



# NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Nordic Aquafarms, Belfast

## **Discharge permit application submitted; work on other permits continues**

As planned, we formally filed an application for a discharge permit with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on October 19. The Maine Pollution Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) wastewater discharge permit is the first of several local, state and federal permits we must obtain for our Belfast project.

As we noted previously, key components of the discharge are either below existing background levels in the bay, or reach background levels or lower within about 10 meters from the discharge pipe. Our discharge poses no harm to the bay, and we are proud to be setting a new environmental standard for the fish farming industry.

A fact sheet about the information in our permit application can be found [here](#) and the full application is available [here](#).

With the discharge permit application filed, we are continuing to work diligently on other important filings, such as Site Location of Development Act (SLODA) application and the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA) application. We hope to submit these two important permit applications right after the start of the new year.

For more information about some of the key permits we will need, check out our [Permitting Primer](#).

## **Gulf of Maine Research Institute says discharge impact will be “negligible”**

After reviewing the content of our discharge application, Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) President & CEO Don Perkins submitted a letter to Maine DEP in which he said: “Nordic Aquafarms has developed a thoughtfully engineered RAS production facility,” and that we are drawing on “Norwegian know-how and technology, Maine-based environmental engineering expertise, and Maine-based construction expertise...”

Speaking specifically to the discharge, he said: “The nutrient and temperature impact of facility discharge, as modeled, will have negligible impact when considered in the context of the tidal current and water volume characteristics of West Penobscot Bay and Belfast Bay,” adding that “Nordic has

developed a competent strategy to collect baseline ecosystem information against which to monitor impact from operations as they grow and evolve.”

GMRI is an independent, non-profit marine research organization whose mission is to pioneer collaborative solutions to global ocean challenges.



The highly-respected organization takes an interdisciplinary, ecosystem approach to understand and address challenges and opportunities related to marine stewardship and coastal community economic development.

In closing his letter to the DEP, Perkins said of Nordic Aquafarms: “we believe they offer Maine an extraordinary opportunity of a significant capital investment and a leadership role in the evolution of a responsible 21st century seafood economy.”

The GMRI letter, which was also sent to Belfast city officials, can be read [here](#).

### Meeting with Congresswoman Chellie Pingree

We are grateful to U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree of Maine’s First Congressional District for taking time out of her busy schedule to meet with us last Friday.



Erik Heim, Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, and Marianne Naess

Rep. Pingree’s district includes much of mid-coast Maine, and she is a leader in Congress on food and agricultural issues and food system reform. We were pleased to have the opportunity to show her our plans and talk about what the Belfast project means for Maine and the United States.

### Separating facts from fear

From day one we have been open and transparent, holding public information meetings, putting out this regular newsletter, meeting with citizens and stakeholder groups, and opening a storefront office in downtown Belfast. Still, there has been a lot of misinformation put out about our project over the last few months, all designed to create fear in the community.



We believe that the vast majority of Belfast residents support what we are trying to do and understand how our world-class land-based salmon farm will benefit the entire community. So, we decided it was time to respond to the fears that the minority are trying to incite by taking out an ad in *The Republican Journal* to set the record straight. Click the image, or see our ad in this week’s paper online [here](#).

### Fish food report discredited

A national special interest group that our opponents enlisted to help to fund the lawsuit against the City of Belfast recently circulated a “report” on fish food to the media in Maine. However, Dr. Ian Bricknell, a professor of aquaculture biology and founding director of the University of Maine’s Aquaculture Research Institute, quickly dismissed the study, telling the [Bangor Daily News](#) that it “was dubious at best and should really be disregarded.”

In our response, we noted that both the source and contributing author of this information are highly biased with an activist agenda, and in fact, the material submitted to the Bangor Daily News would never make it through a professional peer review.

In addition, many of claims made in the report are outdated and made against net-pen salmon production, not land-based farming. Activists are mixing the two together. Land-based farming solves many of the historical challenges associated with net pens, including high discharge, fish escapes, sea lice, threat to wild salmon, use of the public’s open ocean areas and more. We have no agenda against net-pen farming, but we do emphasize the many benefits of our land-based approach.

We have consistently stated that new and exciting developments are happening in the feed industry, so choosing our feed two years before production starts makes no sense given these developments.

This [article](#) from Salmon Business reinforces what we have been saying repeatedly in Maine: insect protein – a highly natural and highly efficient protein – is making its way into the feed industry. Insect production is extremely resource efficient and a natural diet for wild salmon. This is only one of many exciting developments in the feed industry.

These innovations are driven by a growing demand for fish feed internationally, and thus a need among feed producers to source increasingly more sustainable feed ingredients. We will be part of that effort, given our commitment to be an environmentally responsible and sustainable operation.

### **Veterinarian report confirms no disease in Nordic facilities**

Some have tried to raise fears about the possibility of disease at our Belfast fish farm by erroneously reporting that there have been outbreaks of disease at our facilities in Denmark. There have been none, as the letter below from an independent veterinarian makes very clear. Naturally occurring mortalities in the early hatching process is common in marine hatcheries and is a very different story than disease outbreaks.

Our state-of-the-art recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) in Maine will use the latest bio-security measures to greatly reduce disease risk. This will treat water coming in and out of the facility for bacteria, pathogens and parasites. Furthermore, as a land-based operation we do not need medication or chemicals to treat for sea lice.



## Sashimi Royal A/S & Maximus A/S

Nordre Strandvej 66  
7730 Hanstholm  
Denmark

Herning 18-10-2018

### Veterinary evaluation of Maximus A/S, 7755, Bedsted Thy and Sashimi Royal A/S, Nordre Strandvej, 7730 Hanstholm, Denmark

The facility Maximus A/S produces fish for on-growing at Sashimi Royal, Hanstholm, Denmark.

The survival rates at Maximus A/S are in the same range as other marine hatcheries, and mortality of weak and damaged larvae is not unusual. Survival is usually 10-20% of hatched eggs.

Maximus A/S has been checked by us, macro- and microscopely by DTU-VET (Danish official Laboratory for fish disease, also EU-reference Lab), and no virus was found.

Fish and larvae have been checked by us, macro- and microscopely, monthly since 14. December 2015, and no signs of disease, neither bacterial or parasitic infections has ever been detected.

At Sashimi Royal A/S, the fish has been continuously checked for diseases and parasites since the start of June 2017. Similar to Maximus no signs of diseases have been found that are attributable to bacteria, viruses or parasites.

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## More public meetings planned

With the submission of our discharge permit, and others soon to follow, we are pleased to announce a new series of public information meetings to answer questions and address any concerns that people may have.

The next round of meetings is tentatively scheduled for the dates below. We will provide confirmation and more information about times and locations as these dates get closer.

- Wednesday, November 28, 2018
- Monday, December 17, 2018
- Wednesday, January 16, 2019

### **Fredrikstad Seafoods in Norway close to start-up**

According to plan, Nordic Aquafarm's facility in Norway is now going into final testing before the insert of smolt. The photo below was taken before first water testing of tanks.



### **Please share our newsletter**

We encourage you to share our newsletter with friends and associates. They also can have it emailed directly to them each month by sending a request to: [ted@tedomearacommunications.com](mailto:ted@tedomearacommunications.com).

[Visit our website](#)

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