

From: [Christopher Hamilton](#)
To: [Planning Clerk](#)
Subject: Planning Commission hearing for July 28, 2022 - Nordic Aquafarms California, Record Number PLN-2020-16698.
Date: Sunday, July 24, 2022 5:21:02 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Planning Commission Members:

Because factory-style fish farms employ toxic pesticides and pharmaceutical drugs, even GMO soy, in order to yield larger fish populations for food, I've grown increasingly wary of their impacts on our waters.

It's of particular concern that the toxins can significantly affect worker health in several ways through:

Drugs they use for pest and disease control; in crowded pens that multiply levels of harmful bacteria, those bacteria can develop resistance to antibiotics crucial for treating human diseases.

Factory farmed salmon turn pink because of dyes; some of those dyes may contribute to retinal damage and hyperactivity in children.

Chemicals factory farms use are likely to increase risks of cancer, reproductive and endocrine system problems.

However, in fish farms it's not only harmful to humans, but such toxics discharged from this facility will adversely affect wildlife in the sea, too; that effluent will go directly into habitat where juvenile salmon are swimming.

So I want to express my opposition to the proposed Nordic Aquafarms facility in Humboldt. Its plans to operate such a huge factory fish farm on the Samoa Peninsula require much deeper review. The County's Mitigated Negative Declaration concludes, amazingly, that no significant adverse environmental effects would be yielded by this facility. It appears from

documents that it may produce up to 60 million pounds of fish per year and discharge six million gallons of wastewater into our coastal waters daily.

Thus, I pray that the Commission will review this proposed facility more rigorously. I think there are so many environmental and social--even economic--impacts it will have. Please do all you can to prevent a land-based factory fish farm from harming Humboldt Bay's precious coastline.

I really don't believe that the mitigated negative declaration meets strict requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. The act aims to assure state residents that better long-term environmental protection goals will guide decisions coming from public agencies like yours. Please consider how large wastewater discharge from this facility may affect water quality, wildlife habitats, and infrastructure in the area.

Fish feed practices at these operations also rely on wild fish and land-based crops like soy, which, as I said, contain GMOs. But more importantly, factory fish farms must respond to bottom-line concerns, so increasing profits may diminish sustainability of the work there and the quality of products. Factory fish farms also risk the demise of wild fishing communities and any economic activities that are connected to them. They tend to depress fish prices and they also compete for limited space for marine life and fishing folk. We really must think more about these risks from a foreign-owned corporation that may well be less accountable to U.S. and Humboldt County interests.

I know that Humboldt County understands the value of California's coastline, which belongs to the people of California. I care deeply about the well-being of our ocean ecosystem, and I want our precious resources protected so our children and their children can enjoy them. Please do not take steps toward allowing this industrial fish farm. Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Hamilton