BIOTECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC ANALYSES OF WASTE-HEAT AQUACULTURE IN NORTH DAKOTA

A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the North Dakota State University of Agricultural and Applied Science

By

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In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science

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May, 1984

Fargo, North Dakota
ABSTRACT

Anderson, Randall Scott, M.S. North Dakota State University, May 1984

Biotechnical and Economic Analyses of Waste-Heat Aquaculture in North Dakota

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Potential power plant, waste-heat aquaculture sites in North Dakota were identified and characterized. The Leland Olds Station located near Stanton, North Dakota, was selected as the site best suited for aquacultural development.

A review of candidate species revealed that rainbow trout (Salmo gairdneri) and channel catfish (Ictalurus punctatus) were the species best suited for aquacultural use at the Leland Olds site.

A hypothetical aquaculture facility with two production scenarios was developed. Total investment required for a 100,000 pound/year facility was $117,460. Estimates of total production costs per pound of harvested fish, using a disseasonal production scenario, were $1.53 and $1.17 for rainbow trout and channel catfish, respectively. Total production cost for year-round trout production was $1.26 per pound. Changes in costs of the three largest cost components comprising total annual costs (management, fingerlings, and feed) had only a minor effect on total per-pound costs of production.