



STATE OF MAINE  
Department of Environmental Protection

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

Patricia W. Aho  
COMMISSIONER

June 12, 2012

Ms. Amy Crowley  
1215 Chestnut Street  
Newton, MA. 02464

RE: Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) Permit #ME0037303  
Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) Application #W00009079-6G-A-N  
**Final Permit - Stave Island**

Dear Ms. Crowley:

Enclosed, please find a copy of your **final** MEPDES permit and Maine WDL which was approved by the Department of Environmental Protection. Please read the permit/license and its attached conditions carefully. You must follow the conditions in the order to satisfy the requirements of law. Any discharge not receiving adequate treatment is in violation of State law and is subject to enforcement action.

Any interested person aggrieved by a Department determination made pursuant to applicable regulations, may appeal the decision following the procedures described in the attached DEP FACT SHEET entitled "*Appealing a Commissioner's Licensing Decision.*"

If you have any questions regarding the matter, please feel free to call me at 287-7693.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'G. Wood'.

Gregg Wood  
Division of Water Quality Management  
Bureau of Land and Water Quality

Enc.

cc: Matt Young, DEP/EMRO  
Jon Lewis, DMR  
Sandy Mojica, USEPA



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
17 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333

**DEPARTMENT ORDER**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

GREATBAY AQUACULTURE OF MAINE LLC )	MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
GOULDSBORO, HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE )	ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT
STAVE ISLAND DMR SITE - FREN STAV )	AND
ME0037303 )	WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE
W009079-6G-A-N )	NEW
APPROVAL )	

Pursuant to the provisions of the *Federal Water Pollution Control Act*, Title 33 USC, §1251, *Conditions of licenses*, 38 M.R.S.A. § 414-A, and applicable regulations, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Department hereinafter) has considered the application of GREATBAY AQUACULTURE OF MAINE LLC (Great Bay/permittee hereinafter), with its supportive data, agency review comments, and other related materials on file and FINDS THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

**APPLICATION SUMMARY**

Great Bay has submitted an application to the Department for a new Waste Discharge License (WDL)/Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) Permit for the operation of a concentrated aquatic animal production (net pen) facility located off of the western shore of Stave Island in Gouldsboro, Maine.

Great Bay proposes to operate an Atlantic cod and halibut aquaculture facility consisting of twelve (12) 70 meter (circumference) polar circles with a maximum number of 25,000 mature fish per pen, a maximum biomass of 100,000 kg per pen and a maximum stocking density of 18 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

**PERMIT SUMMARY**

This permitting action establishes:

1. A water column mixing zone extending out 30 meters beyond the perimeter of the net pen.
2. A sediment mixing zone extending out 30 meters beyond the perimeter of the net pen.
3. Seasonal far-field ambient water quality monitoring.
4. Seasonal near-field ambient water quality monitoring.
5. Sediment and benthic monitoring programs.

**PERMIT SUMMARY (cont'd)**

6. Numeric impact thresholds for sediments and the benthic community.
7. Routine video and photographic monitoring.
8. Best management practices for the operation of the net pens.
9. Certain husbandry practices for the facility operations.
10. Limitations on the use of drugs for disease control.
11. Best management practices for spill control via the development and maintenance of a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan.
12. Submission of monitoring results to the Department via Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) forms.

## CONCLUSIONS

BASED on the findings in the attached Fact Sheet dated May 10, 2012, and subject to the Conditions listed below, the Department makes the following conclusions:

1. The discharge, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, will not lower the quality of any classified body of water below such classification.
2. The discharge, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, will not lower the quality of any unclassified body of water below the classification which the Department expects to adopt in accordance with state law.
3. The provisions of the State's antidegradation policy, *Classification of Maine waters*, 38 M.R.S.A. §464(4)(F), will be met, in that:
  - (a) Existing in-stream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect and maintain those existing uses will be maintained and protected;
  - (b) Where high quality waters of the State constitute an outstanding natural resource, that water quality will be maintained and protected;
  - (c) The standards of classification of the receiving water body are met or, where the standards of classification of the receiving water body are not met, the discharge will not cause or contribute to the failure of the water body to meet the standards of classification;
  - (d) Where the actual quality of any classified receiving water body exceeds the minimum standards of the next highest classification that higher water quality will be maintained and protected; and
  - (e) Where a discharge will result in lowering the existing water quality of any water body, the Department has made the finding, following opportunity for public participation, that this action is necessary to achieve important economic or social benefits to the State.
4. The discharge will be subject to effluent limitations that require application of best practicable treatment as defined in 38 M.R.S.A. § 414-A(1)(D).

**ACTION**

Based on the findings and conclusions as stated above, the Department APPROVES GREATBAY AQUACULTURE OF MAINE LLC to discharge waste water associated with the operation of a concentrated aquatic animal production facility located off of the western shore of Stave Island in Gouldsboro, Maine, SUBJECT TO THE ATTACHED CONDITIONS, including:

1. "Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Standard Conditions Applicable To All Permits" revised July 1, 2002, copy attached.
2. The attached Special Conditions, including any effluent limitations and monitoring requirements.
3. This permit becomes effective upon the date of signature below and expires at midnight five (5) years after that date. If a renewal application is timely submitted and accepted as complete for processing prior to the expiration of the this permit, the terms and conditions of the this permit and all subsequent modifications and minor revisions thereto remain in effect until a final Department decision on the renewal application becomes effective. [Maine Administrative Procedure Act, 5 M.R.S.A. § 10002 and Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters, 06-096 CMR 2(21)(A) (effective April 1, 2003)].

DONE AND DATED AT AUGUSTA, MAINE, THIS 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF June, 2012.

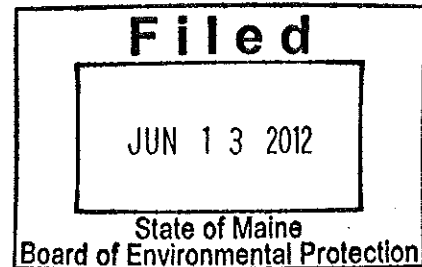
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BY: Michael Keenan  
For Patricia W. Aho, Commissioner

PLEASE NOTE ATTACHED SHEET FOR GUIDANCE ON APPEAL PROCEDURES

Date application received: March 16, 2012

Date application accepted: March 20, 2012



Date filed with Board of Environmental Protection: \_\_\_\_\_

This Order prepared by GREGG WOOD, BUREAU OF LAND & WATER QUALITY

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

The permittee's facility is subject to the discharge limitations, monitoring requirements and management practices specified in the following sections and must, at all times, comply with the State's water quality laws outside of the designated mixing zones (see Special Condition C, *Mixing Zones*, of this permit).

### A. GENERAL LIMITATIONS

A permittee covered under this permit may discharge from the floating net pens identified in the accepted application for the following pollutants: fish excrement, fish feed, and drugs pursuant to Special Condition J, *Use of Drugs for Disease Control*. Additionally, other discharges incidental to the normal and proper operation of the facility, such as the loss of fish scales and treatment compounds used on structures and vessels to limit marine growth, may occur provided they do not have significant adverse effects on water quality, and that they are minimized to the greatest extent practical through implementation of best management practices (BMPs).

Domestic waste shall not be discharged and must be collected and transported to a land-based facility authorized to dispose domestic waste.

### B. FEEDING RATES AND MONITORING

The permittee shall employ efficient feed management and feeding strategies that limit feed input to the minimum amount reasonably necessary to achieve production goals and sustain targeted rates of aquatic animal growth. These strategies must minimize the accumulation of uneaten food beneath the pens through the use of active feed monitoring and management practices. **The permittee shall maintain a real-time monitoring system** designed to track the rate of feed consumption and detect uneaten feed passing through the net pens. Such systems include, but are not limited to, acoustic sonar detection or video cameras. There shall not be any significant accumulation of unconsumed feed on the sea floor beneath or adjacent to net pens.

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### C. MIXING ZONES

This permit designates two mixing zones: (1) a Water Column Mixing Zone, and (2) a Sediment Mixing Zone. Outside the designated Mixing Zones, discharges from the facility shall not cause or contribute to conditions that are hazardous or toxic to aquatic life, or that would impair the uses designated by the classification of the receiving waters. At individual facilities, the location of the mixing zones may be shifted to reflect the effect of currents unique to a specific site, provided that the offset mixing zones are no larger in area than those defined by the size of the net pen(s).

1. **Water Column Mixing Zone.** The Water Column Mixing Zone is defined as the area within and extending 30 meters beyond the perimeter of a net pen in all directions on the surface, and down to the sea floor/water column interface.
2. **Sediment Mixing Zone.** The Sediment Mixing Zone is defined as the sea floor directly below a net pen and extending on the sea floor 30 meters beyond the perimeter of each net pen in all directions. See Special Condition F for limitations on changes that may occur within the Sediment Mixing Zone.

## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

### **D. NARRATIVE EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS**

1. Discharges shall not cause a visible oil sheen, foam, or floating solids at any time that would impair the uses designated for the classification of the receiving waters;
2. Discharges shall not contain materials in concentrations or combinations that are hazardous or toxic to aquatic life, or that would impair the existing or designated uses of the receiving waters;
3. Discharges shall not cause toxicity, visible discoloration, turbidity or other effects to the receiving water that would impair the existing or designated uses of the receiving waters;
4. The permittee shall not discharge suspended or settleable solids that will have significant adverse effects on the quality or any uses of the receiving water body; and
5. Notwithstanding compliance with specific conditions of this permit, the discharge shall not cause or contribute to violations of water quality standards.

### **E. MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Sampling information.** For all benthic monitoring samples collected, the permittee shall measure and maintain records of the following information. All monitoring information and records required by this permit shall be kept current at all times and made available to representatives of the Department, Maine Department of Marine Resources (MeDMR), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) upon request.
  - a. The sampling location, recorded as latitude and longitude to the nearest one-tenth second.
  - b. The date and time of day.
  - c. The current direction in relation to true north.
  - d. The tidal stage to the nearest one-half meter above/below mean low water.
  - e. The depth of water.



**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

**E. MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)**

2. **Feed discharge and fish monitoring requirements.** The facility shall maintain and report monthly to the Department, on a reporting form approved by the Department, the following information.
  - a. The number of net pens in use, including type, size and configuration;
  - b. The age, weight and number of fish in each net pen;
  - c. The number and total weight of fish contained in all net pens in use;
  - d. The total amount of feed added to each net pen; and
  - e. The total amount of feed added to all net pen
  
3. **Near field water quality monitoring requirements.** During the period of **June 1 through October 31** each year, the facility shall maintain the specified conditions and conduct the following monitoring of the ambient water **within the water column mixing zone** of the net pen. All samples shall be grab samples at locations selected to represent the greatest level of any impact of the facility's operation.

**Table E.1. Monitoring Requirements at locations within 5 meters down-current of the pens (prevailing conditions at the time of sampling).**

Sea Water Characteristic	Location			Monitoring Frequency
	Mid-Net Pen Depth	Mid-Water Column Depth	One Meter Above Sea Floor	
	≥6 mg/L	≥6 mg/L	≥6 mg/L	1/Week
Dissolved Oxygen Saturation	Report %	Report %	Report %	1/Week
Salinity	Report ‰	Report ‰	Report ‰	1/Week
Temperature	Report °C	Report °C	Report °C	1/Week
Transparency	Report meters			1/Week

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### E. Monitoring Requirements (cont'd)

#### 4. Near-field water quality monitoring requirements

June 1 through October 31 each year.

