# DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
# GENERAL PERMIT
# STATE OF MAINE

The New England District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) hereby issues this General Permit (GP) for activities in waters of the United States (U.S.) that have no more than minimal individual, secondary, and cumulative adverse effects on the aquatic environment in waters of the U.S. within the boundaries of and off the coast of the State of Maine.

## I. GENERAL CRITERIA

In order for activities to qualify for this GP, they must meet the GP's terms and eligibility criteria (Pages 1 – 4), general conditions (GC) (Pages 5 – 18), and Appendix A - Definition of Categories.

Under this GP, projects may qualify for the following:

- Category 1: Category 1 Notification Form required.
  (Submittal of the Category 1 Notification Form at Appendix B to the Corps is required.
- Category 2: Application required.
  (Submittal of an application to the Corps is required and written approval from the Corps must be received.

If your project is ineligible for Category 1, it may qualify for Category 2 or an Individual Permit and you must submit an application (see Page 3). The thresholds for Categories 1 and 2 are defined in Appendix A. This GP does not affect the Corps Individual Permit review process or activities exempt from Corps regulation.

## II. ACTIVITIES COVERED:

- Work and structures that are located in, under or over any navigable water of the U.S.[1] that affect the course, location, condition, or capacity of such waters; or the excavating from or depositing of material in such waters. The Corps regulates this under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899);
- The discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S[2]. The Corps regulates this under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).[3]
- The transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposal in the ocean. The Corps regulates this under Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act.

[1] Defined at 33 CFR 329 and Appendix A, Page 4.

[2] Defined at 33 CFR 328

[3] When there is a regulated discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., the Corps will also consider secondary impacts, which are defined at Appendix A, Endnote/Definition 2.

## III. PROCEDURES:

### 1. State Approvals

Applicants are responsible for applying for and obtaining any of the required state or local approvals (see GC 1, Page 5). Federal and state jurisdictions may differ in some instances. State permits may be required for specific projects regardless of the general permit category.

In order for authorizations under this GP to be valid, when any of the following state approvals or statutorily-required reviews is also required, the approvals must be obtained prior to the commencement of work in Corps jurisdiction.

- Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP): Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA) permit, including permit-by-rule and general permit authorizations; Site Location of Development Act permit; and Maine Waterway Development and Conservation Act permit.
- Maine Department of Conservation: Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) permit.
- Maine Department of Marine Resources: Aquaculture Leases.
- Maine Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands, Submerged Lands: Lease

NOTE: This GP may authorize projects that are not regulated by the State of Maine (e.g., seasonal floats or moorings).

### 2. Corps Authorizations

#### a. Category 1 (Submission of Category 1 Notification Form required)

**Eligibility Criteria**

Activities in Maine that:

- Are subject to Corps jurisdiction (see GC 2, Page 5),
- Meet the terms and eligibility criteria of this GP (Pages 1 - 4),
- Meet all GCs of this GP (Pages 5 – 18), and
- Meet the definition of Category 1 in Appendix A - Definition of Categories,

**may proceed without application to the Corps provided:**

- The Category 1 Notification Form (Appendix B) is submitted to the Corps before starting the work authorized by this GP.

Consultation with the Corps and/or outside experts may be necessary to ensure compliance with this GP's general conditions (starting on Page 5) and related federal laws such as the National Historic Preservation Act, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. For example, experts on historic resources may include the agencies and tribes referenced in GC 8, while experts on endangered species include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Project proponents are encouraged to contact the Corps with Category 1 eligibility questions.

