



## Nova Scotia

### The problem:

Nova Scotia maintained a moratorium on salmon aquaculture development while the province considered new regulatory approaches. Finalizing these regulations will likely put in motion some substantial salmon aquaculture developments. Implementing strong protections for wild Atlantic salmon as part of this regulatory process will have bearing on recovery efforts for wild salmon along most of the province's coastline that are either listed as endangered under the Species at Risk Act (SARA) or assessed as endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

### Results:

#### Environmental Management

**Criterion 2.1 – AVOID DAMAGE TO SEAFLOOR UNDER CAGES.** NS partly meets goal. No robust modeling system is required to establish an Allowable Zone of Effects (AZE) of 30m or equivalent.

**Criterion 2.2 – MAINTAIN WATER QUALITY AROUND SITE.** NS does not meet standard. No requirements for dissolved oxygen monitoring appear in regulations or policy documents.

**Criterion 2.4 – AVOID DAMAGE TO CRITICAL HABITATS AND SENSITIVE SPECIES.** NS partly meets standard. "Green zones" are being created, but sites have not been specifically excluded from HCVAs (i.e. no "Red zones"), although sustainability of wild salmon is a required consideration in siting decisions.

#### Protecting Wild Stocks

**Criterion 3.1 – PROTECT WILD SALMON AND SEA TROUT.** NS 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 NS, or elsewhere in Canada.

**Criterion 3.4 – PREVENT ESCAPES.** NS partly meets standard. No maximum number of escapes for loss of license. Site specific events not reported to public in timely fashion. NS Code of Containment newest among jurisdictions, with modern requirements, availability of information open to the public on request, and annual reporting to the province.

#### Parasite and Disease Management

**Criterion 5.1 – MANAGE FISH HEALTH** – NS partly meets criteria, including coordination among growers on coordinating treatment. But as for all regions, falls short in limiting viral disease mortality and requiring a reduction plan.

**Criterion 5.2 – DOCUMENTING THERAPEUTIC USE** – NS meets criteria with comprehensive fish health program

**Criterion 5.4 – AVOIDING DISEASE SPREAD TO WILD POPULATIONS** – NS partly meets criteria, with up-to-date biosecurity, emergency measures and culling ordered by Province. Still, public reporting is not prompt and aggressive culling is not explicitly required.



## Public Involvement

**Criterion 7.1 – MEANINGFUL CONSULTATION AND COMPLAINT RESOLUTION** - NS partly meets criteria. The Minister is required to notify members of the public “as soon as reasonably possible” when a proponent is seeking an option to lease. Then a scoping process includes one mandatory public information meeting, but all other scoping elements are determined by the Minister. There is no mention of public access to application information, scoping session summary, or development plan. It is not clear whether the public will be granted intervener status at adjudicative hearings, or whether the public can submit information, but decisions (with reasons) made by Review Boards and Administrators must be posted on the Department website. Finally, the Minister may establish Aquaculture Development Areas (ADAs) for which no option to lease is required therefore no public process is triggered. There is no clear outline for establishment of ADAs other than requirements for provincial and federal government input. Most information about aquaculture regulation is not required to be released, only at the Minister’s discretion. Appeals are made to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, considered a major barrier to moving public grievances forward.

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

## OVERVIEW

Criterion	NS
Avoid Damage to Sea Floor	Yes
Maintain Water Quality Around Site	No
Avoid Damage to Critical Habitat and Sensitive Species	Yes
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	Part
Aboriginal Consultations	Part

**Nova Scotia achieved a score of 64 out of a possible 100.**

## Conclusions and Recommendations

- Nova Scotia is third highest rated jurisdiction in achieving the standards associated with the ASC criteria, and the highest in Atlantic Canada
- See principal backgrounder for recommendations, both general and specific