or more. The St. Anthony subdistrict, on the barren tip of the peninsula, is overcutting for domestic firewood by about 35%, but foresters are developing plans with resident advisory committees to reduce that overcut each year by stricter regulations, lower permit limits, and trucking in fuelwood from nearby areas to sell.

Foresters defend their setting of the AAC by saying that they usually set it below the MSY, and that the figure is based on good inventory data collected using modern technology and supplemented by foot surveys. "Unlike the fish, you can count the trees," they say. "Trees can't swim away." Their university training engrained in them an aversion to unsustainable cutting, so they set their district's AAC conservatively. They say also that they are required by law not to overcut. They leave as much as 20% of the good timber standing now, they note, in the new environmental buffer zones around steams and ponds.

Foresters steadfastly defend logging as a good industry for the peninsula. "{Of all the industries in Canada} the forest industry is best suited to sustainable development... and this point has to be made clear to the public," wrote one district forester (Gibbons 1990:27).

In defending their enforcement of regulations, foresters point out that recent events have had a mixed effect on their effectiveness. New forestry legislation gives foresters ticketing authority, so infractions can be responded to immediately and swiftly instead of taking every miscreant to court. On the other hand, cutbacks in provincial and federal funding will limit their efforts at public education and enforcement. Though Forestry is one of the largest agencies of the provincial government and has the most field representatives, it is arguably still too small. As one ex-forester observed, "in Europe a forester may be responsible for 250 hectares; in Newfoundland it's more like 100,000 hectares."

Foresters defend clearcutting; they acknowledge that a cutover is not pretty but it is the cheapest way to remove timber and the best way to assure regeneration of healthy stands. "Clearcutting can be an environmentally sound harvesting practice" one wrote in a local newspaper column (Pilgrim 1994). The north's boreal forest of mostly balsam fir functions differently from the temperate zone forests of ancient Douglas fir in western Canada or even the Acadian zone forests in New Brunswick: it regenerates reliably as a nearly pure stand of fir. Newfoundland fir does not live as long as western Canadian fir: stands succumb to insect damage or rot after about one hundred years, blowing down and opening the land in a natural equivalent of clearcut. Clearcut lands re-seed themselves, unless slash is removed for chip fuel or skidders' tires tear up much ground. Foresters' policy is that after six years, if spontaneous regeneration has not progressed sufficiently, a re-planting is done; they do not have the funds to immediately re-plant all cutovers. Alternatives to clearcutting would require more forest access roads, degrade the genetics of the stands, slow regeneration, and cost more. After 1992, responding to residents' protests of clearcutting and its own policy shift from "timber supply management" to "sustainable forest management," northern foresters began to modify the clearcut practices. Clearcuts in 1996 are smaller and retain wildlife corridors. Stands of immature