

adjusted accordingly.

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2003 MAR 27 P 11:03

Regional Superintendent
Dept of Fisheries & Oceans

Dear Sirs
Re- Quarry and Marine Terminal
My vote would be "No"
Sorry to say our "Government"
has very little to tell the people.
Perhaps you people may listen
to our concern. Re- Fishing and
Navigation in the Whites Lake Area.
Our home is approx [redacted] from Quarry site.
Enclosed please find an article
that appeared in the Daily Courier Mar 19/03.

Thanking you

[redacted]

Canso quarry raises doubts

(The following letter was sent Fisheries and Oceans Minister Robert Thibault)

I am writing to you regarding an established rock quarry in the Canso Strait called Porcupine Mountain.

We fishermen have grave concerns about what may be happening at this quarry, because we may be facing something similar or worse here in the Bay of Fundy off Digby Neck.

We have been in contact with fishermen from the Canso area who were displaced because their fishing grounds have been destroyed by that quarry. They are claiming miles of their fishing grounds including kelp and rockweed beds are dead, buried in silt deep enough to completely bury a lobster trap.

The few fishermen that used to fish in this area have had to move on to other fishermen's grounds further reducing their catches.

They claim this has been reported to the local DFO officials and the quarry was forced to put so-called silt nets in place to catch the silt runoff. This was done many times because after a silt net was put into place, a little breeze of wind would come along and wash them away.

The Canso Strait is protected from tides and winds. With only about five feet of rise and fall of tide, this silt has still drifted for miles and is gradually covering the fishing grounds and plant life, smothering all life.

Our concern here in the Bay of Fundy is, if the quarry in Canso that's in a fairly protected area, can't contain silt runoff, how in the world will

If the Canso fishermen's claims are true and we have that problem with silt runoff here in the Bay of Fundy, then we would have a catastrophe on our hands

—Harold Theriault

a quarry on the side of a mountain next to the Bay of Fundy ever contain it?

We cannot see how this ever could be done here on the Bay of Fundy shore. Here in the Bay of Fundy we are dealing with a 25-foot tide. If the silt in Canso drifted three miles like the fishermen say, then we here could see a 12-mile drift each way up and down plus a 10- to 15-mile offshore drift over time. We have a two-knot tide, for six hours each way on this shore, pretty simple to figure.

With the protection from the weather in the Canso Strait, there would only be a two- to four-foot swell running on that shore at the worst of times. Here on the north shore of Digby Neck in the winter time, you can see a 15-foot swell many rough days, with seas going clear up beyond the tree line. We are eager to see the contraption or the blueprints of one that will contain the silt on this shore.

If the Canso fishermen's claims are true and we have that problem with silt runoff here in the Bay of Fundy, then we would have a catastrophe on our hands.

We are talking about an area up to 25 miles long and up to at least 10 miles wide of lobster bottom being destroyed along Digby Neck and Islands. This is 250 square miles of not only lobster bottom but scallop, groundfish, kelp beds, sea urchins, herring and whale feeding grounds being destroyed over time.

This area could become like the surface of the moon—completely dead.

If these Canso fishermen's claims are true and this disaster happens here, we are talking job and resource loss that all the rock quarries in Atlantic Canada could not replace.

We, the Bay of Fundy inshore fishermen, are asking you to look into these Canso Strait claims of silt drift from Porcupine Mountain.

We are also asking if your office has received a silt runoff plan from the proposed Digby Neck White's Cove quarry and how foolproof it is?

Harold Theriault, Waterford, chairman, lobster committee, Bay of Fundy Inshore Fishermen's Association