

## Burke, Ruth A

---

**From:** Maureen O'Keefe <maureentokeefe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020 11:39 AM  
**To:** DEP, Nordic Aqua Farms  
**Subject:** letter of opposition

**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.**

February 18, 2020

To the Bureau of Environmental Protection,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Nordic salmon farm proposal. I have observed that this issue has torn our small town apart; supporters and detractors have become polarized and intransigent. My daughter in law works for NOAA in Juneau, Alaska, and her very first question was, "Has there been an EPA study? (There is always an EPA study for big projects like this)". To my knowledge the answer is no. There should be one.

In the beginning this project was described as the "biggest fish farm in the world". Belfast is a very small town. We shouldn't have the biggest anything in the world. The scale is wrong. I object to the huge facility, desecration of a beautiful natural habitat, the obvious pollution of our bay, the tremendously overlarge facility, the gigantic use of our water resources, the certain wear and tear on our roads with trucks, as well as the possible odor and quality of air problems.

There have not been adequate tests and scientific studies made to assess the environmental impact, and damage. The only science we keep hearing is Nordic's science. Nordic is a big company whose primary mission is to make money. We cannot take their word on the environmental impact of their business, just as the tobacco companies could not give us reliable science about their products.

The pro Nordic group cites jobs, and lower taxes as main reasons for going ahead. The fifty jobs gained by the salmon farm could be traded off by many more lost as the town trades natural beauty and habitat for industrial detritus. We have a healthy downtown which thrives on cruise ships stopping regularly in the summer months. How many jobs will be

lost if our roads are destroyed by trucks, the air is challenged by the diesel fuel used for the building, the waters are devoid of lobsters and sea life? And it is not clear that there will be any tax relief at all.

Of course there will be damage to the bay. Dredging for the pipelines will disturb the ocean floor. When the fish are sick, antibiotics will be given and will be sent down those pipes as effluent. Farmed salmon are naturally gray; they have to be dyed red to have the salmon color that sells. Nordic says not to worry; everything will be okay. We can't take Nordic's word for it.

From what I can tell, concerns about odor, air quality, habitat disturbance, and disturbance/pollution of the bay have not been addressed adequately.

Nordic has given this project a "life" of 30 years.

What happens after that?

Sincerely,

Maureen O'Keefe

Northport, Maine

--

[Maureen Therese O'Keefe](mailto:Maureen.Theresa.O'Keefe@jeweledhorizons.com)  
[www.jeweledhorizons.com](http://www.jeweledhorizons.com)