

# MEDWAY RIVER SALMON ASSOCIATION

Queens County  
Nova Scotia

## LATEST NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

The association President keeps the membership up to date through the Medway River Blues publication, also [archived here](#) on this web site. Between times, though, things can happen quickly. This page is a good place to keep up with the very latest developments, be they with the Medway River Salmon Association activities or with other events that affect our interests. Here then is the latest.

**Posted Jan 9, 2012**

The Atlantic Salmon Federation recently commissioned the Halifax consulting firm of Garner Pinfold to do a study of the economic value of wild Atlantic salmon. The report was released to the public today. An [executive summary](#) of the report is posted on our [In The News](#) section.

**Posted Dec 20, 2011**

In an Editorial published today in the Queens County Advance, recognition is given to the scope of the work proposed by the MRSA to improve the Medway River environment. See the editorial on our [News page](#), or directly to it by [clicking here](#).

**Posted Dec 18, 2011**

Alexandra Morton on the west coast of Canada is well known for her fight to force government to protect the ocean from the negative effects of open pen fish farming. Follow her activities and information through her blog at <http://alexandramorton.typepad.com/> also linked from our [Links](#) page.

**Posted Dec 14, 2011**

The Nova Scotia Commissioner of the Environment has issued his report for 2011. It is posted on our [Archives](#) page, or [click here](#) to see it directly.

**Posted Dec 05, 2011**

The following letter from the Nova Scotia Salmon Association is published here for information.

Carl R. Purcell  
President, Nova Scotia Salmon Association  
21 Canterbury Street  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
B2Y 1S8

Aquaculture Management Directorate, Program Policy, Stewardship Unit  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
200 Kent Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0E6

To whom it May Concern:

*The Nova Scotia Salmon Association (NSSA) is responding to the notice of intent by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans` (DFO) with respect to regulations for fish pathogens and pest treatment. NSSA is very concerned that the proposed regulations are an attempt by the Government of Canada to exempt salmon farmers from legislation under the Fisheries Act that is designed to protect the marine environment and Canada's fisheries. If allowed to proceed in it's present form, this legislation will allow the use of toxic chemicals in open net pen aquaculture operations to kill sea lice . Sea lice are crustaceans, as are lobsters, crab, shrimp, prawn and krill. These animals will also be affected as will various species of zooplankton that form an important base of the food chain in the marine environment.*

*The Canadian government has an obligation to protect and conserve the wild Atlantic salmon and as part of this mandate it is of paramount importance to provide regulations to the Aquaculture industry regarding the use of pesticides that are stringent but also provide an environment that is friendly and safe to all indigenous marine species.*

*There does not appear to be much literature on the half life of these chemicals within the water column and there possible accumulative effect on the various systems of other marine organisms " The prevalence of cold water temperature in the Bay of Fundy, however, will likely result in oxytetracycline persisting for several lengths of time. Effects on indigenous non- target species have not been investigated.(taken from Canadian Technical Report of Fishes and Aquatic Science 2450 pg.118) Page 109 of the same report states "there are few publications in the primary literature regarding the environmental fate and effects of these drugs and other chemotherapeutants and chemicals in general used in the aquaculture industry .Another author makes a similar statement in the same publication on pg.98-99*

*While there are currently no sector specific Canadian Environmental Protection Act regulations to manage toxic substances for marine "fin fish" aquaculture, Environment Canada and Health Canada are currently implementing the Chemicals Management Plan which will evaluate chemicals currently in the commerce according to their level of risk. Control strategies may be implemented for substances which present the highest level of risk (Environment Canada 2009). This presents a feeling of "maybe" something will be done and what about future chemicals being used. This is like closing the henhouse after the fox has made a visit.*

*There should be more pressure placed on the Aquaculture industry to be diligent in providing a safe haven for its farmed salmon through better husbandry instead of relying on pesticides and other chemicals to ensure that their product reaches the market. I wonder if DFO is part of the problem? How can it be both a regulator and supporter of the industry?*

