

## Friends of Port Mouton Bay Petition Opposing Development of Second Fish Farm

In the spring of 2002, Aqua Fish Farms initiated a proposal for expanding their aquaculture enterprise in Port Mouton Bay.

With the help of friends and neighbours, Clyde Fisher drafted and began to circulate a petition protesting the expansion. Approximately 30 signatures were gathered. The expansion did not go forward at that time. In July 2006 a plan for an even larger farm expansion was advertised, and local fishermen and community members reacted with alarm. Clyde's petition was circulated again. Here is the text:

*I (We), the undersigned*

*Strongly oppose the development of another fish farm, by Aqua Fish Farms Limited, or any other company or individual, in Port Mouton Bay.*

*The proposed site on the west side of Port Mouton Island, near Back Beach, is located in proximity to several pristine beaches--Hunts Point Beach, Summerville Beach, Carters Beach, Wobemkak Beach, Southwest Port Mouton Beach, and Spectacle Marine Park (Matthew Atlantic) - which are pristine and invaluable sites, ecologically, environmentally and economically.*

*We believe the area represents far greater value for its tourist potential and as a valuable lobster fishing ground and shellfishery.*

*It appears also on navigational maps to be a shipping channel.*

*We also support Mayor John Leefe's efforts to have the Back Beach, along with its associated dunes and wetlands, declared a provincially protected area.*

*Name*

*Address*

*Occupation*

Vicki Conrad, MLA for Queens Region, presented the petition in the Nova Scotia Legislature on November 1 2006, with a total of 714 signatures. See the Hansard record:

[http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/han60-1/house\\_06nov01.htm#H\[Page%20840\]](http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/han60-1/house_06nov01.htm#H[Page%20840])

The Friends of Port Mouton Bay website offered an on-line petition beginning in December 2006. Since the summer of 2006, a total of 2582 people have signed the petition, 418 on-line and 2164 adding their names to the sheets being circulated locally.

The petition now forms a part of the community's input to the federal Environmental Assessment. It is one of many documents that have made the Port Mouton Assessment file the largest in Canada.