

Burke, Ruth A

From: Guthrie <249highstreet@gmail.com>
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To: DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms
Subject: Input on Nordic Aquafarms

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Thank you for allowing our input. Many of us listened to the hearings later.

As a Belfast citizen I have felt very intimidated to speak out against the project because people that speak out have been ridiculed as well as publically called crazy, idiots, vandals, selfish, or NIBYies, and also fabricators, in the papers and on social media.

Mr. Heim also publically called a Belfast resident who questioned the project a "Trumper" and seemed to encouraged aggressive behavior on social media by his locally hired community members resulting in bullying and badly splitting our community.

But my real concerns are illustrated in the very recent scientific paper for a group of 14 heads of government, including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The report says, without a doubt that the largest potential gains for food production lie in the *sustainable expansion of marine aquaculture*. Here is an industry article on the report.

<https://seawestnews.com/growing-fish-on-land-not-such-a-good-idea-says-global-panel/>

Also, does it count that it is cruel to put wild, carnivorous animals in an unnatural environment forcing a diet of 70% soybeans? That percentage is according to the Norwegian Seafood Council. I googled it. At the fish farm in Bingham, Maine I saw workers lament on the news that the fish eat the eyes of each other because of the lacking diet.

Where can you get the cheapest soybean for profit-oriented fish food? Brazil. It that where Maine is going?

Finally, many of us in Belfast and all around Waldo County have been passionate about organic, local farming, for almost four decades.

Waldo County is home to Unity College, often called America's Environmental College, as well as home to the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association which produces one of the most well-known and visited natural farming fairs in the county. The Belfast Coop is an anchor in the Belfast downtown, as is the home of the Maine Farmland Trust.

Waldo County is actually world-famous for its return to sustainable agriculture and aquaculture as a direction to save our environment.

In fact, Waldo County is home to arguably the most famous farm-to-table restaurant in the world!

Below is the NYT article and video about The Lost Kitchen, in Freedom.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/01/dining/the-lost-kitchen-maine-erin-french.html>

<https://youtu.be/y5sqjeDy6vA>

Everything is connected. We still have hope.

Please deny the permits to NAF.

Thank you for your time and effort.

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