



New Brunswick

The problem:

New Brunswick has the greatest volume of salmon aquaculture production on the east coast, in either the U.S. or Canada. The industry is located in the Bay of Fundy. New Brunswick salmon rivers that empty into the Bay of Fundy are either listed as endangered under Species at Risk Act (SARA) or assessed as endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

New Brunswick has the longest history of Atlantic salmon aquaculture in Atlantic Canada, dating from the 1970s. It was the first to find sites needed moving due to site degradation. It was the first to experience a massive outbreak of ISA, in 1996, which resulted in the depopulation of 37 farm sites, led to bailouts and the imposition of bay management strategies to reduce future outbreaks.

Results:

Environmental Management

Criterion 2.1 – AVOID DAMAGE TO SEAFLOOR UNDER CAGES. NB partly meets goal. No robust modeling system is required to establish an Allowable Zone of Effects (AZE) or equivalent.

Criterion 2.2 – MAINTAIN WATER QUALITY AROUND SITE. NB does not meet standard. No requirement for dissolved oxygen monitoring in regulations or policy documents

Criterion 2.4 – AVOID DAMAGE TO CRITICAL HABITATS AND SENSITIVE SPECIES. NB fails to meet standard. Sites not excluded from all *High Conservation Value Areas*, particularly with regard to wild salmon

Protecting Wild Stocks

Criterion 3.1 – PROTECT WILD SALMON AND SEA TROUT. NB partly meets criterion. There is bay management to break disease cycle, but no maximum sea lice loads, and no reporting to public

Criterion 3.3 – PROHIBIT GENETICALLY MODIFIED SALMON. Meets standard. No transgenic salmonids approved for use in NB, or elsewhere in Canada.

Criterion 3.4 – PREVENT ESCAPES. NB partly meets standard. No maximum number of escapes for loss of license. Events not reported to public in timely fashion. NB Code of Containment most dated of all, lacking modern requirements and minimum auditing.

Parasite and Disease Management

Criterion 5.1 – MANAGE FISH HEALTH – NB partly meets criteria, but as for all regions, falls short in limiting viral disease mortality and requiring a reduction plan

Criterion 5.2 – DOCUMENTING THERAPEUTANT USE – NB meets criteria with comprehensive fish health program



Criterion 5.4 – AVOIDING DISEASE SPREAD TO WILD POPULTIONS – NB partly meets criteria, but public reporting is not prompt and aggressive culling is not explicitly required

Public Involvement

Criterion 7.1 – MEANINGFUL CONSULTATION AND COMPLAINT RESOLUTION - NB fails to meet criteria. The Aquaculture Act limits public information that would normally be available through the provincial access to information. There is no option to appeal to the Minister, only through the courts.

Criterion 7.2 – ABORIGINAL CONSULTATIONS – NB partly meets criteria, but unlike BC, does not have numerous protocol agreements.

OVERVIEW

Criterion	NB
Avoid Damage to Sea Floor	Part
Maintain Water Quality Around Site	No
Avoid Damage to Critical Habitat and Sensitive Species	No
Protect Wild Salmon and Sea Trout	Part
Prohibit Genetically Modified Salmon	Yes
Prevent Escapes	Part
Manage Fish Health	Part
Document Therapeutant Use	Yes
Avoiding Disease Spread to Wild Salmon	Part
Meaningful Consultation and Complaint Resolution	No
Aboriginal Consultations	Part

A Total Score of 45, against a perfect score of 100.

Why did the Partials turn from yellow to purple?

Conclusions and Recommendations

- New Brunswick is the lowest rated jurisdiction in achieving the standards associated with the ASC criteria
- See principal backgrounder for recommendations, both general and specific