

The following letter appeared in the Halifax Chronicle Herald on Saturday April 2, 2011.

DFO crippled

Recently announced cuts to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) will cut jobs and facilities in Atlantic Canada. Over the past several years cuts to DFO operating budgets has seen the science and operations departments drastically reduced.

Another \$86 million in cuts over the next three years by the Conservative government will render DFO a paper tiger. Gone will be the facility in Milton and its staff. The science department will be terminated and the work contracted out. Responsibility for regulatory and safety control for fish farms will be turned over to the companies themselves (another Maple Leaf listeria situation). Wild Atlantic salmon survival will depend on non-government organizations.

Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries in the Conservative government, says that DFO will absorb the cuts through efficiency.

Sorry, Ms. Shea, efficiency left the driveway a couple of years ago with your government's previous cuts. This at the same time the government has proposed \$24 billion in tax cuts, over the next four years, to the big banks, insurance companies and oil & gas corporations.

Poor devils, I guess the billions in profit they currently receive is not enough to satisfy these friends of government.

In this upcoming federal election, I'm going to vote to protect wild Atlantic salmon and not aquaculture in regulating itself.

Darrell Tingley, president, Medway River Salmon Association; director, Nova Scotia Salmon Association