

4. Other Benefits of Aquaculture Development

Aquaculture development will result in many social and economic benefits, which may not always be as tangible as direct job creation in economically depressed areas.

Among these benefits, there will be increased R&D activities and technological developments related to aquaculture. In Norway, the aquaculture industry has shown itself profitable enough for the government to invest considerable amounts of money into state-backed research activities. This may have been as a result of the Norwegian industry being composed of many small producers unable to carry out in-house R&D. With the exception of the in-house R&D activities of a few large Norwegian firms and research contracted out to private and governmental research institutions by large firms and producer associations, aquaculture R&D is led by the Norwegian government. In Canada, aquaculture research by government has been to a large degree responsible for the development of the industry to date. In the future, there will be an increasing need for government research efforts to be focused on regulatory requirements (such as site location, environmental effects, disease control and product inspection) and on longer term issues of potential importance such as the biology of new candidate species. In addition to government research, there are clear advantages to be gained by allowing development of large aquaculture firms with in-house research capabilities and by industry's contracting out research to government and university laboratories. Smaller companies and individuals will still require the knowledge base and information provided from governmental aquaculture research programs.

Another benefit of aquaculture development is the symbiotic relationship which can develop between the fishing and aquaculture industries and related service industries.

For example, the development of aquaculture will increase capacity utilisation rates in the processing sector of the traditional fisheries by increasing the supplies of raw material for the preparation of intermediate or final products. It is also clear that aquaculture development will increase the demand for under-utilized species in the traditional fisheries as the basic ingredients in fish feeds; in Norway, 64% of the fish landings are for industrial use rather than for human food. It is estimated that up to 30% of these landings are used in the manufacturing of fish feeds for salmonid aquaculture.