

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

I am writing to you because of my concern about the fish farm proposed by Nordic Aquafarms. For the last year I've been a participant in the group Upstream Watch.

Their focus is to verify the statements that Nordic has made at public meetings and to insure that guarantees made by Nordic are binding and made part of the DEP requirements in the permitting process.

In order to fact check, Upstream has hired an attorney, a hydrogeologist, a nationally acclaimed dam safety expert, a fish epidemiologist, a title searcher, a land surveyor, and other experts to verify information provided by Nordic and to testify at future hearings.

One of many examples of misinformation given by Nordic at the March 26 informational meeting that was researched by Upstream specialists:

- Nordic told the almost 200 people that the 'Right, Title, Interest' to the Bay from their proposed building site on the Belfast Waterworks property at Little River to the ocean was complete and accepted by Maine DEP. A call the next morning to the DEP permitting office revealed that the "Right, title and interest" issue was not resolved, and that DEP had received no new information at all from Nordic. In fact, no Nordic application was pending.

Nordic initially claimed their project was entirely in Belfast. In fact, Nordic will create its wastes in Belfast but discharge 7.7 million gallons of wastewater every day into Northport waters, not Belfast. Through the efforts of Upstream members, Nordic has finally acknowledged that Northport should be referenced in their applications. Even so, on their last application map filed on April 19, Northport is not shown, and the Northport property owners affected, including the Drinkwater school, are not depicted on the map.

I feel Bayside residents should be concerned about the Nordic proposal for several reasons:

- Size - Its fish factory will cover 35 acres, that is 8-9 times the size of the Matthews Bros. building, also on Perkins Road.
- Water for the fish will include salt water from the Bay and 1200 gallons per minute around the clock of fresh water from wells which Nordic admits will draw down wells by 10 feet, and another 650 gallons per minute from the Belfast Water District. If these sources are not adequate, they will draw down the Little River Reservoir. Nordic has not agreed to supply water to those whose wells go dry or suffer salt water intrusion from their pumping. Nordic will draw over 400 million gallons annually from a combination of these water sources.
- Wastewater discharge from the Nordic factory, though treated, should be a big concern for the Bayside community. The proposed end of the discharge pipe is less than a mile from Browns Head, the shore area just behind the school. The water quality of the discharge will add nitrogen to the Bay, will change the water temperature and will change the salinity in the area of the discharge. As many Bayside sailors will attest currents from Little River run along our shore. Nordic's modeling of the currents indicates that the 7.7 million gallons of wastewater discharged per day will take up to 14 days to exit the Bay, causing a permanent accumulation of 107.8 million gallons of wastewater off Northport's shore.

More information can be found online at <https://www.cityofbelfast.org/nordicaquafarms> and at www.baysidemaine.com,

Thank you,
Beverly Crofoot