

## 8.0 HISTORIC SITES

Initial screening of the National Register of Historic Places and the Cultural Architectural Resource Management Archive for Maine did not identify any sites or structures that would be impacted by the development. Further consultation with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) and federally recognized Indian tribes in Maine began in June 2018 to identify possible historic sites, historic structures or archaeological sites that may be impacted by the development.

In September 2018 the MHPC was notified of a potential archaeological site located within the project area and the completion of a Phase I Archeological Survey was recommended. This survey was conducted in September 2018 by Northeast Archeology Research Center, Inc. (NE ARC), whose director is listed on the MHPC approved prehistoric archeologist list. The study included the excavation of 196 test pits along 27 sampling transects across the site and pipeline easement properties. According to the final “Nordic Aquafarms Development Project Archaeological Phase I Survey, MHPC# 0737-18” (**Appendix 32-A**) no archaeological sites were identified, and no additional archeological work was recommended. Following a review of this report by the MHPC staff archeologist, and a review of updated project details, in October 2018 the MHPC concluded in a set of letters that no historic or archaeological properties would be affected by the development (**Appendix 32-B**).

Initial and updated project plans were sent for consultation to the following federally recognized Indian tribes in Maine: the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation. An October 2018 response letter from the Penobscot Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (**Appendix 32-C**) stated that the project appears to have no impact on a structure or site of historic, architectural or archaeological significance to the Penobscot Nation. No other tribal responses have been received to date. Certified mail receipts documenting letter delivery to each tribe are presented in **Appendix 32-D**.

In summary, the proposed development will not adversely affect any historic sites, historic structures or archaeological sites.



**APPENDIX 32-A**

Nordic Aquafarms Development Project Archaeological Phase I Survey, MHPC# 0737-18



# Northeast Archaeology Research Center, Inc.

Maureen McGlone  
Ransom Consulting, Inc.  
400 Commercial Street  
Suite 404  
Portland, Maine 04101

October 4, 2018

**RE: Nordic Aquafarms Development Project Archaeological Phase I Survey, MHPC # 0737-18**

Dear Maureen:

We write to inform you of the completion of the archaeological phase I survey of the proposed Nordic Aquafarms Development Project, MHPC #0737-18, conducted by the Northeast Archaeology Research Center, Inc (NE ARC) on behalf of Ransom Consulting Engineers, Inc. and their client Nordic Aquafarms, Inc. The project involves development of an aquaculture facility on an approximately 45-acre parcel located at 285 Northport Avenue in Belfast, Waldo County, Maine (Figure 1). The project area is located primarily to the west of Route 1, on the north side of the Town of Belfast Reservoir Number One, which is formed by the impoundment of the Little River (Figure 2). The Little River is a short river which flows eastward from its source in Belmont, a total length of approximately 8.0 mi (12.9 km) to Belfast Bay. A limited area on the east side of Route 1 where discharge and intake lines from the facility proper to the ocean are proposed is also included in the project.

The goal of the archaeological phase I survey was to determine if archaeological sites of potential significance are located within the area of potential effect (APE) of the proposed project or to determine if such site area unlikely to be present. Significant archaeological sites are those that meet eligibility criteria for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The area is generally considered archaeologically sensitive based on its setting on landforms adjacent to the Little River at its outlet into Belfast Bay and the broader Penobscot Bay. Specifically, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) in their review of the project indicates that an archaeological site, as identified by a local collector, may be present in the project in the former agricultural field(s) that comprise a portion of the project area (see MHPC review letter, 9/6/2018). Little detailed information pertaining to the site is available.

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382 Fairbanks Rd / Farmington Maine 04938 / 207-860-4032 / 207-860-4031 fax  
[nearchaeology.com](http://nearchaeology.com)

NE ARC conducted the phase I survey between September 19 and 26, 2016. As detailed below the study included the excavation of 196 0.5 m x 0.5 m test pits along 27 sampling transects. No archaeological site(s) were identified, and it is considered unlikely that the project as planned will have an adverse effect on significant, NRHP eligible or other archaeological deposits; therefore, no additional archaeological work is recommended prior to commencement of the project.

