

NATIONAL AQUACULTURE POLICY
(NAP)

1. Introduction

In less than twenty years Aquaculture has reached a preponderant role in the national economy. Its impact has not only been positive in terms of employment and exports returns, but also as a leading force in internal development, especially in the postponed southern areas of our country. In the last three years, export values for aquaculture products reached over US\$ 1,000,000 a year, which means 5% of total exports from the country. In addition, Aquaculture generates 20,000 direct employments in culture centers, and 15,000 indirect employments associated to processing plants and numerous service enterprises associated to this activity. In term of geographical distribution over 80% of the activity has been developed in the Regions X and XI. In terms of type of culture, salmon culture represents over 90% of the production and total value.

Consolidation of this economic sector requires progress in different areas such as maintaining the growth rhythm, taking care of environment, and facilitating the involvement of small and medium aqua culturists.

This activity has great advantages and development potential in most regions in the country based upon:

- Diversity of ecosystems and highly productive resources
- Availability of modern service and infrastructure
- Suitable installed capacity (processing and storing)
- Availability of capacitated human resources
- The existence of related institutions and a legal frame which has allowed the development of the sector; and
- A growing involvement of international commercial agreements.

All these advantages and potential will continue as an important factor for a greater growth and development of Chilean aquaculture; however, this activity also should confront diverse challenges associated with the productive sector area, the public institutional system and its legitimization in front of society. Among these:

- Rationalization and strengthening of current legal or institutional frame including administration, control, enforcement and research
- To strengthen current systems regarding territorial order
- To strengthen and coordinate use of research and development funds
- To increase products and markets diversification, and
- To strengthen gremial associations and participation mechanisms

As stated before, we have to make a pause on the road in order to evaluate and to draw lines for Chilean aquaculture future. It is necessary to adjust aquaculture work in order to complement it with other public policies and mainly to orient private initiative, as well as establish long terms objectives, generate strategies and plans for actions.

Chile needs to establish priorities and objectives in all the areas of competence of this activity. So, the promulgation of National Aquaculture Policy (NAP) is an aspiration of different sectors related to aquaculture, from the social, labor, environmental, economics and administration perspective.

2. Chilean National Aquaculture Policy Objectives

Future development of Chilean aquaculture must be sustained on the establishment of objectives, strategies, policy and coherent work in order to make propitious all its strength and overcome weaknesses.

Worldwide there is a tendency to recognize that in order to reach the sustained development of the countries and their economics -especially those based in the use and exploitation of the environment and its resources- it is necessary to reach simultaneously, economic growth, environmental sustainability and equity objectives. Equity is understood in terms of equal opportunities in order to access to activity and its exercise.

In this context, if we are to obtain an aquaculture sector that takes maximum advantages of its potential permanently, objectives definition of a national policy for sustainable development for aquaculture in Chile must consider the three objectives mentioned before. So, the National Aquaculture Policy must incorporate mechanisms that allow reaching the greatest economic growth possible in a frame of environmental sustainability and equal opportunities in the access to the activity.

Aquaculture National Policy General Objective

NAP objective considers the promotion of aquaculture maximum economic growth, environmental sustainability and the access to the activity on an equity basis.

3. Strategy for Aquaculture Development in Chile

Two main aspects will support the Strategies for Aquaculture Development in Chile: definition of the desirable level for aquaculture sector and the identification of the types of policies to be defined.

Desirable Level for Aquaculture

The desirable level for aquaculture is referred to the identification and definition of the sector components and necessary characteristics in order to ensure the central objective of maximum possible development. This is the way Chilean aquaculture sector is visualized, as constituted by:

Private sector committed

- To practice rational and efficient aquaculture activity, from the economic and productive perspective as well as from a sustainable use of the environment where activities are settled.
- To be able to confront the challenge of sustainable development of the activity within the frame of social market economy (current system used in Chilean economy) as well as global economy (current system in practice in international commercial relationships).
- To get involved in an active and responsible way to fulfill national regulations and policies as well as Chilean commitments in international agreements.

