



Press Release

Nordic Aquafarms Inc
Portland, Maine
Media contact: Marianne Naess / +1 207 323 6733

Maine Board of Environmental Protection voted unanimously to approve Nordic Aquafarms' state permits. Important milestone also reached for Nordic Aquafarms' California project with submission of the last major permit application to Humboldt County.

- ***The Maine Board of Environmental Protection (BEP) voted unanimously to approve Nordic Aquafarms' state permit applications on November 19th, 2020. The following permits were approved:***
 - *NRPA (Natural Resources Protection Act),*
 - *SLODA (Site Location of Development Act),*
 - *MEPDES (Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System)*
 - *Minor Air Emissions permit*
- ***Nordic Aquafarms submitted the Coastal Development Permit application and the Initial Study for CEQA to Humboldt County on November 18th, 2020. Nordic has previously submitted the following applications:***
 - *NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) to The Regional Water Quality Control Board*
 - *Coastal Development Permit to the California Coastal Commission*

Maine

Nordic Aquafarms has gone through a thorough permit application process over the last 1.5 years and has finally obtained its state permits. *"We want thank the BEP and the DEP staff for their effort in assessing the applications. Nordic Aquafarms is comfortable with the permit conditions that have been included in the permits. Permitting RAS Aquaculture facilities of this scale is uncharted territory in Maine and Nordic Aquafarms strongly believes that strict regulations and conditions will ensure that land-based aquaculture can be safely developed in Maine both now and in the future. The BEP has set a precedence that will ensure that the Maine*

seafood industry will continue to represent the highest quality in the market.” says Erik Heim, President of Nordic Aquafarms Inc.

Nordic Aquafarms expects the city and federal permits to be resolved shortly and believes it has a strong case in the legal intertidal dispute. *“We are looking forward to conclusions on the outstanding issues and are ready to move forward with construction as soon as we are comfortable with the way forward”* says Marianne Naess, EVP Commercial Nordic Aquafarms Inc.

“I am thrilled that Nordic Aquafarms has reached this crucial milestone to bring large-scale recirculating aquaculture to Maine,” says University of New England President James Herbert. *“We look forward to continuing to partner with Nordic to advance aquaculture in Maine through research, education, and workforce development - training the next generation of scientists and specialists to work in this growing industry.”*

Professor at University of New England, Barry Costa-Pierce who testified in support of Nordic Aquafarms application said: *“I have followed this process from beginning to end with great interest since land-based recirculating aquaculture systems have been proposed for rural communities such as Belfast in many countries where I work. I'm very proud that these voices of opposition were heard in the “Maine way” and feel in the end they have strengthened the case for land-based recirculating aquaculture systems in rural areas where aquaculture is new and unfamiliar. This is just the first step on a grand road for Maine to become a global leader in aquaculture. It is great news that Nordic has come to us with the knowledge - and power - of ecological design, ecological engineering, and an innovative, sustainable aquaculture business development model that can be the template for a new route of rural development throughout the World.”*

“The BEP and the professional staff of the Department carefully reviewed Nordic's 2,000-page application during the past 18 months. They diligently addressed and answered every question raised by residents and intervenors. The public can have confidence that Maine's environment has been protected by this rigorous review,” says Philip Conkling, Founder of The Island Institute.

The project has enjoyed strong support both in Belfast and politically, but there has also been some vocal opposition to the project in Belfast. *“Nordic Aquafarms has always been willing to listen to opposing arguments and has gone to great length to address any issue that has come up. During this process though, there have been several attempts on discrediting both the science behind the application and the company. Nordic is encouraged that science prevails in this process,”* Naess says.

California

In Humboldt County, CA, the last permit application for the development of the site were submitted on November 18th, 2020. *“We have worked closely with both local and national vendors in developing the permit applications, and we are very satisfied that we reached this milestone on time despite challenges working out*

of different locations due to the current pandemic situation. Nordic Aquafarms local partners GHD and SHN have done a tremendous job in keeping the work on track” says Marianne Naess, EVP Commercial and in charge of the California Project.

The company has received strong local support and is looking forward to the processing of the permit applications/CEQA including the public hearing processes.

Nordic is also very encouraged by the engagement in the community and is especially satisfied with the collaboration on workforce development with College of the Redwoods. *“One of the reasons we chose Humboldt is the great community for future employees to live and work. With institutions like HSU and CR and their academic programs, we are confident that we will find most of our future employees in Humboldt,”* she says.