Establishing a compartment: private and public sector cooperation

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Facilitating and streamlining the trade of healthy aquatic animals is essential for meeting the world’s growing demand for farmed seafood. Global aquaculture production has doubled over the past decade and quadrupled over the past two decades. Aquaculture now accounts for half of the world’s seafood supply. This rapid growth is accompanied by many challenges, including managing aquatic animal health. The development of aquaculture will benefit from compartmentalisation and the resulting prevention of disease transfer between compartments.

Alongside production, aquaculture technology also continues to rapidly evolve in terms of reproduction, health, feeding, environmental control, and culture systems. It is now possible to grow any species of cultured fish, anywhere in the world. This opportunity will lead to an unprecedented demand for international trade of live fish throughout the world to be grown for food. The aquaculture industry will benefit from compartmentalisation through the facilitation of trading optimal species, strains, and traits which will help to improve global fish production.

As one of the first Canadian farms to engage in the compartmentalisation programme, Target Marine Hatcheries has experienced the benefits of the programme in terms of enabling the growth of our business and helping to ensure the success of our customers businesses. We have also encountered several challenges along the way. There is an opportunity to address some of these challenges and remedy them for future companies establishing a compartment and future countries entering the compartmentalisation programme.