- a. Sampling Locations. Samples collected in compliance with the above monitoring requirements shall be taken within 5 meters of the net pens and down-current (prevailing conditions at the time of sampling), from where water passes through pens stocked with fish and at a point selected to best represent the maximum impact of the facility's operation. The samples shall be taken at mid-pen depth (i.e. if the containment net is 6 meters deep, take the sample at 3 meters from the surface), mid-water column depth, and within 1 meter of the sea floor, where each station's results are reported separately.
- b. Sampling methods. Water samples shall be analyzed for dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration and saturation, temperature and salinity at the frequencies specified in Table E.5 of this permit. Measurements of temperature and salinity (in parts per thousand) shall be used to determine percent saturation of dissolved oxygen and stratification. Samples should be taken within one hour before or after slack water prior to 9:00 AM. If the frequency of sampling is increased such that early morning slack tide measurements cannot be made, samples shall be collected prior to 9:00 AM, irrespective of tidal conditions. All measurements shall be made using approved methods, and in accordance with the applicable manufacturer's instructions, including calibration of instruments. The depths of all measurements shall be recorded to at least the nearest one-half meter.
- c. Transparency readings shall be made by lowering a 30 cm Secchi disk vertically through the water column. Observations are to be made using a viewing scope to penetrate the surface of the water. The depth of disappearance upon descent and reappearance upon retrieval of the disk shall be measured and averaged.
- d. Compliance with DO concentration. If DO concentrations below 6 mg/L are recorded at any depth, additional samples shall be taken to determine if the DO depression is a result of the facility's discharge. To determine if DO depression below 6 mg/L reflects natural conditions, readings must be taken at the far-field and reference sites (see Special Condition E.6 and Special Condition F) at the comparable times, depths and tidal conditions and reported to the Department with the monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports. **Further, any time the DO saturation is less than 85% as measured within 5 meters of the net pens, far-field monitoring described in Special Condition E.6 shall be conducted.**

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

**E. Monitoring Requirements (cont'd)**

- 5. Far-field and reference site water quality monitoring requirements.** During the period of **June 1 through October 31** each year, or as required by Special Condition 5(d) of this permit, the facility shall maintain the specified conditions and conduct the following monitoring of the ambient water adjoining the net pens. **All samples shall be vertical profiles measured at intervals of 1 meter or less** at a location selected to represent the greatest level of any impact of the facility's operation.

**Table E.2.** Far-field and reference site water quality monitoring requirements.

Sea Water Characteristic				Monitoring Frequency
	Minimum value	Average value	Maximum value	
Dissolved Oxygen Concentration	Report mg/l	Report mg/l	Report mg/l	2/Year in August and September and as required by Special Condition E.5.d
Dissolved Oxygen Saturation	85%	Report %	Report %	2/Year in August and September
Temperature	Report °C	Report °C	Report °C	2/Year in August and September
Salinity	Report ‰	Report ‰	Report ‰	2/Year in August and September
Transparency	Report meters			2/Year in August and September

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### E. Monitoring Requirements (cont'd)

#### 6. Far-field and reference site water quality monitoring requirements

- a. Sampling locations. Samples collected in compliance with the above monitoring requirements shall be taken at a position approximately 30 meters down-current (prevailing conditions at the time of sampling) from where water passes through pens stocked with fish and at a point selected to best represent the maximum impact of the facility's operation. As required by the Department, samples shall also be collected at the reference site (see Special Condition F). **All information recorded in profiles shall be reported to the Department.**
- b. Sampling methods. Water samples shall be analyzed for dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration and saturation, temperature and salinity at the frequencies specified in Table E.6. Measurements of temperature and salinity (in part per thousand) shall be used to determine percent saturation of dissolved oxygen. Samples should be taken one hour before or after slack water prior to 9:00 AM. If the frequency sampling is increased such that early morning slack tide measurements cannot be made, samples shall be collected prior to 9:00 AM, irrespective of tidal conditions. All measurements shall be made using approved methods, and in accordance with the applicable manufacturer's instructions, including calibration of instruments. The depths of all measurements shall be recorded to at least the nearest one-half meter.
- c. If DO saturation levels below 85% are recorded at any depth, additional samples may be taken to determine if the DO depression is a result of the facility's discharge. In order to determine if DO depression below the specified saturation reflects natural conditions, readings must be taken at the reference site (see Special Condition F) at the comparable times, depths and tidal conditions and reported to the Department with the applicable Discharge Monitoring Reports.
- d. Transparency readings shall be made by lowering a 30 cm Secchi disk vertically through the water column. Observations are to be made using a viewing scope to penetrate the surface of the water. The depth of disappearance upon descent and reappearance upon retrieval of the disk shall be measured and averaged.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

**E. Monitoring Requirements (cont'd)**

7. **Video and photographic monitoring requirements.** The facility shall conduct color video or photographic evaluations of the sea floor under and adjacent to each net pen system at a minimum frequency of **twice per year (once in April or May and again in August through October)** as follows. Multiple evaluations may be needed where independent pens or systems preclude coverage by one transect. Monitoring and evaluation shall be conducted in accordance with methods specified by the Department.

The Department may provide a permittee with an annual written waiver for the spring monitoring for individual facilities when: 1) there have been no fish on the site since the previous video monitoring event; or 2) monitoring the preceding fall indicates that the warning levels specified in Special Condition F are not exceeded and there are no other indications of adverse conditions resulting from the facility's operation; and 3) the permittee provides written request (return receipt required for postal mail; delivery receipt required for electronic mail) to the Department compliance inspector for consideration of said waiver.

Table E.3. Video and photographic monitoring requirements. <sup>1-5</sup>

Monitoring Characteristic	Substrate Video Monitoring/Transect			Frequency
	Transect Beneath Pens	Transect 60 m up-current from edge of pens	Transect 60 m down-current from edge of pens	
Video Records or Photographs of Substrate	Report	Report	Report	2 per year

Footnotes to Table E.3.

1. Reports of monitoring shall include the date(s) on which monitoring was conducted and the video records or photographs, along with all supporting information including a site schematic of the video track or still photo locations in relation to the net pens. The beginning and ending points of transects, all sample points, and all reference site sample points, if applicable, shall be located by GPS following Department standards, including but not limited to, an accuracy of less than 10 meters.

Video records and schematic of the video track shall be submitted to the Department as soon as possible following a reasonable opportunity to review data prior to submission, or within 15 days following the monitoring event, which ever period is sooner.

The permittee shall immediately report to the Department any evidence of non-compliance, water quality or benthic impacts observed during the video survey.

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### E. Monitoring Requirements (cont'd)

Written reports of video/photographic monitoring events must be submitted to the Department as soon as possible following a reasonable opportunity to review data prior to submission and no later than 30 days following the monitoring event. Written reports must describe all conditions specified in Footnote #2 below.

The Department may provide a written extension for these data submission deadlines if necessary due to extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the permittee.

2. Except as provided below, the survey shall be documented with continuous video footage. The recorded survey shall document:
  - a. The sediment type and color, as well as features, noting erosional or depositional areas;
  - b. The flora/fauna observed as to their relative abundance;
  - c. The presence of feed pellets or other debris lost as a result of the facility operation;
  - d. The presence of *Beggiatoa* or *Capitella* type mats and its growth described as light, moderate, or heavy;
  - e. Relative abundance of *Beggiatoa* or *Capitella* shall be characterized approximately as follows: abundant (frequently present within the video coverage); common (seen occasionally throughout the video coverage or existing in patches); rare (only seen once or in a few places throughout the dive);
  - f. The presence of black or dark colored sediments, spontaneous or induced gassing, or the presence of pimpled sediments. **Sediments shall be tested for gassing by at least two separate hand swipes wherever *Beggiatoa* or *Capitella* type mats or dark colored sediments are observed or at random locations if mats or dark sediments are not observed; and**
  - g. The location and appearance of any nets located on the bottom and their locations relative to the pen system, the extent to which the net(s) is buried beneath sediments.

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### E. Monitoring Requirements (cont'd)

3. If water depths at a facility exceed the State of Maine's safe working depth limit of 85 feet for SCUBA diving or divers determine that conditions are not safe to perform the scheduled video monitoring event, video surveys normally conducted by divers may instead be obtained using one or more of the following methods: a video camera mounted on a tethered sled, a tethered drop still camera, tethered drop video camera or equivalent. If still photos are taken with a tethered camera, one photograph shall be taken at least every 10 meters along each transect. If divers determine that they can not safely conduct the video monitoring, 1) the video monitoring event shall be rescheduled, if possible, when safe diving conditions resume; or 2) the monitoring event may proceed using the alternate methodologies specified above and the permittee shall provide as part of the written video/photographic report(s) documentation of the unsafe condition(s) and reason(s) the video survey could not be rescheduled.
4. A video/photo transect shall be conducted beneath the pens (or, if not possible due to depths beyond 85 feet or physical constraints, directly adjacent to the up-current edge of the pens) along an axis representing the direction of the prevailing current, and extend 60 meters beyond the pen system on each end, and located to best reflect the extent of the facility's impact on benthic conditions. Video coverage of sediments beneath or adjacent to feed or service barges shall be noted on the video narrative.
5. The video coverage shall be in color, and of sufficient detail and clarity to allow for the accurate assessment of benthic conditions. The camera should be positioned at a height above the substrate that will provide approximately one square meter of bottom coverage, and be illuminated with sufficient artificial light to enable the accurate identification of epibenthic organisms and sediment conditions. A brief written narrative with the video record or photos describing reference points shall be provided. All video documentation shall include the dates on which it was taken, the direction of the current, and the geographic positions of the start and endpoints of the transects. The Department reserves the right to require a permittee to conduct additional video or photo transects if: 1) the quality of the videos/photos is deemed insufficient or not representative to determine compliance with this permit or applicable water quality standards; or 2) conditions observed in the videos/photos warrant additional monitoring to determine compliance with this permit.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

**E. MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)**

4. **Sediment and benthic monitoring requirements.** The permittee shall conduct monitoring of the sediments on the sea floor as follows. Benthic monitoring shall focus on sediment conditions and the infaunal community. The reference site is described in Special Condition G. The Department may require that the monitoring required by this condition be continued following removal or relocation of a net pen as necessary to evaluate residual impacts. Monitoring and evaluation shall be conducted in accordance with methods specified by the Department.

**Table E.4.** Sediment and benthic grab sample monitoring requirements. <sup>(1) (2) (3) (8)</sup>

Monitoring Characteristics	Sample Stations and Reporting Requirements		Minimum Monitoring Frequency Requirements
	Within the mixing zone	30 m from net pens	
Sulfide <sup>(4)</sup>	Report uM	Report uM	2/year in Apr-May and Aug-Oct <sup>(5)</sup>
Benthic Infauna <sup>(9)</sup> [Taxa Present, Taxa Abundance, Total Abundance minus abundance of <i>Capitella capitata</i> , and Shannon-Wiener Diversity Index]	Report /0.1 square m	Report /0.1 square m	1/5 years <sup>(6)</sup>
Percent Solids	Report %	Report %	1/5 years <sup>(6)</sup>
Sediment grain size	Report % sand, silt, clay and gravel	Report % sand, silt, clay and gravel	1/5 years <sup>(6)</sup>
Total Organic Carbon in Sediment	Report mg/g	Report mg/g	1/5 years <sup>(6)</sup>
Copper, Total metal	Report mg/kg Dry weight	Report mg/kg Dry weight	1/5 years <sup>(7)</sup>
Zinc, Total metal	Report mg/kg Dry weight	Report mg/kg Dry weight	1/5 years <sup>(7)</sup>
Medications used <sup>(10)</sup>	Report ug/kg Dry weight	Report ug/kg Dry weight	Not less than 7 days nor more than 30 days following use of each medication



## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### E. MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)

#### Footnotes to Table E.4.

1. Sampling stations. Samples for all parameters ("Monitoring Characteristics" listed in Table E.4) shall be collected in triplicate from four sampling stations required by this section. Results for all individual samples shall be reported to the Department in addition to mean values. The transect utilized for sediment sampling shall be the same as that utilized for video/photo monitoring as described in Special Condition E.3 Footnote #4 (that is, along an axis representing the direction of the prevailing current, and extending 60 meters beyond the pen system on each end, and located to best reflect the extent of the facility's impact on benthic conditions).

There shall be a minimum of 4 sampling stations along the transect with a minimum of 2 on each end of the net pens to represent conditions outside of and within the designated mixing zone as follows:

- a. Outside Mixing Zone: Along the transect at a point 30 meters from the outside edge of the pens
- b. Within Mixing Zone: Samples shall be collected along the transect at a point 5 meters from the outside edge of the pens. However, the Department reserves the right to require sampling at other specific locations based on reviews of video records or other site-specific considerations.