Public Sector or Public Institutions and Juridical - Legal Frame committed

- To act in a responsible way according to its boundary definitions
- To establish proper conditions for the sector development, to assure environmental sustainability and equal opportunities to access and practice the activity.
- To establish a mechanism for clear, efficient, transparent and equitable rules to allow private sector exercise its activities in order to get maximum

development in the national and international context, under previously stated conditions.

- To establish an effective coordination among current public institutions involved in aquaculture administration.
- To provide a clear definition for access rights (exclusive, transferable, limited, defined term, divisible) and use of environment and its resources (compel enforcement).
- To provide mechanisms and procedures oriented to recognize the economical - social opportunity costs in the alternative use of ecosystems and national resources.

4. Policy for a Sustainable Development of Aquaculture in Chile

4.1. Policies associated to economic growth

4.1.1. To assure stability of this economic activity

Since Aquaculture is a consolidated economic activity with optimistic growth projections, it is necessary to correct, make modifications or generate tools or mechanisms in order to establish and sustain such growth.

4.1.2. Coordination between National Aquaculture Policy and other policies for national or regional development

Considering that aquaculture generates –among others- economics, social, culture and environmental impacts, is necessary to make its growth and development compatible with other productive sectors of the country.

4.1.3. Public - Private participation, association and co - responsibility for strategies planning

Growth and development of any economic activity is the result of joint actions among public and private sectors. A working together policy and assuming responsibility in the decisions making process, optimizes final results. This is the reason why NAP considers active participation of both sectors.

4.2. Policy for environmental sustainability

4.2.1. Public and private efficiency, effectiveness, co - responsibility and transparency of environmental work associated to design, control and fulfillment of regulations along the whole productive chain in the aquaculture industry.

These are the basic principles to guarantee conservation of aquaculture main capital, which is environmental quality where these activities take place.

4.2.2. Conservation of genetic patrimony of endemic culture resources

This is the main principle and guideline related to diversification of aquaculture based on this type of resources. Conservation of the local genetic diversity means an invaluable nature capital to maintain the ecosystem equilibrium as well as to ensure the availability of genetic resources to develop aquaculture.

4.2.3 Strengthening public and private competence and responsibility for the introduction and culture of exotic species as well as modified lives organisms

Though, historically national aquaculture has developed based on the culture of exotic species, introduction of species to national territory carry a number of risks and benefits that should be evaluated; same situation

is related to the culture of modified lives organisms. In this matter it is important to have in mind considerations regarding final markets.

4.3 Sanitary patrimony protection policies

4.3.1. To take care of national sanitary patrimony conservation. Avoid appearance and spread of diseases to harm culture and wild species.

These represent permanent principles that should be assumed with co responsibility and effectiveness by the public sector (timely, permanent and pertinent designs of regulations and their control and enforcement) as well as the private sector (fulfillment, monitoring and permanent sanitary certification).

4.3.2 The public – private co responsibility in the quality improvement and innocuousness of aquaculture products for human consumption, as well as for external and internal markets.

This principle is associated to a superior objective, which is consumer's health; this is basic for the assurance to consolidate the “country image” of Chilean aquaculture.

4.4 Policies associated with equity

4.4.1 Improvement of access into the activity and the conditions to help equal opportunities to all interested parties, including those associated to gender equity

This policy is focused on the possibility to get into aquaculture activities for all social, culture, ethnics groups and others. It takes under consideration the differences and positive discriminates in favor of the most vulnerable groups.

4.4.2 Formal acknowledgment of small scale (or artisanal) aquaculture

In the same way as happens in fishing and agriculture, we have to take under consideration that the sector includes small scale (or artisanal) aqua

culturist, this group due to their social and culture importance need to have a differentiated treatment.

4.5 Associated Policies to Public institutions and judicial - legal frame

4.5.1. Decentralization and simplification of processes and decisions.

Both principles are considered fundamental for future design of public institutions that responds efficient and appropriately to the growth and diversification of the aquaculture activities.

