Frenchman Bay United

FrenchmanBayUnited.org

A broad coalition of organizations and concerned citizens who have come together to protect the pristine waters of Frenchman Bay
Who is American Aquafarms?
Norwegian company. American in name only.

Mikael Roenes, CEO of American Aquafarms was convicted of defrauding investors

Norwegian investors with no significant aquaculture experience
What Are They Proposing?
Industrialization of Frenchman Bay

- One of the largest ocean salmon farms in North America.
- New technology, never tested or applied at this scale
- Project would not be allowed in Norway
- In Maine, there are fewer regulations on salmon farming, therefore much more profit
Industrialization of Frenchman Bay

- 30 150’ diameter pens = 90 football fields
- 10 500 kW generators operating 24 hrs/day
- 80,000 gallons of fuel stored at the lease site
- 50 – 200’ ships traveling back and forth from the lease site to Prospect Harbor
Two 60-acre lease sites placed in the heart of Acadia National Park
American Aquafarms plans to produce 66 million pounds per year from two 60-acre sites.

In 2019 Eastern Canada produced 133 million pounds from 216 sites.

50% of eastern Canada’s total production from just two sites.
Fact vs. Spin
The application says:

Every day these pens will discharge:

• 4.1 billion gallons of untreated waste, 3x all Manhattan’s treated waste

• 190,000 gallons of squeezed excrement or “solid waste”

• 2.5 tons of uneaten fish pellets
American Aquafarms claims:

• Pens are safe because they are “closed”
• Fish are disease-free
• 90% of solid waste is captured
30 Pens

- 150’ in diameter
- 125’ deep
- Contains 8M gallons of water - 12 olympic swimming pools
- Refilled every 83 minutes
4.1 Billion Gallons Untreated Waste every day

- 100% of the Urine
- 100% of the Dissolved Nitrogen from respiration
- 5-10K pounds of acetic acid / yr.
- 100% of any veterinary pharmaceuticals used to treat disease
90% of the Solid Waste

- 190,000 gal/day of fish excrement
- Including 2.5 tons/day of uneaten fish pellets.
Dilute and discharge to bay 209,000 gal/day of collected excrement and unused food

The Sludge Press

Dilute with 2.3 Million gal Seawater

190,000 gal/day Squeezed Goo

Semi-dry Excrement

Transport to shore
19,000 gal/day
2 Olympic pools/month

Dilute and discharge to bay
Inlets are near outlets:

- 40’ apart in the same pen
- 60’ apart from adjacent pens
American Aquafarms claims:

- Each pen is a separate bio habitat
- Prevent the spread of disease and escapes
- Veterinary pharmaceuticals and antibiotics will not be used
- Fish will be healthy because they are vaccinated as smolt
The disease reality:

- No vaccine. No cure.
- Requires depopulation of pens
- Spreads in the water and by contact with equipment
- Affects wild salmon, cod and char.
- Application allows the use of 8 different disinfectants/therapeutants
- No other salmon operations avoids use of these agents.

ISA Virus
The disease reality

- We know water will be exchanged between pens, transmitting disease
- Large discharges will occur into the bay
- We know that large, dense populations of animals are more likely to get sick

ISA Virus
Their application says:

• 10 500 kW generators operating 24 hrs/day
• 80,000 gallons of fuel stored at the lease site
• Extensive ship traffic
• Extensive truck traffic

Eco Friendly
Generators will produce 3-4% of the CO2 produced in Maine for all electric power generation.

Truck CO2 emissions may be 1-2% of the CO2 produced from all transportation in Maine.

3 to 4 million gallons of diesel fuel burned each year at the lease sites.
American Aquafarms claims:

Producing salmon closer to the American consumer reduces carbon footprint.
American Aquafarms wants you to think the lease sites will look like this:
This is more typical and realistic:
American Aquafarms has not said how much groundwater they plan to use.

Nordic Belfast uses 1.7 million gallons per day.

Enormous power required. Belfast needs 8 generators with 67 ft smoke stacks.
American Aquafarms claims:

At the shore facility, groundwater will be drawn from wells on the site.
The processing reality:

- Salmon food processing requires FDA approval
- On Aug 10, 2021, a Norwegian Seafood plant released 4000 gallons of chlorine into the adjacent bay
- 96,000 fish were killed.

American Aquafarms claims:

The shore facility will package and process fish providing jobs that will be good for the community.
Economic Reality:

- Will create 100 jobs – most minimum wage
- Will hurt fishing & tourism industry, crippling the local economy
- Potentially decrease real estate values
American Aquafarms claims:

This project is essential for growth of Maine’s economy
The tax reality:

- Reimbursement for all property and sales tax, and income taxes for 5 years
- And 50% of those amounts for the next 5 years
- Taxes paid by Mainers not American Aquafarms
- Profits will go to Norway

Pine Tree Tax Credits
American Aquafarms claims: They will provide “A reliable and significant contribution to the local tax base.”
What we know:

• Broad Opposition
• Impacts all Mainers
• They couldn’t do this in their backyard
• So they are putting it in our front yard
American Aquafarms claims:

Those opposing this project are just wealthy shorefront landowners.
Reasons to oppose American Aquafarms:

- Many regions are banning ocean farming
- Water, air, noise, and light pollution will permanently damage ecosystem
- Permanent loss of silence, darkness, views, and heritage
- Hurts the lobster & tourism industries
- Risk from unproven technology
- Promise of jobs is empty
- Industrial development has no place next to Acadia
What is Our Strategy?
Multi-pronged strategy:

- Member-based Maine non-profit is formed.
- Experienced legal advisors engaged
- Recruiting top scientific advisors
- Applying political pressure
- Support & signed petitions from the lobster and fishing community around the bay
Observations:

• Local issue with wide opposition

• Regional issue, yet decided on state and federal level

• If it can happen here, the whole Maine coast can be industrialized

• We need a broad coalition of individuals, organizations, businesses and government leaders

• You can help
What You Can Do
Join Frenchman Bay United
www.frenchmanbayunited.org
Ask DEP and DMR to:

- Consolidate all required permits – put all the cards on the table
- Require Public Hearings because: tech is novel, scale, regional impact
Write to Your:

- Town, State, Federal Elected Officials and ask them to Oppose this Project
- Governor: Tell her it’s not right for Maine and ask her to oppose the project.
Support Us

Make a gift:  
www.frenchmanbayunited.org

or

PO Box 37, Salisbury Cove ME 04672

Host a House Party