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Industrial Recirculating Aquaculture Operations are massively complex systems. So much so that Norway has placed a moratorium on any new land based system. Maine's DMR, IF&W and DEP currently struggle to complete the tasks they already have before them. They are not staffed or trained in this extremely fast evolving industry. Furthermore, the climate and extinction crises demand that we create and support highly efficient industries that do not use Maine's waters as dumping grounds for nutrient rich, waste waters that also contain numerous chemicals and viruses, or require enormous amounts of electricity and fresh water. The fact that Nordic Aquafarms CEO, Eric Heim left that corporation and is now proposing a small, closed loop system on a brownfield site, should raise very serious questions for all governmental officials concerning any current or future proposition for flow through systems. Closed loop systems are the best available technology and are the very least that Maine must demand. Finally, and of extreme importance, is the issue of fish feed. This is an mindbogglingly destructive industry that is literally taking fish out of the mouths of people who need it most in India, Latin America and Africa. These forage fish populations are also essential for marine ecosystem health. It's a toxic product containing known carcinogens. And, there are no real alternatives for carnivorous fish, despite the PR behind this industry. Maine must put on hold all forms of industrial aquaculture while it really learns about this industry and the many alternatives that could support our economy and the restoration and protection of our marine and fresh water environments. Good strong laws that protect the marine environment, our fishing communities and our coming generations will bring us the RIGHT corporations and discourage the destructive ones. Thank you for your time. Please take a moment to read this short piece on fish feed.
<https://www.upstreamwatch.org/post/8-things-big-aquadoesn-t-want-you-to-know-about-fish-feed>