At each of the 4 sample stations, a minimum of 3 individual samples (total of 12 discrete sample points) shall be collected along a line perpendicular to the transect line. One sample shall be taken adjacent to the transect line and the other two samples shall be taken at a distance of 2 meters away from the transect line in both directions. If a sample is not possible at the 2-meter distance due to rocky conditions or other impediments, the sample should be taken as close to the 2-meter point as possible.

In order to fully evaluate conditions, the Department may require additional sampling locations on a case-by-case-basis.

2. Sampling times. Sediment and benthic monitoring shall be conducted at the same time that video monitoring is conducted.
3. Sediment sample collection, handling, preservation, storage, and analysis shall be conducted in accordance with USEPA approved methods.

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### E. MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)

#### Footnotes to Table E.4. (cont'd)

4. Sulfide monitoring. Core samples for sulfide must consist of the top 2 cm of the seafloor. If sediment grain size or sediment depth at one or more sampling locations does not allow for the collection of sediments for sulfide analysis as required herein, the permittee shall provide a narrative in the report required by this section describing these.
5. Sulfide monitoring shall be conducted at least **twice per year** (once during the months of April – May and once during the months of August – October). The Department may provide an individual facility with an annual written waiver for the April – May sulfide sampling event if the video monitoring is waived pursuant to Special Condition E.3 of this permit.
6. Benthic infauna, sediment grain size, total organic carbon monitoring, percent solids, and metals (copper and zinc) shall be monitored at least **once every 5 years** during the months of August – October and sampling shall be performed in the first year when fish at the facility are at or near their maximum biomass.

The Department reserves the right to require additional benthic infauna sampling based on best professional judgment taking into account the timing, frequency and severity of monitoring results that exceed the Warning Level or Impact Limit thresholds for any parameter established in Special Condition F of this permit modification, *Warning and Impact Thresholds*. When benthic infauna testing is determined to be the most appropriate Department response to an exceedence, the permittee shall coordinate with the Department to ensure monitoring is performed as soon as possible after such a determination is made.

The Department reserves the right to require more frequent or additional sediment or benthic infauna measurements for an individual facility based on test results, video surveys, or other relevant information.

Sediment grain size, total organic carbon monitoring, metals (copper and zinc) and percent solids determinations shall be performed **every time benthic infauna are sampled**.

7. Copper and zinc monitoring. Measurements shall be conducted **once every five years and each time benthic infauna measurements are made**, and shall be performed at a time when fish at the facility are at or near their maximum biomass for that monitoring period. Reports shall include the percent solids of the sediment sampled. Core samples for metals must consist of the top 2 cm of the seafloor.

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### E. MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)

#### Footnotes to Table E.4. (cont'd)

8. Reports shall include the date(s) of the sampling and the results of the analyses, along with all supporting information including a site schematic of the sample locations. Reports, in a format approved by the Department, **shall be submitted to the Department within 150 days** of the monitoring event. However, based on prior monitoring or other information that indicate the facility may be adversely impacting the sediment, the Department may require, in writing, earlier submission of monitoring reports. The Department may provide a written extension for this submission deadline if necessary due to extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the permittee.
9. Single core samples of 4 inches or greater in diameter shall be taken from the sediment for taxa measurements (infauna samples) and must be inserted to resistance or 15 cm, whichever is less. Depth of the core shall be reported. Infauna samples shall be sieved through a 1.0 mm mesh sieve. Organisms shall be fixed in 10% buffered formalin solution and stained with a 1% Rose Bengal staining solution. After one day or more in the formalin solution, the formalin shall be replaced with 70% ethanol to ensure preservation of the organism's integrity. Organisms shall be identified to the lowest practical taxonomic level, enumerated, and reported to the Department in raw form and per square meter or 0.1 m<sup>2</sup>. Species diversity, richness, total abundance and total abundance minus the number of *Capitella capitata* shall also be reported. Shannon-Weiner Diversity Index results shall not be reported if the cumulative number of organisms present in all samples from one sampling station is less than 50. Reference specimens shall be maintained at the facility (or facility headquarters) for examination by Department staff or its designee for a period of at least 3 years following collection. The Department may require more specific identification of organisms in order to determine compliance with this permit.
10. Sediment monitoring for medications shall include analysis for the compound(s) used and any known primary metabolites. The Department may provide a written waiver for this monitoring requirement if the facility provides conclusive evidence (as determined by the Department) that medications used do not pose a potential to accumulate in sediments or organisms for sufficient time as to pose a potential threat to water quality or aquatic life. Core samples for medications must consist of the top 2 cm of the seafloor.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

**F. WARNING LEVEL AND IMPACT THRESHOLDS**

With respect to the sediment and benthic monitoring specified in Special Condition E.4 of this permit, the following criteria will be applied by the Department in determining if discharges from a facility are causing or contributing to impairment of the State's water quality criteria.

**Table F.1. Sediment Mixing Zone [under or within 30 m of net pen(s)] Warning and Impact Thresholds At Any Sampling Station.**

Metric	Warning Level	Impact Limit
Sulfide <sup>(1)</sup>	Mean 2500 – 6000 uM at any station	Mean >6000 uM at any station
<i>Beggiatoa</i> Coverage	≥25% photo coverage <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	≥ 50% photo coverage <sup>(2)(3)</sup>
Benthic Infauna <sup>(4)</sup>	>50% reduction of total abundance minus <i>Capitella capitata</i> AND >70% total abundance composed of <i>Capitella capitata</i>	Report Information

**Table F.2. Sediment Impact Thresholds At Any Sampling Station Beyond Sediment Mixing Zone (≥ 30 m from the nets pens).**

Metric	Impact Limits
Class SB waters	<b>The habitat must be characterized as unimpaired. Discharges shall be of sufficient quality to support all estuarine and marine species indigenous to the receiving water without detrimental changes to the resident biological community</b>
Benthic Infauna	>25% decrease in total abundance minus <i>Capitella capitata</i> AND >25% total abundance composed of <i>Capitella capitata</i>
Sulfide <sup>(1)</sup>	Mean >3000 uM at any station
<i>Beggiatoa</i> Coverage	>10% photo coverage

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### F. WARNING LEVEL AND IMPACT THRESHOLDS (cont'd)

#### Footnotes to Tables F.1 and F.2:

1. Mean values for sulfide shall be the average of all individual samples collected at a station at a given distance from the net pens (for example, mean value of all samples taken at a distance of 30 meters from net pen). **Results of individual samples shall also be provided to the Department.**
2. Percent coverage shall be determined by the Department from the review of video footage and /or photographs taken beneath or adjacent to each net pen.
3. Unless similar abundance or values exist in the baseline or reference site specified in this permit, or are the result of natural conditions, as determined by the Department based on best professional judgment.
4. Benthic infauna criteria shall be evaluated taking into consideration changes in grain size and the number of organisms in each sample.

The forgoing impact limits represent one definition of conditions that would represent non-attainment of narrative water quality standards. To assess compliance, the Department may consider the results of monitoring conducted pursuant to this permit, the conditions found in available baseline or reference site for comparative purposes and other available information. This information may include, but is not limited to, total abundance, diversity indices, dominant taxa, the percentage of mollusks, echinoderms and crustaceans, and trophic levels. In doing so, the Department may determine that other conditions found at an individual station may constitute a violation of narrative water quality standards.

The Department may take into account the presence of pollution-sensitive species when making a determination about the impact under this section. A list of pollution-sensitive taxa is determined from pre-operation baseline studies and/or available reference site specified in this permit. Such species include, but are not limited to, amphipods and cumaceans. Pollution-tolerant taxa include: *Capitella capitata*, Oligochetata, and other taxa that may be present as determined from baseline information and/or the reference site.

Physical disturbance such as harrowing, dragging, or other mechanical means shall not be used to mitigate bottom conditions unless approved in writing by the Department.

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### F. WARNING LEVEL AND IMPACT THRESHOLDS (cont'd)

The permittee shall notify the Department as soon as it has reason to believe the warning levels that are specified for the Sediment Mixing Zone may be exceeded. At that time, or upon notification by the Department, the facility shall review its past operations and propose any changes that it deems necessary to assure that impact levels are not exceeded. If the degree by which warning levels are exceeded in subsequent monitoring events is increased, or if an impact level is exceeded at any time, the facility shall include in its notification, for the Department's review and approval, a plan and implementation schedule for modification of operations. Such modifications may include, but are not limited to, reducing standing stock, reduced feeding, and/or fallowing of the site. New fish shall only be stocked into pens as described in a plan approved by the Department. The Department may require additional monitoring to determine the effectiveness of these measures or continuing trends in benthic conditions.

### G. REFERENCE SITES

The facility shall maintain reference sites and baseline information approved by the Department to provide comparative information on water quality and benthic conditions in the area of the net pens. Where a facility can satisfactorily demonstrate to the Department that relevant reference site information can not be obtained, the Department may grant a written waiver for this condition. Where sufficiently detailed and relevant baseline data are available, those data may be used in place of or in combination with reference station data for comparative information in evaluating the results of benthic monitoring tests. At a minimum, the monitoring characteristics specified in Table E.4. of this permit shall be monitored for consideration.

### H. TOXIC IMPACTS

1. The discharge of toxics into the waters of the State in concentrations identified by the Department as toxic to aquatic organisms is prohibited. When waters are temporarily contained within a barrier, such as a plastic tarpaulin, for the application of medications, at the point the barrier is removed the concentration of those medications shall not pose a risk of causing lethal effects on organisms passing through the water column. Within the water column mixing zone, acutely toxic (lethal response) conditions must not occur. At the edge of the water column mixing zone concentrations of any compound cannot exceed levels known to cause acute or chronic toxicity to marine organisms, or sub-lethal effects from repeated exposure.

## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

### **H. TOXIC IMPACTS (cont'd)**

2. Sediments within or beyond the Sediment Mixing Zone shall not contain toxics originating from the facility in concentrations or combinations that are likely to have a significant adverse effect on benthic infauna or epifauna, or bio-accumulate in organisms such that those organisms can have a significant adverse effect on marine life that prey upon them. Such marine life includes, but is not limited to, demersal finfish, lobster, and marine mammals.

### **I. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR OPERATION OF THE FACILITY**

1. Unless prohibited by prolonged periods of adverse weather, **the facility shall remove fish carcasses from the net pens at least once per week.** However, when diseases of regulatory concern are present or suspected in the area of the facility, carcasses shall be removed more frequently in accordance with the requirements of the MeDMR or the US Department of Agriculture. Carcasses shall not be disposed of into the receiving waters, but instead shall be collected and transported in leak-proof containers to an approved land-based disposal facility. Records of carcasses removed shall be maintained by the facility and made available to the Department and the MeDMR upon request.
2. The discharge of blood, viscera, or transport water containing blood associated with fish harvesting is prohibited.
3. There shall be no discharge of disinfectants, cleaning agents or similar products, except for losses that may occur incidental to the proper use of these agents. The facility shall maintain and follow best management practices for the use and control of these substances.
4. The discharge of solid waste is prohibited. The facility shall collect used feed bags and other solid wastes for transport, recycling and/or disposal at a recycling or disposal facility approved by the Department.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

**I. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR OPERATION OF THE FACILITY (cont'd)**

5. The use of biocidal chemicals for cleaning nets on-site is prohibited. The use of air-drying, mechanical and other non-chemical procedures to control net-fouling organisms is encouraged. On-site mechanical cleaning and pressure washing of nets is permitted only if done in accordance with a management plan to assure that solids from these practices do not accumulate on the sea floor or cause or contribute to impairment of water quality standards, or non-compliance with Special Condition F of this permit. In order to control diseases of regulatory concern, net cleaning procedures required by the MeDMR or the US Department of Agriculture shall be followed. The on-shore disposal of materials removed from nets must be in compliance with applicable state and local laws. In the event that sediment monitoring indicates a potential for impact from copper or other anti-fouling agents or other established impact limits, the Department may require the use of alternate practices to avoid such effects.
6. Pursuant to *Prohibition on the use of tributyltin as an antifouling agent*, 38 M.R.S.A. § 419-A(2)(B), no person may distribute, possess, sell, offer for sale, apply or offer for application any substance that contains a tributyltin (TBT) compound in concentrated form that is labeled for mixing with paint or solvents to produce an antifouling paint for use on vessels, wooden lobster traps, fishing gear for marine waters, floats, moorings or piers.
7. When in use, **horizontal predator nets shall be maintained at least 1 meter above the sea floor at all times**. Nets may not impede the current flow or tidal exchange so as to contribute to the deposition of solids that would impair water quality standards. Vertical predator nets may extend to the sea floor. The storage of predator control or containment nets on the sea floor is prohibited. Any net accidentally dropped or lost during storm events that is not recovered immediately shall be tagged with a float, positioned using differential GPS, numbered, and reported to the Department within 24 hours. The net shall be recovered within 30 days from the date lost, unless the Department allows a longer time in an individual case, and the Department shall be notified on the date the net is recovered (or next business day).
8. The permittee shall report to the Department **within 24 hours** (or next business day) of any event(s) at the facility that has the potential to cause non-compliance or that may endanger health or the environment. Additionally, the permittee shall report to the Department any unusual events at the facility that are not required to be reported to the MeDMR and that may pose significant environmental impact. Upon request by the Department, the facility shall collect and preserve a water sample, and store it until such time that the Department can retrieve it.



## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### J. USE OF DRUGS FOR DISEASE CONTROL

1. Drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for aquacultural purposes may be used consistent with label instructions. Drugs authorized, but not approved, by the FDA may be discharged consistent with Special Condition J.3 below. All applications must comply with applicable FDA requirements. The discharge of any approved drug administered as preventative measures is prohibited unless the following conditions are met: the drug must be approved by FDA and the treatment and route of administration must be consistent with the drug's intended use. The term "discharge" includes any drug or other chemical treatment that is introduced to the fish through injection, ingestion, or immersion at the facility.
2. When the need to treat or control diseases necessitates the use of a FDA-approved drug not identified in a permittee's application, the facility shall notify the Department as soon as becoming aware of such circumstances. If advance notice is not possible, the facility shall notify the Department on the next business day after the use has begun. The notification shall include a description of the drug, its intended purpose, amount, concentration, duration of the use and information on aquatic toxicity. In the event the use is one-time occurrence of less than 30 days, a permit modification application need not be filed. **If the drug is to be used for more than 30 days, or if the use may be repeated, a permit modification application must be filed with the Department prior to use.** If, upon review of information regarding the use of a drug pursuant to this section, the Department determines that significant adverse effects are likely to occur, it may restrict or limit such use.
3. Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) and extralabel drug uses. The discharge of drugs authorized by the FDA for use during studies conducted under the INAD program is prohibited unless in accordance with specific consent given in writing by the Department. Proposals for the use of investigational drugs must demonstrate that the minimum amount of drug necessary to evaluate its safety, efficacy, and possible environmental impacts will be used. Proposals must also include an environmental monitoring and evaluation program that at a minimum describes sampling strategies, analytical procedures, evaluation techniques and a timetable for completion of the program.

The program must consider the possible effects on the water column, benthic conditions and organisms in or uses of the surrounding waters.

- a. The permittee must provide a written report to the Department of an INAD's impending use **within 7 days** of agreeing or signing up to participate in an INAD study. The written report must identify the INAD to be used, method of use, the dosage, and the disease or condition the INAD is intended to treat.

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### J. USE OF DRUGS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (cont'd)

- b. For INADs and extralabel drug uses, the permittee must provide an oral report to the Department as soon as possible, preferably in advance of use, but **no later than 7 days** after initiating use of that drug. The oral report must identify the drugs used, method of application, and the reason for using that drug.
  - c. For INADs and extralabel drug uses, the permittee must provide a written report to the Department **within 30 days** after initiating use of that drug. The written report must identify the drug used and include: the reason for treatment, date(s) and time(s) of the addition (including duration), method of application; and the amount added.
4. **The discharge of any drug or other disease control chemicals shall be reported to the Department within 30 days of the application.** Included in this report shall be the following: a) date and time of treatment; b) drug or disease control chemical used; c) concentration of drug or disease control chemical administered and total quantity used, including amount of feed used if applied through feed; d) approximate number of fish as well as number of pens treated; e) method of application; and f) predominant current direction during treatment.
  5. **The facility shall place signs at the perimeter of its leasehold to notify the public that drugs are or have been in use at that facility.** The signs shall be maintained for the duration of the use and any withdrawal period following termination of use. The signs shall be at least 18 by 24 inches in size and read: "Medications are in use at this site. Contact the Maine Department of Environmental Protection or (company name) for details" and include a site designation.

### K. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR SPILL CONTROL

Any event that leads to the discharge of oil (including but not limited to: motor fuels, heating fuels, lubricating and hydraulic oils, waste oils, and transformer mineral oils) or hazardous substances into the waters of the State, or adjoining shorelines in a quantity sufficient to cause a film or sheen upon the water, or cause a sludge or emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or upon the adjoining shoreline shall be reported to the Department via the State Police at 1-800-452-4664 and the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802.

**The facility shall maintain and implement a current Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan prepared by a Professional Engineer or other qualified professional.** This plan shall include information and procedures related to the prevention of spills and unplanned discharges of petroleum products including diesel fuel, gasoline, lubrication oils, or any other hazardous materials used at the facility.

## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

### **K. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR SPILL CONTROL (cont'd)**

1. The plan shall provide a complete list, including quantities, of all petroleum products and other hazardous materials stored at and transferred between the facility, its support craft and its shore-based storage facilities. The plan shall be amended when petroleum products and other hazardous materials not currently listed are transferred to the facility.
2. The plan shall include descriptions of the procedures, including routine equipment inspections, used to prevent, control and/or treat spills and unplanned discharges of petroleum products and other hazardous materials according to the type and magnitude of spill or discharge.
3. The plan shall include a description of the supplies and equipment maintained onsite that prevent, control or treat spills and unplanned discharges. Supplies should include spill kits sufficient to contain a spill equal to the amount of product or material at the facility.
4. The plan shall include a description of the reporting system that will be used to alert responsible facility management, potentially effected landowners and municipalities, and appropriate legal and regulatory authorities.
5. All members of the facility's staff shall have an operation familiarity with the plan. Training shall include an annual mock spill exercise incident to review the response and reporting procedures of the plan. Documentation of staff training shall be made available to the Department upon request.
6. If the facility at any point becomes subject to the Oil Pollution Prevention regulations at 40 CFR Part 112 and stores oil in excess of the minimum threshold amounts listed in 40 CFR section 112.1(d)(2), then the SPCC Plan shall also include any additional conditions required by those regulations.

### **L. QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND CONTAINMENT SYSTEMS**

Prior to any environmental data collection, infauna identification, analysis work, or containment system assessment associated with this permit, the permittee shall provide to the Department documentation of the employee's or contractor's demonstrated capabilities to conduct such work. Additionally, sampling techniques and analysis methods that differ from those identified in this permit shall be provided to the Department for review and approval.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

**M. MONITORING AND REPORTING**

All sample results and monitoring reports required by this permit shall be submitted to the Department at the following address:

Department of Environmental Protection  
Eastern Maine Regional Office  
Bureau of Land and Water Quality  
Division of Water Quality Management  
106 Hogan Road  
Bangor, Maine 04011

Video and photographic evaluations shall be submitted simultaneously to the MEDEP at the address cited above and to the MEDMR at the address below:

Aquaculture Environmental Coordinator  
Maine Department of Marine Resources  
P.O. Box 8  
West Boothbay, Maine 04575

**N. SEVERABILITY**

In the event that any provision, or part thereof, of this permit is declared to be unlawful by a reviewing court, the remainder of the permit shall remain in full force and effect, and shall be construed and enforced in all aspects as if such unlawful provision, or part thereof, had been omitted, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

**MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT**

**MAINE WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE**

**FACT SHEET**

DATE: May 10, 2012

GENERAL PERMIT NUMBER: ME0037303

WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE: W009079-6G-A-N

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

**GREATBAY AQUACULTURE OF MAINE LLC  
6 Bayview Avenue/P.O. Box 22  
Sorrento, Maine 04677**

COUNTY: Hancock County

NAME AND ADDRESS WHERE DISCHARGE(S) OCCUR(S):

**WESTERN SHORE OF STAVE ISLAND  
Gouldsboro, Maine 04607**

RECEIVING WATER/CLASSIFICATION: Frenchman Bay/Class SB

COGNIZANT OFFICIAL AND TELEPHONE NUMBER: Ms. Amy Crowley  
(617) 965-8875  
e-mail: [acrowley@greatbayaquaculture.com](mailto:acrowley@greatbayaquaculture.com)

**1. DESCRIPTION OF PERMITTED ACTIVITIES**

Aquaculture activities are conducted by placing fish in a system of one or more free-floating net pens moored in the open ocean. Most fish are introduced as juveniles and raised to adult size for harvest as a commercial food source. Some fish may be maintained as brood stock. The fish are grown or maintained by adding fish food and, as necessary, medications to the water. This permit authorizes only two species of fish to be reared at approved the Stave Island facility are the Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) and Atlantic halibut (*Hippoglossus hypoglossus*). Fish are maintained on a year-round basis; the typical rearing period for Atlantic cod and halibut is 24 - 36 months, during which they reach a size of 1 kg to 2 kg. The majority of discharges from a facility are expected to come from fish excrement and unconsumed feed. The discharges increase significantly during the months of May, June and July when the fish are growing more rapidly in response to increased feeding and optimum growing conditions. Medications may be used to combat infectious disease or parasites. The US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) grants approval for specific uses of medications, although a

## 1. DESCRIPTION OF PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

veterinarian may prescribe an approved drug for a use or rate not described on its approved label. Additionally, the USFDA may authorize the use of Investigational New Animal Drugs (INADs) and aquaculture facilities may wish to use such medications as part of studies of their effectiveness. Other discharges incidental to the operation of an aquaculture facility include fish scales, disinfectants used to prevent the spread of disease, marine growth removed from nets and anti-fouling agents used to treat nets.

There are approximately 25 current finfish aquaculture leases issued by the Maine Department of Marine Resources (MeDMR). Of these, 10 are presently or have recently been in active use. The statewide total leased acreage is approximately 580 acres. The individual leases range in size from less than 5 acres to 45 acres. In most instances, however, only a small portion (about 10-15%) of the leased area is actually covered by net pens. In terms of net pens, the active facilities range from 6 to 25 pens with circumferences of 70 and 100 meters each, although if smaller pens are used the number of pens can be higher. The pens typically cover between 1 and 5 acres per site. The maximum number of fish contained per facility ranges from 61,000 to over 1,000,000 fish.

The location of aquaculture facilities is important to both their success in rearing fish and minimizing environmental impacts. Typically, the facility owners seek locations having adequate tidal flushing, appropriate water depths, temperatures and dissolved oxygen concentrations to optimize fish growth. Facilities must also be placed to avoid conflicts with other marine uses such as public access, fishing and navigation. Further, facility operators are concerned with not placing net pens in areas that have very low wintertime water temperatures, damaging ice floes or are subject to high wind or seas.

## 2. APPLICATION SUMMARY

- a. Application: GreatBay Aquaculture of Maine LLC (GreatBay/permittee hereinafter) has applied to the Department for a new Waste Discharge License (WDL)/Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit for the operation of a concentrated aquatic animal production (net pen) facility located more than 1,000 feet off of the western shore of Stave Island in Gouldsboro, Maine. See **Attachment A** of this Fact Sheet for a location map.
- b. Proposal - Great Bay proposes to operate an Atlantic cod and halibut aquaculture facility consisting of twelve (12) 70 meter (circumference) polar circles with a maximum number of 25,000 mature fish per pen, a maximum biomass of 100,000 kg per pen and a maximum stocking density of 18 kg/m<sup>3</sup>. See the **Attachment B** of this Fact Sheet for the proposed pen configurations.

## 2. APPLICATION SUMMARY (cont'd)

A summary of some of the operational and site conditions are as follows:

Water depth in pen areas @MLW:	25 meters
Minimum clearance from pen to sea floor	15 meters
Sea floor composition	Silty bottom with no rocky outcrops or substantial variation in topography.

