

Deer in the headlights

After listening to Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister Sterling Belliveau defend his government's decisions concerning expansion of pen fin fish farming in this province, he reminded me of that old expression: "deer in the headlights."

The recent Cohen report confirms without question that fin fish farms are contributing to extensive declines in the wild salmon populations in both British Columbia and the Maritimes.

Alexandra Morton, renowned biologist, has studied the negative effects of fin fish farms in B.C. for years. Her recent visit to communities in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia confirmed ecological damage, as related by lobster fishermen, anglers, tourism operators and individual residents.

Sea lice-infested salmon were removed from Sobeys store shelves.

One company has withdrawn one of three applications to build cage farms along the Eastern Shore.

Concentrations of copper, far above environmental regulations, along with regurgitated food and oily substances, were found in sea foam near a trout farm in Port Mouton Bay.

Mr. Belliveau said: "We make the right decisions based on good science." More appropriately, and certainly the truth, this should be reworded: We make the WRONG decisions because we IGNORE good science

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