Work that is not regulated by the State of Maine, but is subject to Corps jurisdiction, is eligible for Category 1 authorization under this GP. The Maine DEP and LURC have waived WQC for projects authorized under Categories 1 and 2 of this GP. The state has concurred with the determination that projects authorized under Categories 1 and 2 of this GP are consistent with the enforceable policies of the Maine CZM Program.

b. Category 2 (Application to and written approval from the Corps required)

**Eligibility Criteria**
Activities in Maine that:

- Are subject to Corps jurisdiction (see GC 2, Page 5),
- Meet the terms of this GP (Pages 1 - 4),
- Meet all GCs of this GP (Pages 5 - 18),
- Meet the definition of Category 2 in Appendix A - Definition of Categories,

**require an application to and written approval from the Corps.** The Corps will coordinate review of Category 2 activities with federal and state agencies, as appropriate. To be eligible and subsequently authorized, an activity must result in no more than minimal impacts to the aquatic environment as determined by the Corps based on comments from the review team and the criteria listed above. This may require project modifications involving avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to ensure the net effects of a project are minimal. Compensatory mitigation for waterway/wetland impacts may take the form of wetland preservation, restoration, enhancement, creation, and/or "in-lieu fee" for inclusion into the Natural Resources Mitigation Fund. See www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg, "Mitigation" and then "Maine" for more information.

Work that is not regulated by the State of Maine, but is subject to Corps jurisdiction, is eligible for Category 2 authorization under this GP. The Maine DEP and LURC have waived WQC for projects authorized under Categories 1 and 2 of this GP. The state has concurred with the determination that projects authorized under Categories 1 and 2 of this GP are consistent with the enforceable policies of the Maine CZM Program.

## 3. Applying for a Permit

All applicants for Category 2 projects must:

a. Apply directly to the Corps using the state application form or the Corps application form (ENG Form 4345[1]), and apply directly to the state (DEP, LURC, BPL or DMR) as applicable using the appropriate state form, if the work is regulated by the Corps and the state.

b. Apply directly to the Corps using the Corps application form (ENG Form 4345[1]) if the work is regulated by the Corps but not the state (DEP, LURC, BPL or DMR).

c. Provide application information (see "Information Typically Required" in Appendix C) to help ensure the application is complete and to speed project review.

d. Submit a copy of their application materials to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) and the five Indian tribes listed at Appendix D, at the same time, or before, they apply to the state (DEP or LURC) or the Corps, to be reviewed for the presence of historic, archaeological or tribal resources in the permit area that the proposed work may affect. Submittals to the DEP or Corps shall include information to indicate that this has been done (a copy of the applicant's cover letter to MHPC and tribes or a copy of the MHPC and tribal response letters is acceptable).

[1] Located at www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg under "Forms."

## 4. Review Procedures

The Corps will coordinate review of all Category 2 activities with federal and state agencies, as appropriate, to ensure that the work will result in no more than a minimal impact to the aquatic environment. Applicants are responsible for applying for the appropriate state and local approvals listed on Page 2.

Emergency Procedures: 33 CFR 325.2(e)4 states that an "emergency" is a situation which would result in an unacceptable hazard to life, a significant loss of property, or an immediate, unforeseen, and significant economic hardship if corrective action requiring a permit is not undertaken within a time period less than the normal time needed to process the application under standard procedures." The Corps will work with all applicable agencies to expedite authorization according to established procedures in emergency situations.

**Individual Permit Procedures**: Proponents of work that does not meet the terms and general conditions of this GP must submit the Corps application form and the appropriate application materials to the Corps at the earliest possible date in order to expedite the Individual Permit review process. General information and application forms can be obtained at our website or by calling us (see Appendix D). Individual WQC and CZM consistency concurrence are required when applicable from the State of Maine before Corps permit issuance. The Corps encourages applicants to concurrently apply for a Corps Individual Permit and state permits.

## 5. Approval Process

Applicants for Category 2 activities may not proceed with work in Corps jurisdiction until written authorization is received from the Corps. If the Corps determines that the Category 2 activity is eligible for the GP, the Corps will send an authorization letter directly to the applicant. The Corps will attempt to issue a written eligibility determination within the state's review period. If the Corps determines that the activity is not eligible under the GP or that additional information is required, the Corps will notify the applicant in writing and send a copy to the DEP or LURC. Applicants are responsible for obtaining all applicable approvals listed on Page 2 from the appropriate state and local agencies before commencing work in Corps jurisdiction.

