

Dear

I am writing to register my strong opposition to the proposed licensing and implantation of open pen salmon aquaculture in Spry Harbour, Shoal Bay, and Beaver Harbour on the Eastern Shore by Snow Island and Loch Duart aquaculture companies. Our community is against fish farming on the Eastern Shore.

For generations our lobster fishery has been a sustainable mainstay of the economy and employment. While the applicants for fish farming hope that there will be no illnesses necessitating the application of chemicals, and no escapes from the pens, in every other instance of salmon aquaculture around the world, there are escapes and major illnesses resulting in heavy chemical dosing. What is more, recent studies at Stanford University have shown that faecal matter from fish farms does not get cleared away by the tides but rather cycles in the vicinity resulting in high sulphite pollution. Lobster fishermen here believe that the risk of chemical and faecal contamination of their fishing grounds is too high to chance destroying their livelihood. We further understand that if the applicant companies seek to amend the conditions of their license by increasing the density of pens or even selling out to other companies, there are no provisions for a public hearing. The citizens of the Eastern Shore would lose control over their coastal waters.

Research has shown that open pen salmon fishing in the ocean has an adverse affect on wild salmon species both medically and genetically. Recently, we've seen a great deal of volunteer work and donation of monies to restore the wild salmon to the rivers of the Eastern Shore. These efforts are bearing fruit; wild salmon are reappearing in our rivers. It would be a grave mistake to implant salmon farms anywhere near these rivers. To do so would gravely endanger the wild salmon recovery. The economic potential of restoring wild salmon to our recreational and tourist industries is enormous. I do not agree with a licensing of aquaculture that would destroy our wild salmon.

The Eastern Shore is known as one of the most beautiful and naturally preserved places in the world. Residents and tourism operators know that salmon farms in the three proposed sites would destroy view planes, depress real estate values, compromise tourism, and wreck our quality of life. Faecal matter and chemicals in the water could be dangerous to our health when we swim in the ocean. The real estate and construction industries dependant on people coming from away to settle here stand lose a growing business were this shore to harbour aquaculture.

I do not believe that it is worth risking the destruction of our sustainable economies and ways of life for the sake of a few jobs. I do not believe that the NDP provincial government has the right to impose fish farming on this community against its will. Don't do it!

Yours Truly,