

Aquaculture shows the fastest growth rate in the fishery sector. There are several fish, shellfish, and algae species being cultured, such as salmon (coho, atlantic, chinook, sakura), trout, algae (*Gracilaria* sp., mussels, oysters (Chilean and Japanese), scallops. There is also a tremendous effort to acclimatize species such as turbot, and California abalone.

The salmon industry has grown from 1 ton in 1981 to around 28,000 tones in 1990-91. The industry is a strong position, even though there have been algae blooms that threatened the salmon harvest in 1988, and most recently a very peculiar intracellular disease, limited until now to salmon coho, which is produced by a rickettsia.

The aquaculture industry has shown a great dynamism and very good possibilities throughout the country. Of the total tonnage, 51% is contributed by algae, such as *Gracilaria* sp.

Industry analysts forecast that by the end of the decade, Chile will be selling more than 50,000 tones of salmon to foreign markets, which implies a growth of more than 100%. However, there are even more optimistic forecasts, indicating the output close to 70,000 tones by the end of the century, which means to produce over 45,000 new tones of salmon. The industry continues its expansion through the enlarging of existing facilities, or the newly initiated operations.

The last four years have marked the beginning of large scale investments in salmon production by a large number of foreign producers. Currently, there are several internationally recognized salmon producers such as the Japanese Nichiro Guogo Kaisha and Nippon Suisan Kaisha, the