*Currently there is one population of wild Atlantic salmon that is listed under the Species of Risk Act (the Inner Bay of Fundy). Other wild Atlantic salmon populations have been assessed as endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), those being the Outer Bay of Fundy, the Southern Uplands and Eastern Cape Breton. COSEWIC has identified aquaculture as one of the contributing factors to the decline of the wild Atlantic salmon in these areas and the potential for a pesticide to kill species of krill, shrimp and zooplankton, which are all food items for wild Atlantic salmon. This causes NSSA great concern.*

*NSSA would expect that DFO, the Government Agency responsible for the wild Atlantic salmon, would take a more precautionary approach to issues that may have a negative impact on the already depressed populations of those wild Atlantic salmon.*

*Yours in wild Atlantic salmon conservation,*

Carl Purcell  
President  
Nova Scotia Salmon Association

**Posted Nov 22, 2011**

The following letter was sent today to The Honourable Sterling Belliveau, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Minister of Environment.

Dear Minister Belliveau,

*Mayday-Shelburne County is writing to you, in response to comments made by Mr. Greg Roache, Associate Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, in an interview published in the Herald on Nov. 14, 2011.*

*Mr. Roache states that the NSDFA is interested in sustainable practices but that closed-containment systems are not commercially viable. Would you please provide Mayday-Shelburne County with the articles and documents that have been reviewed in relation to closed-containment recirculating systems, including the commercial*

viability of this technology.

Mr. Roache states that "the salmon industry has sea cages all over the world." Would you please provide Mayday-Shelburne County with the documentation you have reviewed about the environmental and social effects of open-pen aquaculture around the world. Would you also please comment on how open-pen aquaculture has affected the fishermen of southwestern N.B. (Coastal CURA report, 2011) and the fishermen and workers in Chile.

Mr. Roache states that he is not aware of any investigations in N.S. into the use of illegal pesticides. Would you please clarify his statements by stating the position of the NSDFA in regards to the charges facing Cooke Aquaculture concerning the alleged use of illegal pesticides. Would you please provide Mayday-Shelburne County with the documentation that has been reviewed by the NSDFA in relation to the use of pesticides by the aquaculture industry. Please also provide your assessment of the potential impacts of aquaculture pesticides on lobster and lobster larvae.

Mr. Roache states that the NSDFA follows a thorough assessment process before approving aquaculture applications. Would you please provide Mayday-Shelburne County with the NSDFA's analysis of the Environmental Impact Assessment done by Sweeney International for sites #1357, #1358, #1359 in Jordan Bay and at Middle Head. Is the information in the EIA satisfactory to the NSDFA, including :

: wind and wave data from 1991 (sections 4.1.1 and 4.2.1)

: commercial fisheries data (section 5.2.1.1) that does not include any information on commercial lobster landings or gear conflicts, and contradicts information from local fishermen who fish in the areas of the proposed sites

: the statement "this is not the preferred habitat of lobster" section 5.2.4.1

: the statement "...due to the relatively shallow water"...section 5.4.1

: the information provided in section 8.5.4 on fish feed and feces

Please also provide the documents you have reviewed on the effects of copper (present in net anti-foulant and fish feed used by the aquaculture industry) on lobster and lobster larvae.

In addition, please provide information on recent treatments for sea lice in N.S. In August 2010, at the public meeting concerning the St. Mary's Bay salmon farm proposal, Dr. Roland Cusack stated that a ten day sea lice treatment had been used on a farm site in N.S. in 2010. Please elaborate on Dr. Cusack's statement by identifying the location of this site. Please also provide information on any sea lice treatments that have taken place to date on N.S. open-pen sites.

To date, the NSDFA has never consulted with local fishermen. To our knowledge, the frequent regulators meetings, which have included the proponent and several government agencies, have never included fishermen's' groups. What plans does the NSDFA have to consult with fishermen to hear their feedback on the EIA and to use their local knowledge as input into the lease assessment process?

We would appreciate your timely response.

