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## CRITERIA FOR ISSUING AQUACULTURE LEASES

At aquaculture lease hearings, the Department will receive evidence relating to the legal criteria upon which it must base its decision whether to grant the lease. The criteria for granting a standard or experimental aquaculture lease are that the lease must not unreasonably interfere with:

- The ingress and egress of riparian owners;
- Navigation;
- Fishing or other uses of the area;
- Other aquaculture uses;
- The ability of the site and surrounding areas to support ecologically significant flora and fauna; or
- The public use or enjoyment within 1,000 feet of beaches, parks, or docks owned by local, state, or federal governments or \*\*certain government-owned conserved land.
- The applicant must demonstrate that there is an available source of organisms to be cultured for the lease site.
- \*\*The lease must not result in unreasonable impact from noise or light at the boundaries of the lease site, and it must comply with DMR rules to minimize the visual impact of the lease.

\*\*Starred criteria only apply to STANDARD lease applications.

The laws governing aquaculture in Maine (12 Maine Revised Statutes § 6071 – § 6081) and the rules governing how applications are reviewed and approved ((DMR Rule Chapter 2) are available on the web at: <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/laws-regs.html>.