

Cooke's refuses transparency!

Updates from the court appearances regarding the charges facing Kelly Cove Salmon (subsidiary of Cooke Aquaculture) and the three execs (Glen Cooke, Randy Griffin and Michael Szemerda) under the Fisheries Act relating to illegal pesticide use.

Wednesday, September 26th, was the scheduled pre-trial conference. In court it was expressed that the intention was to identify issues to be considered in the pre-trial and identify witnesses.

Council for the defense then requested that there be a publication ban on the pre-trial conference. After some discussion of this they also requested that the session be held in camera (i.e. closed doors without public present). Council added they wanted to go in camera to allow for a candid conversation, the prosecution agreed and the Judge moved the session in camera.

Environment Canada Enforcement officers and others in attendance were asked to leave the court. However they expected that after the conclusion of the pre-trial conference, the doors of the court would be opened and people would be allowed to attend while they read their agreed statement of issues onto the record. But court was adjourned until Dec 7 in Fredericton without any further information.