

Missed a few facts

A number of Pamela Parker's "facts" about open net-pen salmon farms (Nov. 10 letter) warrant some clarification. She has also missed a few other important facts.

Fact: While wild salmon populations may "fluctuate" due to a number of factors, scientific studies have shown significant declines in wild salmon populations in areas where salmon farms are located. (The recent withdrawal of a "farm" application on the Eastern Shore was based on concerns by the industry itself for possible impacts on wild salmon.)

Fact: Open net-pen salmon farms disperse tonnes of feces, and other pollutants, directly into the ocean ecosystem during each production cycle. (Any other industry would face heavy fines for such a practice.)

Fact: The "strict regulations regarding waste management" have allowed "dead zones" to develop below some salmon farms, as well as significant pollution levels far beyond the pens themselves. (See above.)

Fact: High concentrations of stressed fish in open net-pens provide ideal breeding grounds for diseases such as ISA. (Yet taxpayers are expected to compensate the industry for its losses.)

Fact: Open net-pen salmon farms are being forced on coastal communities that have made it very clear to government and the industry that they do not want them.

The fact that government and industry choose to deny or ignore these facts is a "disservice" to the people of Nova Scotia.

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