

## Dam problem

Your excellent — "The St. Lawrence: River in crisis," July 3, 4 and 5 — series on the demise of the St. Lawrence River omitted one important factor — nutrient starvation caused by too many hydroelectric reservoirs in the St. Lawrence Basin.

Decades of work by **Hans Neu**, a Department of Fisheries and Oceans scientist, show that in 1982, between one quarter and one third of the nutrient-rich runoff to the Gulf of St. Lawrence fishery was disrupted by dams.

There is a consensus among coastal scientists and engineers that excessive damming of rivers leads to the collapse of downstream **fish** stocks.

Reducing nutrient flow more than 25 per cent can permanently cripple fisheries.

Yet Hydro-Québec plans to build more such projects including Ste.-Marguerite 3, La Romaine, and Ashaupmushuan; Newfoundland plans to expand the Churchill Falls project.

These projects will further starve the Gulf of St. Lawrence fisheries of nutrients and will impede the recovery of the North Atlantic cod fishery.

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