## V. GENERAL PERMIT CONDITIONS:

The following conditions apply to activities authorized under this Maine GP, unless otherwise specified, including all Category 1 (notification required) and Category 2 (application required) activities:

1. **Other Permits.** Authorization under this GP does not obviate the need to obtain other federal, state, or local authorizations required by law. This includes, but is not limited to, the project proponent obtaining a Flood Hazard Development Permit issued by the town, if necessary. Inquiries may be directed to the municipality or to the Maine Floodplain Management Coordinator at (207) 287-8063. See www.maine.gov/spo/flood.

2. **Federal Jurisdictional Boundaries.**
(a) Applicability of this GP shall be evaluated with reference to federal jurisdictional boundaries. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the boundaries used satisfy the federal criteria defined at 33 CFR 328 "Waters of the U.S." and 33 CFR 329 "Navigable Waters of the U.S."
Note: Waters of the U.S. include the subcategories "navigable waters of the U.S." and "wetlands."
(b) For Category 1 projects, proponents are not required to delineate the waters of the U.S. that they plan to impact, but must approximate the square footage of impacts in order to determine the review category (1 or 2 or Individual Permit). For projects filling <15,000 SF of waters of the U.S. that do not qualify for Category 1 (e.g., vernal pool, secondary or endangered species impacts, etc.) and therefore require an application to the Corps, and for those filling ≥15,000 SF, applicants shall delineate all waters of the U.S. that will be filled (direct impacts) in accordance with the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual and the most recent regional supplements (see Appendix E). In addition, applicants shall approximately identify all waters of the U.S. on the property and known waters adjacent to the property in order for the Corps to evaluate secondary impacts. The waters of the U.S. shall be clearly shown on the project plans submitted with the application. This includes all waters of the U.S. in areas under DEP or LURC jurisdiction regardless of whether they're shown on LURC zoning maps.
(c) On a case-by-case basis, the Corps may modify/refine the above delineation and identification requirements for waters of the U.S.

3. **Minimal Direct, Secondary and Cumulative Impacts.**
(a) Projects authorized by this GP shall have no more than minimal direct, secondary and cumulative adverse environmental impacts. Category 2 applicants should provide information on secondary and cumulative impacts as stated in Appendix C. Compensatory mitigation may be required to offset unavoidable impacts (see GC 16) and to ensure that they are no more than minimal. Compensatory mitigation requirements will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
(b) Secondary impacts to waterway and/or wetland areas, (e.g., areas drained, flooded, cleared, excavated or fragmented) shall be added to the total fill area when determining whether the project qualifies for Category 1 or 2. Direct, secondary and cumulative impacts are defined at Appendix A, Endnote 2.
(c) Site clearing, grading and construction activities in the upland habitat surrounding vernal pools ("Vernal Pool Management Areas") are secondary impacts. See GC 28 for avoidance and minimization requirements and recommendations.

4. **Discretionary Authority.** Notwithstanding compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit, the Corps retains discretionary authority to require Category 2 or Individual Permit review based on concerns for the aquatic environment or for any other factor of the public interest [33 CFR

320.4(a)]. This authority is invoked on a case-by-case basis whenever the Corps determines that the potential consequences of the proposal warrant a higher level of review based on the concerns stated above. This authority may be invoked for projects that may contribute to cumulative environmental impacts that are more than minimal or if there is a special resource or concern associated with a particular project that is not already covered by the remaining conditions of the GP and that warrants greater review. Whenever the Corps notifies an applicant that an Individual Permit may be required, the project is not authorized under this GP and no work may be conducted until an Individual Permit is obtained or until the Corps notifies the applicant that further review has demonstrated that the work may proceed under this GP.

5. **Single and Complete Projects.**
(a) This GP shall not be used to piecemeal work and shall be applied to single and complete projects[1]. When determining the review category in Appendix A (Category 1 or 2) for a single and complete project, proponents must include any permanent historic fill placed since October 1995 that is associated with that project and all currently proposed temporary and permanent impact areas.
(b) A single and complete project must have independent utility[1].
(c) Unless the Corps determines the activity has independent utility[1]:

i. This GP shall not be used for any activity that is part of an overall project for which an Individual Permit is required,

ii. All components of a single project and/or all planned phases of a multi-phased project (e.g., subdivisions should include all work such as roads, utilities, and lot development) shall be treated together as constituting one single and complete project[1].

