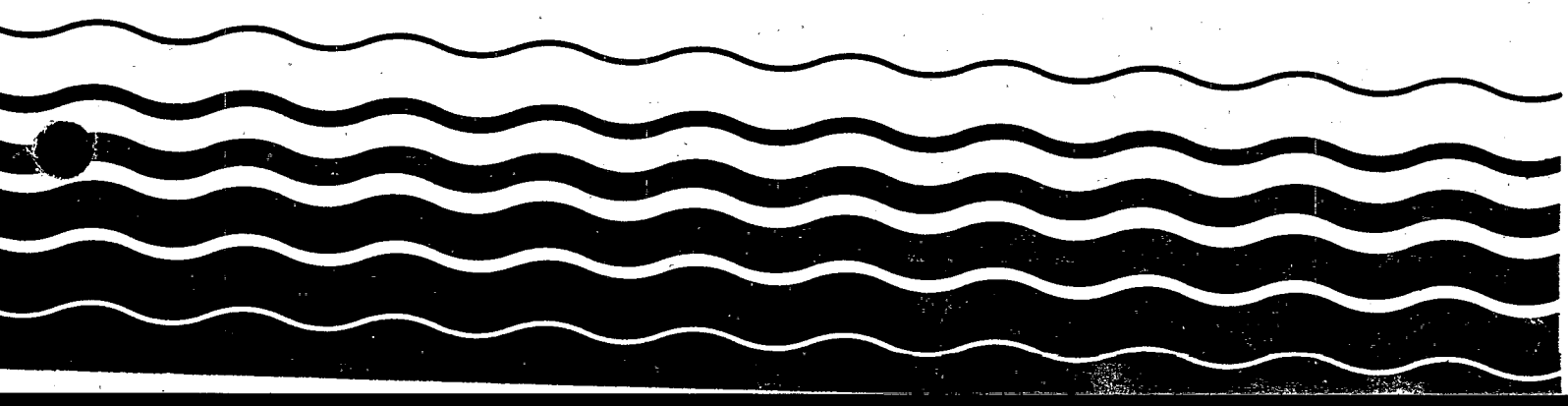


Water



State Water Quality Standards Summary: Maine ka



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The reader should consult the water quality standards of a particular State for exact regulatory language applicable to that State. Copies of State water quality standards may be obtained from the State's Water Pollution Control Agency or its equivalent.

Additional information may also be obtained from the:

Standards Branch
Criteria and Standards Division (WH-585)
Office of Water Regulations and Standards
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460
202-475-7315

This document may be obtained only from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) at the following address:

National Technical Information Service
5285 Front Royal Road
Springfield, Virginia 22161
703-487-4650

The NTIS order number is: PB89-141881

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Responsible Agency:

Dept. Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Quality Control
Ray Building
Hospital Street
Augusta, Maine 04333
207-289-2591

State Contact:

Standards Available From:

Alan M. Aysuaka, Director
Department of Environmental Protection
State House

State Contact:

Augusta 04333
207-289-2591 Fee: no Mailing List: no

State Narrative Language For: Antidegradation

The antidegradation policy of the State shall be governed by the following provisions.

1. Existing in-stream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect those existing uses shall be maintained and protected.
2. Where high quality waters of the State constitute an outstanding national resource, that water quality shall be maintained and protected.
3. The board may only issue a discharge license pursuant to section 414-A or approve water quality certification pursuant to the United States Clean Water Act, section 401, Public Law 92-500, as amended, if the standards of classification of the water body and requirements of this paragraph will be met.
4. Where the actual quality of any classified water exceeds the minimum standards of the next highest classification, that higher water quality shall be maintained and protected. The board shall recommend to the Legislature that water be reclassified in the next higher classification.
5. The board may only issue a discharge license pursuant to section 414-A or approve water quality certification pursuant to the United States Clean Water Act, section 401, Public Law 92-500, as amended, which would result in lowering the existing quality of any water body after making a finding, following opportunity for public participation, that the action is necessary to achieve important economic or social benefits to the State and when the action is in conformance with subparagraph 3. That finding must be made following procedures established by the rule of the board, 1985, c. 698, 15(new).

State Narrative Language For: Toxics

There shall be no disposal of any matter or substance that contains chemical constituents which are harmful to humans, animals or aquatic life or which adversely affect any other water use in the classes. No person, firm, corporation or other legal entity shall place, deposit, discharge or spill, directly or indirectly, onto the inland or tidal waters of this State, or on the ice thereof, or on the banks thereof so that the same may flow or be washed into such waters, or in such manner that the drainage therefrom may flow into such waters:

Any other toxic substance in any amount or concentration greater than that identified or regulated, including complete prohibition of such substance, by the board. In identifying and regulating such toxic substances, the board shall take into account the toxicity of the substance, its persistence and degradability, the usual or potential presence of any organism affected by such substance in any waters of the State, the importance of such organism and the nature and extent of the effect of such substance on such organisms, either alone or in combination with substances already in the receiving waters or the discharge.

