



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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The Maine Department of Environmental Protection presents the following revised timeline for development of marine nitrogen criteria. Note that tasks with inherent deadlines are shown by month due within the appropriate table cell.

Table 1. Revised timeline for development of draft nitrogen criteria for marine waters.

TASK	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Meet with stakeholders, Technical Advisory Committee					
Annual progress report to the Legislature		Mar.		Mar.	
Complete Marine Nitrogen Criteria dataset in the EGAD					
Determine applicability of various approaches: stressor-response, bioassessment, land use/watershed loading models					
Sampling Casco Bay (FOCB), Penobscot Bay, other waterbodies of interest, and select point dischargers (DEP)					
Update Marine Nitrogen Criteria dataset in EGAD annually					
Draft criteria for Maine's marine waters				Dec.	
Public comment period, response to comments, criteria rulemaking, EPA review					

Throughout the timeline proposed above, key decisions will be made to focus efforts and facilitate progress toward designated goals. These key decisions include the following:

- 1) Form Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in consultation with the Office of the Commissioner to facilitate development of appropriate and defensible criteria. The TAC will assist with key decisions, including those that follow.
- 2) Decide when existing data are sufficient for criteria development. In the absence of sufficient data, determine how much additional field research can occur within the given timeline and how modeling can be best utilized to supplement data coverage.
- 3) Determine which additional datasets will contribute to the Marine Nitrogen Criteria dataset in EGAD, and how to most efficiently use EGAD staff time to accomplish as comprehensive a dataset as possible.
- 4) Decide whether the stressor-response approach, as recommended, is feasible.
- 5) Determine whether state-wide as opposed to regional nitrogen criteria, are most appropriate. If deemed appropriate given sufficient information and the proposed timeline, those waterbodies demonstrating nitrogen impairments and/or aquatic life responses indicative of nitrogen pollution could be prioritized for development of draft criteria before those waterbodies where impairments have not been observed.

Under the proposed timeline, draft criteria for marine waters would be produced by the end of 2015, which would occur within seven years of the 2008 Battelle study that recommended a timeline of five to 11 years for criteria development.

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