

ATLANTIC COALITION FOR AQUACULTURE REFORM

February 13, 2013

The Hon. Darrell Dexter
Office of the Premier
PO Box 726
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2T3.

Sent via e-mail premier@gov.ns.ca

Dear Premier:

Please find attached a report that updates the 2006 Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NS DFA) Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) results for open pen finfish aquaculture operations in the province. The updated report covers the period 2006 to 2011 and is based on data obtained from the province's Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

There has been a significant increase in the number of finfish monitoring stations exceeding provincial monitoring guidelines compared to the 2006 NS DFA EMP report. Overall environmental quality at open pen finfish sites had decreased since the 2003-2005 reporting period covered by the 2006 report.

NS DFA's 2006 report committed to using the data collected to assess risks associated within the province's aquaculture industry, but no assessment has been done. In addition, the effectiveness of NS DFA's new 2011 EMP Framework to ensure aquaculture sites maintainoxic or normal levels has yet to be demonstrated or evaluated.

We believe that good public policy is based on good data and science. Since the province is in the process of developing a new regulatory framework for aquaculture, NS DFA's past failure to monitor or to enforce the EMP should be key to determining what is needed for proper regulations.

The Coalition is once again asking you to place a moratorium on any new aquaculture applications and that production on all approved, but not yet stocked, sites be suspended until the province reviews its existing aquaculture development strategy. We are also requesting that the province conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the sustainability of open pen finfish aquaculture and that the province give serious consideration to alternative technologies such as land-based closed-containment aquaculture.

Sincerely,

Members of The Atlantic Coalition for Aquaculture Reform

c.c. The Hon. Sterling Belliveau, Minister, Fisheries and Aquaculture
Marshall Giles, NS DFA Director of Aquaculture

Members

Association for the Preservation of
the Eastern Shore
Fundy North Fishermen's
Association
Grand Manan Fishermen's
Association
Fundy Weir Fishermen's
Association
Ecology Action Centre
Fundy Baykeeper
CCNB Action
St. Mary's Bay Coastal Alliance
Society
Friar's Bay Development
Association
Friends of Shelburne Harbour
MAYDAY-Shelburne County
Partnership for the Sustainable
Development of Digby Neck &
Islands Society
Atlantic Salmon Federation
New Brunswick Salmon Council
Nova Scotia Salmon Association
Salmonid Council of
Newfoundland and Labrador
Prince Edward Island Council -
Atlantic Salmon Federation