

Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575. Rather than requesting copies of the regulations/standards, the Maine DEP prefers individual consultations to provide assistance in completing applications and interpreting applicable regulations.

Waste Classification: *Effluent* and *Settled Solids* (sludge) — Commercial Waste; *Mortalities* — Food and Fish Waste.

Effluent Standards: Based on the quality of the receiving waters.

NPDES Permit: The state of Maine is not delegated by EPA to issue NPDES permits. However, the state has established a joint federal and state effort to facilitate the processing applications to lease submerged lands for finfish and shellfish aquaculture use. Permitting agencies covered by the joint application requirements and procedures include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE); the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 1 Office; and the Maine DEP. The Maine DMR coordinates the program, processes all applications, and administers aquaculture leases for shellfish and net pen operations in tidal waters. Leasing requirements related to discharges and operational wastes include a pre-operational site evaluation and monitoring program for water quality and environmental impact. *Criteria* — 40 CFR Part 122.24. *Permit Fee* — The NPDES permit is valid for five years and has no fee.

State Discharge License: All aquaculture operations discharging to waters of the state and not covered by the state aquaculture leasing program must apply for a waste discharge license. The waste discharge license is valid for five years and has a fee structure based upon daily discharge volume. New facilities discharging more than two thousand GPD are charged \$3,000; and \$1,500 for less than two thousand GPD. Marine aquaculture operations are

exempt from obtaining a Maine waste discharge license when water quality certification is obtained as a condition of procuring a leasehold from the Department of Marine Resources.

Mixing Zone: Mixing zones require a public hearing and approval by the Board of Environmental Protection; they rarely are granted by the DEP and are not particularly encouraged for aquaculture discharges.

Land Application: Spray irrigation of effluent requires a waste discharge license from the Bureau of Land and Water Quality. Land application of settled solids and/or sludge requires a permit from the Bureau of Hazardous Material and Solid Waste Control, unless applied to agricultural land for agricultural purposes. Land application for agricultural purposes shall be done in accordance with the Department of Agriculture's best management practices. Composting is encouraged as the preferred method of recycling mortalities.

General Discharge Permit: The Maine DEP has no plans to develop a general discharge permit for aquaculture at this time.

Other Information: All applications are sent to the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) The DMR, using a procedure referred to as "one stop shopping," provides information to other state and federal agencies. The Maine DEP does not interact directly with the applicant, other than to provide water quality certification for use of non-tidal waters. The state also maintains a Salmon Aquaculture Monitoring and Research Fund for environmental monitoring, processing lease applications and licensing the salmon industry. Payment of a fee of 1 cent per pound of fish harvested is stipulated as a condition of any lease granted by the state for the production of salmon in net pen facilities.