

## Burke, Ruth A

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**From:** Block <[smblock@myfairpoint.net](mailto:smblock@myfairpoint.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 17, 2020 12:32 PM  
**To:** DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms  
**Subject:** FW: Final comments about the BEP hearings in Belfast regarding NAF

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February 16, 2020

Department of Environmental Protection  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: Final comments following the BEP Hearings in Belfast about the permit applications by Nordic Aquafarms, Inc.

Dear Members of the Maine State Department of Environmental Protection

I appreciated the way the BEP conducted last week's hearings in Belfast in a very civil and respectful manner. I am sure you gained an insight as to just how important the outcome of those and your prior hearings will be for our community. At the BEP hearings there were two points that really struck me as might be important to you:

1. One thing is certain: if permits are granted (even with the most stringent of later monitoring), once excavation and construction commence a significant mature forest, wildlife habitat and important ecosystem will be forever destroyed. There will be no future method effective restoration.
2. It was also clear that at least in some important ways, Nordic's research and models were not adequate. One example was the dearth of data on the dispersion and consequences of its effluent. Nordic should be required to present a much longer and in depth analysis, at least a year. I recognize this will set the project back, but think about how much longer and more seriously the bay will be set back if then predictable consequences might be prevented.

Finally, thank you for your public commitment and service.

Very sincerely yours,

