

aquaculture development by preventing the movement of live fish and eggs within Atlantic Canada for example. Such a review, if carried out, should not however reduce the protection afforded the wild stocks by these regulations. It should be pointed that on going research and development into the production of sterile fish could eventually lead to the widespread use of sterile farms stocks in areas where disease transmission and genetic pollution are a concern.

Concerns about aquaculture among commercial fishermen are however not limited to salmon fishermen. For example, in Atlantic Canada, in the Bay of Fundy area, some presently non-productive herring weir fisheries are located in areas suitable for aquaculture operations. While this is a good example of competition for available space between the two industries, policies can be drawn up to ensure that herring weir fishermen get priority assistance in setting up aquaculture operations in these locations. This possibility, initially raised by some fishermen, is apparently receiving increasing support. Other conflicts between the two industries may arise if aquaculture development restricts access to other trap fisheries such as the lobster and crab fisheries or to inshore bottom fishing grounds for scallops and some groundfish species. However, this type of situation can be easily prevented by ensuring that DFO is able to fulfill its legislative mandate in the inter-agency referral process for aquaculture licencing and leasing operations. It is even possible that a strong community of interest will arise as a result of some types of aquaculture development. For example, in Newfoundland, it has been pointed out that the development of cod farming by transferring live cod from the inshore trap fishery to sea-pens depends on the continued maintenance of a strong inshore cod fishery which has strong social importance in that province. While such a community of interest is initially surprising, it really only illustrates that the two industries are not that far apart in terms of both their final objectives and requirements.

Aquaculture development also draws opposition from a number of groups other than the commercial fishing community such as wildlife and nature groups, shoreland owners, etc. In Nova Scotia, a solution to this was attempted by instituting a public consultation process within the licence application system. Problems associated with the consultative process in Nova Scotia led to its breakdown. It proved expensive to operate and led to often acrimonious confrontations between user groups with the licence applicant having to defend his project before opposing user groups. It should be noted that this is much like the situation in Scotland where the public consultation process was marred by acrimonious debates due to the lack of sufficient scientific knowledge about the actual impact of aquaculture in terms of