



Maine

The problem:

Maine (U.S.A.) has a smaller salmon aquaculture presence on the east coast. For the most part, the sites are operated by a company that also operates in Canada. Maine's greater restrictions and more stringent requirements for some aspects of aquaculture demonstrate the ability of Canadian companies to meet higher standards. Wild Atlantic salmon populations in Maine remain at critically low levels. In 2000 the salmon runs in seven rivers were declared endangered, and in 2009 this was expanded to include salmon in the Penobscot, Kennebec and Androscoggin.

Results:

Environmental Management

Criterion 2.1 – AVOID DAMAGE TO SEAFLOOR UNDER CAGES. ME partly meets goal.

Operators self-monitor from July to Nov. with peak biomass, and Dept. staff review all sites every year for sulfide and dissolved oxygen. High sulfide sites are closely monitored, and results may trigger re-stocking restrictions.

Criterion 2.2 – MAINTAIN WATER QUALITY AROUND SITE. ME partly meets standard.

Operators test dissolved oxygen on two occasions at least during production cycle..

Criterion 2.4 – AVOID DAMAGE TO CRITICAL HABITATS AND SENSITIVE SPECIES. ME does not meet standard. Sites have not been specifically excluded from High Conservation Value Areas (HCVAs), particularly with respect to wild salmon, but operators subject to the National Endangered Species Act.

Protecting Wild Stocks

Criterion 3.1 – PROTECT WILD SALMON AND SEA TROUT. ME partly meets criterion.

Through an industry agreement there is bay management, plus a Fish Health and Biosecurity Plan for each site/operator. Sea lice testing is frequent, but findings not posted publicly.

Criterion 3.3 – PROHIBIT GENETICALLY MODIFIED SALMON. Meets standard. Transgenic organisms regulated under the U.S. Food and Drug Act, and none currently approved for marine finfish aquaculture.

Criterion 3.4 – PREVENT ESCAPES. ME partly meets standard. The State has an advanced protocol for uniquely marking fish at each site so they can be traced in the event of an escape. The general permit for finfish aquaculture also requires a Containment Management System with design, monitoring, and audit provisions to avoid escapes. Only escapes of over 50 fish greater than 2kg in weight must be reported.

Parasite and Disease Management

Criterion 5.1 – MANAGE FISH HEALTH – ME partly meets criteria. Maine has developed a *Finfish Aquaculture Monitoring Program* to guide operators and government staff in their monitoring and reporting requirements. Sea lice testing occurs frequently, but the findings are not posted publicly.

Criterion 5.2 – DOCUMENTING THERAPEUTANT USE – ME meets criteria with its *Finfish Aquaculture Monitoring Program* to guide operators and gov't staff in their monitoring and reporting requirements. Sea lice testing frequent, but findings not posted publicly.



Criterion 5.4 – AVOIDING DISEASE SPREAD TO WILD POPULATIONS – ME partly meets criteria, with their *Finfish Aquaculture Monitoring Program* guiding operators and gov't staff. Sea lice testing occurs frequently, but the findings are not posted publicly.

Public Involvement

Criterion 7.1 – MEANINGFUL CONSULTATION AND COMPLAINT RESOLUTION - ME meets criteria. Maine has provisions for a pre-application scoping session (open format) and a post application hearing (adjudicative proceeding). Riparian landowners within 1000 feet or that have requested to be on a notification list are notified by the Department. A press release is also issued at least 10 days before public sessions. Anyone can submit for intervenor status by describing how the proposed aquaculture will substantially and directly affect them, and the Commissioner determines whether full or limited intervenor status is granted. A file (registry) for applications is open for the public to review all documentation and correspondence. A lease renewal application may also be subject to a hearing if requested by five or more individuals. The considerations and conditions that must be incorporated are comprehensive including impacts on riparian owners and cumulative effects. Decisions must be made in writing and must include findings of fact and conclusions of law. The Department of Marine Resources Commissioner decisions are final, but appeals are possible within the Department and to the courts.

Criterion 7.2 – ABORIGINAL CONSULTATIONS – ME partly meets criteria. The Pleasant Point Tribal Government (Passamaquoddy at Sipayik) does not appear to have involvement in Maine aquaculture, so the potential for protocol agreements is not evaluated.

OVERVIEW

Criterion	Maine
Avoid Damage to Sea Floor	Part
Maintain Water Quality Around Site	Part
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	Yes
Aboriginal Consultations	Part

Maine achieved a score of 59 out of a possible 100.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Maine is the fourth highest rated jurisdiction in achieving the standards associated with the ASC criteria.
- See principal backgrounder for recommendations, both general and specific