

## **Appendix D – Notes from Panel Discussion on the State of the Gulf – Fisheries, Land Use and Contaminants**

Panelists Bill Borland, JD Irving Limited, and Jamey Smith, New Brunswick Salmon Growers Association, were asked to give their view of the state of the environment in relation to the issue they deal with, contaminants or fisheries. The following notes outline some of the points they made and the discussion that followed.

Bill Borland indicated that JD Irving Limited reports contaminants through NPRI, etc. The number of companies reporting in 1995 - 2001 was 35 - 90 (more being reported, but more companies so seems less). Reductions are being made for a number of reasons, but not really GOM organizations.

Jamie Smith explained that aquaculture is a sector, not just an industry. It is part of the ecosystem of the GOM and impacts on land and water (fish farms, workers, etc. on land). He indicated he only found out about the State of the Gulf (*Tides of Change*) report in January and was asked to review the draft report. He decided to get involved and to be consulted about the completion of the report. He indicated his offer was rejected, but he was asked to participate in the GOM Summit.

Mr. Smith explained that remarkable progress has been made in aquaculture (probably 10000+ employed by aquaculture in the GOM region). There are many jobs and an increase in research. Salmon is one species with which aquaculture is involved; however, it also involves other finfish, bivalves, etc.

Additional points discussed by Mr. Smith included:

- There has been a lot of progress in monitoring over the last 10 years. 100% compliance, only 3% not meeting standard.
- Regulation: Canada - since 1999 new guidelines, but all comply; new regulations in Maine too; and compliance is getting better.
- R&D: announcement – funding: Aquanet (academic and industry) projects MUST have socioeconomic factor (e.g. Thierry Chopin UNBSJ multitrophic farms – fish, mussels, kelp).
- ACRCP – w/DFO. Phytoplankton ecology projects (not caused by farms, but impact them).
- FAO – increased demand for aquaculture products (decrease in available protein sources in coming years).
- Develop sites in open ocean (offshore).
- Government should do more to help industry (all local governments want more aquaculture – more money, jobs, etc.).
- Have to plan years in advance. There are many competitors internationally, so the local industry is precarious. Have to meet this challenge and get more aquaculture. Have to increase trans-border cooperation and improve sustainability.

Questions and Answers/Discussion

- Q. Where do we need more research and where are the gaps? How to improve?
- A. (B. Borland) We won't see improvements in trends for a while, but we will see them. Need real numbers in report, not just colours (quantitative, not qualitative).
- A. (J. Smith) The process is not inclusive (not all GOM stakeholders included).
- Q. Increases in contaminants due to point and non-point source impacts, and how to prevent them.
- A. (B. Borland) Have to plan into the future, but industry wants to reduce pollution long term. Have to plan for future regulations.
- Comment: (Peter Wells, editor *Tides of Change*, to J. Smith) We did consider aquaculture contributions, and it was much more balanced (we had many aquaculture contributions and review) than if they'd asked just J. Smith.
- A. (J. Smith) Replied that they weren't consulted as much as other stakeholders and they should have been.
- Q. Aquaculture sector is looking at environmental certification for environment and to improve competitiveness.
- A. (J. Smith) We are trying to do this. Environmental sustainability, food safety, food tracing are important. Improve consumer confidence.
- A. (B. Borland) Went to GPAC to represent industry, because NGOs, government, academics, etc. couldn't do good enough job. Industry must be consulted if you want them to make changes. Everyone has ownership if everyone is included, and industry is then more likely to help.
- Comment: (Janice Harvey) Industry is invited and just doesn't show up. It is not GPACs fault that you couldn't be bothered to show up. Report is weak and contradicted by Auditor General's report because of aquaculture inputs. Special interests dilute and weaken the report. Some programs don't work. Just focus on what's really going on in the GOM, not what you want to put in for your own interests.
- Q. Can aquaculture waste products be recycled?
- A. (J. Smith) We reduce (improve efficiency), we don't want to recycle. Preventing pollution is best. Although improved efficiency is to save money, not for the environment. Some work has been done on recycling, not much because it's hard and site specific. Land-based sites do this a lot though.