

**Comments & Review of the JAAKO-POYRY report on  
Crown Forest Management in New Brunswick**

**For the Legislative Assembly on Crown Forests  
Select Committee for Wood Supply**

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## The Nepisiguit Salmon Association

Formed in 1976, the Nepisiguit Salmon Association (NSA) has a long and successful history of atlantic salmon enhancement in the rivers of Gloucester county, with its main focus on the Nepisiguit River. Without good habitat, this would have been impossible. High quality and adequate quantity of water are essential ingredients to such habitat and our aquatic resources, which means that healthy and well managed forests are likewise essential.

## The Jaakko Poyry Report

This report, following on the heels of the long awaited Protected Areas Strategy, decried by the forest industry as creating a crisis in wood supply, appears to be lacking in substance, full of broad brush statements not backed up by facts, and appears slanted to the extreme towards the wishes of the forest industry.

To be specific :

1. This report recommends a doubling of wood supply over the next fifty years as essential - mainly through hardwood elimination and softwood planting - in plantations and otherwise - this supposedly in order for operations to be economically viable and "provide more jobs".
  - a. Why not increase the added value of our timber resources through more secondary treatment as opposed to pumping out more and more raw material ? This would be of more real value to New Brunswick and Canadian citizens - the former is of more benefit to foreign multinationals. At present, the NB economy is far too much natural resource based, leaving it extremely vulnerable to world market fluctuations.

2.

The forest industry and its proponents continue to claim that 32% of Crown Forests are tied up in special management areas, unavailable for harvest. **These claims are simply not true.** Protected areas and ecological reserves, together **less than 10%**, are the only areas exempt from harvest. Included in the so called 32% are

- i.) Mature Coniferous Forest Habitat (old growth) - This is not any specific area, rather a floating designation which continually changes, and while making up 10% of crown land, is **ALL** available for harvest over time.
- ii.) Deer Wintering Areas - Again, over time, a considerable percentage of these are available for harvest. Indeed, such harvesting is a requirement for sound management.
- iii.) Buffer Zones - These are essential for the protection of our water and aquatic resources - and water for the very forest itself. Buffer zones protect the human resource, and as such, only very limited (selective only) harvesting should ever take place, with the main objective of maintaining a healthy buffer.

It would appear that this report considers anything other than being allowed to clearcut the same as being unavailable.

3. This report implies that NB forests are managed primarily for biodiversity, fish and wildlife to the detriment of wood supply. For anyone who has been involved over the past twenty five years, while there have been considerable improvements, brought out by the demands of citizens, the primary focus has been, and continues to be, the supply of wood fiber to the forest industry - to suggest otherwise is to ignore reality.

4. This report recommends less involvement by NB DNRE, both in management and inspection. It suggests the monitoring for compliance be replaced by industry employed, certified inspectors. Something like turning the chicken coop over to the fox for safe keeping ! Certification is basically "to meet the requirements of the proponent" in this case the forest industry - and who is expected to bite the hand which feeds them ? Not for long. Such is not in the best interests of the people of NB , the true owners of these forests, and is not acceptable. We insist that NB DNRE be the guardian of the peoples interests and being, if anything, even more involved in the responsible management of this resource. If we are in a crisis situation, it has been brought about by the poor management of industry in the past, when they exercised too much control.
5. Comparisons - This report compares NB with i.) Finland and ii.) Ontario.
  - i.) Finland - is a Boreal forest, New Brunswick is not. In addition, the facts speak for themselves - in Finland, old growth forest now comprises less than 5%, and it is decreasing, resulting in over 7% over their animal species now considered as endangered. What they have are monoculture tree farms with clearcut harvesting, greatly reducing biodiversity - this we definitely do NOT want.
  - ii.) Ontario - this province, with its vast northern forests with little population, cannot be compared in any way to NB. With our limited resources we need all of our forest managed not only for wood supply but also for natural diversity, fish and game.
6. This report recommends that NB be held accountable to the forestry companies if they do not meet their wood supply objectives - in other words the people could be forced to pay for industry mismanagement, natural disasters, whatever - ludicrous. This is completely beyond the control of government and is unacceptable.
7. In summation - All over the world, ecosystems have been negatively impacted by the "more fiber" objective. Fast growing species have been introduced where there existed inadequate water supply for such, drying up vast areas, with biodiversity the victim. What it comes down to is that the crown forests are owned by the people of NB and should be managed in their long term best interests - not necessarily in conflict with the forest industry, but neither exclusively in their best interests.

We must remember that only 50% of NB forest are crown owned, with vast private lands with few restrictions, this can have considerable impact , so we MUST do what we can to manage what there is some control on. The bottom line is that the people will no longer stand idly by and have their future threatened for the benefit of the few. There is no objection to increasing wood supply, but it must be carried out with biodiversity, fish and game being equally important.

We therefore urge the NB government to reject this report.