



Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform

CAAR transition plan policy for closed containment

September 2005

1. 5-year time line for transition to closed contained fish farms (regulations must be passed by 2007 to make this transition mandatory by 2010). Immediate cap imposed on the number of tenures available to net cage fish farm operators and their production level.
2. CAAR supports closed containment technologies that require adequate treatment of all waste water; eliminate fish escapes; greatly reduce the risk of disease and parasite transfer to wild fish; and eliminate the use of chemicals or pesticides.
3. Fiscal reform including tax incentives, loans and grant programs to assist fish farm companies through the transition process. Investor incentives could be created through a special Green Investment Tax Credit on provincial and federal income tax.
4. An environmental levy on current production from net cage operations should be created to establish an environmental fund for financing closed contained systems and reflect external environmental costs currently not captured in the cost of open net cage farming.
 - i) The environmental fund would support at least two commercial-scale closed containment demonstration projects, awarding grants to help with the purchase of new technology. This would provide an incentive for some companies to move immediately to closed containment.
 - ii) The environmental fund would also provide the capital needed for a low interest loan program to help offset the initial capital outlay required to upgrade to new technology.