SECTION 7: Wildlife and Fisheries

Project Overview

The project proposes to construct an enclosed recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) facility in several key buildings, with adjunct facilities and equipment on the property. The site, encompassing 93 acres, has wetlands and a variety of land cover. In addition, the project will construct a seawater intake and outfall in the adjacent waterbody, Chandler Bay.

Wildlife and Fisheries Review Summary

Attached is a letter from Becca Settele and map from Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) assessing the presence of any essential or significant wildlife habitats on the subject parcel.

The letter concludes that there are no anticipated significant impacts to any of the eight-bat endangered, threatened, and special concern species. The Crowberry Blue butterfly was identified as a species of special concern that prefer coastal raised peatlands. Wetland JW2 contains a large peatland extending from Route 187 eastward through much of the interior of the wetland. The peatlands will not be impacted by this project; a minimum separation distance of 100 feet is maintained from the trailing peatland edge, with a separation distance of ~300 feet provided to the core peatland section's edge. There are no proposed impacts that would be deleterious to the Crowberry Blue butterfly habitat.

The letter also concludes that MDIFW Significant Wildlife Habitat maps indicate no known presence of Significant Vernal Pools in the project search area. Normandeau Associates, Inc. surveyed the site on May 6-8, 2019 for vernal pools and found one area of standing water in JW1, that contained four spotted salamander egg masses. Upon a return visit on May 20, 2019 a total of six spotted salamander egg masses were located in the pool. These observations are meaningfully less than the 20 spotted salamander egg masses required to meet the significance threshold. No vernal pool indicators were found in any of the other areas of standing water.

In summary, there are no identified or MDIFW mapped essential habitats or fish habitats that will be affected by the proposed construction of the enclosed recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) facility.

Appended to this section are the referenced letter and the state Beginning With Habitat mapping.



APPENDIX 7A

Maine Inland Fish and Wildlife Letter & Map Enclosure





STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE 284 STATE STREET 41 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA ME 04333-0041



December 14, 2020

Carole Gartley
Gartley & Dorsky
59 Union Street, Unit 1, P.O. Box 1031
Camden, ME 04843

RE: Information Request – Tax Map 8 Lots 23A & 23 Project, Jonesport

Dear Carole:

Per your request received on November 24, 2020, we have reviewed current Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) information for known locations of Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern species; designated Essential and Significant Wildlife Habitats; and inland fisheries habitat concerns within the vicinity of the *Tax Map 8 Lots 23A & 23 Project* in Jonesport. Note that as project details are lacking, and due to the general nature and scale of the map that was provided, our comments are non-specific and should be considered preliminary.

Our Department has not mapped any Essential Habitats that would be directly affected by your project.

Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species

<u>Bat Species</u> – Of the eight species of bats that occur in Maine, the three *Myotis* species are protected under Maine's Endangered Species Act (MESA) and are afforded special protection under 12 M.R.S §12801 - §12810. The three *Myotis* species include little brown bat (State Endangered), northern longeared bat (State Endangered), and eastern small-footed bat (State Threatened). The five remaining bat species are listed as Special Concern: big brown bat, red bat, hoary bat, silver-haired bat, and tri-colored bat. While a comprehensive statewide inventory for bats has not been completed, based on historical evidence it is likely that several of these species occur within the project area during migration and/or the breeding season. However, our Agency does not anticipate significant impacts to any of the bat species as a result of this project.

<u>Crowberry Blue</u> - The Crowberry Blue butterfly is a Species of Special Concern that prefers coastal raised peatlands with abundant black crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*). There is a documented population of this species in the peatland located in the northwest corner of this project parcel. We recommend a 250 foot no-development buffer around this black crowberry coastal bog to minimize impacts to this species. We encourage collaboration with our Department to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to this rare species should any development be proposed in this area of the parcel.

Significant Wildlife Habitat

PHONE: (207) 287-5254

<u>Significant Vernal Pools</u> - At this time, MDIFW Significant Wildlife Habitat maps indicate no known presence of Significant Vernal Pools in the project search area; however, a comprehensive statewide inventory for Significant Vernal Pools has not been completed. Therefore, we recommend that surveys for vernal pools be conducted within the project boundary by qualified wetland scientists prior to final

Letter to Carole Gartley, Gartley & Dorsky Comments RE: Tax Map 8 Lots 23A & 23 Project, Jonesport December 14, 2020

project design to determine whether there are Significant Vernal Pools present in the area. These surveys should extend up to 250 feet beyond the anticipated project footprint because of potential performance standard requirements for off-site Significant Vernal Pools, assuming such pools are located on land owned or controlled by the applicant. Once surveys are completed, survey forms should be submitted to our Agency for review well before to the submission of any necessary permits. Our Department will need to review and verify any vernal pool data prior to final determination of significance.

This consultation review has been conducted specifically for known MDIFW jurisdictional features and should not be interpreted as a comprehensive review for the presence of other regulated features that may occur in this area. Prior to the start of any future site disturbance we recommend additional consultation with the municipality, and other state resource agencies including the Maine Natural Areas Program, Maine Department of Marine Resources, and Maine Department of Environmental Protection in order to avoid unintended protected resource disturbance.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions regarding this information, or if I can be of any further assistance.

Best regards,

Becca Settele Wildlife Biologist

612000 614000 EmergentWetland Mudflat lwwh203258 Complex 4936000 **J**island Ballast Island Ledge Pobblestone Cove Ballast island Vatt Point Little Pond Beach ☐ Greenwood Cem Rhine Point lwwh20347 Crowberry Po nt Kelp Ledge Bay USGS 612000 614000 **Environmental Review of Fish and Wildlife Observations and Priority Habitats** Kingfish Maine, Jonesport Project Name: (Version 2) Miles Projection: UTM, NAD83, Zone 19N Maine Department of 0 0.1250.25 0.5 0.75 1 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Date: 12/14/2020 ProjectPoints Deer Winter Area Roseate Tern ProjectLines LUPC p-fw Piping Plover and Least Tern ProjectPolys Cooperative DWAs Aquatic ETSc - 2.5 mi review ProjectSearchAreas Seabird Nesting Islands Rare Mussels - 5 mi review Maine Cliff and Talus Areas Shorebird Areas Maine Heritage Fish Waters Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Arctic Charr Habitat 2008 Iwwh - Shoreland Zoning Redfin Pickerel and Swamp Darter Habitats - buffer100ft Tidal Waterfowl and Wading Bird Special Concern occupied habitats - 100ft buffer Significant Vernal Pools Wild Lake Trout Habitats **Environmental Review Polygons**

APPENDIX 7B

Beginning with Habitat Maps







