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(ACE 63/94)  
for information

## Mariculture - Progress Report

### **Introduction**

This is the sixth progress report to members on the implementation of the recommendations of the consultancy on mariculture. The last report was considered at the ACE meeting on 21 February 1994.

2. Implementation of the consultants' recommendations is co-ordinated by a working group composed of representatives from Economic Services Branch (Chairman), Planning, Environment and Lands Branch, Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD), Environmental Protection Department, Marine Department, Regional Services Department, City and New Territories Administration and Planning Department.

### **Identification of Open Sea Mariculture Sites**

3. The working group previously identified four possible sites suitable for trial operations. These are Po Toi, Tung Lung Chau South, Tap Mun East and Kai Kung Tau. The former two, however, are presently surrounded by marine borrow area, and would not be used for culture trial until the dredging work is completed. The boundary of the site east of Tap Mun Chau has recently been agreed with the Marine Department for culture trials.

### **Review of Existing Fish Culture Zones**

4. The relocation of mariculturists currently operating in environmentally unacceptable Fish Culture Zones (FCZs) depends largely upon the development of open sea cage culture and the identification of suitable sites. It will therefore be a long term process.

5. Notwithstanding the above, the working group agreed that the boundaries of five existing FCZs (i.e. Tap Mun, Sham Wan, Kau Sai, Sok Kwu Wan and Cheung Sha Wan) should be extended to improve fish culture conditions. The affected mariculturists were consulted and the boundary adjustments gazetted on 15 August 1992. Relocation of raft sites has been completed in four of the zones. A second extension of Cheung Sha Wan FCZ was gazetted on 14 October 1994 to allow further spacing out of rafts.

## **Improvement of Farming Techniques and Zone Management**

### **(a) Experimental Open-sea Fish Culture**

6. After assessing the hydrological data of Hong Kong waters, a Norwegian manufacturer of open sea rafts has recently confirmed that his rafts could cope with extreme conditions in exposed waters in Hong Kong. AFD is sounding out the larger mariculturists as to their willingness to invest in trial operations using these rafts at the new site east of Tap Mun Chau.

### **(b) Improvement of Fish Feed Formulation**

7. AFD has successfully developed a pellet feed formulation, comprising trash fish, fish meal, a binder and vitamin mixture, to replace the traditional minced trash fish. The pellet feed results in substantially less feed wastage and leaching. Fish fed with the pellet feed were observed to grow faster and healthier.

8. In collaboration with the Fish Marketing Organization, AFD has set up a pilot pellet feed production plant at Aberdeen Fish Market to produce environmentally acceptable pellet feed for sale to mariculturists at cost recovery prices. To date, 40 licensed fish farms (out of some 1,600) have gone over to using pellet feed. This is an encouraging initial response. Work to introduce pellet feed to more mariculturists is continuing. The longer term aim is to have the mariculturists themselves establish and run plants to produce pellet feed.

### **(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal**

9. Education of individual fish farmers on refuse collection and proper disposal is continuing. Periodic reminders have been sent or warnings given during regular patrols.

### **Next Progress Report**

10. A further progress report would be submitted to members in about six months.

Planning, Environment and Lands Branch  
(Environment Division)  
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