Sincerely,  
Sindy Horncastle  
Mayday-Shelburne County  
Jordan Bay, N.S.  
1-902-875-4771

**Posted Nov 19, 2011**

On November 14, CBC radio broadcast a half hour programme surrounding charges currently in court against Cooke Aquaculture for their alleged release of a banned chemical used to control sea lice. Listen to the broadcast through the CBC site by clicking [here](#).

**Posted Nov 17, 2011**

Interesting data about infectious salmon disease in the Bay of Fundy has been posted [here](#) in our [Archives](#) section.

**Posted Nov 15, 2011**

On October 27th DFO released 90 mature adult salmon from the Mersey Biodiversity Facility into the upper reaches of the Medway River. Members of the MSRA Environment Committee and QCF&GA assisted the release. Releases were made at Albany New, Twin Bridges and below Alma Lake on the East Branch.



**Posted Nov 15, 2011**

The following open letter was mailed to the Halifax Chronicle Herald:

To: The Chronicle Herald

From: Mayday-Shelburne County  
Jordan Bay, N.S.  
1-902-875-2541  
1-902-875-4771 (after 6 pm weekdays)

St. Mary's Bay Coastal Alliance (SMBCA)

Eastern Shore Fisherman's Protective Association (ESFPA)

An open letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Nova Scotia

Dear Minister Belliveau,

What is the vision of the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) for our coastal communities? The recent charges against Cooke Aquaculture in New Brunswick, stemming from an investigation into the alleged use of illegal pesticides and resulting lobster deaths, should be serious cause for alarm. As we watch events unfolding in N.B., we can easily see what the future has in store for our province if the Minister continues the promotion of industrial open-pen aquaculture. The industry's own practices (over-stocking, over-sized farms and farm density) have led to parasite and disease outbreaks, and the need for pesticides and antibiotics to protect "the investment." These practices are completely contrary to sustainability.

The aquaculture industry describes the chemicals used for sea lice control as "tools." Illegal pesticides are not "tools" - they are lethal weapons against lobster stocks and they threaten market security and our established economy built around the lobster fishing industry. The Minister has also been made aware of the pollution in Shelburne Harbour and the heavy metal contamination in Port Mouton Bay as a result of salmon farming operations - yet, the NSDFA has never taken ANY remedial action.

The real social and environmental costs of the open-pen salmon farming industry are being borne by Nova Scotia's coastal communities. The industry describes itself as "custodians of the marine environment" while leaving our fishing communities to deal with the pollution these floating feedlots generate, and the resulting chemical

contamination. When we see salmon cages floating on the ocean surface, we are only seeing the "tip of the iceberg".

The Atlantic Canada Fish Farmer's Association, recently drafted a letter for the mayors and municipal governments of Charlotte County, New Brunswick, to send to the Federal Minister of Fisheries. The letter states.... "without treatment options for sea lice management, farmers will have no option but to reduce stocking in 2012.....This will also mean that 750 direct jobs and up to 391.... indirect jobs will be lost."

We support the development of fish farming technologies (such as closed-containment recirculating systems) that create sustainable long-term jobs that do not displace fishermen.

The Minister must STOP issuing open-pen salmon farm leases and protect the Nova Scotia lobster fishery.

Mayday-Shelburne County

St. Mary's Bay Coastal Alliance (SMBCA)

Eastern Shore Fisherman's Protective Association (ESFPA)

Posted Nov 13, 2011

A New Brunswick fish farm has been charged by Environment Canada in connection with alleged pesticide use. [Click here](#) for details. See also [this story](#) from 2010. (The links may become inactive after a short period of time.)

Posted 26 Oct 2011

On Monday, October 24th, 12,000 Sea Run Trout were released into the Medway River and tributaries. These trout were fin clipped on October 11th by the students in the Environmental Studies Class of the NSCC in Bridgewater. Sarah Holden of Mill Village was project lead.

