

Burke, Ruth A

From: Martin, Kevin
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 12:03 PM
To: William Leavenworth
Cc: DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms
Subject: RE: NAF and the ecosystem of upper Penobscot Bay

Thank you William.

I will add your comment to the record for consideration by the Board. Should you wish to submit additional testimony, the Board will also be taking testimony from members of the public at 6:00 Tuesday.

Kevin Martin
Compliance & Procedures Specialist
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
(207) 287-4305
kevin.martin@maine.gov

From: William Leavenworth <william.leavenworth@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 08, 2020 7:24 AM
To: Martin, Kevin <Kevin.Martin@maine.gov>
Subject: NAF and the ecosystem of upper Penobscot Bay

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Martin:

I wish to register my opposition to NAF's proposed salmon factory in Belfast, near the Northport line. I have a Ph.D. in environmental history, and I have a sailor's association with Penobscot Bay dating back to 1966. From 1977 through 1987, I sailed on the Bay nearly every day. From 1981 through 1987 I owned a day charter boat operating out of Camden, before returning to graduate school.

Here are some of the arguments against this project: First, it will disturb the bottom in a manner that may destroy the lobster fishery in the NW quarter, or even the western half of the bay. Second, the feed brought in may do irreparable harm to another section of the ocean, regardless of whence it comes--we're not talking about a mere million pounds of food. Moreover, if it comes from very distant waters, it may harbor a virus that would infect our littoral waters with a virgin soil epidemic. Furthermore, any such enterprise is always hostage to events far from our country. The chicken factory enterprise was destroyed by distant hostilities that drove the price of heating oil so high that the process was no longer profitable. This could easily happen again, leaving the Bay contaminated, and the mainland facilities with an even shorter life than the projected 35+/- years. The cost of removing the shoreside facilities when they become obsolete will certainly be in many millions of dollars--far more than the citizens of Belfast will have made in their hourly wages, or Belfast will have accumulated in taxes.

Moreover, the tributaries of the upper Bay, as well as the Penobscot River itself, currently harbor a wild salmon population in spawning season. I saw three salmon on a redd in the upper Passagassawaukeag back in

1985, and before deepwater seiners began exterminating the adults in the distant water phase of their maturation, that is, as recently as the early 20th century, thousands of wild salmon were taken every year in Penobscot Bay and its River. I have attached the data from the US Fish Commission records. Those were sustainable catches until the advent of deepwater seiners in Greenland waters, which killed the adults before they could return to their natal streams to spawn. You will notice that the income from those catches was distributed around the Bay, not sent to Norway.

Very truly yours,

Dr. William Burgess Leavenworth, Ph.D., retired environmental historian & mariner.