

This is transparency?

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Imagine being able to hire a third party to determine how much in taxes you would like to pay. Imagine further that neither the federal, provincial or municipal governments could question what amount you gave them because they wouldn't have access to the information you gave the third party. Life would be sweet.

And that seems to be how it is with the aquaculture industry as they now report disease and sea lice numbers to a third party and not the provincial or federal governments.

It's a strange situation, one brought on by the move to have the federal government and not the provincial government govern fish farming. Prior to April 1 of this year the industry had to report disease and lice information to the provincial government. But when environmental groups won the right to access that information from 2002 and 2003 and further requested similar information from then up until 2010, neither the industry or the provincial government liked that idea.

So now, instead of reporting to any level of government the industry reports to a third party, presumably one that it hired. And neither level of government seems to care.

What's further strange about the situation is that the industry prides itself on being open with information regarding their industry. And for the most part they have been. But in this situation they seem adamant that the general public should not have access to the information. Since the information deals with disease and sea lice, that lack of transparency should be a cause for deep concern to all Canadians.

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Poll question: Should disease and sea lice information gathered by fish farms be available to the public?

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