Abstract

To date, deep sea mariculture has remained a new field ventured mainly by the more developed countries. This scenario may just change in the nearby future, as more than half of today's world populations are still living in undernourished conditions. Fish has always been a traditional source of protein for mankind and will remain so.

Except for offshore petroleum stations and sea tankers, not many other structures have been built for deep sea applications. Lacking a precedent, question is then asked on how a deep sea mariculture station is to be built. The trend is to adopt full automation in running the stations. This dissertation argues that the practice of fish farming has always been a culture, of which men's role can never be fully replaced. Though it agrees that technology is indispensable in any deep sea venture, adopting oil-rig like structures blindly, for a mariculture station without considering the meaning of mariculture, would have deprived it from a more meaningful and truthful expression.

With this concern in mind, studies are done to determine the relationship between mariculture and culture and between mariculture and technology. History reveals that there is more to mariculture than just the aim of profit making. These findings will shape our perception to what mariculture is all about, and thus affects the approaches we will take in going about designing future mariculture stations.

To avoid this study from becoming too general, the research has been centered within the Singapore context. This seems appropriate especially now when the Singapore government is showing a greater concern with the need for the country to be more self-reliant on food, and has planned to expand its mariculture programme into the deep sea.

With all this significance, and as mariculture develops further, we need to ask ourselves on whether we would want our oceans to be filled with some lifeless machines or structures which would remind us of the significance of our presence and ties with this part of nature; the sea and its creatures.