State Narrative Language For: Free From

All surface waters of the State shall be free of settled substances which alter the physical or chemical nature of bottom material and of floating substances, except as naturally occur, which impair the characteristics and designated uses ascribed to their class.

State Narrative Language For: Low Flow

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Minimum Flow - For regulated rivers and streams, the Department may establish a minimum flow necessary to maintain water quality standards. This flow will be based upon achieving the assigned classification, criteria and protection of the uses of the stream. The Department will cooperate with appropriate Federal, State and private interests in the development and maintenance of stream flow requirements.

For the purpose of computing whether a discharge will violate the classification of any river or stream, the assimilative capacity of the river or stream shall be computed using the minimum 7-day low flow which can be expected to occur with a frequency of once in 10 years.

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Classifications:

Fresh Surface Waters Class AA	Drinking water after disinfection, fishing, recreation in and on the water and navigation and as habitat for fish and other aquatic life.
Fresh Surface Waters Class A	Drinking Water after disinfection, fishing, recreation in and on the water, industrial process and cooling water supply, hydroelectric power generation, except as prohibited under Title 12, section 403, and navigation, and as habitat for fish and other aquatic life.
Fresh Surface Waters Class B	Drinking water after disinfection, fishing, recreation in and on the water, industrial process and cooling water supply, hydroelectric power generation, except as prohibited under Title 12, section 403, and navigation, and as habitat for fish and other aquatic life.
Fresh Surface Waters Class C	Drinking water after disinfection, fishing, recreation in and on the water, industrial process and cooling water supply, hydroelectric power generation, except as prohibited under Title 12, section 403, and navigation, and as habitat for fish and other aquatic life.
Lakes & Ponds Class GPA	Drinking water after disinfection, recreation in and on the water, fishing, industrial process and cooling water supply, hydroelectric power generation and navigation as habitat for fish and other aquatic life.
Estuarine and Marine Waters Class SA	Recreation in and on the water, fishing, aquaculture, propagation and harvesting of shellfish and navigation as habitat for fish and other estuarine and marine life.
Estuarine and Marine Waters Class SB	Recreation in and on the water, fishing, aquaculture, propagation and harvesting of shellfish, industrial process and cooling water supply, hydroelectric power generation and navigation and as a habitat for fish and other estuarine and marine life.
Estuarine and Marine Waters Class SC	Recreation in and on the water, fishing, aquaculture, propagation and restricted harvesting of shellfish, industrial process and cooling water supply, hydroelectric power generation and navigation and as a habitat for fish and other marine life.
Groundwater Class GW-A	Public water supplies.
Groundwater Class GW-B	All uses other than public water supplies.

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	All Classes	Fresh Surface W.. Class AA	Fresh Surface W.. Class A	Fresh Surface W.. Class B
Physical				
pH				
Upper Value				8.5
Lower Value				6.0
Dissolved Oxygen				
Lower Value				
Temperature Change				
Upper Value		Narr.	7	7
Secondary Upper Limit		5 F 3 F	5 F 3 F	5 F 3 F
Nutrients				
Phosphorus				
Upper Value		Narr.		
Toxic Metals				
Pesticides				
Organics				
Bacteria				
Escherichia coli				
Upper Value				Narr.
Total Coliform				
Upper Value		Narr.	Narr.	

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	Fresh Surface W.. Class C	Lakes & Ponds Class GPA	Estuarine and Class SA	Estuarine and Class SB
Physical				
pH				
Upper Value	8.5		8.5	8.5
Lower Value	6.0		6.7	6.7
Dissolved Oxygen				
Lower Value	5	ppm	Narr.	85%
Temperature Change				
Upper Value	5	F	4	F
Secondary Upper Limit	3	F	1.5	F
Nutrients				
Phosphorus				
Upper Value		15	/billion	
Toxic Metals				
Pesticides				
Organics				
Bacteria				
Escherichia coli				
Upper Value	Narr.	Narr.		
Enterococcus Colonies				
Upper Value				Narr.
Total Coliform				
Upper Value			Narr.	Narr.

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	Estuarine and Class SC	Groundwater Class GW-A	Groundwater Class GW-B
Physical			
pH			
Upper Value	8.5		
Lower Value	6.7		
Dissolved Oxygen			
Lower Value	70%		
Temperature Change			
Upper Value	4	F	
Secondary Upper Limit	1.5	F	
Nutrients			
Toxic Metals			
Pesticides			
Organics			
Bacteria			
Enterococcus Colonies			
Upper Value	Narr.		
Total Coliform			
Upper Value	Narr.		