

Premier Darrell Dexter
Province of Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 726
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2T3

19th April 2012



PO box 52
Musquodoboit Harbour
NS, B0J 2L0

Delivered by email

Dear Premier Dexter

Position Statement on Proposed Fin-fish Aquaculture Sites on the Eastern Shore

The Seaside Tourism and Business Association is an association of Eastern HRM businesses whose goal is to work together to promote and grow the tourism and business environment along the Eastern Shore from Lawrencetown to Ecum Secum. The members of STBA believe that our greatest asset on the Eastern Shore is our pristine coastal environment, from our white sand beaches to the bounty harvested from the sea by our fishermen. While tourism on the Eastern Shore is a precarious industry at best, it is STBA's belief that we are on the verge of growing this industry and that what our coastal communities have to offer is something unique in the province: pristine, untouched and discoverable coastline.

We, the members of STBA, are very concerned that the proposed open-pen industrial salmon farms will jeopardize the tourism product that we are developing and promoting. Recent work to develop this region as a coastal destination will be impacted by both the perception and the reality that this type of aquaculture brings to an area. Quite simply, the risks to the many small businesses that depend on tourism far outweigh the possible benefits that this industry may bring with increased jobs. We strongly oppose any open-pen fin fish aquaculture and strongly urge the government take a far seeing, and precautionary approach to the development of aquaculture on the Eastern Shore. Since we are recognized as a pristine environment (and thus considered ideal for new fin-fish industry development) let us remain such, and take a long-term approach to protecting and preserving this pristine condition for the future of our citizens and the visitors who come to experience such a rare natural environment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Higgs', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

James Higgs
Chairman

CC Stirling Belliveau, Minister of Fisheries & Aquaculture
The Honourable Percy Paris, Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism
Sid Prest, MLA Eastern Shore
Jim Boudreau, MLA Guysborough – Sheet Harbour
Councillor. Steve Streach