



Frenchman Bay United
2022 Conservation Leadership Award

for leading the campaign in opposition to an industrial fish farm in Frenchman Bay that would pose a serious threat to the environment, surrounding communities, and fishing families

I'd like to invite Ted O'Meara and any other members of Frenchman Bay United to join me.

Frenchman Bay United, a nonprofit organization, is a broad coalition of groups and individuals that came together in 2020 to oppose the American Aquafarms proposal for an industrial fish farm in Frenchman Bay. This project poses a serious threat to the environment of the Bay, to surrounding communities and fishing families, and to the viewshed of Acadia National Park and neighboring conserved islands. When NRCM came out in opposition to the American Aquafarms project, we were asked by Frenchman Bay United to provide our advice on how to build awareness and opposition to this harmful project. We provided some guidance, but the incredible, heavy lift has been done by Frenchman Bay United. The coalition did an excellent job identifying and amplifying diverse voices that included conservation groups, business organizations, fishermen, scientists, and others. They successfully demonstrated the ecological, economic, and cultural harm the fish farm would cause. They produced several high-quality videos, helped orchestrate key events and activities including a 125-boat flotilla in the Bay protesting the project, and they persuaded several towns rimming Frenchman Bay to pass moratoriums on industrial aquaculture. In April this year, the Department of Marine Resources announced it was terminating American Aquafarm's lease applications, and subsequently the Department of Environmental Protection stopped processing the company's water discharge permits as well. Although the company has stated that it plans to resubmit a new application, Frenchman Bay United is continuing its work to stop this exploitive and risky project.

On behalf of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, it is my pleasure to present a 2022 Conservation Leadership Award to Frenchman Bay United—Ted O'Meara will be accepting the award on behalf of the coalition.

.