

# ACADIA



Views from Acadia National Park, overlooking Frenchman Bay

## 66

Million pounds of salmon anticipated every year

## 4.1

billion gallons/day of untreated liquid effluent released into Frenchman Bay



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MAY 2021

## Fish Farm Threatens Frenchman Bay

**Acadia National Park** is a crown jewel of the Northeast, offering unparalleled visitor experiences, expansive vistas and unique coastal and terrestrial habitats where flora and fauna thrive. But a recent fish farm proposal right outside of Acadia in Frenchman Bay could devastate this popular national park for generations to come.

American Aquafarms, Inc., a Norwegian-owned fish farming company, has applied to lease 120 acres in Frenchman Bay to artificially raise 66 million pounds of salmon every year. A fish farm operation of this size and scale is cause for alarm and has never before been permitted by the United States.

American Aquafarms is proposing to install 30 floating, deep water fish pens in Frenchman Bay. These pens would discharge 4.1 billion gallons of untreated effluent into the bay every single day. Untreated effluent discharge would carry excess nitrogen, phosphorous, ammonium and other dissolved chemicals throughout the bay, degrading water quality, harming native fisheries and increasing risk for harmful algae blooms.

Endangered species and other marine life, like the neighboring eagle nests on Porcupine Island, would be periled by this development. Recreationalists and fisherman alike could lose access to the water.

Only 2,000 feet from Acadia, this large-scale industrial fish farm operation would also impair the park's air quality, awe-inspiring views, and dark night skies.<sup>1</sup> From Mount Desert Island to the Schoodic Peninsula to federally protected islands in Frenchman Bay, we simply cannot afford to sacrifice this pristine land and seascape that attracts roughly three million visitors every year.

Air pollution remains one of the most serious threats facing national parks, including Acadia, which is particularly susceptible to haze pollution. The Environmental Protection Agency has classified Acadia as a 'Class 1 Protected Area,' which requires federal and state agencies to prevent degraded visibility in the park that also impacts public health. But this proposal could violate federal and state air regulations, putting Acadia's air quality at risk.<sup>2</sup>

The fish farm in Frenchman Bay will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week with diesel-powered pumps and generators. Large ships running on highly polluting Bunker C Fuel will circumnavigate Acadia's Schoodic Peninsula twice a day to service the operation. The salmon will be processed at a carbon-polluting facility in Prospect Harbor, Maine with diesel-powered trucks distributing the final product to Boston and throughout the region.

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This excess pollution could violate EPA's air quality standards in Acadia and emitting more carbon emissions into the atmosphere, further driving the climate crisis. And with NASA documenting Gulf of Maine as warming roughly three times the global average, we cannot allow Maine's Department of Marine Resources to permit the salmon farm and transform one of America's most treasured land and seascapes into a carbon polluting, industrial size fish farm.<sup>3</sup>

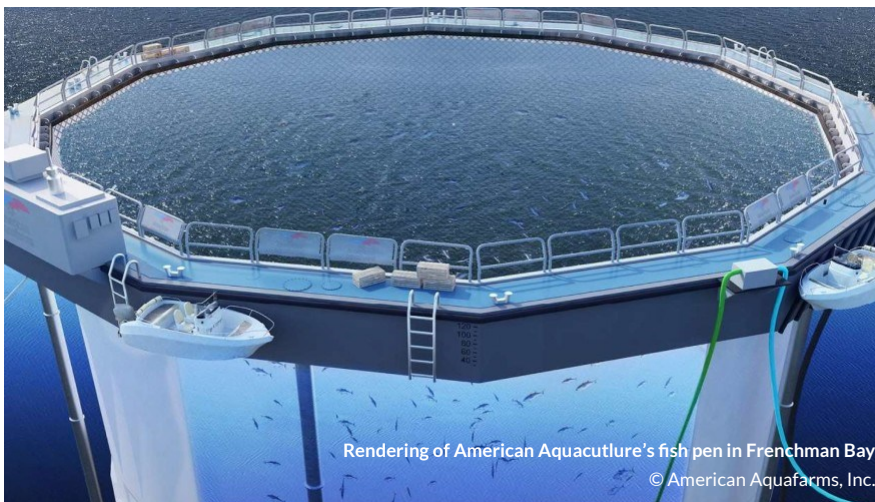
Crossbreeding could forever alter native Atlantic Salmon populations in Machias and Penobscot that many communities and indigenous people depend on for survival. Widespread disease and sea lice can lead to fish die-offs.

Other marine mammals such as harbor porpoises and harbor and grey seals would be impacted by the operation's high decibel levels of noise, impairing their sonar abilities to locate prey and mates. The Gulf of Maine could experience irreversible downfalls, greatly impacting thousands of local fisherman, lobsterman and aquaculture farmers who rely on Maine's coast for a living.

For years, National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) has been working to prevent harmful developments that threaten the scenic views, air and water quality, wildlife and historical values of America's national parks. **Join NPCA to reverse course on this devastating proposal. Urge the Army Corps of Engineers to complete a comprehensive review and Environmental Impact Statement prior to issuing Sec. 404 permits. Insist that Maine's Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Marine Resources reject American Aquafarm's water discharge permit and lease application.**

*"We have an incredible place here, it's a national treasure. [Frenchman Bay] is not an appropriate place to site industrial fish farms, especially as a speculative effort for people from other countries."*<sup>4</sup>

-Sarah Redmond, Owner of Springtide Seaweed, the first certified organic kelp farm in the US, located in Frenchman Bay.



Contact us at [lcosgrove@npca.org](mailto:lcosgrove@npca.org) to get involved.

1- <https://www.nps.gov/acad/learn/nature/night-skies.htm>

2- <https://www.npca.org/reports/regional-haze>

3- <https://climate.nasa.gov/news/2798/watery-heatwave-cooks-the-gulf-of-maine/>

4- <https://www.mainepublic.org/business-and-economy/2021-03-10/closed-pen-salmon-farms-proposed-for-frenchman-bay>