### **Project Area Description and Archaeological Phase I Survey**

The majority of the roughly 45-acre project area is located to the west of U.S Route 1 and south of Perkins Road and is comprised of relatively high landforms above the Little River, which to the south is dammed, forming the Town of Belfast Water Reservoir Number 1 (Figure 2). The western margin of the area drops steeply to a non-inundated section of the river. The overall area is characterized by a series of four deeply incised southerly flowing drainages and is predominately wooded with areas recently and heavily logged (Figure 3). The northeast most area is an open, agricultural field (Figure 4). Archaeological testing within in this broad portion of the project included 147 test pits along 19 sampling transects (T1 to T14 and T23-T27). Test pits were placed at 10 m intervals, with some limited tighter 5.0 m interval testing in select locations (Figure 2). Test pits generally reached approximately 40 to 50 cm below ground surface with stratigraphy including an approximately 25 cm “Ap” horizon/plowzone directly overlying a basal “C” horizon within which all testing was terminated. Soils are fine sand and silt which increase in compactness with depth. Some developed soil was noted, and some test pits indicate disturbance related to the recent logging. Field observations match the soil classification for the area as predominately Boothbay silt loam which forms on marine terraces from a parent material of glacio-lacustrine and/or fine silty marine deposits (USDA 2018). No artifacts were recovered.

The eastern portion of the project (on the west side of Route 1) contains a church and the Water District facility, with currently undeveloped sections including two relatively high, fairly level elevated landforms separated by an unnamed drainage and overlooking Belfast Bay to the east (Figure 2). Testing in this location included 39 test pits along six sampling transects (T16 to T21) with test pits placed at 5.0 and/or 10 m sampling intervals (Figure 2). Stratigraphy is similar to that described above. No artifacts were recovered from this area.

The proposed discharge/intake lines as planned, extend from the east side of Route 1, approximately 80 m along a narrow linear landform to the shoreline, which is represented by a stone sea wall at this location (Figures 2, 5 and 6). Testing in this area included 10 test pits along a single sampling transect (T15) with pits placed at 5.0 m intervals along the length of the landform and route of the line.

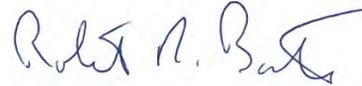
Stratigraphy indicates that the landform is disturbed or partially artificial with stratigraphy including an overburden deposits of sand/gravel directly measuring 15 to 35 cm in thickness overlying the natural “C” horizon of compact silt clay. Survey work in this area also included careful examination of the shoreline. No artifacts, shell middens or other evidence of Native American habitation was identified.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

NE ARC has completed an archaeological phase I survey of the proposed Nordic Aquafarms Development Project, MHPC #0737-18,) on behalf of Ransom Consulting Engineers, Inc. and their client Nordic Aquafarms, Inc. No Native American or significant historic period archaeological sites were newly identified, nor was there any evidence of the site reported by a local collector within the project area. Given these negative results, in light of the relative intensity of archaeological coverage, it is unlikely that significant NRHP eligible archaeological site(s) are present or will be adversely affected by construction of the project. Therefore, no additional archaeological work is recommended prior to commencement of the project.

Please call if you have any questions or comments and thank you for the opportunity to conduct this study.

Sincerely



Robert N. Bartone, M.A.  
Director, NE ARC

### **References**

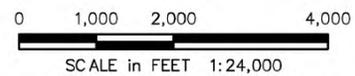
USDA  
2018 Web Soil Survey. Electronic Source, <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>. Accessed 2018.



TAKEN FROM U.S.G.S. 7.5 MINUTE BELFAST AND SEASPORT, MAINE-1976 (REVISED 1979).

CONTOUR INTERVAL IS 20 FEET

SITE COORDINATES: LATITUDE 44° 23'43.8"N  
LONGITUDE 68° 59'17.0"W



**RANSOM** Consulting Engineers and Scientists

*SITE LOCATION MAP*

PREPARED FOR:

NORDIC AQUAFARMS, INC.  
159 HIGH STREET  
PO BOX 283  
BELFAST, MAINE

SITE:

PROPOSED COMMERCIAL LAND-BASED  
AQUACULTURE FACILITY  
285 NORTHPORT AVENUE  
BELFAST, MAINE

PROJECT: 171.05027.008

FIGURE: 1

PM File: NAF-FT\_SLM.mxd

Figure 1. Topographic map showing the location and approximate boundaries of the proposed Nordic Aquafarms Development Project (MHPC# 0737-18), Belfast, Waldo County, Maine.



Figure 2. Aerial photograph with 2ft contours showing the approximate boundaries of the proposed Nordic Aquafarms Development Project (MHPC# 0737-18), Belfast, Waldo County, Maine. Note locations of archaeological phase I sampling transects.





Figure 3. General view south of crew excavating along archaeological phase I sampling Transect T6 within the proposed Nordic Aquafarms Development Project (MHPC# 0737-18), Belfast, Waldo County, Maine. Note recent logging activity.



Figure 4. General view west of crew excavating along archaeological phase I sampling Transect T1 within the proposed Nordic Aquafarms Development Project (MHPC# 0737-18), Belfast, Waldo County, Maine.