Posted 19 Oct 2011

Earlier pH testing of waters in the upper reaches of the Medway River showed too high a level of acidity for good survival rates of any fish released into it. However, Bev Davison of the DFO now reports that re-testing has shown good pH readings, that earlier tests were likely flawed in some respect. Plans to release adult salmon later this month are therefore going ahead. President Darrell Tingley stated "It looks like we will be releasing a total of 105 mature fish (54 males, 51 females). A small selection of mature fish will be kept to spawn for local area Fish Friends Program, and the remainder will be retained at Mersey to mature for release in autumn 2012." Darrell is inviting suggestions for optimal release locations along the upper reaches.

Posted 19 Oct 2011

The following media release was made yesterday, October 18, 2011, and is published here for information purposes.

Yet another development in the open net salmon farm industry, Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) has been detected in the waters of British Columbia. This is a direct result of salmon feedlot farming and the lack of proper screening and containment of wastes and diseases from these sites. This disease can devastate the province of BC, not unlike what occurred in Chile a few years ago. This virus was found in salmon farms in New Brunswick in the early 1990's. This day after Prime Minister Harper decides to do away with the Fishery Advisory Council. It has been reported that the symptoms of this devastating disease have been present in BC salmon farms since 2006, as was determined by documents obtained in the Cohen Commission, but veterinarians for DFO refused to say it was ISA. How many more nails has to be placed in the coffin of this polluting industry for this to be stopped? Please take a look at these links:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10986640>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infectious\\_salmon\\_anemia\\_virus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infectious_salmon_anemia_virus)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/18/science/18salmon.html?\\_r=1&src=tp&smid=fb-share](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/18/science/18salmon.html?_r=1&src=tp&smid=fb-share)

<http://www.metronews.ca/vancouver/local/article/999363-highly-infectious-influenza-like-disease-detected-in-pacific-salmon?mid=506>

With the DFO science heading to be on the governments endangered species list, who and how is our government going to protect the vital lobster, scallop, herring industries of Nova Scotia? Minister Belliveau repeatedly has stated that he bases his decisions for issuing leases on science obtained from DFO, as his Fisheries and Aqua department in Nova Scotia does not have the scientific capacity. How now will Minister Belliveau make his science based decisions?

Karen Crocker

Chair

St. Mary's Bay Coastal Alliance SMBCA

Posted 18 Oct 2011

A story "[Fisheries and Oceans to 'Shed' Services](#)" appeared on the CBC web site on October 13 and is posted here for information.

Posted Oct 12, 2011

Renowned researcher, Alexandra Morton, was interviewed this morning on CBC Radio's Information Morning. Her informative interview can be heard on the CBC web site by [clicking here](#).

Posted 09 Oct 2011



PRESIDENT DARRELL TINGLEY AND BILLY STEVENS OF ANTHONY EXCAVATION CONTEMPLATE THE TASK AT HAND

On September 10th eight members of the Environment Committee went to Twin Bridges (Bowater Property) and spread 28.7 ton of pelletized limestone over the 4 hectare site. The stone was delivered a week earlier by Anthony Trucking of Mill Village. This is part of a larger project to lime 20 hectares at the same site.

Studies indicate if you lime land to the tune of 10 ton per hectare you will receive a 25 year benefit to the soil and ground-water. In the instant case the land was limed with 7 ton per hectare so the result should be somewhat less. Liming of the land base in the Southern Uplands, especially in Queens County, is extremely important as the buffer zone has been diminished by Acid Rain over the past 50 years.

It had been hoped to lime the full 20 hectares, however, financial support from the Nova Forest Alliance and N.S. Forest Products Association was not forthcoming. This is unfortunate as the forests stand to benefit more than the water with the increased pH. The results of the Twin Bridges Pilot Project would have provided scientific information for the future on large scale land based liming initiatives in the area/province. The Mersey Tobetic Research Institute of Kempt has taken pH readings prior to and will monitor the results over the next several years.

The shovel and bucket brigade, who spread the limestone, now understand why it is recommend to aerial lime forested/woodland areas.

Posted 03 Oct 2011

The following letter was today sent by Darrell Tingley to Premier Dexter and to Julie Dupuis of Transport Canada, Environmental Affairs, and is posted here for information.

