

Waste Discharge Program Guidance

TO: Water Licensing & Compliance Staff

FR: Brian Kavanah, DWQM Director

DA: 09/25/2008

RE: **General Permit for Discharges of Pollutants from Atlantic Salmon Aquaculture Facilities**

Chapter 529 of the DEP's rules establishes procedures and criteria for the issuance of general permits authorizing the discharge of certain pollutants to waters of the State. A general permit is issued by the State to cover multiple individual discharge sources and locations which involve situations where the DEP determines that there is a relatively low risk of significant environmental impact. General permits may be issued for different specific categories of discharge activities.

Pursuant to Chapter 529, the DEP has renewed a general permit that authorizes the discharge of certain pollutants to Maine waters from the operation and maintenance of Atlantic salmon aquaculture facilities, provided that the requirements and prohibitions of this general permit and the applicable provisions of Maine's waste discharge and water classification statutes and rules are met. A copy of this general permit is attached. A copy of the Fact Sheet accompanying the general permit is available upon request from the DWQM licensing unit.

Under this general permit, "Atlantic salmon aquaculture facility" means a single net pen or group of net pens and appurtenances within a single leasehold granted by the Department of Marine Resources and operated by a single owner with a common management plan for the purpose of rearing Atlantic salmon.

The Atlantic salmon aquaculture facilities that qualify for coverage under this general permit are limited to those facilities located in Class SB or SC marine waters east of Naskeag Point in Brooklin, except those waters located in the area north of a line from Schoodic Point in Winter Harbor to Baker Island in Cranberry Isles, then west to Naskeag Point in Brooklin.

Any person operating an existing facility or proposing to operate a new facility and desiring coverage under this general permit must complete a notice of intent (NOI) and submit it with the applicable permit fee to the DEP. For facilities covered under the previous general permit, an NOI must be filed for coverage under the renewed general permit. For new facilities, the NOI must be filed prior to the operation of the new facility. New facilities originally permitted with an individual permit must operate for a minimum of two years under that permit to demonstrate that the facility does not have significant adverse effects on existing water quality before being eligible for coverage under this general permit.

The DEP may require any person with a discharge authorized under this general permit to apply for an individual permit to discharge pollutants from an Atlantic salmon aquaculture facility.

This general permit was originally issued on June 19, 2003 and was renewed on September 22, 2008. The renewed general permit is effective until September 22, 2013 unless modified, reopened, revoked or suspended by the DEP.

cc: Samantha Horn Oslen, DMR