

# COMMERCIAL FRESHWATER CAGE REARING OF FISH POLICY



Approval Date: November 10, 15, 1999

Effective Date: November 15, 1999

Approved By: George Fox and Peter Underwood

**Version Control:** Latest revision June 8, 2005 (administrative amendments).

## I. POLICY STATEMENT

Nova Scotia Agriculture and Fisheries and Environment and Labour are collectively in support of the following position, which is intended to provide for both the continued growth of the commercial aquaculture industry and the protection of the aquatic environments upon which it depends.

In light of the present knowledge concerning:

(a) the ability to collect and remove fish farm wastes from a cage operation on a natural freshwater lake, reservoir or headpond; and

(b) the limited capacity for these waters to assimilate waste products, aquaculture or otherwise,

cage rearing of fish on a commercial basis will not be permitted in these Nova Scotia waters at this time.

As well, in light of the present knowledge concerning the ability to collect and remove wastes, the discharge from land based fish farms into lakes will not be permitted; however, existing hatcheries discharging to lakes will be exempted from this policy.

**AND**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*original signed by:*  
George Fox  
Deputy Minister  
Department of the Environment

\_\_\_\_\_  
*original signed by:*  
Peter Underwood  
Deputy Minister  
Department of Fisheries and  
Aquaculture

November 10, 1999  
Date

November 15, 1999  
Date

Originating Division: Environmental Monitoring and Compliance Division

Scope: Policy under the Environment Act

**Nova Scotia Environment and Labour**