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November 19, 2018

Dan Webster
Bayside Picture of the Day

Dear Dan:

A few months ago you kindly printed in the POTD my notice to the Bayside community advising us to pay attention to the proposal by Nordic Aquafarms (NAF) to construct an industrial sized land based salmon farm on the Belfast side of the Little River just north of the dam.

As you know, I am not one to rush to judgment nor speak in hyperbole, but my concerns about the NAF plan have grown since that time, and I have come to believe that the salmon farm represents a potential existential threat to Bayside, including the quality of the water in the bay close to our shore, the enjoyment of our dock and the value of our properties.

The effluent pipe as planned will discharge about 1/4 mile from our dock over 7 million gallons of waste water daily in only 36 feet (low mean tide) depth of water.

NAF suggests that the cleanliness of their effluent and its dispersal into and dilution by the volume of seawater in the bay will avoid any significant problems with pollution or adverse effects on Northport or Islesboro. I am not so sure. If their effluent is so clean, why don't they just recycle and use it over and over again. Furthermore, I suspect their hired consultants don't actually understand the circulation (or lack thereof) of water in the bay.

So, Dan, I write to you again with the same hope that you will print in the POTD this letter as well as a copy of the following letter Martha and I recently wrote to one of the State regulatory agencies.

We hope that others in Bayside, Northport and Islesboro, including the NVC Board of Overseers and Town of Northport Selectmen will take heed.

Many thanks,

Sid

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October 27, 2018

Carol DiBello, Submerged Lands Coordinator
Submerged Lands Program, Bureau of Parks and Lands
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry
22 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: Nordic Aquafarms, Inc. proposal for intake and outflow pipes

Carol DiBello, Submerged Lands Coordinator
Submerged Lands Program, Bureau of Parks and Lands
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Dear Ms. DiBello:

The background for our comments is our understanding that the area and waters of Belfast Bay from which Nordic Aquafarms, Inc. (NAF) plans to draw its water from, and, more importantly, into which it plans to discharge its wastewater, is not as freely open to the whole of Penobscot Bay, much less the Gulf of Maine or the Atlantic Ocean as NAF suggests. It is NAF's contention that the rapid dilution of its waste water in the Bay will make its discharge environmentally safe.

Those, like ourselves, familiar with Belfast Bay, are aware that, because of the "barrier island" of Islesboro, the Bay is as much like a lake as it is an open sea. To understand this, one only has to watch a piece of driftwood floating in the Bay, meandering back and forth southeast and then northwest a few hundred yards for a few days with the changing tides and only slowly moving out to sea (or more likely, depending on the wind, ending up on some part of the shore). In fact, this is exactly what engineers hired by NAF demonstrated at a recent public hearing.

Our comments then follow:

1. The end of the discharge pipe lies in water that is too shallow and too far interior in the Bay to allow for effective dilution and dispersal of the contaminants contained in the volume of the wastewater NAF plans to discharge.
2. The outlet of the discharge pipe is too close to the inlet of the intake pipe. We suspect their own wastewater will be drawn back into their own system.
3. Because the NAF prediction of a rapid dispersal of its wastewater cannot occur in the Bay that is acting as a lake, we predict there will be a steady accumulation of contaminants in the Bay.
4. The outlet of the discharge pipe is not only in water that is too shallow, it is too close to the shore and the dock of the Village of Bayside from which swimming and boating is a popular activity, not only for those who live in the Village but also the entire population of Northport, Waldo County, and many out-of-state visitors who summer in Bayside and contribute to the economy of the area.

We therefore urge you to reject the application made by NAF

Thank you for taking our comments into consideration. Kindly acknowledge your receipt of our letter

Very sincerely yours,

Sidney and Martha Block