### Current:

1/2 way between sea floor and net bottom	10.5 cm/s (measured September 2010)
Baseline monitoring conducted	September 9, 2010

Maximum number of fish/pen	150,000 smolts, 25,000 mature <sup>(1)</sup>
Maximum biomass of fish/pen	100,000 kg <sup>(1)</sup>
Maximum biomass (total)	1,200,000 kg/m <sup>3</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>
Pen volume (individual)	2,995 m <sup>3</sup>
Stocking Density	18 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Maximum feed/year	250,000 kg

Footnote (1) – These values do not take mortality into consideration through the grow-out cycle.

## 3. AUTHORITY AND REGULATORY SUMMARY

A permit is required for the direct or indirect discharge of pollutants to waters of the State pursuant to *Waste discharge licenses*, 38 M.R.S.A. § 413. A violation of a condition or requirement of the permit constitutes a violation of the State's water quality laws, and subjects the discharger to penalties under *Organization and powers*, 38 M.R.S.A. § 349. Nothing in this permit is intended to limit the Department's authority under the waste discharge and water classification statutes or rules. This permit does not affect requirements under other applicable Maine statutes and Department rules.

Pursuant to 12 M.R.S.A. subchapter II and 13-188 CMR, chapters 2 and 24, the MeDMR has regulatory authority over finfish aquaculture facilities. The MeDMR may issue leaseholds for the location and operation of aquaculture operations after considering, among other things, the effects on navigation, fishing, rights of riparian owners, natural resources and public uses. The MeDMR further regulates the transfer of fish into marine aquaculture operations and has responsibility for fish health issues.

Permits are required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant Section 10 of the *Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899*, Title 33 USC 403 for the installation of net pens in navigable waters of the United States.

Enacted in 1987, 38 M.R.S.A. § 413(2-F) exempted aquaculture facilities from the need to obtain a Maine Waste Discharge License. The law did require that the Department certify to the MeDMR that a proposed aquaculture facility would not have a significant adverse effect on water quality before a lease could be issued.

### 3. AUTHORITY AND REGULATORY SUMMARY (cont'd)

In 1998, a new subsection (10) was added to 38 M.R.S.A. § 413 requiring discharge licenses for aquaculture activities after the State received authorization from the USEPA to administer the NPDES program.

On January 12, 2001, the Department received authorization from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program in Maine. From that point forward, the program has been referenced as the Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit program. Each facility covered under a MEPDES permit is assigned a unique MEPDES permit number, which will be utilized as the primary reference number for that facility.

On August 23, 2004, the USEPA promulgated effluent guideline limitations (EGLs) for *Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production Point Source Category* at 40 CFR Part 451. 40 CFR Part 451 Subpart B, *Net Pen Subcategory*, is applicable to discharges from aquaculture facilities that produce 100,000 pounds or more per year of aquatic animals.

### 4. CONDITIONS OF PERMIT

*Conditions of licenses*, 38 M.R.S.A. § 414-A, requires that the effluent limitations prescribed for discharges, including, but not limited to, effluent toxicity, require application of best practicable treatment (BPT), be consistent with the U.S. Clean Water Act, and ensure that the receiving waters attain the State water quality standards as described in Maine's Surface Water Classification System. In addition, 38 M.R.S.A., § 420 and 06-096 CMR 530 require the regulation of toxic substances not to exceed levels set forth in *Surface Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Pollutants*, 06-096 CMR 584 (effective October 9, 2005), and that ensure safe levels for the discharge of toxic pollutants such that existing and designated uses of surface waters are maintained and protected.

### 5. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A. §469(2) classifies the waters off of the western shore of Stave Island in Gouldsboro as Class SB waters. Maine law 38 M.R.S.A. §465-B(2) describes the standards for Class SB waters as follows:

*Class SB waters must be of such quality that they are suitable for the designated uses of recreation in and on the water, fishing, aquaculture, propagation and harvesting of shellfish, industrial process and cooling water supply, hydroelectric power generation, navigation and as habitat for fish and other estuarine and marine life. The habitat must be characterized as unimpaired.*



## 5. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS (cont'd)

*The dissolved oxygen content of Class SB waters must be not less than 85% of saturation. Between May 15th and September 30th, the numbers of enterococcus bacteria of human and domestic animal origin in these waters may not exceed a geometric mean of 8 per 100 milliliters or an instantaneous level of 54 per 100 milliliters. In determining human and domestic animal origin, the department shall assess licensed and unlicensed sources using available diagnostic procedures. The numbers of total coliform bacteria or other specified indicator organisms in samples representative of the waters in shellfish harvesting areas may not exceed the criteria recommended under the National Shellfish Sanitation Program, United States Food and Drug Administration.*

*Discharges to Class SB waters may not cause adverse impact to estuarine and marine life in that the receiving waters must be of sufficient quality to support all estuarine and marine species indigenous to the receiving water without detrimental changes in the resident biological community. There may be no new discharge to Class SB waters that would cause closure of open shellfish areas by the Department of Marine Resources. For the purpose of allowing the discharge of aquatic pesticides approved by the department for the control of mosquito-borne diseases in the interest of public health and safety, the department may find that the discharged effluent will not cause adverse impact to estuarine and marine life as long as the materials and methods used provide protection for nontarget species. When the department issues a license for the discharge of aquatic pesticides authorized under this paragraph, the department shall notify the municipality in which the application is licensed to occur and post the notice on the department's publicly accessible website.*

## 6. MIXING ZONES

Pursuant to *Enforcement generally*, 38 M.R.S.A. § 451, the Department may establish a mixing zone for any discharge at the time of application for a waste discharge license. The law states, in part,

*[t]he purpose of a mixing zone is to allow a reasonable opportunity for dilution, diffusion or mixture of pollutants with the receiving waters before the receiving waters below or surrounding a discharge will be tested for classification violations. In determining the extent of any mixing zone to be established under this section, the department may require from the applicant testimony concerning the nature and rate of the discharge; the nature and rate of existing discharges to the waterway; the size of the waterway and the rate of flow therein; any relevant seasonal, climatic, tidal and natural variations in such size, flow, nature and rate; the uses of the waterways in the vicinity of the discharge, and such other and further evidence as in the department's judgment will enable it to establish a reasonable mixing zone for such discharge. An order establishing a*

## 6. MIXING ZONES (cont'd)

*mixing zone may provide that the extent thereof varies in order to take into account seasonal, climatic, tidal and natural variations in the size and flow of, and the nature and rate of, discharges to the waterway.*

This permit establishes mixing zones for both the water column and sea floor beneath and adjacent to the permittee's aquaculture facility. For the water column, the mixing zone includes waters within and extending 30 meters beyond the net pens. In that area, the dissolved oxygen concentration must not fall below 6.0 mg/L and there may not be concentrations of any substance that would be acutely lethal to organisms drifting or swimming through the mixing zone. Acute lethality is generally evaluated on an exposure time of one hour. This combination of oxygen level and no acutely toxic affects will allow use of the waters within the mixing zone as an acceptable habitat for aquatic organisms.

With regard to the sea floor or benthic mixing zone, the General Permit is carrying forward a mixing zone beneath and extending out from the net pens a distance of 30 meters. Within each area, the permit allows some changes in fauna and physical characteristics of the sediment, but does not contemplate unlimited changes or the loss of all types of organisms.

## 7. DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS & CONTROLS

On August 23, 2004, the USEPA promulgated effluent guideline limitations (EGLs) for *Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production Point Source Category* at 40 CFR Part 451. 40 CFR Part 451 Subpart B, *Net Pen Subcategory*, is applicable to discharges from aquaculture facilities that produce 100,000 pounds or more per year of aquatic animals. 40 CFR Part 451.21, *Effluent limitations attainable by the application of the best practicable control technology currently available (BPT)*, states that existing point sources provide BPT including:

*(a) Feed management. Employ efficient feed management and feeding strategies that limit feed input to the minimum amount reasonably necessary to achieve production goals and sustain targeted rates of aquatic animal growth. These strategies must minimize the accumulation of uneaten food beneath the pens through the use of active feed monitoring and management practices. These practices may include one or more of the following: Use of real-time feed monitoring, including devices such as video cameras, digital scanning sonar, and upweller systems; monitoring of sediment quality beneath the pens; monitoring of benthic community quality beneath the pens; capture of waste feed and feces; or other good husbandry practices approved by the permitting authority.*

## 7. DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS & CONTROLS (cont'd)

The new source performance standards (NSPS) for this subcategory are the same as the limitations specified in 40 CFR Part 451.21.

This permit requires that facilities utilize real-time control methods to monitor the amount of uneaten feed lost from the net pens. The most commonly used method is installation of video cameras in the water to observe feed falling through the water column. The amount of feed used at any given time varies on a number of factors, including fish size, water temperature and husbandry objectives.

Special Condition E.3 of this permit requires facilities to conduct video or photographic monitoring of the sea floor under and adjacent to each net pen system to identify potential water quality or sediment impacts caused by the operation of the facility. Special Condition E.4 of this permit requires facilities to conduct sediment and benthic monitoring on the sea floor with specific focus on sediment conditions and the infaunal community. Potential benthic impacts within the mixing zone are being controlled through "warning levels" and "impact levels" as established in Special Condition F of this permit. The impact levels represent unacceptable conditions. The warning levels represent conditions of concern that, if were to worsen, could become violations. For each area and limit, the facility is required to monitor or evaluate several parameters to determine compliance including, but not limited to: sulfide, the presence of *Beggiatoia* bacteria, *Capitella capitata* mats, benthic infauna, the formation of gas in the sediments, the presence of anoxic sediments, the relative abundance of organisms and the diversity of organisms present. Similarly, this permit establishes criteria for sediment outside of the mixing zone areas to define what conditions are considered to represent full attainment of narrative criteria for classes a SB and SC waters. The law does not prescribe exact numeric criteria for the criteria in the General Permit. The Department has, through BPJ, described conditions and measurements that most marine biologists consider indicative of adverse impact.

Special Condition I of this permit, *Best Management Practices for the Operation of the Facility*, contains certain requirements and prohibitions intended to control impacts from permitted facilities

Special Condition J of this permit, *Use of Drugs for Disease Control*, contains conditions for the use of U.S. Food and Drug Association-approved drugs and are being established to ensure consistency with the minimum requirements promulgated at 40 CFR Part 451.3 as follows:

1. The permittee must provide a written report to the Department of an Investigational New Animal Drugs (INADs) impending use within 7 days of agreeing or signing up to participate in an INAD study. The written report must identify the INAD to be used, method of use, the dosage, and the disease or condition the INAD is intended to treat.
2. For INADs and extralabel drug uses, the permittee must provide an oral report to the Department as soon as possible, preferably in advance of use, but no later than 7 days after initiating use of that drug. The oral report must identify the drugs used, method of application, and the reason for using that drug.

**7. DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS & CONTROLS (cont'd)**

3. For INADs and extralabel drug uses, the permittee must provide a written report to the Department within 30 days after initiating use of that drug. The written report must identify the drug used and include: the reason for treatment, date(s) and time(s) of the addition (including duration), method of application; and the amount added.

Special Condition K of this permit, *Best Management Practices for Spill Control*, requires the permittee to maintain and implement a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan. Additionally, Special Condition E.4 requires facilities to conduct sediment monitoring following each use of medication to ensure medications are not accumulating in quantities or concentrations that would adversely affect the infaunal community.

**8. DISCHARGE IMPACT ON RECEIVING WATER QUALITY**

As permitted, the Department has determined the existing water uses will be maintained and protected and the discharge will not cause or contribute to the failure of the water body to meet standards for Class SB classification.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public notice of this application was made in the *Ellsworth American* newspaper on or about March 29, 2012. The Department receives public comments on an application until the date a final agency action is taken on the application. Those persons receiving copies of draft permits shall have at least 30 days in which to submit comments on the draft or to request a public hearing, pursuant to *Application Processing Procedures for Waste Discharge Licenses*, 06-096 CMR 522 (effective January 12, 2001).

