

Produce the evidence

Several times over the past year, the Nova Scotia Salmon Association has asked the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture for a moratorium on open-pen marine salmon aquaculture, which is not ecologically friendly. We and others have produced scientific evidence to validate our position.

In a June 5 article, Sterling Belliveau stated, “There is scientific evidence it can be done safely.” Murray Hill said, “It’s sustainable and there’s science to support that.” We ask Mr. Belliveau and Mr. Hill to produce this “scientific evidence.” Show it to the general public and to the 109 stakeholders of the Atlantic Coalition for Aquaculture Reform.

Mr. Belliveau said the province is committed to protecting wild species. How will migrating, endangered Atlantic salmon smolts be protected from an epidemic of sea lice from open-pen aquaculture? In 2010, about 230,000 salmon escaped from open-pen cages in the Bay of Fundy; science has shown this had a negative impact on the genetics of wild Atlantic salmon.

Mr. Belliveau and Mr. Hill, produce your evidence. Show us how you intend to protect the wild salmon that migrate through these aquaculture sites.

Carl Purcell, Past President, Nova Scotia Salmon Association