

2 November 2012

Snow Island Salmon, subsidiary of Loch Duart, withdraws application for 18-hectare open pen salmon feedlot in Beaver Harbour, NS.

Statement from APES (Association for the Preservation of the Eastern Shore)

“We’re celebrating. This is a real victory for all of us who oppose open pen feedlots in our waters,” says Bill Williams, Vice-President of the Association for the Preservation of the Eastern Shore. “The corporations and the government have taken a step back. But the fight isn’t over yet.”

President of the Association for the Preservation of the Eastern Shore, Dr. Marike Finlay, agrees. “The Eastern Shore must still deal with the extant salmon feedlot at Owl’s Head, now housing approximately 25-28 pens, as well as proposed sites in Shoal Bay and Spry Harbour. All three of these bays are in HRM. Citizens of Halifax must weigh in on whether or not they want these polluting open pen salmon feedlots on their shores and in their bays and harbours.”

“The recovery of our wild salmon, our lobster fishery, our tourism industry and in-settlement around the other two bays are all jeopardized by the expansion of this industry, which allows a volume equivalent to a Boeing 747 of fish excrement to settle on the sea floor for every cycle of 500,000 fish grown. What is more, as was shown two weeks ago, sea lice do exist on farmed salmon in Nova Scotia, thereby eventually necessitating the application of toxic insecticides, which also kill other crustaceans such as lobster and their larvae.”

The Association for the Preservation of the Eastern Shore (APES) continues to call for a moratorium on all new leases in coastal waters “unless and until an independent inquiry can prove beyond a reasonable doubt that no harm will come to the environment, quality of life and extant industries.”

APES is a member of the Atlantic Coalition for Aquaculture Reform (ACAR). More than 114 groups from across the province called for a moratorium on open pen fin fish farming last spring during a press conference in Halifax. APES continues to urge the NDP government not to impose feedlots on communities and to consult properly with coastal residents. Members of APES point to the findings of the Cohen Commission in BC yesterday, which concluded that the potential harm to wild fish stocks by salmon farms is “serious or irreversible.”

“We are not anti-aquaculture,” Dr. Finlay emphasizes. “We have repeatedly requested that the government consider much more employment-intensive closed containment land-based fish farming. This is the way of the future; it does not

contaminate the coastal waters and produces a pure product, simply by controlling water flow, temperature, wastes and filtration.”

APES urges Nova Scotians to watch silver Donald Cameron's film, <www.salmonwars.com> which may be downloaded for free. “Once Nova Scotians see this film they will understand why open pen salmon feedlots are bad for this province,” says Dr. Finlay.

See <http://www.nsapes.ca>

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Photos of the Eastern Shore:

<https://plus.google.com/photos/112267329686984176367/albums/5725402483121479393>

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