Mr Premier, Ms. Dupuis

Minister of Fisheries Sterling Belliveau in a [letter to Sindy Horncastle](#), Mayday Shelburne County, Subject: Our Reference F 100, responded to the community's reports on the estuarine currents in Jordan Bay. The fishermen and residents of Jordan Bay have never received a single answer from the Minister to any of their questions about how open pen salmon farming will effect the livelihoods of the fishermen who support the Shelburne and area economy. The fishermen were never consulted in the NSFDA plan to promote the aquaculture industry, even though there has been ample evidence in N.B., Shelburne and Port Mouton Bay of environmental degradation effecting lobster, scallop, clam and sea urchin harvests.

There has been much publicity around the numbers of jobs "proposed" with no details about how many years or how many fish farms it would take to create any jobs. One would expect that a government decision to fund the aquaculture industry with taxpayers dollars should be based on sound economic policy, yet, not one of our questions about how this new industry will impact the existing fisheries and economy of the area, has ever been answered.

The Mayday-Shelburne County group has created a broad base of support of at least 1,800 people ( a conservative estimate) including the fishermen of Jordan Bay, Green Harbour, Lockport, Allendale, Shelburne, Sandy Point, Ingomar, Gunning Cove, the Pubnicos, and other areas. The group also has support of the Ecology Action Centre, the Medway River Salmon Association, the Atlantic Coalition for Aquaculture Reform (ACAR), the Saint Mary's Bay Coastal Alliance, the Eastern Shore



Fishermen's Protective Association, the Friends of Shelburne Harbour, and the David Suzuki Foundation.

Mayday-Shelburne County sees the blind promotion of open-pen salmon farming as showing a of understanding of the value of the inshore traditional fisheries to the economy and culture. They support the development of technologies such as closed containment recirculating systems, that do not stand to pollute the public resource that is nursery for lobster and other species.

This issue will be facing many other small fishing communities along the Atlantic Coast of Nova Scotia. The provincial government has studied the potential impacts of tidal power development. Why has there been no study on the potential impacts of aquaculture development? It is time for Mr. Belliveau to stop issuing new leases until we can be sure that the impacts predicted by fishermen are well understood and are examined by third-party scientists and economists.

In 2007, prior to being elected premier, you supported a community's right to self-determination in the face of rampant expansion of an unwanted industry. That right is of no less value now that you are in a leadership role. Obviously, the MLA from Shelburne County needs your guidance in these matters. Mayday has a photograph of Mr. Belliveau taken in 2008 during an invitational tour of aquaculture sites in Chili. The media have told the story from Chili-of overproduction, pollution of traditional fishing grounds, sea lice, disease and loss of jobs. Is that what Mr. Belliveau has planned for the coastal communities of Nova Scotia?

We are asking for your support, Premier Dexter, just as you supported Port Mouton Bay.

The Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture has abandoned the fishermen and the constituents he was elected to represent. We are asking for a direct response from you, Mr. Premier.

Sincerely,

Darrell Tingley  
President, Medway River Salmon Association

**Posted 02 Oct 2011**

On Friday, September 30th a film crew from Montreal filmed the Cooke Aquaculture Open Pen Fish Farm in Liverpool Bay and interviewed the President on Beach Meadows Beach on the impact of Open Pen Fish Farms on Wild Atlantic Salmon. Following the interview the film crew went to the Ponhook Fish & Game Lodge to film the Medway River and the historic lodge.

Lawrence Euteneier is producing a documentary on the history and future of fishing in Canada; the filming started in Port Alberni, B.C. Earlier on Friday they visited Port Mouton and interviewed Ricky Hallett, a lobster fisher, in Jordan Bay. The documentary will cover many other species than wild salmon, however, Lawrence found the aquaculture industry approach to expansion in bays and inlets along the Nova Scotia coasts intriguing. It is estimated the Documentary will be completed by June 2012.

Billy and Larry Stevens led the film crew to their destinations.

