



P.O. Box 1633 ~ Blue Hill, ME ~ 04614
~ www.fobhb.org ~

December 2020

Hello Friends of Blue Hill Bay,

2020 has certainly been a year filled with many challenges, we hope you are all healthy and looking forward to when this can all be behind us. Restrictions and closings in the Blue Hill area have affected local business, normal social activities, as well as the Friends in-person annual meeting. This letter highlights some of the issues we continue to advocate for.

The Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) postponed several public hearings associated with aquaculture leases in Blue Hill Bay scheduled for this summer. FOBHB will participate in the lease renewal hearings for the Mussel Bound, Inc. site off Hardwood Island and the Cooke Aquaculture salmon farm off Black Island once the process resumes. Our concerns over their environmental impact continue and we are troubled by the State's arbitrary change from 10-year to 20-year aquaculture leases.

Another growing trend in Maine for the salmon farming industry is a shift to land-based facilities. Proposed sites include Belfast, Bucksport and recently in Gouldsboro. Simply moving the thousands of salmon to facilities ashore does not necessarily solve the risks of their environmental impact. FOBHB will stay on top of these proposals as they move forward.

The proposal to dredge an all-tides channel to the Blue Hill town dock continues to be debated. The Army Corps of Engineers has not yet presented their final proposal. However, concerns over the disposal of contaminated dredged material and the actual cost to the town present real challenges not yet resolved.

Looking to the future, the 2020 recipient of the Dottie Hayes Scholarship is George Stevens Academy graduate Wanda Gould of Blue Hill. She will be pursuing an Environmental Science degree at College of the Atlantic.

The Board thanks you for your continued support of our efforts. We also understand that this year there are other organizations that have needs more pressing than ours. However, if you feel you now have a little extra time and energy, we are looking for board members to help us as we move forward. Please contact Mike Fedosh at mike@fobhb.org.

Wishing you a Happy Holidays, and please stay safe.



Don Eley
Board President



Mike Fedosh
Administrator