

June 29, 2012

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

Dear Premier Dexter,

RE: Open Net Pen Salmon Aquaculture

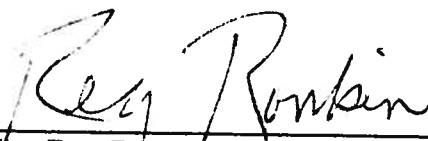
At the June 25, 2012 Western Region Community Council meeting, the following motion was approved:

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Western Region Community Council, on behalf of the local community, forward a letter to Premier Darrell Dexter and the Honourable Sterling Belliveau, Minister of Environment / Fisheries & Aquaculture, referencing the 2009 Framework Statement on the Environment, in regard to the ocean's finite capacity to absorb waste, requesting that the Province hold public consultation on land use issues, including shoreline/conservation matters, in regard to Open Net Pen Salmon Aquaculture prior to taking steps for the licensing of Open Net Pen Salmon Aquaculture on the shorelines of municipal Districts 18 Spryfield-Herring Cove, District 22 Timberlea-Prospect, and District 23 Hammonds Plains-St. Margaret's, due to the high risk of contamination associated with this practice.

Open Net Pen Salmon Aquaculture is a controversial issue. A recent meeting hosted by salmon industry groups from throughout the province of Nova Scotia and the June 13, 2012 screening of "*Salmon Wars: Salmon Farms, Wild Fish and the Future of Communities*", a documentary produced by *The Green Interview* producers Silver Donald Cameron/Chris Beckett, highlighted the concerns and consequences relating to open net salmon aquaculture.

On behalf of the local communities, and based on the Provincial government's framework statement on the environment (2009) to ensure community involvement/consultation in protecting the environment, the Western Region Community Council requests that the Province consider public notification/consultation on matters relating to Open Net Pen Salmon Aquaculture for municipal Districts 18, 22 and 23 prior to any licensing of such activity.

Sincerely,



Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair
WESTERN REGION COMMUNITY COUNCIL