

Not too 'beaming'

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Courier-Islander

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Re: Everyone needs to be heard

Mr. Olney (July 23 letter) conveniently labels Alex Morton as "biased against aquaculture" without crediting her substantial scientific contributions to our understanding of sea lice epizootics. Ad hominem attacks are of course more in vogue than discourse based on evidence, but they still leave a bad taste in your mouth. In stark and totally mystifying contrast, he then claims that DFO's senior scientist Dick Beamish wrote a recent paper that "refutes the claims (that salmon farming impacts wild fish) altogether." Maybe Mr. Olney missed the recent paper by Dalhousie University scientists that found that salmon farming was the major cause of reductions in wild fish survival or abundance (in many cases by over 50%) - worldwide. Mr. Olney might also re-examine his beliefs had he attended the recent Sea Lice 2010 meeting in Victoria, where numerous scientists talked frankly about world-wide problems in controlling sea lice impacts. But if Mr. Olney is at all interested in doing his homework before he proclaims Beamish infallible, he really should read a "Comment on Beamish et al. (2007): A proposed life history strategy for the salmon louse, *Lepeophtheirus salmonis* in the subarctic Pacific," in the 2008 issue of the journal, *Aquaculture*. Far from complimentary, the academic authors chastise Beamish and his fellow authors for their "errors of omission and their selective use of their own and others' data (that) lead the naïve reader to a conclusion that cannot be substantiated."

We do agree with Mr. Olney, though, that the commission look at all issues which may have contributed to the sockeye decline, including poor science and/or mis-management.

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