

No government funds for fish farms

It seems that the federal government are compensating open pen fish farms in the order of multiple millions of dollars when their fish stocks become hit with disease such that they have to be destroyed. According to Mayday - Shelburne County:

"Compensation to the aquaculture industry in New Brunswick has reached over \$75 million since the 1990's. This is also an entirely predictable scenario for Nova Scotia. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has publicly stated that Cooke Aquaculture could receive upwards of \$30 per fish slaughtered, which could amount to almost \$21,000,000 in compensation for the McNutt's Island site alone.

An ISA outbreak at the proposed Jordan Bay sites (stocked with 2,000,000 fish), would cost taxpayers as much as \$60 million dollars in compensation."

Apparently the logic is that when something like foot and mouth disease hits cattle, cattle farmers are compensated when they are ordered to destroy their cattle so the same approach is occurring with fish farms.

Let's just be clear about the analogy though. Cattle farmers do not shower their stock with so much food that it lies rotting and polluting mixed in with their feces, not only on their own farms but also on their neighbours' far distant; fish farmers do. Cattle farmers do not destroy the livelihoods of their neighbours by using chemicals that weaken their neighbours' stock in trade; fish farmers do. Cattle farmers are welcomed in their communities because of the

value they add to the lives of all; fish farmers are despised because of the damage they do to the environment and to the surrounding fisheries upon which so many depend for their livelihood.

Cattle farm stock are very rarely hit with catastrophic disease because their operations are well run, well regulated and kept confined to their own locale; fish farms are regularly and predictably hit with catastrophic disease because they are overdosed with chemicals, antibiotics and food just to cope with the unnaturally high density of fish within the pens. Cattle farms do not see their stock regularly escape into the surrounding area, genetically weakening surrounding stock so as to threaten their very survival; fish farms repeatedly lose fish stock from their open ocean pens, stock which then breeds with and weakens an already endangered wild salmon species.

There is no comparison between the ethics of running a cattle farm and the ethics of running an open pen fish farm. For that reason there is no justification for paying these vast sums of our hard earned tax dollars to compensate private, open pen salmon farmers who are progressively degrading and destroying our coastlines and rivers, and I for one object to such payments. The federal and provincial governments are taking our collective silence as agreement with such payments.

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