. Aquaculture may also help to stabilize, possibly at higher levels, the prices of certain fishery products, given that continuity and quality of supply are major factors in the determination of such prices.

C. The Constraints and Requirements of Aquaculture Development in Canada

This section documents the constraints that are causing the slower growth of aquaculture in Canada and sets out the requirements for accelerating growth. Among the factors often cited as retarding the growth of aquaculture in Canada are our cold-water environmental conditions and the