

- Invited Paper -

THE STATUS AND PROSPECT OF FISH FEED DEMAND AND SUPPLY IN KOREA

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It is worldwide trend that catching fisheries convert to cultivating fisheries. Dr. Peter F. Drucker writes that within the next fifty years fish farming may change us from hunters and gathers on the sea into "marine pastoralists" in his recent writing "Managing in the Next Society".

Korean government has made and announced the yearly plan for aquaculture fish production target by 2010. Many parts of research such as feeding technology, breeding, and disease are being studied and also many policies are being undertaken in accordance with worldwide cultivating fisheries trend.

Commercial formulated fish feed in Korea have been initially produced in 1983 but official statistics has been reported in 1986. The production of first year (1986) were 17,000 M/T but that of 10 years later (1995) had grown to 122,000 M/T by 8 times. During the foreign financial crisis of Korea (1997-1999) the production were decreased but regained to 124,000 M/T in 2001. Raw fish which had been consumed for marine aquaculture fish feed in 2000 were 420,000 M/T. Domestic fish were 250,000 M/T to 300,000 M/T and imported fish for feed were 120,000 M/T to 170,000 M/T.

Author estimate that fish feed production of this year will be recorded about 114,000 n M/T. As compared with first half of this year(2002) and that of the last year, it seems to be decreased in 8% less than the last year.

Fish feed is very important in aquaculture industry, because it consist much more than 50% of total management cost. In order to success the target 2010, cultured fish production 930,000M/T, we must also study fish feed demand and supply plan and develop high technology fish feed for low price, high efficiency and low pollution. Author would like to point out some problems on the demand and supply of fish feed and discuss their solutions for the success the target 2010.

Author agrees that 1 million M/T of cultured fish will be produced within 10-30 years later. But if many problems such as the maintenance of stable cultured fish price using the correct statistics, the acquirement of competitive cultured fish production cost with imported fish, the acquisition of fishery place, the prevention of pollution, the control of fish disease and the supply of sufficient high efficient fish feed and so on are solved, the target 2010 will be realized finally. Time to be realized depend on the effort of government, fish farmers, scholars and feed manufacturers.