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From: Charlene Woodcock <charlene.woodcock@protonmail.ch>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 5:15 PM
To: DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms
Subject: Comments for the DEP and Belfast Planning Board

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Dear Elected and Appointed Representatives,

As a resident of coastal California, I've always felt a connection with the state of Maine and have driven the length of the Maine coast several times. I've also highly valued our natural world and its resources and systems from childhood. Human intervention in these systems has proved disastrous more often than not. Short term profit from natural resources has usually meant long-term loss: damage to watersheds, to the environment and ecosystems, and usually to the humans who live near these efforts at exploitation. California is threatened with the loss of our magnificent ancient salmon fishery due to late-coming water claims by industrial agriculture corporations that demand too much water out of our rivers once bountiful with salmon.

When I visited a friend in Belfast last summer, I was very disturbed to learn about the Nordic Aqua Farms proposal. The scale of the project is hugely inappropriate for this or any site near where people and wildlife live. At a time when humans MUST reduce our carbon footprint, this massive operation does exactly the reverse. It would replace carbon-sequestering forest, soil, and wetlands with carbon-producing infrastructure, with eight diesel generators at a time when we must cease our use of fossil fuels. When the necessity of protecting our water sources is obvious this project proposes a huge waste of fresh water and extravagant use of electricity.

Perhaps most offensive, it would dump this poisoned waste water, heavy with toxic chemicals, antibiotics, pesticides, into Penobscot Bay and thus threaten the health of fish, fishers, children, all who enjoy the Bay, and especially the native Atlantic salmon and Shortnose sturgeon.

It's impossible to conceive of sufficient benefit from such a project as could overbalance its many detriments.

Any such aquaculture project that is not based on a closed system, the recycling of water and waste, and elimination of pesticides and antibiotics, is an insult to the state and to the people of Belfast. No promised profits can serve the residents of Maine better than protecting local fisheries and the health of the Bay.

Sincerely,

Charlene M. Woodcock
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