**10. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS**

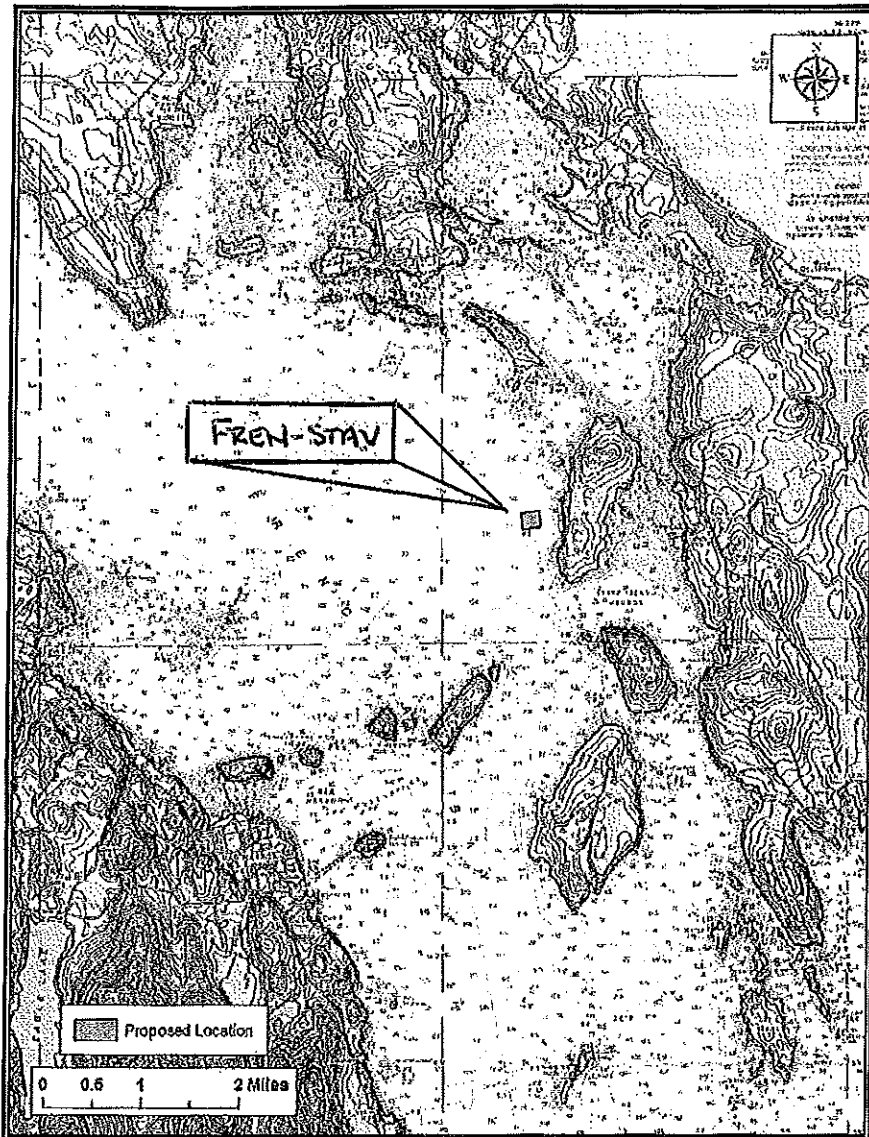
Additional information concerning this permitting action may be obtained from, and written comments sent to:

Gregg Wood  
Division of Water Quality Management  
Bureau of Land & Water Quality  
Department of Environmental Protection  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017 Telephone: (207) 287-7693 Fax: (207) 287-3435  
e-mail: [gregg.wood@maine.gov](mailto:gregg.wood@maine.gov)

## 11. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

During the period of May 10, 2012, through the issuance date of the permit/license, the Department solicited comments on the proposed draft permit/license to be issued for the discharge(s) from the permittee's facility. The Department did not receive comments from the permittee, state or federal agencies or interested parties that resulted in any substantive change(s) in the terms and conditions of the permit. Therefore, the Department has not prepared a Response to Comments.

# ATTACHMENT A



**Figure 1:** Regional map created in ArcMap version 9.2 using digitized NOAA Chart #13318.

**Location:** West of Stave Island in Frenchman Bay, Gouldsboro, Hancock County, Maine.

**Purpose:** Net-pen culture of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) and halibut (*Hippoglossus hippoglossus*).

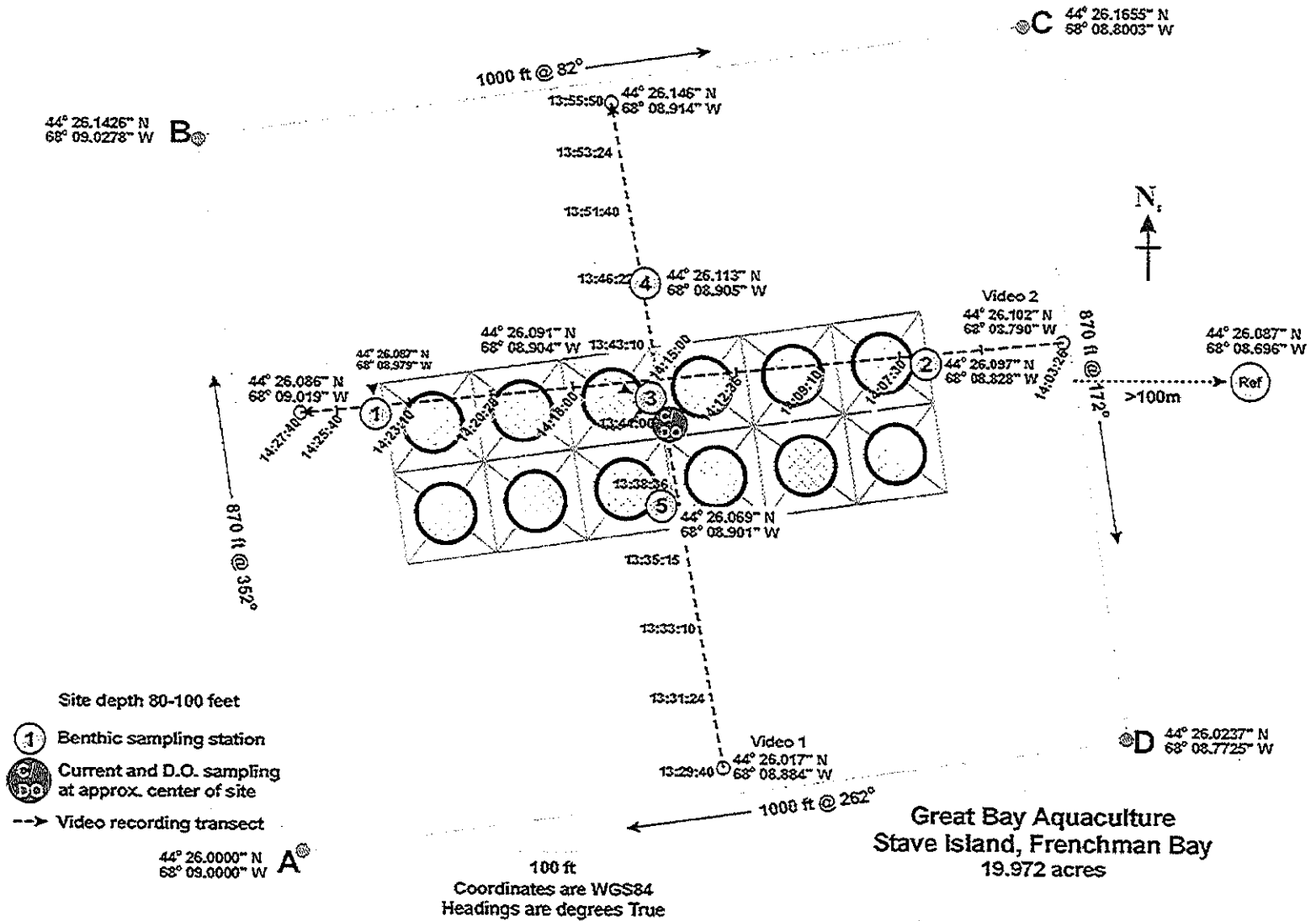
Site Review by: Jon Lewis and Marcy Nelson  
Report Preparation by: Jon Lewis and Marcy Nelson

September 13, 2011

# ATTACHMENT B



Figure 2. Site and sampling station location detail



MER Assessment Corporation, 2010

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STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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**A. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. **General compliance.** All discharges shall be consistent with the terms and conditions of this permit; any changes in production capacity or process modifications which result in changes in the quantity or the characteristics of the discharge must be authorized by an additional license or by modifications of this permit; it shall be a violation of the terms and conditions of this permit to discharge any pollutant not identified and authorized herein or to discharge in excess of the rates or quantities authorized herein or to violate any other conditions of this permit.

2. **Other materials.** Other materials ordinarily produced or used in the operation of this facility, which have been specifically identified in the application, may be discharged at the maximum frequency and maximum level identified in the application, provided:

(a) They are not

- (i) Designated as toxic or hazardous under the provisions of Sections 307 and 311, respectively, of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act; Title 38, Section 420, Maine Revised Statutes; or other applicable State Law; or
- (ii) Known to be hazardous or toxic by the licensee.

(b) The discharge of such materials will not violate applicable water quality standards.

3. **Duty to comply.** The permittee must comply with all conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of State law and the Clean Water Act and is grounds for enforcement action; for permit termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or denial of a permit renewal application.

- (a) The permittee shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions established under section 307(a) of the Clean Water Act, and 38 MRSA, §420 or Chapter 530.5 for toxic pollutants within the time provided in the regulations that establish these standards or prohibitions, even if the permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement.
- (b) Any person who violates any provision of the laws administered by the Department, including without limitation, a violation of the terms of any order, rule license, permit, approval or decision of the Board or Commissioner is subject to the penalties set forth in 38 MRSA, §349.

4. **Duty to provide information.** The permittee shall furnish to the Department, within a reasonable time, any information which the Department may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this permit or to determine compliance with this permit. The permittee shall also furnish to the Department upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this permit.

5. **Permit actions.** This permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. The filing of a request by the permittee for a permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any permit condition.

6. **Reopener clause.** The Department reserves the right to make appropriate revisions to this permit in order to establish any appropriate effluent limitations, schedule of compliance or other provisions which may be authorized under 38 MRSA, §414-A(5).

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**7. Oil and hazardous substances.** Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities or penalties to which the permittee is or may be subject under section 311 of the Federal Clean Water Act; section 106 of the Federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980; or 38 MRSA §§ 1301, et. seq.

**8. Property rights.** This permit does not convey any property rights of any sort, or any exclusive privilege.

**9. Confidentiality of records.** 38 MRSA §414(6) reads as follows. "Any records, reports or information obtained under this subchapter is available to the public, except that upon a showing satisfactory to the department by any person that any records, reports or information, or particular part or any record, report or information, other than the names and addresses of applicants, license applications, licenses, and effluent data, to which the department has access under this subchapter would, if made public, divulge methods or processes that are entitled to protection as trade secrets, these records, reports or information must be confidential and not available for public inspection or examination. Any records, reports or information may be disclosed to employees or authorized representatives of the State or the United States concerned with carrying out this subchapter or any applicable federal law, and to any party to a hearing held under this section on terms the commissioner may prescribe in order to protect these confidential records, reports and information, as long as this disclosure is material and relevant to any issue under consideration by the department."

**10. Duty to reapply.** If the permittee wishes to continue an activity regulated by this permit after the expiration date of this permit, the permittee must apply for and obtain a new permit.

**11. Other laws.** The issuance of this permit does not authorize any injury to persons or property or invasion of other property rights, nor does it relieve the permittee of its obligation to comply with other applicable Federal, State or local laws and regulations.

**12. Inspection and entry.** The permittee shall allow the Department, or an authorized representative (including an authorized contractor acting as a representative of the EPA Administrator), upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:

- (a) Enter upon the permittee's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records must be kept under the conditions of this permit;
- (b) Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this permit;
- (c) Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this permit; and
- (d) Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by the Clean Water Act, any substances or parameters at any location.

**B. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES**

**1. General facility requirements.**

- (a) The permittee shall collect all waste flows designated by the Department as requiring treatment and discharge them into an approved waste treatment facility in such a manner as to

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maximize removal of pollutants unless authorization to the contrary is obtained from the Department.