**Posted 15 Sep 2011**

The following response dated September 14, 2011, was received from Hon. Sterling W.W. Belliveau, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Dear Mr. Tingley:

Thank you for your e-mail of August 31, 2011 regarding damage to the new salmon farms at St. Mary's Bay.

A fishery officer and my Department's Manager of Licensing visited the farms on Thursday September 1st. They interviewed the site manager and toured both sites.

Although the farm did experience wind and wave action from tropical storm Irene, the manager reports that no fish escaped and the cages experienced only minor damage.

Our inspection of these sites did not reveal evidence of significant damage, lost cages or escaped fish.

Yours sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Sterling W.W. Belliveau  
Minister  
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

**Posted 13 Sep 2011**

The following news release was issued today by "Mayday Shelburne County" and is posted here for information.

**MAYDAY SHELBURNE COUNTY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 13, 2011

**Belliveau's demand for \$2140 for lobster science data outrageous**

In response to a request from a lobster fisherman in Jordan Bay near Shelburne for information regarding previous studies done which suggest that the location for one of new salmon farm leases being considered in Jordan Bay might be a lobster "nursery", Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture minister Sterling Belliveau wants more than \$2000 before he will release the data.

"This is absolutely outrageous," says West Green Harbour lobster fisherman Ricky Hallett, who made the request. "I've been asking questions of the Minister about studies of "berried" (egg-bearing) female lobsters in Jordan Bay for some time and finally I get this response from him." What was even more insulting, says Hallett, is that the first response from the department to his freedom of information request was a phone call from a staffer in which she said he might have to pay as much as \$9000.

At every public and private meeting Belliveau has attended and been questioned on the science surrounding the placement of open net, industrial scale fish farms near sensitive lobster grounds and other species habitat, the minister (and Shelburne MLA) has said that he and his department possess adequate scientific data to ensure no harm will come to existing fisheries or tot the ecosystem.

"This is a prime example of how this government treats the serious efforts of citizens to understand the science behind the controversial placement of salmon farms so close to lobster and other critical fisheries," says Mayday Shelburne County organizer and Jordan Bay resident Sindy Horncastle.

"I've questioned Sterling Belliveau on this issue on many occasions," added Hallett. "At a LFA 33 meeting in Bridgewater in June, he said all of my and other fishermen's questions would be answered at a public meeting in Shelburne." Belliveau did not attend the July 12 meeting and questions regarding the berried females met with no response from Belliveau's staff or DFO staff in attendance.

Some of the charges from the department include accessing and reviewing the information, which the department told Hallet amounts to at least 1500 pages. "As far as I am concerned," says Hallett, "it is criminal for the minister to charge me or anyone for scientific data. Since they know there are at least 1500 pages of relevant science, and since we are two thirds through the review period and decision-making process, this information should already be on his desk and should have been reviewed by the minister. It seems outrageous to me that he now wants to charge a regular fisherman in the area concerned more than \$2000 for that same information." The department demanded a pre-payment of \$1070 prior to processing the request. Hallet has not decided whether or not to appeal the \$2000 demand from Belliveau's department.

Recently, another freedom of information request to the Department for science information surrounding fish farms and lobster habitat was met with the response that the department had not one science-related document in its possession and that it had never been allowed to see the reports from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and other departments surrounding salmon aquaculture science

Mayday Shelburne County is coalition of fishermen and citizens in Jordan Bay, Green Harbour and Shelburne who are opposing the granting of industrial fish farms in sensitive ecosystems without adequate scientific justification.

**MAYDAY SHELBURNE COUNTY**

Contact: Ricky Hallett – 902-656-2760  
Sindy Horncastle – 902-875-4771 (eves)

harbourwatch@ns.sympatico.ca

**Posted 12 Sep 2011**

The following is correspondence among the Atlantic Salmon Federation from its president, Bill Taylor. It relates to a land based, fully enclosed salmon rearing facility.

