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Hon. Keith Colwell, Minister  
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor (Suite 605), WTCC  
1800 Argyle Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 3N8

March 4, 2020

Dear Minister Colwell,

As the Province of Nova Scotia is the sole authority to issue permits for aquaculture installations of our shores, please be advised that the topic of open-pen aquaculture has been much discussed by the citizens of the Town of Mahone Bay and at the Council table. Having met with representatives from Cermaq Canada and with concerned citizens, Mahone Bay Council has identified concerns with open-pen aquaculture.

Concerns include excessive amounts of growth hormone, antibiotics and chlorine baths, which taint the fish intended for human consumption; reports of captive fish spreading infectious diseases to wild stock; and documented incidences of equipment failure which result in captive stock escaping to impact the genetic profile of the wild salmon population. Further, concerns about the impact of abandoned gear on navigation and information from the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture that the Department has a response for open-pen failures to be activated only after accidents occur, are unsettling to Mahone Bay Council.

Environmental concerns surrounding open-pen fish farming, also include the amount of raw sewage, which equates to waste from thousands of homes, being dumped in a concentrated area at the aquaculture farm site each year and that the resulting fecal contamination has been shown to desecrate fishing areas and to destroy or seriously reduce lobster fishing in areas adjacent to such fish farms, especially where natural lobster larvae 'nurseries' are located. The suggested open-pen fish farms are also considered to be a threat to the Nova Scotia tourism industry, worth potentially four billion dollars and employing thousands of Nova Scotians.

Council also has concerns about the apparent lack of transparency and accountability in the aquaculture industry in addressing the scientifically demonstrated, destructive results of open-pen fish farms on the environment.

With the above noted concerns and the current review of open-pen fish farms by the federal government with a plan for the elimination of open net fish farms on Canada's west coasts required by 2025 because of untenable environmental impact of such farms, the Council of the Town of Mahone Bay passed the following resolution at its regular Council meeting on February 11, 2020:

**BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Mahone Bay unequivocally declares its opposition to the development of any open-pen fish farms in or around the waters of Mahone Bay and that the rationale for same be communicated as soon as possible to the Federal and Provincial Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture, as well as to local MLAs, and to parties who have made presentations to Council on this topic.**

Mahone Bay Town Council unanimously supported this motion as determined by a recorded vote of 6-0 with one member of Council absent.

Yours sincerely,



David W. Devenne  
Mayor

cc. Hon. Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans & the Canadian Coast Guard  
Premier Stephen McNeil  
Suzanne Lohnes-Croft, MLA Lunenburg  
Hon. Mark Furey, MLA Lunenburg West  
Mayor Rachel Bailey, Town of Lunenburg  
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg  
Mayor David Mitchell, Town of Bridgewater  
Warden Allen Webber, Municipality of the District of Chester  
David Kiemele, Managing Director Cermaq Canada  
Glen Cooke, CEO Cooke Aquaculture