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## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 26, 2020

Via Email      min\_dag@gov.ns.ca

The Honourable Keith Colwell  
Minister of Fisheries & Aquaculture  
Suite 507 WTCC  
1800 Argyle St  
Halifax NS B3J 3N8

Dear *Keith* Minister Colwell:

**RE:    Open Net Pen Fishing in Nova Scotia Waters**

The Council for the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg heard a presentation from Cermaq Canada on January 14, 2020 outlining their proposal for open net pen fishing off the shores of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg. Since that presentation, Council has received a number of presentations from various groups and individuals opposed to open net pen fishing in Nova Scotia, and requests for Council to not support open net fish farming in Nova Scotia, particularly in the waters off the shores located in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

Council understands the regulation and approval of open net pen fishing off the shores of Nova Scotia is a responsibility of the Province. Council did, however, want to make the provincial government aware of the concerns that were raised by those individuals and organizations that presented to Council, as well as some concerns that were put forth to individual Councillors. It is also important to note that Council has not solicited comments from the public on this matter, and the concerns put forth were made by concerned residents.

The concerns raised were mainly to do with the impact of these developments on the environment and the fisheries. Following is a list of concerns raised:

- Infectious disease that can affect the wild population

- Parasites (sea lice)
- Chemicals and antibiotics used that can affect the surrounding habitat and environment
- Surplus feed and waste flushed into surrounding habitat
- Debris from broken nets
- Noise, light, smell and air pollution
- Escaped fish can damage endangered wild populations
- Lack of transparency and accountability
- Negative impact on other industries, i.e., tourism & fishery

Council would like to reiterate that it knows the approval and regulation of such economic ventures are the responsibility of the Province.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, E.C.N.S.  
Mayor

cc: The Honourable Stephen McNeil, M.L.A.  
MODL Councillors