(d) For linear projects, such as power lines or pipelines with multiple crossings, the single and complete project[1] is all crossings of a single water of the U.S. (i.e., single waterbody) at a specific location. For linear projects crossing a single waterbody several times at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project. However, individual channels in a braided stream or river, or individual arms of a large, irregularly-shaped wetland or lake, etc., are not separate waterbodies and crossings of such features cannot be considered separately. If any crossing requires a Category 2 activity, then the entire linear project shall be reviewed as one project under Category 2.

6. **Permit On-Site.** For Category 2 projects, the permittee shall ensure that a copy of this GP and the accompanying authorization letter are at the work site (and the project office) authorized by this GP whenever work is being performed, and that all personnel with operation control of the site ensure that all appropriate personnel performing work are fully aware of its terms and conditions. The entire permit authorization shall be made a part of any and all contracts and sub-contracts for work that affects areas of Corps jurisdiction at the site of the work authorized by this GP. This shall be achieved by including the entire permit authorization in the specifications for work. The term "entire permit authorization" means this GP and the authorization letter (including its drawings, plans, appendices and other attachments) and also includes permit modifications. If the authorization letter is issued after the construction specifications, but before receipt of bids or quotes, the entire permit authorization shall be included as an addendum to the specifications. If the authorization letter is issued after receipt of bids or quotes, the entire permit authorization shall be included in the contract or sub-contract. Although the permittee may assign various aspects of the work to different contractors or sub-contractors, all contractors and sub-contractors shall be obligated by contract to comply with all environmental protection provisions contained within the entire GP authorization, and no contract or sub-contract shall require or allow unauthorized work in areas of Corps jurisdiction.

[1] Single and Complete Project and Independent Utility are defined at Appendix E.

7. **St. John/St. Croix Rivers.** Work within the Saint John and Saint Croix River basins that requires approval of the International Joint Commission is not eligible for Category 1 and an application to the Corps is required if any temporary or permanent use, obstruction or diversion of international boundary waters could affect the natural flow or levels of waters on the Canadian side of the line; or if any construction or maintenance of remedial works, protective works, dams, or other obstructions in waters downstream from boundary waters could raise the natural level of water on the Canadian side of the boundary.

8. **Historic Properties.** No activity otherwise authorized by this GP shall result in effects (as that term is defined at 36 C.F.R. § 800.16(i)) on properties listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, including previously unidentified properties, unless and until the Corps or another federal agency has satisfied the consultation requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Work is not eligible for Category 1 and an application to the Corps is required if the activity may have the potential to cause effects to any historic properties listed, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, including previously unidentified properties. Work is eligible for Category 1 if a no effect or no adverse effect determination has been made for that work by another federal action agency in its Section 106 consultation with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHCP) and the five federally recognized Indian tribes listed at Appendix D. Information on the location and existence of known historic resources can be obtained from the MHPC, the National Register of Historic Places, and the five tribes listed in Appendix D. Historic properties include those that are eligible for inclusion, but not necessarily listed on the National Register. If the permittee, either prior to construction or during construction of the work authorized herein, encounters a previously unidentified archaeological or other cultural resource within the area subject to Corps jurisdiction that might be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, he/she shall stop work and immediately notify the Corps and the MHPC and/or applicable tribe(s).

9. **National Lands.** None of the following work is eligible as a Category 1 project:
(a) Activities that impinge upon the value of any National Wildlife Refuge, National Forest, National Marine Sanctuary, National Park or any other area administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or U.S. Forest Service.
(b) Work on Corps properties and Corps-controlled easements. Contact the Corps, Real Estate Division (978) 318-8585 to initiate reviews about both Corps holdings and permit requirements.
(c) Any proposed temporary or permanent modification or use of a federal project (including but not limited to a levee, dike, floodwall, channel, sea wall, bulkhead, jetty, wharf, pier, or other work built but not necessarily owned by the United States), which would obstruct or impair the usefulness of the federal project in any manner, and/or would involve changes to the authorized federal project's scope, purpose, and/or functioning that go beyond minor modifications required for normal operation and maintenance (requires review and approval by the Corps pursuant to 33 USC 408). Federal projects in Maine as of October 2010 are shown at Appendix F. This map may not be inclusive of all projects.

