

*Sheet Harbour & Area Chamber of Commerce & Civic
Affairs (CCA)*

P.O. Box 239
Sheet Harbour, N. S.
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April 19, 2012

Delivered via e-mail: premier@gov.ns.ca

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

Dear Premier Dexter:

The Sheet Harbour & Area Chamber of Commerce & Civic Affairs (CCA) as you know is a well established voice of the business and residential community from Ship Harbour to Ecum Secum. The proposal by Snow Island Salmon Inc. via Loch Duart out of Scotland, to establish three open pen fin fish farms at three locales in our area both came as a surprise and without notice.

Premier, I have never witnessed such overwhelming opposition to a project in my lifetime. Literally every organization, business and citizen that our membership has been in contact with, oppose these applications. The lack of any effective public engagement, the science and other research that establishes the fact that this company's standards do not reach those of the aquaculture industry itself, the potential injurious effect to our shellfish and fin fish which is the mainstay of our fishing industry, the sport fishery/tourism sector of our economy and to many, the numerous unanswered questions from not only the promoter, but government officials created this hostility.

Your government has clearly recognized and acknowledged that there is indeed a problem hereby including in the Throne Speech that it "will soon announce a comprehensive Aquaculture Strategy that balances significant economic development potential with the need for regulation within this industry".

Consequently, it would be terribly wrong to proceed with these applications until this new strategy and regulations are in place. This should only occur following an independent analysis of the relevant science and research coupled with public input.

Clearly, it is time for a moratorium to provide all Nova Scotians with an opportunity to assist your government in establishing aquaculture that could be economically beneficial to rural Nova Scotia. The fact that your government did likewise with respect to hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, to extract gas from part of Nova Scotia again demonstrates a cautious approach until certainty surrounding all of the facts are known. I would argue that no one in your government can distinguish this latter decision from the former moratorium request for open pen fin fish farming. In fact, the former could be more devastating to our environment, eco system and economy.

Your immediate action to consider the above request would put an end to the terrible anxiety and consternation currently being endured by so many Nova Scotians.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. McInnis
President

Cc via emails: Honourable Peter MacKay, MP Central Nova
Honourable Stirling Belliveau, Minister of Fisheries & Aquaculture
Councillor Steve Streach
Wayne Fiander, Executive Director, NSCOC
CCA Membership