- (b) The permittee shall at all times maintain in good working order and operate at maximum efficiency all waste water collection, treatment and/or control facilities.
- (c) All necessary waste treatment facilities will be installed and operational prior to the discharge of any wastewaters.
- (d) Final plans and specifications must be submitted to the Department for review prior to the construction or modification of any treatment facilities.
- (e) The permittee shall install flow measuring facilities of a design approved by the Department.
- (f) The permittee must provide an outfall of a design approved by the Department which is placed in the receiving waters in such a manner that the maximum mixing and dispersion of the wastewaters will be achieved as rapidly as possible.

**2. Proper operation and maintenance.** The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems which are installed by a permittee only when the operation is necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the permit.

**3. Need to halt or reduce activity not a defense.** It shall not be a defense for a permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.

**4. Duty to mitigate.** The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge or sludge use or disposal in violation of this permit which has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.

**5. Bypasses.**

(a) Definitions.

- (i) Bypass means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility.
- (ii) Severe property damage means substantial physical damage to property, damage to the treatment facilities which causes them to become inoperable, or substantial and permanent loss of natural resources which can reasonably be expected to occur in the absence of a bypass. Severe property damage does not mean economic loss caused by delays in production.

(b) Bypass not exceeding limitations. The permittee may allow any bypass to occur which does not cause effluent limitations to be exceeded, but only if it also is for essential maintenance to assure efficient operation. These bypasses are not subject to the provisions of paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section.

(c) Notice.

- (i) Anticipated bypass. If the permittee knows in advance of the need for a bypass, it shall submit prior notice, if possible at least ten days before the date of the bypass.

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- (ii) Unanticipated bypass. The permittee shall submit notice of an unanticipated bypass as required in paragraph D(1)(f), below. (24-hour notice).
- (d) Prohibition of bypass.
  - (i) Bypass is prohibited, and the Department may take enforcement action against a permittee for bypass, unless:
    - (A) Bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;
    - (B) There were no feasible alternatives to the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary treatment facilities, retention of untreated wastes, or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime. This condition is not satisfied if adequate back-up equipment should have been installed in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgment to prevent a bypass which occurred during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventive maintenance; and
    - (C) The permittee submitted notices as required under paragraph (c) of this section.
  - (ii) The Department may approve an anticipated bypass, after considering its adverse effects, if the Department determines that it will meet the three conditions listed above in paragraph (d)(i) of this section.

**6. Upsets.**

- (a) Definition. Upset means an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary noncompliance with technology based permit effluent limitations because of factors beyond the reasonable control of the permittee. An upset does not include noncompliance to the extent caused by operational error, improperly designed treatment facilities, inadequate treatment facilities, lack of preventive maintenance, or careless or improper operation.
- (b) Effect of an upset. An upset constitutes an affirmative defense to an action brought for noncompliance with such technology based permit effluent limitations if the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section are met. No determination made during administrative review of claims that noncompliance was caused by upset, and before an action for noncompliance, is final administrative action subject to judicial review.
- (c) Conditions necessary for a demonstration of upset. A permittee who wishes to establish the affirmative defense of upset shall demonstrate, through properly signed, contemporaneous operating logs, or other relevant evidence that:
  - (i) An upset occurred and that the permittee can identify the cause(s) of the upset;
  - (ii) The permitted facility was at the time being properly operated; and
  - (iii) The permittee submitted notice of the upset as required in paragraph D(1)(f), below. (24 hour notice).
  - (iv) The permittee complied with any remedial measures required under paragraph B(4).
- (d) Burden of proof. In any enforcement proceeding the permittee seeking to establish the occurrence of an upset has the burden of proof.

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**C. MONITORING AND RECORDS**

**1. General Requirements.** This permit shall be subject to such monitoring requirements as may be reasonably required by the Department including the installation, use and maintenance of monitoring equipment or methods (including, where appropriate, biological monitoring methods). The permittee shall provide the Department with periodic reports on the proper Department reporting form of monitoring results obtained pursuant to the monitoring requirements contained herein.

**2. Representative sampling.** Samples and measurements taken as required herein shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge. If effluent limitations are based wholly or partially on quantities of a product processed, the permittee shall ensure samples are representative of times when production is taking place. Where discharge monitoring is required when production is less than 50%, the resulting data shall be reported as a daily measurement but not included in computation of averages, unless specifically authorized by the Department.

**3. Monitoring and records.**

- (a) Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the monitored activity.
- (b) Except for records of monitoring information required by this permit related to the permittee's sewage sludge use and disposal activities, which shall be retained for a period of at least five years, the permittee shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this permit, and records of all data used to complete the application for this permit, for a period of at least 3 years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application. This period may be extended by request of the Department at any time.
- (c) Records of monitoring information shall include:
  - (i) The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements;
  - (ii) The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements;
  - (iii) The date(s) analyses were performed;
  - (iv) The individual(s) who performed the analyses;
  - (v) The analytical techniques or methods used; and
  - (vi) The results of such analyses.
- (d) Monitoring results must be conducted according to test procedures approved under 40 CFR part 136, unless other test procedures have been specified in the permit.
- (e) State law provides that any person who tampers with or renders inaccurate any monitoring devices or method required by any provision of law, or any order, rule license, permit approval or decision is subject to the penalties set forth in 38 MRSA, §349.

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**D. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Reporting requirements.**

- (a) Planned changes. The permittee shall give notice to the Department as soon as possible of any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility. Notice is required only when:
  - (i) The alteration or addition to a permitted facility may meet one of the criteria for determining whether a facility is a new source in 40 CFR 122.29(b); or
  - (ii) The alteration or addition could significantly change the nature or increase the quantity of pollutants discharged. This notification applies to pollutants which are subject neither to effluent limitations in the permit, nor to notification requirements under Section D(4).
  - (iii) The alteration or addition results in a significant change in the permittee's sludge use or disposal practices, and such alteration, addition, or change may justify the application of permit conditions that are different from or absent in the existing permit, including notification of additional use or disposal sites not reported during the permit application process or not reported pursuant to an approved land application plan;
- (b) Anticipated noncompliance. The permittee shall give advance notice to the Department of any planned changes in the permitted facility or activity which may result in noncompliance with permit requirements.
- (c) Transfers. This permit is not transferable to any person except upon application to and approval of the Department pursuant to 38 MRSA, § 344 and Chapters 2 and 522.
- (d) Monitoring reports. Monitoring results shall be reported at the intervals specified elsewhere in this permit.
  - (i) Monitoring results must be reported on a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) or forms provided or specified by the Department for reporting results of monitoring of sludge use or disposal practices.
  - (ii) If the permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by the permit using test procedures approved under 40 CFR part 136 or as specified in the permit, the results of this monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the DMR or sludge reporting form specified by the Department.
  - (iii) Calculations for all limitations which require averaging of measurements shall utilize an arithmetic mean unless otherwise specified by the Department in the permit.
- (e) Compliance schedules. Reports of compliance or noncompliance with, or any progress reports on, interim and final requirements contained in any compliance schedule of this permit shall be submitted no later than 14 days following each schedule date.
- (f) Twenty-four hour reporting.
  - (i) The permittee shall report any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment. Any information shall be provided orally within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. A written submission shall also be provided within 5 days of the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. The written submission shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times, and if the noncompliance



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has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance.

(ii) The following shall be included as information which must be reported within 24 hours under this paragraph.

(A) Any unanticipated bypass which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit.

(B) Any upset which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit.

(C) Violation of a maximum daily discharge limitation for any of the pollutants listed by the Department in the permit to be reported within 24 hours.

(iii) The Department may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis for reports under paragraph (f)(ii) of this section if the oral report has been received within 24 hours.

(g) Other noncompliance. The permittee shall report all instances of noncompliance not reported under paragraphs (d), (e), and (f) of this section, at the time monitoring reports are submitted. The reports shall contain the information listed in paragraph (f) of this section.

(h) Other information. Where the permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application, or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to the Department, it shall promptly submit such facts or information.

**2. Signatory requirement.** All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Department shall be signed and certified as required by Chapter 521, Section 5 of the Department's rules. State law provides that any person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation or certification in any application, record, report, plan or other document filed or required to be maintained by any order, rule, permit, approval or decision of the Board or Commissioner is subject to the penalties set forth in 38 MRSA, §349.

**3. Availability of reports.** Except for data determined to be confidential under A(9), above, all reports prepared in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Department. As required by State law, effluent data shall not be considered confidential. Knowingly making any false statement on any such report may result in the imposition of criminal sanctions as provided by law.

**4. Existing manufacturing, commercial, mining, and silvicultural dischargers.** In addition to the reporting requirements under this Section, all existing manufacturing, commercial, mining, and silvicultural dischargers must notify the Department as soon as they know or have reason to believe:

(a) That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in the discharge, on a routine or frequent basis, of any toxic pollutant which is not limited in the permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following "notification levels":

(i) One hundred micrograms per liter (100 ug/l);

(ii) Two hundred micrograms per liter (200 ug/l) for acrolein and acrylonitrile; five hundred micrograms per liter (500 ug/l) for 2,4-dinitrophenol and for 2-methyl-4,6-dinitrophenol; and one milligram per liter (1 mg/l) for antimony;

(iii) Five (5) times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application in accordance with Chapter 521 Section 4(g)(7); or

(iv) The level established by the Department in accordance with Chapter 523 Section 5(f).

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- (b) That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in any discharge, on a non-routine or infrequent basis, of a toxic pollutant which is not limited in the permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following "notification levels":
- (i) Five hundred micrograms per liter (500 ug/l);
  - (ii) One milligram per liter (1 mg/l) for antimony;
  - (iii) Ten (10) times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application in accordance with Chapter 521 Section 4(g)(7); or
  - (iv) The level established by the Department in accordance with Chapter 523 Section 5(f).

**5. Publicly owned treatment works.**

- (a) All POTWs must provide adequate notice to the Department of the following:
- (i) Any new introduction of pollutants into the POTW from an indirect discharger which would be subject to section 301 or 306 of CWA or Chapter 528 if it were directly discharging those pollutants.
  - (ii) Any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants being introduced into that POTW by a source introducing pollutants into the POTW at the time of issuance of the permit.
  - (iii) For purposes of this paragraph, adequate notice shall include information on (A) the quality and quantity of effluent introduced into the POTW, and (B) any anticipated impact of the change on the quantity or quality of effluent to be discharged from the POTW.
- (b) When the effluent discharged by a POTW for a period of three consecutive months exceeds 80 percent of the permitted flow, the permittee shall submit to the Department a projection of loadings up to the time when the design capacity of the treatment facility will be reached, and a program for maintaining satisfactory treatment levels consistent with approved water quality management plans.

**E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Emergency action - power failure.** Within thirty days after the effective date of this permit, the permittee shall notify the Department of facilities and plans to be used in the event the primary source of power to its wastewater pumping and treatment facilities fails as follows.

- (a) For municipal sources. During power failure, all wastewaters which are normally treated shall receive a minimum of primary treatment and disinfection. Unless otherwise approved, alternate power supplies shall be provided for pumping stations and treatment facilities. Alternate power supplies shall be on-site generating units or an outside power source which is separate and independent from sources used for normal operation of the wastewater facilities.
- (b) For industrial and commercial sources. The permittee shall either maintain an alternative power source sufficient to operate the wastewater pumping and treatment facilities or halt, reduce or otherwise control production and or all discharges upon reduction or loss of power to the wastewater pumping or treatment facilities.

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2. **Spill prevention.** (applicable only to industrial sources) Within six months of the effective date of this permit, the permittee shall submit to the Department for review and approval, with or without conditions, a spill prevention plan. The plan shall delineate methods and measures to be taken to prevent and or contain any spills of pulp, chemicals, oils or other contaminants and shall specify means of disposal and or treatment to be used.

3. **Removed substances.** Solids, sludges trash rack cleanings, filter backwash, or other pollutants removed from or resulting from the treatment or control of waste waters shall be disposed of in a manner approved by the Department.

4. **Connection to municipal sewer.** (applicable only to industrial and commercial sources) All wastewaters designated by the Department as treatable in a municipal treatment system will be cosigned to that system when it is available. This permit will expire 90 days after the municipal treatment facility becomes available, unless this time is extended by the Department in writing.

