Center for Cooperative
Aquaculture Research

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

January 28, 2026
Town of Franklin Planning Board:
My name is Steve Eddy, and I am Director of the University of Maine Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research (CCAR) located at 33 Salmon Farm Road in Franklin. I am writing regarding the application by TC Gravel to conduct quarrying, blasting, and gravel-making operations on Lot #19, tax map 2, located approximately 0.75 miles from the CCAR and the adjacent USDA ARS National Cold Water Marine Aquaculture Center (NCWMAC).

The CCAR and the NCWMAC conduct breeding research on Atlantic salmon and other marine finfish to support aquaculture companies and conservation. The CCAR is currently hosting SalmoGen, a company that selectively breeds Atlantic salmon to produce eggs for commercial salmon farmers.

Finfish reproduction is highly sensitive to environmental factors such as light and temperature, and reproductive timing and output are adversely affected by stress. Stressors can include vibrations and water chemistry changes. We appreciate that the "Proposed Quarry Blasting and Groundwater Assessment," prepared by Haley Ward, recommends seismograph monitoring and water testing at the NCWMAC and CCAR to help address those concerns. However, the recommendations are voluntary and there is no language in Franklin's Quarrying Ordinance addressing mitigation if adverse effects to fish or groundwater are documented at the CCAR or NCWMAC due to quarrying activities.

Therefore, we respectfully request that, should the application be approved, it comes with the following special conditions:

1. Water testing and seismograph monitoring at the NCWMAC and CCAR are required as permit conditions.
2. Monitoring includes video to document any unusual fish behavior associated with blasting, such as leaping, agitated swimming, or collisions with tank walls.
3. Monitoring is required and documented for the first six blasting occasions.
4. Blasting operations shall be modified or suspended if adverse effects on fish behavior or groundwater wells that can be reasonably attributed to blasting are documented during the monitoring period.

The CCAR and the USDA NCWMAC support vital economic interests for the State of Maine, and we would be remiss to not take a pre-cautionary approach to this application. On January 27, I discussed the above matters with Stephen Salsbury of Herrick and Salsbury. We were in mutual agreement that the above four conditions were reasonable and could be coordinated between TC Gravel and the CCAR. My understanding is there will be a public hearing on this matter on Feb. 19, but since I am traveling on that date, I can't attend the hearing. Thank you for considering this letter and for your concern in addressing the TC Gravel application.

Sincerely,

Steve Eddy

Director, Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research steve.eddy@maine.edu