10. **Endangered Species.**
(a) No activity may be authorized under Category 1 of this GP which:
i. "May affect" a threatened or endangered species, a species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, or designated or proposed critical habitat (all herein referred to as "listed species or habitat") as identified under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) (unless specified in a programmatic agreement with NMFS or USFWS).

ii. Results in a "take" of any federally-listed threatened or endangered species of fish or wildlife, or

iii. Results in any other violation of Section 9 of the ESA protecting threatened or endangered species of plants.

(b) Work in Inland Waters and Wetlands[1] and the non-tidal portions of Navigable Waters[2] (e.g., the Penobscot River, Kennebec River) is not eligible for Category 1 if:

i. The project action area occurs within a watershed occupied by listed Atlantic salmon or shortnose sturgeon. Project proponents must check the site in Footnote 3 below.

ii. In areas outside these watersheds contact the USFWS (see Appendix D, Page 1 for contact information) to check for the presence of other listed species.

(c) Work in the tidal portions of Navigable Waters may be eligible for Category 1. Reference Appendix A, II. Navigable Waters, Pages 4 – 9, and the other terms and general conditions (GC 11 is particularly relevant) of this GP to determine Category 1 eligibility. Project proponents must contact the USFWS (see Appendix D, Page 1 for contact information) to ensure that work in all tidal portions of Navigable Waters[2] is not in critical habitat or areas occupied by listed species other than Atlantic salmon or shortnose sturgeon.

(d) Although some work is excluded from Category 1 as stated in (b) and (c) above, work may qualify for Category 1 if a no effect determination has been made for that work by a federal action agency such as the Corps.

(e) Proponents must submit an application to the Corps if any of the activities in 10(a)-10(c) that do not qualify for Category 1 may occur and provide information on federally-listed species or habitat to allow the Corps to conduct any required consultation under Section 7 of the ESA.

(f) The Corps review may consider species listed as endangered and threatened pursuant to Maine state law.

**11. Essential Fish Habitat.** Any work in the following rivers and streams, including all tributaries to the extent that they are currently or were historically accessible for salmon migration, shall not be authorized under Category 1 of the GP and must be screened for potential impacts to EFH (see Appendix E for more information).

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Androscoggin River | Aroostook River | Boyden River | Dennys River |
| Ducktrap River | East Machias River | Hobart Stream | Kennebec River |
| Machias River | Narraguagus River | Orland River | Passagassawaukeag River |
| Patten Stream | Penobscot River | Pleasant River | Presumpscot River |
| Saco River | Sheepscot River | St. Croix River | Tunk Stream |
| | | | Union River |

The above does not apply to the following activities which may qualify for Category 1 work:

- Exploratory drilling and borings for bridges.
- Moorings (see Appendix A, Page 6 for Category 1 thresholds and requirements)
- Structures and floats (see Appendix A, Page 7 for Category 1 thresholds and requirements)
- Other activities specified in a programmatic agreement with NMFS.

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[1] See Appendix A, Page 1 for definition.

[2] See Appendix A, Page 4 for definition.

[3] For areas considered occupied by listed Atlantic salmon and/or shortnose sturgeon in Inland Waters and Wetlands, and in Navigable Waters, see: www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/altsalmon/dpsmaps.html. Tidal portions of navigable waters occupied by listed Atlantic salmon are more specifically described as those waters from the Kennebec River to its mouth at Merrymeeting Bay, northeast to the Dennys River, including the Androscoggin River upstream to the Brunswick Dam, and other streams northeast of this line to the limit of their tidal reaches.

