

fish should mate with wild stocks as well as the danger of diseases being transferred from farmed fish to wild stocks.

While such concerns are not, by any means, to be taken lightly, it must be noted that there is no substantive scientific evidence to support some of these concerns such as the one related to genetic pollution. In the case of other concerns relating to pollution, diseases and destruction of wild stocks and their habitat, the Committee is convinced that DFO has at its disposal the legislative mandate and the necessary regulatory tools (such as the Fish Health Protection Regulations) to satisfactorily meet such concerns. The Committee is, however, not convinced that DFO has at its disposal, the financial resources to satisfactorily meet all such concerns. In some cases such as the supply of salmon eggs to the BC salmon aquaculture industry, DFO has clearly demonstrated its zeal in protecting the wild fishery which should put to rest concerns such as the depletion of wild stocks due to the use of wild seed stock for aquaculture.

Also, it must be remembered that fish farmers have a vested interest in maintaining clean waters for the health of their own stocks and that the best way of ensuring this is to locate farms in areas with sufficient water flushing action. As well it should be noted that shellfish growers are a sector of the industry which is particularly dependent on clean waters and very strident in its calls for increased monitoring and protection of water quality. It is interesting to note that molluscan shellfish are filter feeders which can even contribute to an area's water quality level. However, the Norwegian experience with salmon farming has shown that notwithstanding the farmers' self-interest in maintaining clean waters, it will be necessary for government to introduce regulations in this respect at some point in time as pressure is created for the opening of additional sites for fish farming in areas which may not necessarily be suitable to such activity.

In Atlantic Canada, the absence of a full-scale commercial salmon fishing industry reduced the opposition to salmon aquaculture development although concerns about genetic pollution exist among recreational fishermen. It should be noted that the Atlantic Salmon Federation, notwithstanding its concerns about the potential impact of genetic pollution, is a strong backer and participant in aquaculture development in the Bay of Fundy.

It is likely that DFO will eventually have to review the Fish Health Protection Regulations to ensure that they do not needlessly impede