



JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR



MELANIE LOYZIM  
ACTING COMMISSIONER

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Environmental Protection

FROM: Nick Livesay, Director, Bureau of Land Resources  
Beth Callahan, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Resources

RE: Staff Recommendation on Nordic Aquafarms, Inc.'s Site Location of  
Development Act and Natural Resources Protection Act Applications  
#L-28319-26-A-N/L-28319-TG-B-N/L-28319-4E-C-N/L-28319-L6-D-N/L-  
28319-TW-E-N

DATE: October 20, 2020

**Introduction.** On May 17, 2019, Nordic Aquafarms, Inc. (Nordic) filed a combined application for Site Location of Development Act (Site Law) and Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA) permits to construct a land-based, salmon aquaculture facility. The proposed facility would consist of a seawater access system, several buildings for fish production, a water treatment plant, an administrative office, and other associated structures and infrastructure.

On September 4, 2020, the Department staff's draft recommended decision on the combined Site Law and NRPA application was posted for public comment. The deadline for submission of comments was October 5, 2020.

**Discussion.** Staff of the Department have completed a review of all comments submitted on the draft recommended decision. Comments were related, among other topics, to title, right, or interest (TRI); financial capacity; technical ability; air quality; the alteration of wetlands and streams and associated compensation methods; impacts to marine fisheries; soil types; water usage; infiltration of groundwater and stormwater; buffer strips; the scope of the conditions in the draft decision; and the overall thoroughness of the application materials. Many of the comments reiterate positions or concerns previously raised by parties and members of the public during the public hearing process and in the course of the Board's review of Nordic's proposal. It should be noted that statements made by the applicant in written and oral testimony during the course of the hearing process become part of the proposal for the project.

The issues raised by the parties in their comments have been thoroughly considered by Department staff as reflected in the attached recommendation. The attached recommended Site Law and NRPA decision incorporates changes that were made in response to the comments received, as well as other edits to clarify the Order. For ease of review, the changes are shown in redline.

At the Board's upcoming meeting, staff will be prepared to answer questions about the recommended decision, including the revisions made to the September 4 draft following the comment period.