12. Wild and Scenic Rivers. Any activity that occurs in the designated main stem of, within 0.25 mile up or downstream of the designated main stem of, or in tributaries within .25 miles of the designated main stem of a National Wild and Scenic River, or in "bordering and contiguous wetlands" (see Appendix A, Endnote 1) that are adjacent to the designated main stem of a National Wild and Scenic River, or that has the potential to alter flows within a river within the National Wild and Scenic River System, is not eligible for Category 1 regardless of size of the impacts. This condition applies to both designated Wild and Scenic Rivers and rivers officially designated by Congress as study rivers for possible inclusion while such rivers are in an official study status. National Wild and Scenic Rivers System segments for Maine as of October 2010 include: Allagash River beginning at Telos Dam continuing to Allagash checkpoint at Eliza Hole Rapids, approximately 3 miles upstream of the confluence with the St. John River (length = 92 miles).

**13. Federal Navigation Project.** Any structure or work that extends closer to the horizontal limits of any Corps Federal Navigation Project (see Appendix F) than a distance of three times the project's authorized depth shall be subject to removal at the owner's expense prior to any future Corps dredging or the performance of periodic hydrographic surveys. This is applicable to Category 1 and 2. Reference Appendix A, Page 6 (Moorings) and Page 7 (Structure and Floats).

**14. Navigation.**
(a) There shall be no unreasonable interference with navigation by the existence or use of the activity authorized herein and no attempt shall be made by the permittee to prevent the full and free use by the public of all navigable waters at or adjacent to the activity authorized herein.
(b) The permittee understands and agrees that, if future U.S. operations require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the U.S. No claim shall be made against the U.S. on account of any such removal or alteration.

**15. Federal Liability.** In issuing this permit, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following: (a) damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes; (b) damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the U.S. in the public interest; (c) damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this permit; (d) design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work; (e) damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.

**16. Avoidance, Minimization and Compensatory Mitigation.**
Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, shall be avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable through consideration of alternatives. The Corps may require compensatory mitigation of unavoidable direct and secondary impacts associated with Category 2 projects on a case-by-case basis (see Appendix E).

**17. Heavy Equipment in Wetlands.** Operating heavy equipment other than fixed equipment (drill rigs, fixed cranes, etc.) within wetlands shall be minimized, and such equipment shall not be stored, maintained or repaired in wetlands, to the maximum extent practicable. Where construction requires heavy equipment operation in wetlands, the equipment shall either have low ground pressure

(typically <3 psi), or it shall be placed on swamp/construction/timber mats (herein referred to as "construction mats" and defined at Appendix A, Endnote 4) that are adequate to support the equipment in such a way as to minimize disturbance of wetland soil and vegetation. Construction mats are to be placed in the wetland from the upland or from equipment positioned on swamp mats if working within a wetland. Dragging construction mats into position is prohibited. Other support structures that are capable of safely supporting equipment may be used with written Corps authorization (Category 2 authorization or Individual Permit). Similarly, the permittee may request written authorization from the Corps to waive use of mats during frozen, dry or other conditions. An adequate supply of spill containment equipment shall be maintained on site.

**18. Temporary Fill.**

Temporary fill that qualifies for Category 1 (e.g., <15,000 SF of combined temporary and permanent fill associated with the single and complete project) or is authorized in writing under Category 2, shall adhere to the following:

(a) All temporary fill shall be stabilized to prevent its eroding into portions of waters of the U.S., including wetlands, where it is not authorized.

(b) Unconfined temporary fill authorized for discharge into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, shall consist of material that minimizes impacts to water quality (e.g. sandbags, clean gravel, stone, aggregate, etc.).

(c) Temporary fill authorized for discharge into wetlands should be placed on geotextile fabric or other material (e.g., straw) laid on the pre-construction wetland grade where practicable to minimize impacts.

(d) Temporary fill shall be removed as soon as it is no longer needed, disposed of at an upland site, and suitably contained to prevent subsequent erosion into waters of the U.S, including wetlands.

To qualify for Category 1, temporary fill placed during the:

i. Growing season must be removed before the beginning of the next growing season.

ii. Non-growing season may remain throughout the following growing season, but must be removed before the beginning of the next growing season.

