

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

Conference on Marine Aquaculture

Effects on the West Coast and Alaska Fishing Industry

November 17-19, 2003
Seattle

Aquaculture in Canada

2001: Canadian aquaculture output was
153,000 tonnes valued at almost \$600 M

Represents 13 % of the total Canadian fisheries
production by volume and 24 % by value

Diversified: 72 cold water species
50 species of finfish
18 species of shellfish

Aquaculture in British Columbia

BC aquaculture output was just over 94,000 tonnes with a wholesale value of \$ 388 M

- Represents 33 % of the total fisheries production by volume and 34 % by value
- Over 90 of the production and value comes from production of salmon

Aquaculture in British Columbia

Salmon aquaculture forecasted to be a \$1 B industry

Shellfish aquaculture forecasted to be a \$100 M industry

Not a replacement for the wild fishery

Aquaculture in British Columbia

Salmon aquaculture stalled due to public concerns about the environmental sustainability

Commissioned BC EAO to conduct the Salmon Aquaculture Review

Conclusion: Salmon aquaculture development should continue;

Made 49 recommendation to further reduce risks

Aquaculture in British Columbia

Government accepted the Salmon Aquaculture Review (SAR) conclusions and recommendations

Initiated development of a new management framework

- Relocations of Existing Poorly Sited Farms

- Performance Based Waste Management Standards

- Escape Prevention and Response

- Fish Health Monitoring and Reporting

- Explore Alternate Technologies

Aquaculture in British Columbia

Sept 2002: Government completed the development of the regulatory framework and lifted the moratorium

Recognised that any industry needs to continue to improve

Provided \$5.1 Million dollars research funding to support issues surrounding environmental sustainability

Aquaculture in British Columbia

Aquaculture in BC is based on:

- Economic Development
- Responsibility
- Environmental Sustainability
- Strong Regulations
- Managed Expansion
- Continuous Improvement
- Diversification

Addressing the Key Issues: Waste Management

SAR recommended development of new performance based waste management standards

Industry conducted chemical monitoring at all active farms and detailed chemical and biological monitoring of 6 representative farms

Results of these studies were used to develop new regulations

Addressing the Key Issues: Waste Management

New regulations are designed to:

Limit the extent, level and duration of impact on the benthic environment during the grow out cycle

Ensures the condition of the site returns to the chemical/biological condition that ensures sustainability

Addressing the Key Issues: Escape Management

Concerns: Risk associated escaped farmed salmon
impacts on wild salmon

Developed escape management and response
regulations

Addressing the Key Issues: Escape Management

Trends in escapes	Down
Trends in marine captures	Down
Trends in fresh water adult sightings	Up
Trends in juveniles siting	Down
Alaska recoveries	Down

- Details on the Atlantic Salmon Watch website

Addressing the Key Issues: Fish Health

- Concerns: introduction of exotic diseases and disease transfer
- Introduction and transfers policy
- Fish health management plans
- Fish health data base
- Audit and surveillance program
- Annual report on fish health

Aquaculture in British Columbia Conclusions

Brings many economic benefits

Offers opportunities for growth

Environmentally sustainable operations

Risks are manageable