

Mr. Woods;

The following is my public comment on Waste Discharge License (WDL) / Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) Permit application submitted by Nordic Aquafarms, Inc.

My husband and I first came to mid-coast Maine in the fall of 2000. Driving the along the coast I was amazed at how much Camden had changed since I last visited the town in the late 1980s. We continued north and stopped for lunch in Belfast. Ahhh...we had finally found the Maine I remembered.

The following spring, we hunted for vacation rentals near Belfast and I came across a quaint, little village, a small section of Northport: Bayside. Spending a week, sometimes two, in cozy, little cottages in an idyllic, historical former campground, Bayside became our summer oasis after a draining academic year. When our two-year old son came along with us in 2011 we thought about buying property. Henry would be the indicator. If he liked Maine, we would start looking. So, we unpacked the car, I walked with Henry through Auditorium Park and down the stairs to the rocky beach at low-tide. Walking with him in my arms my Crocs filled with small stones. I set Henry down to clean my feet at which point he ran, stumbling face-first into the shallow water. "Oh no", I thought, "this is it, he's never going to go near the Bay again". But instead, he turned up to me, his face full of pebbles, and with the huge smile exclaimed, "Water!"

The summer of 2012 we were fortunate enough to be able to purchase some property within the village limits on Shore Road. We built our house and made a home. Summers in Bayside are as they have always been for almost a century. Tourists come and go, some stay for a week, others a month and almost all come back year after year. No longer arriving by steam ships but by SUVs, that's about all that has changed in Bayside. We lounge under the tree by Park Row. On the 4th of July the fire company creates a massive water slide and the kids scream in delight as they get covered in mud and wash off at the beach. The ritual passage of little kid into big kid comes by jumping off the Wharf at high tide. The Yacht Club sponsors pancake breakfasts and weekly dinners and the Mother of All Yard Sales in their little house on the edge of shore. Everything in Bayside revolves around the Bay. I cannot even image the community left behind if our kids can no longer jump of the Wharf due to algae blooms. Local Citizens for SMART Growth estimates the facility will discharge 1,600 pounds of nitrogen, 6-8 pounds of phosphorus and 380 pounds of solid waste daily. NAF once planned on installing a 1.5-mile pipe into the deep waters of the Bay but has now shrunk that length to 1/2 a mile. That would place the discharge right smack in the middle of the Bayside mooring area. NAF in its own Q&A section of their website is so purposely vague about the amount of lye and chlorine that will be pumped out into the Bay, the non-specifics are disturbing. The Bay's ecosystem is not built to withstand the 1.7 million gallons of waste water that could be dumped into it daily. What will this do to the marine life, plant life, and the already heat stressed lobsters? Waterways cannot be so drastically altered overnight and expect to bear the impact without catastrophic damage. According to The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution the rising water temperature of Penobscot Bay is already leading to more disease within the invertebrates population. Why on earth would we want to disturb their environment more? And finally, as possibly the largest land-based fish farm in the

world, five times larger than anything this company has attempted before, why do we want our little Bay and the surrounding towns to become a first-of-its-kind experiment of super-sized industry?

I have read in the latest estimates that the project will only bring 60 jobs to the area and most of those menial labor. Are the Bayside/Belfast tourist dollars' worth jeopardizing for another corporate profit, worse yet, an international company that has no stake in preserving the local economy and ecosystem? Specifically there are no promises of great returns for the Bayside community, rather NAF runs the risk of ruining it.

As a Northport summer resident and tax payer who plans to retire and move to the area full-time, I strongly urge you to require that proper environmental studies are done on the NAF project before approving any permit application. The NAF project needs to be slowed, at the very least, if not completely reconsidered, so that all residents who will be affected can gain a better understanding of how it might impact our way of life and the Bay that we love.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to make a public comment.

I hope my concerns will be thoughtfully considered.

Liz Lee  
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