**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

**RE:** UPDATE ON LAND –BASED AQUACULTURE PROJECT

*I am pleased to report that the closed containment project we are carrying out in partnership with the Conservation Fund Freshwater Institute of Shepherdstown, West Virginia, is progressing well. Dr. Steven Summerfelt, Director of Aquaculture Systems Research for the Freshwater Institute, reports that the Saint John River strain salmon that they are growing out in freshwater are healthy and proving that this technology for grow-out is feasible. In four months of grow out, the salmon have more than quadrupled in weight (340 to 1650 g). Water quality has been excellent. The food conversion rate is very good, with the weight of the feed producing the same weight of fish. The survival rate of our fish has been 95.5% which is very good.*

*All of this has been accomplished without the use of vaccines, harsh chemicals and antibiotics. There have been no threats to fish health and no sea lice. The harvest is expected to be about ten tons and could occur from January to April of 2012.*

*Our research is providing key data on growth rate, survival, fish densities, feed conversion, water quality, primary variable costs, waste loads, fish health, pesticide/antibiotic use, fillet attributes (yield, color, lipid content, flavor) and other key parameters for growing Atlantic salmon to food-size within a freshwater commercial-scale closed containment system. The new information obtained through this study will assist with future decision-making by the North American salmon farming industry, government regulators, funders, and conservation advocates and result in better-informed decisions regarding land-based closed-containment systems for salmon grow-out.*

*In New York in November, you will hear firsthand from Steve Summerfelt at the Directors Dinner and more in-depth during the committee meetings, giving you good opportunity to discuss this exciting project with the experts.*

*I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.*

*Bill Taylor*

**Posted 11 Sep 2011**

1) The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has released its report to the Minister on the status of Wild Atlantic Salmon stocks in the Atlantic Provinces and Quebec. For the Southern Uplands Region (Annapolis River to the Straight of Canso) the designation is Endangered. The Minister has ninety (90) days to respond.

2) A crew of eight (8) on Saturday, September 10th spread 28 ton of pelletized limestone at the Twin Bridges site. The shovel/bucket brigade covered, as much as possible, of the 4 hectare site. The crew now understands why Terrestrial/Air is the favourite method of land liming.

**Posted 30 Aug 2011**

After our brush with hurricane Irene in the last couple of days, people's attention has focused on the St. Mary's Bay fish farm operation and the apparent damage that it has suffered. The following message was received from an observer yesterday.

*It appears that there may have been some significant damage to the St. Mary's Bay site in the storm last night. We sailed out there tonight, seas were still quite rough, we see that there are currently only 7 cages left in the first site which was completed and stocked last month. My husband counted 12 cages there in July. Of the 7 remaining pens, 5 are damaged, 2 have seawater flowing freely in and out of the pen as the sides have collapsed. There are feeding frenzies of seabirds as the predator nets have washed away.*

And further, today, from the same correspondent:

*We did take video and photo's, I have attached a photo of one of the cages. There did not appear to be any fish in the damaged pens that remained. The ones with the predator nets still intact did have fish jumping. I am attaching a photo of one of the cages that we saw, clearly the potential for escape is evident. Also during the storm the seas were totally burying these cages. How do we determine how many fish are gone? Impossible for us. This is a ridiculous situation. The winds we sustained for this tropical storm are nothing compared to what we will see on the shores of St. Mary's this winter. This wind lasted less than 24 hours, what will take place when we get our Southerly gales that last for 3 and 4 days? Cooke's is saying that they only had 7 cages on the site. We know there were 12 there in July. But what about these cages that are clearly open to the sea? Where is DFO? Are they not to be called immediately? Who is policing and enforcing the limited NS regulations on this farm? Do we rely on the site managers to assess the damage and tell us that nothing escaped? Clearly this is not acceptable.*

<http://www.thecoastguard.ca/Business/2011-07-18/article-2659993/Cooke-Aquaculture-moving-ahead-with-fish-farms/1>

This article states that the site was completed and fully stocked. Blueprints for the site show a completed site held 12 cages.



**FOR EARLIER POSTINGS OF PRESIDENT'S NEWS:**

[January 1 through March 31, 2011.](#)

[April 1 through June 30, 2011.](#)

[July 1 through September 30, 2011](#)

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