

Comments for Harbor Committee Mtg. 10/24/19

Robyn Duffy <robynd10@yahoo.com>

Thu 10/24/2019 2:43 PM

To: Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

📎 1 attachments (125 KB)

Harbor Committee.docx;

Hello Mr. Marshall,

My comments are attached via a word document (which I would prefer you give to the members) and I have also pasted them here in the email.

Thank you - Robyn Duffy, Belfast.

10/24/2019

Dear Harbor Committee,

This week Lonely Planet (one of the world's largest publishers of travel books and apps) announced its top 10 regions to visit in the WORLD for 2020. Maine was NUMBER 4 with the mid-coast being highlighted. People come to Belfast for the scenic harbor, for locally caught seafood, and the overall "Maine" experience. When tourists find out that a fish farm as large as the one Nordic Aquafarms is promoting will be dumping its waste in the bay, they will find other places to visit. People will not want their children swimming or playing in the bay and many will boycott this area who find fish farms an assault on the idea of sustainability. Nordic Aquafarms may be good at "green washing" but people are smart.....they can see through the façade.

We should be very concerned about what this farm will do to the wildlife in the harbor and the bay. Are you aware that the report Nordic presented to the planning board on natural resources includes ZERO information on the effect of their intake pipe on ichthyoplankton. Here is a quote from that report,

"The significance of impact of early life stages at the intake cannot be accurately quantified, as no ichthyoplankton data were collected for this project."

And this statement, also from the report,

"After the facility begins operation of the intake, the only ongoing potential for loss of finfish due to project operations would be eggs and larvae."

And finally,

"Rainbow smelt serve as important forage for a wide variety of important predator species in the Gulf of Mine, which suggest that loss of individuals of this species could affect other species in the bay which use it as forage."

Wow! I would say that potential impact to eggs and larvae are pretty important to our bay as well as rainbow smelt. There are many more examples in the report. All species are interconnected and it would be foolish to assume that this fish farm will have no consequences. Preserving the diversity of wildlife instead of promoting large-scale monoculture (such as farmed raised salmon) should be the collective

goal. Our bay is just now recovering....please don't alter this by allowing this monstrosity of a project to go through.

Thank you for your time – Robyn Duffy, year round resident and homeowner in Belfast, ME.

FW: Comments Harbor committee hearing with Nordic Aquafarm

Kathy Pickering

Thu 10/24/2019 7:35 AM

To: Harbor Advisory Committee <HarborAdvisoryCommittee@cityofbelfast.org>; Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

FYI

Kathy

-----Original Message-----

From: schlueter.ERICA@gmail.com <schlueter.ERICA@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 8:25 PM

To: Kathy Pickering <harbormaster@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Comments Harbor committee hearing with Nordic Aquafarm

Dear Harbor Committee,

I don't know how a Shore Land Permit relates to the harbor so I hope my comments/concerns are relevant.

From Free Press December 6 2018 article on Nordic Aquafarms November 28 2018 community forum.

"One questioner asked why the company can't recycle the water rather than discharging it. Noyes said that isn't possible because, for biosecurity purposes, the company will isolate the fish from each other in various cohorts and grow units and then take all of the discharge water and solids to send to one centralized water treatment plant.

"So if you mix all that water, for biosecurity purposes you would not then want to send that back to those individual units," Noyes said. "You have then eliminated all the biosecurity barriers that you created by separating those units."

Noyes is NAF Chief Technology Officer.

Perhaps I'm not understanding something but it sounds like NAF would not want to recycle the treated water from their fish tanks after it's been treated by their treatment facility because if there is any faults in their system they risk contaminating their fish. If they are aware of a risk that might harm their fish, what about something accidentally getting into the harbor and the biosecurity of the harbor and potential risk to wild fish? I have heard there will be monitoring of the discharge and that the DEP would not let this facility have an adverse effect on the harbor. My understanding is the facility must run 24/7, if the facility gets approved and built and there is a detection of something not permitted or in quantities larger than permitted in the discharge would this facility actually be shut down until the problem is resolved? Which I imagine could lead to financial issues for the company. Or would NAF be fined and aloud to keep operations up and running while the problem is being solved?

Also (NAF) would be using lots (I don't have the quantities handy) of water pumped out of the harbor in addition to the fresh water they will be using. I recall hearing at one of the public information meetings, or read, that the discharge being pumped into the harbor from the proposed facility will be "cleaner"

then the water they are pumping out of the harbor. Over time would this facility slowly be cleaning/changing the biodiversity of the harbor and how might that effect the health and natural ecosystem of the harbor? How might this slow cleansing, and the additional gallons of fresh water, play out with the Gulf of Maine being the fastest warming body of water on the planet? ate there any studies (not a computer model) that could assure that in 10, 20, 30 years no harm to the natural biology of the harbor be caused by NAF use of the harbor and it's water? How many projects in the past are the cause of the many unforeseen environmental problems we have now? It seems Climate Change has us in a whole new game so perhaps best wait until new rules have been made then to keep playing the game with the old ones?

It is my understanding there will be some sort of wall around the discharge pipe. Aesthetically how might a wall change the current view of where the Little River empties into the harbor? How might a wall effect the water flow and habitat of things living in that area now?

How might any of this impact the fisherman, who currently depend on the Belfast harbor, in years to come and are already being faced with new issues of lobstering between whales getting caught in lines and lobsters heading North.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Erica Schlueter
Belfast

Meeting this Thursday

Amanda Cooney <holistichealingsmbs@gmail.com>

Wed 10/23/2019 9:24 AM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

I can not attend as I will be teaching but please keep our harbor safe! Its so beautiful and so many people love Belfast because of its vibe. This salmon farm will ruin our quaint little city! Our fishery will go down too and thats how my household survives!

Thank you for all you do!

Amanda Cooney

INHC, RYT-200

holistichealingsmbs@gmail.com

