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Fred Giffin Comments...

On Proposed Fin Fish Farm

Many concerns have been expressed about the negative impacts of this farm on the local fishery, tourism and the beaches. I will not expand upon those.

During my career in the Pulp and Paper industry with Bowater, I was involved in negotiations with the federal and provincial departments of the environment concerning regulations governing the suspended and dissolved solids contained in the effluent from the Bowater mill in Brooklyn. These regulations were very stringent; Bowater spent approximately \$10 million to remove the suspended solids from the stream, and another \$30 million to build a holding pond with aeration to reduce the oxygen demand and toxicity of the effluent stream. It had already been shown with studies of oxygen content and marine life that the dissolved solids had no negative effect on the receiving water. Briefly, the Company was required to go beyond the necessary, and if the regulations were not met, the mill would not operate.

I give you this example as a contrast with the lack of regulations regarding aquaculture. At this point it appears that this large fish farm will be allowed to let all of the suspended solids drop into Port Mouton Bay without any attempt at removal or treatment. At normal operating levels, the farm would be equivalent to a community of 15,000 people discharging waste into this area! How can a government concerned with the environment, one which forces other industry to go beyond the call of duty, allow this to happen?

I was told by a representative of Aqua Fish farms that technology has been developed that would remove the solids, but that it doesn't work well, and is not economical.

How far do you think an answer like that would get the Pulp and Paper industry? If means of removal of these solids cannot be developed, installed and operated economically, then the world is not ready for aquaculture of the magnitude proposed for Port Mouton Bay. The government departments must make regulations and enforce them the same as would be done for other industry.

As you are probably already aware, the regional government, our MLA, Conservative party representatives, and the citizens of this county have been very united in opposition to the proposed fish farm. It would seem that such a strong opposition would be able to negate any deals that have brought this outlandish proposal to this level.

I trust that the proposal for this farm will be put to rest very soon and that a major emphasis will go toward determining how aquaculture can be operated with responsible concern for the environment.

Fred Giffin