

**PRESS RELEASE— 18 February 2012**

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE EASTERN SHORE FORMS,  
COLLECTS 1000s of LETTERS PROTESTING AGAINST PROPOSED SALMON  
FARMS**

Thousands of letters to government officials protesting against proposed salmon farms on the Eastern Shore were collected last night in Sheet Harbour.

More than 130 members of the community met for nearly five hours in the Sheet Harbour Lions Club. The group has taken the name “Association for the Preservation of the Eastern Shore” and will be joining other groups calling for a moratorium on the granting of further licenses for open pen salmon feedlots in Nova Scotia.

The Association voted unanimously to press for a moratorium on the granting of further open pen finfish aquaculture licenses in Nova Scotia.

Speakers included members of the St. Mary’s Bay Coastal Alliance, and representatives from the Tourism Industry Association of NS (TIANS), the Nova Scotia Salmon Association, the Lobster Fishermen’s Association, Destination Eastern and Northumberland Shores (DEANS), Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), the Sheet Harbour Chamber of Commerce, Tangier Lobster, the Ecology Action Center and Eastern Shore NDP MLA Sid Prest.

During the meeting news came that Shelburne Harbour had been quarantined because of an outbreak of Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) virus in a salmon farm there. ISAv is a reportable contagious fatal finfish illness that also threatens Atlantic cod, wild Atlantic salmon, Atlantic herring and brown trout. The virus is responsible, most recently, for the collapse of the farmed salmon industry in Chile.

“Open pen finfish farms don’t make economic or social sense,” argues Eastern Shore resident Marike Finlay. “They are bad for the health of our bays. They are sewage generating facilities that tend to run lights and generators all night. They do not produce as much economic activity as tourism or as catch and release fisheries or as lobster fishing; they diminish home values and property sales, not to mention new housing starts and construction, and they certainly do not contribute nearly the funds these activities do to the public purse. We do not understand how any government could imagine that such feedlot industries are better for our communities, families, health, children, or way of life.”

Karin Cope agrees. “We hope that Minister Sterling Belliveau, who has the power to enact a moratorium on new licenses in Nova Scotia, will take the threat of Infectious Salmon Anemia in his front yard seriously.

Cope adds, “We are not against all aquaculture by any means. But we would like to see the government of Nova Scotia begin to insist upon closed containment for finfish aquaculture. We have a chance to lead here, rather than to repeat the mistakes—and catastrophes—found in every other site in the world where finfish are farmed in open pen feedlots. “

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Photos of the meeting may be viewed here:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.370732419606537.96055.100000093455766&type=1&l=a98cf0ba31>

Please contact Karin Cope if you need any images. They can be provided as large format jpegs.