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ENVIRONMENT

Canadian Logging Company Brings Underwater Forests to the Surface

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THE logging industry is going underwater in a good way.

As a result of the dam projects of the 20th century, there are roughly 45,000 submerged forests around the world. Michael Behar describes how a Canadian company has come up

John Kocou



with a way to more efficiently bring these dead trees to the surface. The technology might even have the power to unite two old adversaries: the timber industry and environmentalists.

Chris Godsall, chief executive of Canada's **Triton Logging Inc.**, has developed a logging submarine, dubbed the Sawfish, that uses a 54-inch chain saw and air bags to lift the wood to the surface. It is operated through remote-control technology similar to what oil companies rely on to maintain rigs.

Underwater logging potentially can be much swifter and less costly than cutting down trees on land. That is partly because submerged trees often are stripped of bark and foliage, avoiding a labor- and time-intensive process. Peter Keyes, of Foxboro, Mass.,

wholesaler **International Forest Products Corp.**, tells Wired he estimates that Triton Logging's harvesting costs at \$40-a-cubic-meter of wood, compared with the industry's average of \$50.

Environmentally, underwater logging has the advantage of preserving live forests on land and leaving no unsightly clear-cuts. It also is quieter than above-ground logging. Triton plans to market its wood as an environmentally friendlier alternative at home-improvement stores.