

Dear Maine Environmental Department of Protection,

My name is Emerson Smith, and I own a home in Northport and am lucky enough to use the waters of Penobscot Bay. I am contacting you concerning the Nordic Aquafarms salmon factory being proposed in the town of Belfast on the Little River.

I have a number of concerns revolving around the effects on Penobscot Bay. I've read all literature submitted by Nordic and am not convinced that the necessary studies have been completed, to the degree necessary, to ensure that the pristine waters of Penobscot Bay stay that way. I am a licensed Naval Architect, and in my opinion, the flow analysis and modelling done to date are either insufficient or based on flawed assumptions.

It is my understanding that Maine's Climate Action Plan states that Maine cannot reach its carbon reduction goals with business-as-usual. Nordic Aquafarms is a business-as-usual factory farm. Here are a few examples of all it will require:

- the dumping of 7.7 million gallons of nitrogen rich effluent that will also contain unknown quantities of chemicals and drugs including antibiotics, pesticides and cleaning agents, as well as pathogens that will pass through the filtration system, every day into the Penobscot Bay where children swim, lobstermen fish, and the endangered Atlantic salmon and Shortnose sturgeon struggle to survive.
- the liquidation of a maturing, carbon sequestering forest, and wildlife habitat of Special Significance, carbon storing soils and wetlands of Special Significance, streams and drainages, critical shoreland wetlands,
 - a massive infrastructure with a huge carbon footprint (it will equal the size of Gillette Stadium, Fenway Park, and two TD Gardens),
 - eight diesel generators each with a 67 foot smokestack,
 - a cement plant,
 - alterations to Route 1 and at least 5 years of construction and
 - unknown amounts of noise and odor,
 - 1,250 gallons of fresh water a minute,
 - the use of so much electricity that the existing grid cannot sustain the demand which equals that of Belfast, Northport, Lincolnville, Camden, Rockport and Rockland combined.

I understand Belfast, like all towns, needs to receive revenue. However, the climate and extinction crisis demand that we move beyond the business-as-usual model proposed, and adopt innovative, creative technologies and systems that drastically lower greenhouse gas emissions, and protect the natural world. Protecting the Penobscot Bay from pollution and warming is critical.

Nordic's approach is an outdated model based on receiving a "license to pollute." Belfast, the State of Maine, and the world can no longer afford this approach.

It is my understanding that far better aquaculture systems exist that require significantly less energy, recycle all of their waste, and do not entail the antibiotics, pesticides and caustic cleaners Nordic requires. I am not against fish farms, job growth or sustainability. However, everything I have read

from Nordic seems to indicate that they are here for maximum profit with little to no care for the effect of the environment.

Maine should choose to support corporations using fully closed systems. This will bring good and lasting jobs and revenue to Maine. It will guarantee that local lobstering and fishing businesses, as well as small-scale aquaculture ventures, and recovering wild fish populations, are protected from pollution.

Fully closed systems are the future, and they represent a win-win-win for Maine. Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Emerson Smith