
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2015 11:52 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Submission in regards to Bill 95

This submission comes from Bill Williams

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I am the past Vice President of the Association for the Preservation of the Eastern Shore.
I was a roundtable member on the Doelle-Lahey aquaculture rules and regulations review board.

Submit that a clause be added that would ensure that a provincial assessment in regards to risk analysis and bay capacity be done on proposed aquaculture sites of any type . This should be done as early as possible in the application process.

This winter, most of the bays along the Nova Scotia Eastern Shore from Ship Harbour to Sherbrooke were closed due to " orders prohibiting fishing for contaminated fish". Many of the bays are still closed. Many other bays and inlets around the province were also closed.

These closures prohibited the harvesting of bar clams, soft shell clams, bay quahogs, razor clams, clams, mussels, oysters, whelks, bivalve mussels and bay scallops.

Water temperatures in the past fall, winter and spring were some of the lowest on record. If we have a problem at these temperatures with high bacteria levels it would be fool hardy to add to the pollution load these bays would have to carry with the addition of open pen fish farms.

It has been well proven and documented that these farms add to the pollution and nutrient load in areas where they are located. Climate change has greatly increased the water temperature in these bays during the summer and fall. This has led to many harvest closures throughout the warm water months.

I visited the fisheries and oceans office in Sherbrooke approximately one month ago. I was seeking information on these closures. They could not tell me why these areas were closed. I was told the Department of the Environment had made the closures. DFO put up the signs. The signs say that for more information contact your local Fisheries Officer. An example of bureaucracy at its best.

More legislation must be included to protect the future of our near shore marine environs .

Thank You for the opportunity to submit this proposed clause addition

Bill Williams