



Remarks

to the

Law Amendments Committee
Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia

by

Silver Donald Cameron

Host and Executive Producer
TheGreenInterview.com

April 27, 2015

Good afternoon. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

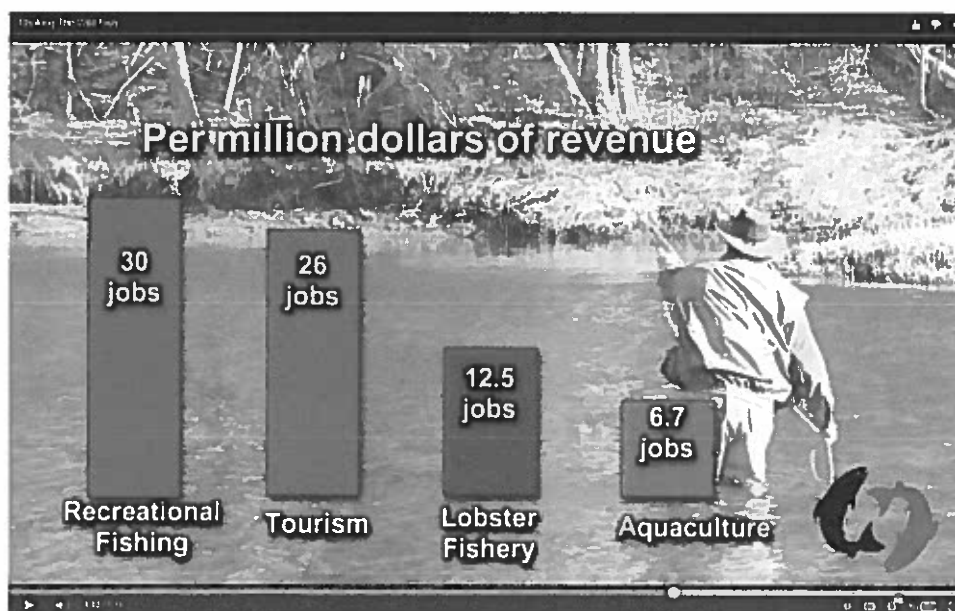
**the green
interview** .com

*The World's Biggest Issues
The World's Finest Minds*

My name is Silver Donald Cameron, and as many of you will know I'm a self-employed author, broadcaster, internet publisher and filmmaker. I've also been a university professor and dean, and for 13 years I was a columnist with the Sunday Herald. I've been living and working – and voting and sailing and paying taxes – in Nova Scotia full-time since 1971, mostly in rural Nova Scotia. My current venture is called www.TheGreenInterview.com. It's a subscription website which also distributes its intellectual products through four US distributors to millions of students, teachers and library patrons all over the world. I am in fact exactly the kind of information-age entrepreneur that governments are always saying they're eager to encourage. And no wonder. The cultural industries are the fastest, cheapest job-creators in the whole economy.

But my remarks today are about net-pen aquaculture. As a spin-off of The Green Interview, my colleagues and I have also produced documentary films. One of these is called *Salmon Wars*, and some of you are probably familiar with it. It has its own website, www.SalmonWars.com. To be sure you have a chance to view it, I've brought a DVD for each of you. You'll be told by the industry and their apologists that it's inaccurate and biased. It's not. It appeared in 2012, and nobody has yet identified a factual error in it. It does have a point of view, and that point of view is that open net-pen aquaculture as now practiced is an unsustainable, destructive industry that could not possibly survive without constant injections of public funds.

I'm sure others will give you plenty of detail about the derisory lease charges for open-pen sites, the compensation from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency when the fish predictably die as a result of poor animal husbandry, the \$25 million provided by the previous provincial government to Cooke Aquaculture for a processing plant that remains a figment of the corporate imagination. But I want to focus on jobs in rural communities, which is the only possible justification for the expenditure of public funds on this industry. If you go to SalmonWars.com, you'll find a series of short videos designed to be circulated through social media. This is a frame from one of those videos:



First point: if you have money to spend on job-creation in rural Nova Scotia, net-pen aquaculture is a

terrible way to spend it, creating just 6.7 jobs per million dollars spent. By contrast, the lobster industry produces 12.5 jobs, tourism produces 26 jobs, and recreational fishing – which used to be an important industry here – produces 30 jobs. So why would you spend your money on aquaculture?

Second, how many jobs are *destroyed* by salmon pens? Wherever the pens appear, lobsters vanish – and lobster is the mainstay of coastal Nova Scotia. In fact the salmon feedlot industry has repeatedly been convicted of actually poisoning our keystone seafood. Genetic pollution from interbreeding between wild salmon and farmed salmon weakens and sometimes destroys the wild stocks – which are the foundation of the recreational fishery. And no tourist wants to lie on a beach fouled with salmon fat and debris from broken cages, assaulted by the smell of fish feces and the non-stop roar of offshore machinery. I believe that an honest calculation would show that this industry actually costs us jobs.

Third, what *kinds* of jobs does this industry produce, and who gets them? The answer is, a handful of minimum wage jobs that Nova Scotians shun, and that are therefore mostly filled through the Temporary Foreign Worker program. If this is such a great industry for rural Nova Scotia, why is it so vigorously opposed in almost all the communities where it either operates or wants to operate?

So, is there any way forward for this industry? There is, and the government knows it – and I'm bewildered that this bill ignores it. You'll hear a lot more, I'm sure, about the Doelle-Lahey report called *A New Regulatory Framework for Low-Impact/High-Value Aquaculture in Nova Scotia*. This fine report is a model for regulatory excellence in all our resource industries. It's been overwhelmingly supported by the communities affected. It provides the government with an ideal opportunity to move forward in harmony with the rural citizens who have to live with this industry every day. By failing to implement it, this government has needlessly set itself up for another long, unpleasant conflict with its own people, on behalf of an industry that is essentially valueless to this province

I urge you to send this bill back to the government to be re-drafted in accordance with the principles enunciated by the Doelle-Lahey report, and endorsed by the Nova Scotians most directly affected by this industry.

Thank you again for your time this afternoon. If you have questions, I'll try to answer them.

Silver Donald Cameron, CM, ONS, PhD
Host and Executive Producer
www.TheGreenInterview.com
24 Armshore Drive
Halifax, NS B3N 1m5
(902)446-5577

Mr. Cameron presented this DVD to the Law Amendments Committee. Please click on Watch DVD to view.

Start Over

Save Records

MARC Display

Modify Search

More Like This

Another Search

KEYWORDsalmon wars

Search

☐ Limit search to available items

1 result found. Sorted by **relevance** | [date](#) | [title](#) .

(Search History)

Author

[Cameron, Silver Donald, 1937-](#)

[Link to re](#)

Title

Salmon wars [electronic resource] : aquaculture, wild fish and the future of communities / a film by Silver Donald Cameron and Chris Beckett.

Publication Info.

[S.l. : s.n., 2012]

<div>Connect to</div> <div>View website</div> <div>Watch DVD</div>		
Location	Call No.	Status
Lib Office Multimedia	333.9565609716 C182	AVAILABLE

Details

Description

1 DVD-video (74 min) : sd., col. ; 4 1/2 in.

Note

This film is provided free but on condition that it be shown in public only complete and unaltered.

Bibliography

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Note

Also available on the Internet.

System Details

System requirements: RealPlayer.

Subject

[Salmon fisheries -- Nova Scotia](#)
[Aquaculture -- Nova Scotia](#)

Local Subject

[Aquaculture](#)

Added Author

[Beckett, Chris](#)
[Ecology Action Centre](#)