



Frenchman Bay United

Friends of Frenchman Bay (friendsoffrenchmanbay.org)
Friends of Schoodic Peninsula (facebook.com/salmonproposal)
Friends of Eastern Bay (friendsofeasternbay.org)
Protect Maine's Fishing Heritage Foundation (protectmaine.com)

American Aquafarms is proposing one of the world's largest industrial salmon farming operations in Frenchman Bay. This massive project is a grave threat to area jobs, the environment and our quality of life.

The company, backed by foreign money and led by a man convicted of defrauding investors in his home country of Norway, plans to raise 66 million pounds of salmon annually at two 60-acre lease sites in the bay (one off Bald Rock and the other off Long Porcupine Island) and a third land-based hatchery and processing facility in Prospect Harbor.

Each site will have fifteen 150' diameter pens using experimental technology that has never been used on this scale and will be supported by up to three large ships and many smaller boats making daily trips between Prospect Harbor and the pens.

Here is why you should be concerned:

1. **It will hurt the lobster fishery.** The dozens of men and women who fish the bay and contribute to Hancock County's \$128M lobster catch are deeply concerned about the loss of more than 120 acres of prime fishing ground and the water pollution and disease that will harm lobsters and other species and seriously impact their livelihoods. In addition, ship traffic will destroy gear or further reduce fishing ground.
2. **Industrial development has no place next to Acadia National Park.** Millions of people from all around the world visit Acadia National Park and Downeast Maine each year. This massive industrial fish farm, located right between the two sections of the Park on Mount Desert Island and the Schoodic Peninsula will destroy viewsheds and recreational activities associated with the Acadia experience. Furthermore, the daily ship traffic hauling diesel fuel and fish waste between Prospect Harbor and the salmon pens will pass right by Schoodic Point and many of the islands in the bay that are owned by the Park or protected by conservation easements.
3. **Massive water pollution will harm the bay's ecosystem.** The effluent from American Aquafarm's pens will degrade water quality and negatively impact the environment. The two sites will discharge **4.1 billion gallons** of untreated sewage a day -- **2000 times greater** than the amount of treated sewage from the Bar Harbor treatment plant and 3x the combined discharge from the 14 sewage plants serving all of New York City.

An additional 5.5 million gallons will be produced and discharged after squeezing and 'dewatering' fish feces and unused food. Moreover, while American Aquafarms claims there will be no antibiotics used to treat their fish, their application to the Maine DEP specifically leaves that option open with dosing volumes that could be very large considering the volume of fish.

4. **Air, noise and light pollution will harm the environment and quality of life.** Ten large generators (plus 30 back-up generators) will run continually to burn 4 million gallons of diesel annually, producing constant air and noise pollution, and lights from each pen will pierce the night sky. Steady truck traffic hauling fish, feed, fuel, sludge and liquid oxygen will overwhelm the local roads. All together the project has a huge carbon impact that runs completely counter to the Governor's climate action initiatives.
5. **They could not build this fish farm in their own country.** American Aquafarms wants to build this project here because their home country of Norway would never allow a development like this. Strict regulations there limit the size of fish farms and adverse impacts to water quality and ensure biosecurity and protections for working waterfronts. Unfortunately, Maine needs updated regulations to limit industrial scale fish farming in state waters and to assess cumulative impacts from multiple lease sites. Currently there is no funding to adequately oversee such large, complex installations
6. **Their proposed technology is totally unproven at this scale.** Because no one has ever attempted to build a project this size using experimental semi-closed pens, there is no data to allow informed decision-making about impacts to water quality and the bay's ecosystem. Their claims are based solely on hypothetical models. American Aquafarms hopes to validate their models *after* construction by ongoing monitoring. *That's far too risky.* Accurate data must be collected to validate their models *before* anything gets built
7. **The promise of good jobs is an empty one.** It seems that every developer with big plans holds out the promise of lots of new jobs, but they rarely deliver. This one will be no exception. Few of the benefits will flow to local workers and local communities as advertised. In contrast, many people from across all sectors of the local economy see a net loss of local jobs due to declines in fisheries, recreation, tourism, and hospitality that all depend on a pristine natural environment, historic views and the unique, high quality experience for which our region is famous
8. **It upsets the balance that has existed in Frenchman Bay for generations.** This industrial fish farm will destroy the balance that has existed for generations among the many users of the bay: the people who fish for lobsters, scallops and mussels; clambers and worm diggers; small-scale aquaculture entrepreneurs who grow mussels, oyster and kelp; year-round and seasonal residents; tourists and tourism-related businesses; research and educational institutions; and recreational boaters. State rules and regulations make it too easy for industrial fish farming projects like this one. We must balance the needs of all those who live, work and recreate on Maine's beautiful coast.

Help us stop this dangerous and destructive industrial fish farm!