



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE
284 STATE STREET
41 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA ME 04333-0041



March 11, 2019

Sarah Barnum
Normandeau Associates, Inc.
25 Nashua Road
Bedford, NH 03110

RE: Information Request – Nordic Aquafarms, Belfast

Dear Sarah:

Per your request received March 3, 2019, we have reviewed current Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) information for known locations of Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern species; designated Essential and Significant Wildlife Habitats; and inland fisheries habitat concerns within the vicinity of the *Nordic Aquafarms Project* in Belfast. For purposes of this review we are assuming tree clearing will be part of your project. Note that as project details are lacking, and due to the general nature and scale of the map that was provided, our comments are non-specific and should be considered preliminary.

Our Department has not mapped any Essential Habitats that would be directly affected by your project.

Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species

Bats

Of the eight species of bats that occur in Maine, the three *Myotis* species are protected under Maine's Endangered Species Act (MESA) and are afforded special protection under 12 M.R.S §12801 - §12810. The three *Myotis* species include little brown bat (State Endangered), northern long-eared bat (State Endangered), and eastern small-footed bat (State Threatened). The five remaining bat species are listed as Special Concern: big brown bat, red bat, hoary bat, silver-haired bat, and tri-colored bat.

While a comprehensive statewide inventory for bats has not been completed, based on historical evidence it is likely that several of these species occur within the project area during migration and/or the breeding season. We recommend that you contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service--Maine Fish and Wildlife Complex (Wende Mahaney, 207-902-1569) for further guidance, as the northern long-eared bat is also listed as a Threatened Species under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Otherwise, our Agency does not anticipate significant impacts to any of the bat species as a result of this project.

Significant Wildlife Habitat

Tidal Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitats

This search area includes Tidal Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat (TWWH), a Significant Wildlife Habitat under Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act. TWWHs provide important feeding and/or breeding habitat for diverse waterfowl and wading bird species. Birds utilize intertidal mudflats, eelgrass,

and mussel beds to forage for aquatic invertebrates, a primary food source, and maintaining natural tidal flow is essential to maintaining healthy intertidal areas and food sources to support waterfowl and wading bird species. We recommend you contact MDIFW Region B wildlife staff (207-287-5369) to discuss methods to limit impacts to these wildlife resources.

Significant Vernal Pools

At this time, MDIFW Significant Wildlife Habitat maps indicate no known presence of Significant Vernal Pools in the project search area; however, a comprehensive statewide inventory for Significant Vernal Pools has not been completed. Therefore, we recommend that surveys for vernal pools be conducted within the project boundary by qualified wetland scientists prior to final project design to determine whether there are Significant Vernal Pools present in the area. These surveys should extend up to 250 feet beyond the anticipated project footprint because of potential performance standard requirements for off-site Significant Vernal Pools, assuming such pools are located on land owned or controlled by the applicant. Once surveys are completed, survey forms should be submitted to our Agency for review well before to the submission of any necessary permits. Our Department will need to review and verify any vernal pool data prior to final determination of significance.

Fisheries Habitat

We recommend that a 100-foot undisturbed vegetated buffer be maintained along the reservoir. Buffers should be measured from the mean high water line at the edge of lake or the edge of any associated wetlands. Maintaining and enhancing buffers along water bodies that support coldwater fisheries is critical to the protection of water temperatures, water quality, natural inputs of coarse woody debris, and various forms of aquatic life necessary to support conditions required by many fish species as well as providing habitat for many terrestrial species. Construction Best Management Practices should be closely followed to avoid erosion, sedimentation, alteration of stream flow, and other impacts as eroding soils from construction activities can travel significant distances as well as transport other pollutants resulting in direct impacts to fish and fisheries habitat. In addition, we recommend that any necessary in-water work occur between July 15 and October 1.

