

Feb 07, 2020

Maine Board of Environmental Protection

17 State House Station
28 Tyson Drive
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

Dear Board:

Re: Land Based Aquaculture Systems

Through the realization of various RAS projects proposed and in process, the state of Maine will see great benefit and socio-economic enhancement. The work done over the past decade by those involved in developing and optimizing RAS land based fish farming has proven the technology to be a viable way to produce healthy, nutritious and safe protein while reducing impacts on ocean ecosystems. These commercial projects proposed are a natural next step in establishing the necessary commercial supply of fish closer to the North American market. The USA imports over 130,000 metric tons of salmon each year. The current interest of RAS in Maine has the potential to supply more than 25% of that consumption by 2028.

Skretting has been an industry partner in RAS research and feed development conducted around the world, including in your state. Consistently, fish and in particular salmon have proven to be one of the most environmentally friendly ways of producing protein, requiring less freshwater and raw materials to produce than pork, beef or chicken. The Nordic, Whole Oceans Kingfish and other projects will be a tremendous addition to the food production industry in Maine and have a positive impact on the entire country.

I recommend your department approve the application for permitting for these RAS commercial proposals, and support the growth of this viable food production system. Increasing access to Maine grown, healthy and safe seafood benefits everyone.

Sincerely,



David A Seeley
General Manager Skretting North America East