4.5.2. Public institutions competence.

This is a key and critical principle to guarantee the execution of the technical functions and legal commands of public institutions, in order to preserve common well-being interests. Also, this principle should be assumed permanently by official representation in forums, commitments and national and international agreements.

4.5.3 Strengthening and/or generation of formal instances of participation.

This is an indispensable principle to conjugate -efficiently- public and private capacities, as far as co-responsibly legitimate prominent decisions regarding growth and sector development.

4.6 Policies Associated to Research and Training

4.6.1. Pertinence and research opportunity for aquaculture sector

These principles are fundamental for efficient and effective use of available financial resources, so that useful results are obtained. In the same way, generating the prospective impacts (growth, diversification) in the shortest possible time.

4.6.2. To develop cooperation among public institutions, private sector, research and academic institutions in order to achieve scientific research and technological innovation.

This principle is based in the need to promote and create joint research and development, technological transference, teaching and training programs.

4.6.3 Formal recognition of the aquaculture activities for teaching, training and experimentation.

Teaching, training and experimentation need to be included in regulations in order to allow and promote their existence, including considerations and/or specific restrictions in cases that could affect the principles of environmental sustainability and protection of sanitary patrimony.

4.6.4. Aquaculture integration to educational, training and information processes.

A strong commitment should exist to facilitate access to knowledge of the aquaculture activity, so much at general level as well as specific, from the professionals, researchers, academics, technicians, administrative personnel, and the community in general.

5. Implementation of the National Aquaculture Policy (NAP)

In order to implement NAP, it has been considered necessary to establish an Aquaculture National Commission to advise the President of the Republic, and will be integrated by members of public institutions and private organizations related to the development of the activity. Therefore, the main action in short term is:

- To create an Aquaculture National Commission that will have as initial objective to propose actions to impel the National Aquaculture Policy. The Commission will be presided by the Minister of Economics or the person

he designates (Undersecretary). Commission will have an Executive Secretary located in the Department of Aquaculture of the Undersecretary of Fisheries. The Commission will be integrated by:

- Undersecretary of Fisheries.
- A representative of Marine Undersecretary
- A representative of the Regional Development Undersecretary
- A representative of the National Fisheries Service.
- A representative of the General Direction of Marine Territory and Merchant Marine.
- A representative of the Environment. National Commission.
- A representative of the Health Ministry.
- A representative of Foreign Affairs Ministry.
- A representative of Research, Science and Technology National Commission.
- A representative of the Production Promotion Corporation.
- A representative of the Institute of Fishing Promotion
- A representative of the Council of University Presidents (Aquaculture Researcher).
- 6 representatives of culture aquatic species associations- legally constituted-. These members will be designated by the President of the Republic under proposal of the Undersecretary of Fisheries.

Total consultants: 19

Frequency of meetings: 3 times a year, with extraordinary meetings if needed, for example, discussion of legal projects.

Commission is legalized through Supreme Decree of the Ministries of Economy and Defense.

6. Relevant Impact Actions

- 6.1. NAP official promulgation (Responsible: Ministry of Economy). Term: August 2003.
- 6.2. Divulgence of NAP and call to constitute Aquaculture National Commission (Responsible: Undersecretary of Fisheries). Term: August-September 2003.
- 6.3. Constitution of the Aquaculture National Commission (ANC) (Responsible: Ministry of Economy, Undersecretary of Fisheries). Term: October 2003.
- 6.4. Coordinate public institutions to design plan of action proposal (Ministry of Economy, Undersecretary of Fisheries). Term: September-October 2003.
- 6.5. Short term high-priority actions:
 - Coastal border use zoning
 - Small scale aquaculture (artisanal) statute
 - Decentralization of processes and decisions.
 - Causes for termination and Aquaculture patents (Fees)
 - Environmental and sanitary enforcement
- 6.6. To propose plan of actions, and internal regulation in the first session of the ANC (Ministry of Economy, Undersecretary of Fisheries). Term: October 2003.