

Directions: *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

We're eating more fish than ever these days. At around 20 kilograms per person global fish consumption is now more than twice what it was in the 1960s. What's really remarkable, though, is where that fish comes from.

For the first time in human history, most of our aquatic(水产的) food now comes from farming rather than fishing.

People ate around 73 million tonnes of farmed fish—just more than half of the volume of fish that humans consumed—in 2014. That's out of a total fish supply of 167 million tonnes; the remaining 20 million or so tonnes go into things like animal feed and medical products.

To keep eating fish at the current rate, we're definitely going to need to keep aquaculture(水产养殖) developing. That's because the volume of fish caught in the wild has leveled off since the 1990s.

Back in 1974, only 10% of marine fish stocks had been overfished. Now, more than three-tenths are. Only a tenth of our oceans' fish stocks could sustain heavier fishing than current levels.

But while catchings at sea have suffered, fish-farming has been growing at a fast rate. A lot of that is coming from China, which produces 60% of the world's farmed fish. In fact, some 35 countries, including China, now produce more farmed than wild-caught fish.

This shift toward aquaculture isn't just good for ensuring salmon(三文鱼) on your plate; it's also crucial to ensuring food security and sustainability. By 2050, the world will need to feed an estimated 9.7 billion people. They'll have to get their protein somewhere. However, raising cattle, pigs, and other land-based animals requires vast sums of grain and water. For example, pound for pound, beef requires 15 times more feed to raise than carp, a freshwater fish farmed all over Asia. That grain—and the water needed to grow it—could be consumed by people instead.

However, aquaculture is no silver bullet. In some southeast Asian countries, shrimp farming does disastrous damage to marine ecosystems. Despite these problems, however, shrimp continues to be among the most popular sea foods worldwide.

46. What does the author say is remarkable about the fish we eat?

- A) They reproduce quickly.
- B) They are mostly farmed.
- C) They have become as important as grain.
- D) They have a longer history than humans.

47. What do we need to do if we keep consuming fish at the current rate?

- A) Increase the fishing volume considerably.
- B) Develop more advanced fishing technology.
- C) Enlarge the marine fish stocks effectively.
- D) Expand the scale of fish-farming continuously.

48. What does the author say about China in terms of aquatic food?

- A) It places increasing emphasis on fishing now.
- B) It boasts of the world's largest fishing stocks.
- C) It raises more fish than caught from the wild.
- D) It supplies 60% of the world's fish products.

49. Why does the author say aquaculture is so important these days?

- A) It is a must for feeding the world's fast-growing population.
- B) It proves a reliable source of protein for humans and animals
- C) It is essential to maintaining both mental and physical health.
- D) It ensures a balanced healthy diet for people the world over.

50. What does the author imply by saying aquaculture is no silver bullet?

- A) Shrimp-farming is a risky business.
- B) Fish-farming will not be sustainable.
- C) Fish-farming may cause serious problems too.
- D) Shrimp-farming can become quite expensive.