**F. DEFINITIONS.** For the purposes of this permit, the following definitions shall apply. Other definitions applicable to this permit may be found in Chapters 520 through 529 of the Department's rules

**Average** means the arithmetic mean of values taken at the frequency required for each parameter over the specified period. For bacteria, the average shall be the geometric mean.

**Average monthly discharge limitation** means the highest allowable average of daily discharges over a calendar month, calculated as the sum of all daily discharges measured during a calendar month divided by the number of daily discharges measured during that month. Except, however, bacteriological tests may be calculated as a geometric mean.

**Average weekly discharge limitation** means the highest allowable average of daily discharges over a calendar week, calculated as the sum of all daily discharges measured during a calendar week divided by the number of daily discharges measured during that week.

**Best management practices ("BMPs")** means schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of the State. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage.

**Composite sample** means a sample consisting of a minimum of eight grab samples collected at equal intervals during a 24 hour period (or a lesser period as specified in the section on monitoring and reporting) and combined proportional to the flow over that same time period.

**Continuous discharge** means a discharge which occurs without interruption throughout the operating hours of the facility, except for infrequent shutdowns for maintenance, process changes, or other similar activities.

**Daily discharge** means the discharge of a pollutant measured during a calendar day or any 24-hour period that reasonably represents the calendar day for purposes of sampling. For pollutants with limitations expressed in units of mass, the daily discharge is calculated as the total mass of the pollutant discharged over the day. For pollutants with limitations expressed in other units of measurement, the daily discharge is calculated as the average measurement of the pollutant over the day.

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STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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**Discharge Monitoring Report ("DMR")** means the EPA uniform national form, including any subsequent additions, revisions, or modifications for the reporting of self-monitoring results by permittees. DMRs must be used by approved States as well as by EPA. EPA will supply DMRs to any approved State upon request. The EPA national forms may be modified to substitute the State Agency name, address, logo, and other similar information, as appropriate, in place of EPA's.

**Flow weighted composite sample** means a composite sample consisting of a mixture of aliquots collected at a constant time interval, where the volume of each aliquot is proportional to the flow rate of the discharge.

**Grab sample** means an individual sample collected in a period of less than 15 minutes.

**Interference** means a Discharge which, alone or in conjunction with a discharge or discharges from other sources, both:

- (1) Inhibits or disrupts the POTW, its treatment processes or operations, or its sludge processes, use or disposal; and
- (2) Therefore is a cause of a violation of any requirement of the POTW's NPDES permit (including an increase in the magnitude or duration of a violation) or of the prevention of sewage sludge use or disposal in compliance with the following statutory provisions and regulations or permits issued thereunder (or more stringent State or local regulations): Section 405 of the Clean Water Act, the Solid Waste Disposal Act (SWDA) (including title II, more commonly referred to as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and including State regulations contained in any State sludge management plan prepared pursuant to subtitle D of the SWDA), the Clean Air Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act.

**Maximum daily discharge limitation** means the highest allowable daily discharge.

**New source** means any building, structure, facility, or installation from which there is or may be a discharge of pollutants, the construction of which commenced:

- (a) After promulgation of standards of performance under section 306 of CWA which are applicable to such source, or
- (b) After proposal of standards of performance in accordance with section 306 of CWA which are applicable to such source, but only if the standards are promulgated in accordance with section 306 within 120 days of their proposal.

**Pass through** means a discharge which exits the POTW into waters of the State in quantities or concentrations which, alone or in conjunction with a discharge or discharges from other sources, is a cause of a violation of any requirement of the POTW's NPDES permit (including an increase in the magnitude or duration of a violation).

**Permit** means an authorization, license, or equivalent control document issued by EPA or an approved State to implement the requirements of 40 CFR parts 122, 123 and 124. Permit includes an NPDES general permit (Chapter 529). Permit does not include any permit which has not yet been the subject of final agency action, such as a draft permit or a proposed permit.

**Person** means an individual, firm, corporation, municipality, quasi-municipal corporation, state agency, federal agency or other legal entity.

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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**Point source** means any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including, but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

**Pollutant** means dredged spoil, solid waste, junk, incinerator residue, sewage, refuse, effluent, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemicals, biological or radiological materials, oil, petroleum products or byproducts, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, dirt and industrial, municipal, domestic, commercial or agricultural wastes of any kind.

**Process wastewater** means any water which, during manufacturing or processing, comes into direct contact with or results from the production or use of any raw material, intermediate product, finished product, byproduct, or waste product.

**Publicly owned treatment works ("POTW")** means any facility for the treatment of pollutants owned by the State or any political subdivision thereof, any municipality, district, quasi-municipal corporation or other public entity.

**Septage** means, for the purposes of this permit, any waste, refuse, effluent sludge or other material removed from a septic tank, cesspool, vault privy or similar source which concentrates wastes or to which chemicals have been added. Septage does not include wastes from a holding tank.

**Time weighted composite** means a composite sample consisting of a mixture of equal volume aliquots collected over a constant time interval.

**Toxic pollutant** includes any pollutant listed as toxic under section 307(a)(1) or, in the case of sludge use or disposal practices, any pollutant identified in regulations implementing section 405(d) of the CWA. Toxic pollutant also includes those substances or combination of substances, including disease causing agents, which after discharge or upon exposure, ingestion, inhalation or assimilation into any organism, including humans either directly through the environment or indirectly through ingestion through food chains, will, on the basis of information available to the board either alone or in combination with other substances already in the receiving waters or the discharge, cause death, disease, abnormalities, cancer, genetic mutations, physiological malfunctions, including malfunctions in reproduction, or physical deformations in such organism or their offspring.

**Wetlands** means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

**Whole effluent toxicity** means the aggregate toxic effect of an effluent measured directly by a toxicity test.



# DEP INFORMATION SHEET

## Appealing a Department Licensing Decision

Dated: March 2012

Contact: (207) 287-2811

### SUMMARY

There are two methods available to an aggrieved person seeking to appeal a licensing decision made by the Department of Environmental Protection's ("DEP") Commissioner: (1) in an administrative process before the Board of Environmental Protection ("Board"); or (2) in a judicial process before Maine's Superior Court. An aggrieved person seeking review of a licensing decision over which the Board had original jurisdiction may seek judicial review in Maine's Superior Court.

A judicial appeal of final action by the Commissioner or the Board regarding an application for an expedited wind energy development (35-A M.R.S.A. § 3451(4)) or a general permit for an offshore wind energy demonstration project (38 M.R.S.A. § 480-HH(1)) or a general permit for a tidal energy demonstration project (38 M.R.S.A. § 636-A) must be taken to the Supreme Judicial Court sitting as the Law Court.

This INFORMATION SHEET, in conjunction with a review of the statutory and regulatory provisions referred to herein, can help a person to understand his or her rights and obligations in filing an administrative or judicial appeal.

### I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TO THE BOARD

#### LEGAL REFERENCES

The laws concerning the DEP's *Organization and Powers*, 38 M.R.S.A. §§ 341-D(4) & 346, the *Maine Administrative Procedure Act*, 5 M.R.S.A. § 11001, and the DEP's *Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters* ("Chapter 2"), 06-096 CMR 2 (April 1, 2003).

#### HOW LONG YOU HAVE TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD

The Board must receive a written appeal within 30 days of the date on which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board. Appeals filed after 30 calendar days of the date on which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board will be rejected.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD

Signed original appeal documents must be sent to: Chair, Board of Environmental Protection, c/o Department of Environmental Protection, 17 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0017; faxes are acceptable for purposes of meeting the deadline when followed by the Board's receipt of mailed original documents within five (5) working days. Receipt on a particular day must be by 5:00 PM at DEP's offices in Augusta; materials received after 5:00 PM are not considered received until the following day. The person appealing a licensing decision must also send the DEP's Commissioner a copy of the appeal documents and if the person appealing is not the applicant in the license proceeding at issue the applicant must also be sent a copy of the appeal documents. All of the information listed in the next section must be submitted at the time the appeal is filed. Only the extraordinary circumstances described at the end of that section will justify evidence not in the DEP's record at the time of decision being added to the record for consideration by the Board as part of an appeal.

#### WHAT YOUR APPEAL PAPERWORK MUST CONTAIN

Appeal materials must contain the following information at the time submitted:

1. *Aggrieved Status.* The appeal must explain how the person filing the appeal has standing to maintain an appeal. This requires an explanation of how the person filing the appeal may suffer a particularized injury as a result of the Commissioner's decision.
2. *The findings, conclusions or conditions objected to or believed to be in error.* Specific references and facts regarding the appellant's issues with the decision must be provided in the notice of appeal.
3. *The basis of the objections or challenge.* If possible, specific regulations, statutes or other facts should be referenced. This may include citing omissions of relevant requirements, and errors believed to have been made in interpretations, conclusions, and relevant requirements.
4. *The remedy sought.* This can range from reversal of the Commissioner's decision on the license or permit to changes in specific permit conditions.
5. *All the matters to be contested.* The Board will limit its consideration to those arguments specifically raised in the written notice of appeal.
6. *Request for hearing.* The Board will hear presentations on appeals at its regularly scheduled meetings, unless a public hearing on the appeal is requested and granted. A request for public hearing on an appeal must be filed as part of the notice of appeal.
7. *New or additional evidence to be offered.* The Board may allow new or additional evidence, referred to as supplemental evidence, to be considered by the Board in an appeal only when the evidence is relevant and material and that the person seeking to add information to the record can show due diligence in bringing the evidence to the DEP's attention at the earliest possible time in the licensing process or that the evidence itself is newly discovered and could not have been presented earlier in the process. Specific requirements for additional evidence are found in Chapter 2.

#### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS IN APPEALING A DECISION TO THE BOARD

1. *Be familiar with all relevant material in the DEP record.* A license application file is public information, subject to any applicable statutory exceptions, made easily accessible by DEP. Upon request, the DEP will make the material available during normal working hours, provide space to review the file, and provide opportunity for photocopying materials. There is a charge for copies or copying services.
2. *Be familiar with the regulations and laws under which the application was processed, and the procedural rules governing your appeal.* DEP staff will provide this information on request and answer questions regarding applicable requirements.
3. *The filing of an appeal does not operate as a stay to any decision.* If a license has been granted and it has been appealed the license normally remains in effect pending the processing of the appeal. A license holder may proceed with a project pending the outcome of an appeal but the license holder runs the risk of the decision being reversed or modified as a result of the appeal.

#### WHAT TO EXPECT ONCE YOU FILE A TIMELY APPEAL WITH THE BOARD

The Board will formally acknowledge receipt of an appeal, including the name of the DEP project manager assigned to the specific appeal. The notice of appeal, any materials accepted by the Board Chair as supplementary evidence, and any materials submitted in response to the appeal will be sent to Board members with a recommendation from DEP staff. Persons filing appeals and interested persons are notified in advance of the date set for Board consideration of an appeal or request for public hearing. With or without holding a public hearing, the Board may affirm, amend, or reverse a Commissioner decision or remand the matter to the Commissioner for further proceedings. The Board will notify the appellant, a license holder, and interested persons of its decision.

## II. JUDICIAL APPEALS

Maine law generally allows aggrieved persons to appeal final Commissioner or Board licensing decisions to Maine's Superior Court, see 38 M.R.S.A. § 346(1); 06-096 CMR 2; 5 M.R.S.A. § 11001; & M.R. Civ. P 80C. A party's appeal must be filed with the Superior Court within 30 days of receipt of notice of the Board's or the Commissioner's decision. For any other person, an appeal must be filed within 40 days of the date the decision was rendered. Failure to file a timely appeal will result in the Board's or the Commissioner's decision becoming final.

An appeal to court of a license decision regarding an expedited wind energy development, a general permit for an offshore wind energy demonstration project, or a general permit for a tidal energy demonstration project may only be taken directly to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. See 38 M.R.S.A. § 346(4).

Maine's Administrative Procedure Act, DEP statutes governing a particular matter, and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure must be consulted for the substantive and procedural details applicable to judicial appeals.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions or need additional information on the appeal process, for administrative appeals contact the Board's Executive Analyst at (207) 287-2452 or for judicial appeals contact the court clerk's office in which your appeal will be filed.

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**Note: The DEP provides this INFORMATION SHEET for general guidance only; it is not intended for use as a legal reference. Maine law governs an appellant's rights.**

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