

pollution etc... It should also be noted that the situation in Scotland is also complicated by a lack of sufficiently clear and comprehensive zoning and siting regulations.

The Committee notes that more successful procedures have been followed in both New Brunswick and British Columbia. The New Brunswick moratorium was imposed in 1986 to allow commercial smolt production to catch up to grow out capacity and to moderate the growth of the industry in relation to the development of regulatory procedures. In late 1986, the BC provincial government imposed a moratorium on further aquaculture development in the face of growing opposition. At the same time the BC provincial government commissioned a public enquiry into finfish aquaculture. While the Gillepsie Commission of Inquiry did not solve all problems related to aquaculture development, it did lead to substantial improvements in the land allocation and disposition methods used for handling new aquaculture licence and lease applications. This has in turn contributed to the better siting of aquaculture operations. As well the public consultation conducted by the BC Inquiry into fish farming contributed to dispelling many unfounded fears related to aquaculture development resulting from insufficient and often incorrect information.

This suggests that a public consultation process is more productive when conducted to obtain public input on concerns related to aquaculture development which can then serve as the basis for elaborating adequate zoning policies in addition to improving the circulation of scientific information on aquaculture.

However, a means of ensuring that concerned user groups are able to express their concerns on aquaculture development taking place within their community is also necessary. This can be done by implementing referral and notification mechanisms within the licencing application and approval process. Such mechanisms make it incumbent on the authorities to notify concerned interest groups of aquaculture licence applications which may affect them. Such mechanisms can be implemented at two levels. It is possible for example that the authority in charge of administering the licencing system and approving licence applications could be the agency designated to implement the referral and notification mechanisms to ensure the input from concerned user groups. However, this agency already has the responsibility of administering the inter-agency referral mechanism talked about in the section of the report which deals with the federal-provincial MOUs. It is thus preferable that the agencies having to provide input into