



## Frenchman Bay United

frenchmanbayunited.org

### An update on the opposition to American Aquafarms

June 30, 2021

#### DMR-required scoping session limited public access; comments due by July 7

Just like the “public informational meeting” in May that was required by the Maine DEP, the “scoping session” on June 23 for American Aquafarms’ draft lease applications to the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) made a mockery of what was supposed to be a public meeting. Thanks to everyone who tried to participate.

Company officials and their consultants and attorneys spoke for an hour and forty minutes and then took questions from the public for two hours. Once again, the gallery function was turned off, so it was impossible to see how many people were attending or to view those called upon to ask questions despite several requests to DMR and the company to hold an open, transparent meeting. Acadia National Park officials, who had requested in advance an opportunity to speak at the meeting, were never called upon during the two hours of public comment.

Requests have been made to the Maine DMR to extend the comment period on the draft leases applications by 30 days and to force the company to hold another scoping session, this time in person now that COVID restrictions have been lifted. DMR has already rejected the idea of a second meeting.

In the meantime, as of now the **comment period is slated to close on July 7**, so please get your comments to DMR as soon as possible. Here is information with a link for electronic comments (strongly encouraged) and the mailing address:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=q6g\\_QX0gYkubzeojy-GTo5baXJyS1BDhjrTBf3wUT1UNUNRQzNPTDRTOUIxMfK5MkVFSUNKUk84OS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=q6g_QX0gYkubzeojy-GTo5baXJyS1BDhjrTBf3wUT1UNUNRQzNPTDRTOUIxMfK5MkVFSUNKUk84OS4u)

To submit comments via mail (submissions need to be postmarked on or before July 7, 2021):

Maine Department of Marine Resources

Attn: Aquaculture Division

21 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0021

To view the applicants draft proposals, please

visit: <https://www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/leases/draftstandardapps.html>

And, in making your comments, please keep in mind the criteria that DMR uses to evaluate lease applications. They are woefully inadequate for a large-scale industrial aquaculture project like this, but until changes can be made in the future, please try to speak to these issues.

A standard aquaculture lease must not unreasonably interfere with:

- The ingress and egress of riparian owners;
- Navigation;
- Fishing or other uses of the area;
- Other aquaculture uses;
- The ability of the site and surrounding areas to support ecologically significant flora and fauna; or
- The public use or enjoyment within 1,000 feet of beaches, parks, or docks owned by local, state, or federal governments or certain government-owned conserved land.

In addition:

- The applicant must demonstrate that there is an available source of organisms to be cultured for the lease site.
- The lease must not result in unreasonable impact from noise or light at the boundaries of the lease site, and it must comply with DMR rules to minimize the visual impact of the lease.

## **Frenchman Bay United launched**

Frenchman Bay United is a coalition of groups and individuals from around the bay and across the state who have come together to fight this irresponsible and destructive project that will destroy the bay we all love. Our website is now live at [www.frenchmanbayunited.org](http://www.frenchmanbayunited.org), and we are in the process of creating an official 501c3 non-profit entity to help support the cost of legal assistance and expert witnesses.

Visit our website our often for the latest information and please continue to support our founding partners:

Friends of Frenchman Bay <http://friendsoffrenchmanbay.org>

Friends of Eastern Bay [www.friendsofeasternbay.org](http://www.friendsofeasternbay.org)

Friends of Schoodic Peninsula [www.facebook.com/salmonproposal/](http://www.facebook.com/salmonproposal/)

Protect Maine's Fishing Heritage Foundation [www.protectmaine.com](http://www.protectmaine.com)

A list of our top reasons for opposing this project can be found here:

<https://www.frenchmanbayunited.org/stoppingtheproject>

## Bar Harbor lobstermen voice opposition; town council to seek intervenor status

All 26 lobstermen who fish out of Bar Harbor presented a statement of opposition to American Aquafarms at a recent town council meeting. In return, the council voted unanimously to seek intervenor status in the DMR lease application considerations. Efforts are underway to have lobstermen and women from the other harbors around the bay sign a similar statement. You can read more here: <https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/aquaculture/bar-harbor-maine-seeks-intervenor-status-on-american-aquafarms-salmon-farm>.

### Ways you can help

With the permitting process underway, there are many ways to help:

- ✓ Make sure you participate in all upcoming “scoping sessions” and public hearings.
- ✓ Provide written comments on all applications once they are filed.
- ✓ Write your state legislators, Governor Mills, Maine’s Congressional delegation and local selectmen. Your voice matters!
- ✓ Write letters to the editor of local and statewide newspapers.
- ✓ Talk to friends and neighbors.
- ✓ Follow us on social media and share with your networks.
- ✓ Consider making a donation to support this effort.