(e) Waters of the U.S., including wetlands, where temporary fill was discharged shall be restored (see GC 19).

(f) Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures, work, and discharges, including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills, or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must be placed in a manner that will not be eroded by expected high flows (see GC 21).

(g) Construction mats and corduroy roads (see GC 17 above) are considered as temporary fill when they are removed immediately upon work completion. The area must be restored (see GC 19).

**19. Work Site Restoration.**

(a) Wetland areas where permanent disturbance is not authorized shall be restored to their original condition and elevation, which under no circumstances shall be higher than the pre-construction elevation. Original condition means careful protection and/or removal of existing soil and vegetation, and replacement back to the original location such that the original soil layering and vegetation schemes are approximately the same, unless otherwise authorized.

(b) Upon completion of construction, all disturbed wetland areas (the disturbance of these areas must be authorized) shall be properly stabilized. Any seed mix shall contain only plant species native to New England and shall not contain any species listed in the "Invasive and Other Unacceptable Plant Species" Appendix in the "New England District Compensatory Mitigation Guidance" (see Appendix E, Paragraph 6). This list may be updated periodically.

(c) In areas of authorized temporary disturbance, if trees are cut they shall be cut at ground level and

not uprooted in order to prevent disruption to the wetland soil structure and to allow stump sprouts to revegetate the work area, unless otherwise authorized.

**20. Bank Stabilization.**
(a) Projects involving construction or reconstruction/maintenance of bank stabilization structures within Corps jurisdiction shall be designed to minimize environmental effects, effects to neighboring properties, scour, etc. to the maximum extent practicable.
(b) Project proponents must design and construct bank stabilization projects using this sequential minimization process: avoidance of aquatic resource impacts, diversion of overland flow, vegetative stabilization, stone-sloped surfaces, and walls/bulkheads. Vertical walls/bulkheads shall only be used in situations where reflected wave energy can be tolerated. Refer to Appendix E for design guidance.
(c) Inland Water bank stabilization activities necessary for erosion prevention must meet all of the following criteria: **(i)** No material is placed in excess of the minimum needed for erosion protection; **(ii)** The activity is no more than 500 feet in length along the bank; **(iii)** The activity will not exceed an average of one cubic yard per running foot placed along the bank below the plane of the ordinary high water mark; **(iv)** Structures angled steeper than 1H:1V and any material other than angular or subangular stone or fiber roll revetments require at least a Category 2 review. **(v)** The activity does not involve discharges of dredged or fill material into special aquatic sites; **(vi)** No material is of the type, or is placed in any location, or in any manner, to impair surface water flow into or out of any water of the U.S.; **(vii)** No material is placed in a manner that will be eroded by normal or expected high flows (properly anchored trees and treetops may be used in low energy areas); and, **(viii)** The activity is not a stream channelization activity.
(d) Navigable Water bank stabilization activites are provided at Appendix A, Page 4.

**21. Sedimentation and Erosion Control.**
**(a)** Adequate sedimentation and erosion control management measures, practices and devices, such as phased construction, installation of sediment control barriers (i.e. silt fence, vegetated filter strips, geotextile silt fences, erosion control mixes, hay bales or other devices) downhill of all exposed areas, retention of existing vegetated buffers, application of temporary mulching during construction, and permanent seeding and stabilization shall be installed and properly maintained to reduce erosion and retain sediment on-site during and after construction. They shall be capable of preventing erosion, of collecting sediment, suspended and floating materials, and of filtering fine sediment.
**(b)** Temporary sediment control barriers shall be removed upon completion of work, but not until all disturbed areas are permanently stabilized. The sediment collected by these sediment barriers shall be removed and placed at an upland location and stabilized to prevent its later erosion into a waterway or wetland.
**(c)** All exposed soil and other fills shall be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date (see GC 19).

22. Stream Work and Crossings[1].

Notes:

(a) GC 22(a) and (b) apply to Inland Waters and Wetlands (see Appendix A, Page 1 for definition) and Navigable Waters (see Appendix A, Page 4 for definition). GC 22(c)-(l) only apply to Inland Waters and Wetlands that are streams. All new and replacement crossings in Navigable Waters require an application to the Corps and at least a Category 2 review.