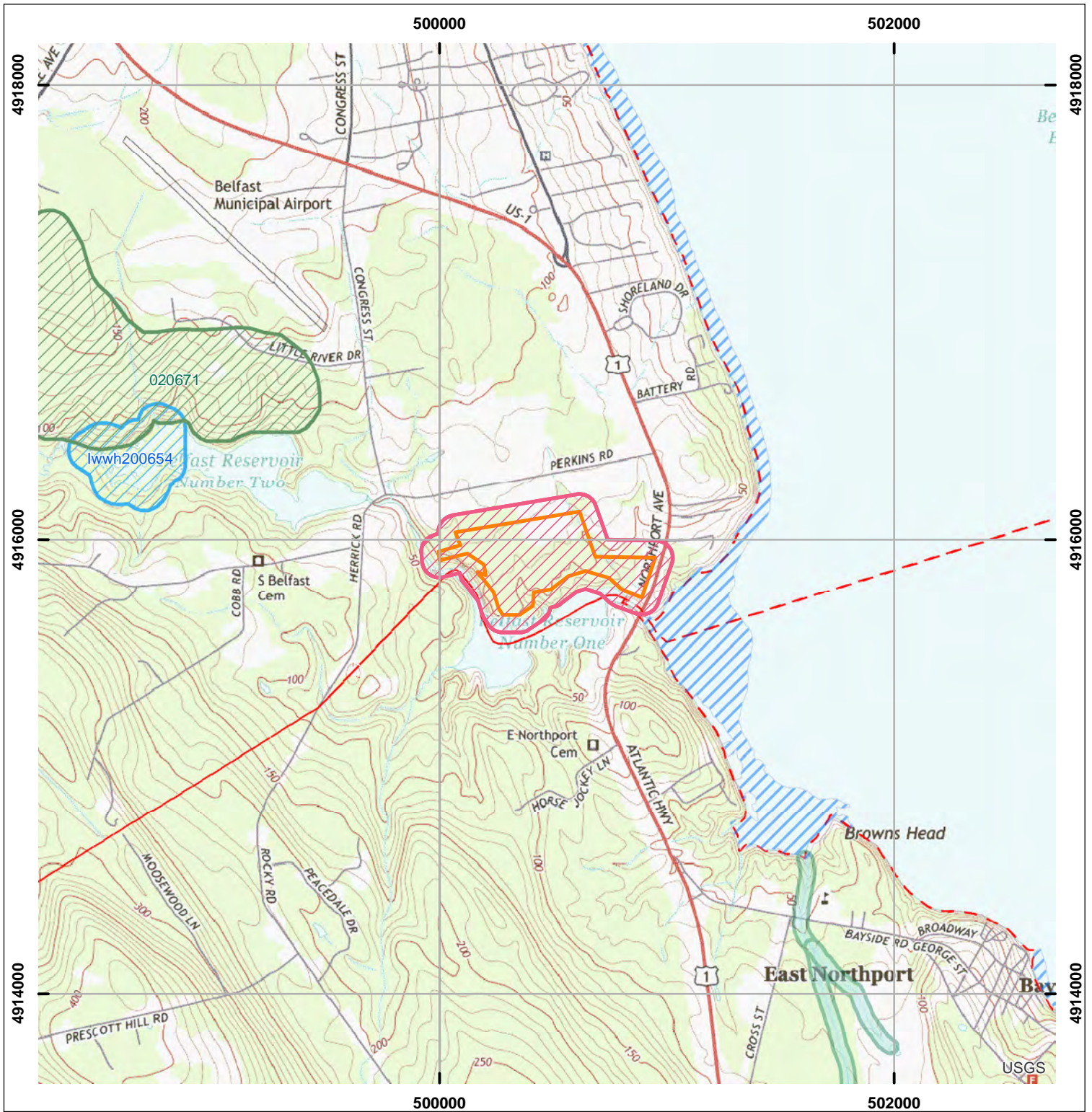
This consultation review has been conducted specifically for known MDIFW jurisdictional features and should not be interpreted as a comprehensive review for the presence of other regulated features that may occur in this area. Prior to the start of any future site disturbance we recommend additional consultation with the municipality, and other state resource agencies including the Maine Natural Areas Program and Maine Department of Environmental Protection in order to avoid unintended protected resource disturbance.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions regarding this information, or if I can be of any further assistance.

Best regards,



Becca Settele
Wildlife Biologist

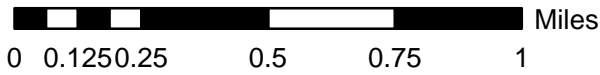


Environmental Review of Fish and Wildlife Observations and Priority Habitats

Project Name: Belfast, Nordic Aquafarms (Version 1)



Maine Department of
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife



Projection: UTM, NAD83, Zone 19N

Date: 3/6/2019

- ProjectPolys
- ProjectSearchAreas
- Deer Winter Area
- Inland Waterfowl/Wading Bird
- Tidal Waterfowl/Wading Bird
- Special Concern-occupied habitats(100ft buffer)