As a reminder, here are some of the key reasons why this project is bad for Maine and our bay:

It will **end the balance** that has existed for generations among the many users of the bay: the dozens of people who fish for lobsters, scallops and mussels; clammers; mussel, oyster and kelp farmers; year-round and seasonal residents; tourists and tourism businesses; researchers and educators; and recreational boaters. That balance and the health of the bay is now threatened.

It will take **prime fishing ground** from lobstermen and impact other fisheries, like scallops, shrimp and mussels. Every day, three large ships and many small boats will cut through fishing gear and pollute some of the cleanest water in Maine, the class SA waters off Schoodic Point.

This **industrial development has no place** in the waters off Acadia National Park, a key driver of Maine’s tourism economy and a crown jewel of the national park system.

The company will be using experimental semi-closed pens that have never been used on a scale this large anywhere in the world. They **could never build a project this large** or pack fish so densely in pens in their home country of Norway. So, why here?

There will be **water pollution** from 4.1 billion gallons of *untreated* effluent produced daily by fish waste and feed, more than [2000 times the 2MGD \[million gallons/day\] treated effluent from the Bar Harbor’s waste treatment plant](#), and incredibly, more than [three times the 1.3 billion gallons of treated discharge from the 14 sewage treatment plants that serve all of New York City](#).

There will be **air and noise pollution** from 40 diesel generators burning 3-4 million gallons of diesel fuel annually to power pumps and lights, plus **light pollution** at night from the 30 illuminated pens. A land-based incinerator will burn the sludge byproducts.

The likelihood of **fish escapes, die-offs and disease** that will impact other species and organisms.

## Key agencies

Maine Department of Marine Resources  
Patrick Keliher, Commissioner  
21 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0021  
[www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/index.html](http://www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/index.html)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Jay L. Clement, Senior Project Manager  
Maine Project Office  
442 Civic Center Drive, Suite 350  
Augusta Maine 04330  
[jay.l.clement@usace.army.mil](mailto:jay.l.clement@usace.army.mil)

Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
Melanie Loyzim, Commissioner  
17 State House Station  
28 Tyson Drive  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017  
[www.maine.gov/dep/contact/index.html](http://www.maine.gov/dep/contact/index.html)

## Governor and Congressional Delegation

Governor T. Janet Mills  
1 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
207-287-3531  
[www.maine.gov/governor/mills/contact](http://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/contact)

U.S Senator Susan Collins  
202 Harlow Street, Room 20100  
Bangor, ME 04401  
Main: (207) 945-0417  
[www.collins.senate.gov/contact](http://www.collins.senate.gov/contact)

U.S. Senator Angus King  
202 Harlow St., Suite 20350  
Bangor, ME 04401  
Phone: (207) 945-8000  
[www.king.senate.gov/contact](http://www.king.senate.gov/contact)

U.S. Rep. Jared Golden  
6 State Street, Suite 101  
Bangor, ME 04401  
(207) 249-7400  
<https://golden.house.gov/contact>

U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree  
2 Portland Fish Pier, Suite 304  
Portland, ME 04101  
(207) 774-5019  
[pingree.house.gov/contact/](http://pingree.house.gov/contact/)

## State Legislators who represent towns on the bay

Hancock County  
State Sen. Louis Luchini  
P.O. Box 1311  
Ellsworth, ME 04605  
(207) 664-4699  
[Louis.Luchini@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Louis.Luchini@legislature.maine.gov)

Gouldsboro, Hancock, Sorrento,  
Sullivan, Winter Harbor  
State Rep. William "Billy Bob" Faulkingham  
P.O. Box 121  
Winter Harbor, ME 04693  
Cell: (207) 460-6967  
[William.Faulkingham@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:William.Faulkingham@legislature.maine.gov)

Bar Harbor, Lamoine, Mt. Desert  
State Rep. Lynne Williams  
13 Albert Meadow  
Bar Harbor, ME 04609  
Cell: (207) 266-6327  
[Lynne.Williams@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Lynne.Williams@legislature.maine.gov)

Trenton  
Rep. Nicole Grohoski  
P.O. Box 1732  
Ellsworth, ME 04605  
Cell: (207) 358-8333  
[Nicole.Grohoski@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Nicole.Grohoski@legislature.maine.gov)

### Town governments

<http://www.barharbormaine.gov>  
<https://www.gouldsborotown.com>  
<http://www.hancockmaine.org>  
<http://www.lamoine-me.gov>  
<http://sorrentomaine.blogspot.com/p/town-office-info.html>  
<https://sullivanmaine.org>  
<https://www.trentonme.com>

### News media

*Bangor Daily News*  
<https://bangordailynews.com/submit/>

*Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram*  
<https://www.pressherald.com/reader-services/letters-editor/>

*The Ellsworth American*  
[news@ellsworthamerican.com](mailto:news@ellsworthamerican.com)  
(350-word limit for letters)

*Mount Desert Islander*  
[news@mdislander.com](mailto:news@mdislander.com)  
(350-word limit for letters; 500 for op-eds)