Figure 5. General view northwest of crew excavating along archaeological phase I sampling transect T15 in the area of the proposed discharge and intake lines within the proposed Nordic Aquafarms Development Project (MHPC# 0737-18), Belfast, Waldo County, Maine.



Figure 6. General view northeast of shoreline in the vicinity of the discharge and intake lines within the proposed Nordic Aquafarms Development Project (MHPC# 0737-18), Belfast, Waldo County, Maine. Note lines will meet shoreline at the break in the seawall.

**APPENDIX 32-B**

Copies of Maine Historic Preservation Commission Letters





MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
55 CAPITOL STREET  
65 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333

PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

KIRK F. MOHNEY  
DIRECTOR

October 1, 2018

Mr. Drew Fuchs  
Ransom Consulting, Inc.  
Pease International Tradeport  
112 Corporate Dr  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Project: MHPC# 0737-18 Nordic Aquafarms Inc; 285 Northport Ave & behind 271 Northport Ave  
Commercial Land-Base Aquaculture Facility  
Town: Belfast, ME

Dear Mr. Fuchs:

In response to your recent request, I have reviewed the information received September 25, 2018 to continue consultation on the above referenced projects in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

Based on the information submitted, I have concluded that there will be no above ground properties (architectural) affected by this proposed undertaking, as defined by Section 106.

We await the findings from the Phase 1 archaeological survey in order to conclude consultation and make the final finding determination.

Please contact Megan Rideout at (207) 287-2992 or [megan.m.rideout@maine.gov](mailto:megan.m.rideout@maine.gov) if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kirk F. Mohney  
State Historic Preservation Officer



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
55 CAPITOL STREET  
65 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333

PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

KIRK F. MOHNEY  
DIRECTOR

October 25, 2018

Ms. Maureen McGlone  
Ransom Consulting Inc.  
400 Commercial Street, Suite 404  
Portland, ME 04101

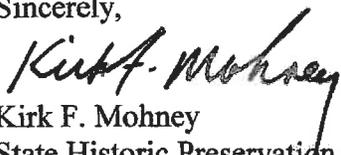
RE: Nordic Aquafarms development, Belfast (MHPC# 0730-18)

Dear Ms. McGlone:

My staff archaeologist, Dr. Arthur Spiess, has reviewed the end-of-fieldwork archaeological Phase I letter report for this project by Robert Bartone, NEARC, dated October 4, 2018. The report is acceptable as written, and we agree with the conclusions in the report (no archaeological sites present in the area of potential effect, including the proposed water pipeline route.

I find that there will be no historic or archaeological properties affected by the proposed Nordic Aquafarms project as designed.

Sincerely,

  
Kirk F. Mohney  
State Historic Preservation Officer

**APPENDIX 32-C**

Response Letter from the Penobscot Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer





PENOBSCOT NATION  
CULTURAL & HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
12 WABANAKI WAY, INDIAN ISLAND, ME 04468

CHRIS SOCKALEXIS – TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER  
E-MAIL: [chris.sockalexis@penobscotnation.org](mailto:chris.sockalexis@penobscotnation.org)

NAME	Drew Fuchs
ADDRESS	Ransom Consulting, Inc. Pease International Tradeport 112 Corporate Drive Portsmouth, NH 03801
OWNER'S NAME	Nordic Aquafarms, Inc.
TELEPHONE	(603) 436-1490
FAX	
EMAIL	drew.fuchs@ransomenv.com
PROJECT NAME	Project No. 171.05027.008 – Proposed Development Update – Commercial Land-Based Aquaculture Facility
PROJECT SITE	Belfast, ME
DATE OF REQUEST	October 2, 2018
DATE REVIEWED	October 22, 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project. This project appears to have no impact on a structure or site of historic, architectural or archaeological significance to the Penobscot Nation as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

If Native American cultural materials are encountered during the course of the project, please contact my office at (207) 817-7471. Thank you for consulting with the Penobscot Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office with this project.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Sockalexis".

Chris Sockalexis, THPO  
Penobscot Nation



**APPENDIX 32-D**

Certified Mail Receipts



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Total F	\$
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Street	Aroostook Band of Micmacs
City, State	7 Northern Road
PS Form	Presque Isle, ME 04769

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Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians  
*Street and* 88 Bell Road  
Littleton, ME 04730  
*City, State*

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Street and	Cultural and Historic Preservation Dept. 12 Wabanaki Way
City, State	Indian Island, ME 04468
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Street	Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians
City, St	Indian Township Reservation
PS Form	P.O. Box 301
	Princeton, ME 04668

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