



June 17, 2019

Carol Dibello
Submerged Lands Coordinator
Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry
Bureau of Parks & Lands
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Carol:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of Overseers of the Northport Village Corporation (NVC), the entity that governs the incorporated municipality of the Village of Bayside, within the Town of Northport and adjacent to the City of Belfast.

As I believe you know, the residents of Bayside have a keen interest in the application by Nordic Aquafarms to build and operate a land-based salmon farm in Belfast. Representatives of the NVC have reviewed the most recent applications for permits, filed by Nordic Aquafarms on May 24. We believe there are issues in these permits serious enough to warrant a public hearing. Such a hearing will allow Nordic Aquafarms to either deal directly with these issues to the satisfaction of the public and state officials or allow the latter to require additional information for the permit applications.

Among the issues that concern us:

- Bayside's waters, mooring field and public space are adjacent to the wastewater discharge outflow. We are concerned about not only the normal daily discharge impacts discussed, but also the long-term accumulative impacts at or near the discharge location.
- The application's environmental and operational assumptions do not take into account the potential for inclement or severe weather or climate conditions. Anywhere in Maine, and especially on Penobscot Bay, we are accustomed to ice, wind, rain, and wave events that wreak havoc on expected and traditional performance of man-made systems.
- There are a host of unanswered questions regarding topics such as the fish food that will be used at the salmon farm, including its origins and its effects upon the Penobscot Bay waters into which it will ultimately be deposited.
- The application does not appear to include any form of short- or long-term stress testing upon the proposed system, including the impact of a worst-case discharge.

The economic well-being of Maine's Midcoast, and especially the greater Belfast area, depends heavily on tourism and our clean, welcoming landscape and waters. As an elected body responsive to its local landowners, the NVC wants to ensure that these landscapes and waters are pristine for future generations.

To this point, the NVC has remained neutral on the Nordic Aquafarms proposal. We believe that a public hearing will allow state agencies, Nordic Aquafarms, and the public to speak to and vet the above and other concerns. A hearing may also require the proposal to be revised, to properly address the realities of such a large project on a particularly significant ecosystem.

Sincerely yours,

Northport Village Corporation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Spritz", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

John Spritz
President