

Burke, Ruth A

From: Brian Athorp <athorpbrian@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 6:03 PM
To: DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms
Subject: Belfast NAF RAS proposal

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Dear Maine DEP representative:

I wish to go on record as opposing the Nordic Acqua Farms proposal for Belfast. Many others in opposition have articulated multiple well-reasoned arguments, and I won't attempt to reiterate or summarize them here.

My view is that this project is experimental in scale, and as such, calls for a great risk to be taken with the resources of the Belfast community and Penobscot Bay, for an uncertain outcome, however rosy the predictions of NAF.

I suggest that the NAF project should be scaled down, at the least. A more prudent option would be to put a RAS project for Belfast on hold, until the Bucksport, Whole Oceans, project is up and running, so as to gauge the effects such endeavors have on the resource that Penobscot Bay represents.

I have watch with keen interest, the large efforts and expense over recent years, to improve the Penobscot River ecosystem's viability as habitat for sea-run fish species. I am very concerned that much work could be undone by plumes of effluent from such RAS operations polluting the Bay, and particularly the disturbance of mercury sediments left by another ill-conceived industrial endeavor which was sited upstream (Holtrachem).

Thank you for your consideration,

Brian Athorp, Dedham, Maine