(b) In-stream work in a watershed occupied by listed Atlantic salmon or shortnose sturgeon [see GC 10(b)] and some stream work such as crossings on EFH waters (see GC 11) is not eligible for Category 1.

(c) "High-Quality Stream Segments" are shown at www.maine.gov/dep/gis/datamaps and may be useful in evaluating impacts to fisheries. GIS shape files are under "Other Google Earth Interactive Maps" and PDFs by county are under "DEP GIS Maps." See Appendix E, 8(b) for more information.

Conditions:

(a) All permanent crossings of rivers, streams, brooks, etc. (hereon referred to as "streams") shall be suitably culverted, bridged, or otherwise designed to **i)** withstand and to prevent the restriction of high flows to qualify for Category 1, and **ii)** not obstruct the movement of or not substantially disrupt the necessary life-cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, beyond the actual duration of construction unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water to qualify for Category 1 or 2. (NOTE: Areas of fill and/or cofferdams must be included in total waterway/wetlands impacts to determine applicability of this GP).

(b) Any work that temporarily or permanently impacts upstream or downstream flood conditions, or permanently impacts wetlands in excess of Category 1 thresholds, must be reviewed at least under Category 2. See the documents referenced in Appendix E, 8(c) and (d) for guidance.

(c) New Stream Crossings. For new stream crossings to qualify for Category 1:

**i.** Must ensure compliance with GC 22(a) and GC 22(b) above.

**ii.** Shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the Corps General Stream Crossing Standards provided on Page 14 and the stream simulation document listed at Appendix E, 8(a).

(d) Replacement Stream Crossings. For replacement stream crossings to qualify for Category 1:

**i.** Must ensure compliance with GC 22(a) and GC 22(b) above.

**ii.** Shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the Corps General Stream Crossing Standards provided on Page 14 and the stream simulation document listed at Appendix E, 8(a).

(e) Culvert Extensions. Culvert extensions on culverts that do not meet the Corps General Stream Crossing Standards do not qualify for Category 1 and require an application to the Corps at least as a Category 2 project.

(f) Temporary Stream Crossings.

Note: The General Stream Crossing Standards don't apply to temporary stream crossings.

**i.** Temporary stream crossings or cofferdams shall be used for equipment access across streams [see Appendix E, 8(e)]. Note: Areas of fill and/or cofferdams must be included in total waterway/wetlands impacts to determine the review category in Appendix A.

**ii.** Temporary stream crossings shall be removed within 180 days to qualify for Category 1.

**iii.** Temporary stream crossings that are not spans[2] (typically culverts) must be designed in accordance with 1-6 below to qualify for Category 1. Category 2 applications should include information demonstrating 2-6 below:

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[1] This condition does not apply to non-tidal drainage systems and irrigation ditches excavated on dry land.

[2] For the purposes of this GP, spans are bridges, three-sided box culverts, open-bottom culverts or arches that span the stream with footings landward of bankfull width.

1. Installed and removed during the low flow period specified in GC 22(1) below.

2. Placed on geotextile fabric or other material where practicable to ensure restoration to the original grade. Soil may not be used to construct or stabilize these structures and rock must be large enough to allow for easy removal without disrupting the streambed.

3. Designed and maintained to withstand and pass high flows. Water height should be no higher than the top of the culvert's inlet. A minimum culvert diameter of two feet is required to pass debris. Culverts must be aligned to prevent bank erosion or streambed scour.

4. Equipped with energy dissipating devices installed downstream if necessary to prevent scour.

5. Designed and maintained to prevent soil from entering the waterbody.

6. Removed upon the completion of work. Impacts to the streambed or banks requires restoration to their original condition using stream simulation methods[1].

(g) Slip Lining. Work using slip lining (retrofitting an existing culvert by inserting a smaller diameter pipe), invert lining, or resulting in decreased diameter, do not qualify for Category 1, either as new work or maintenance activities.

(h) Work in Flowing Waters. To qualify for Category 1, no unconfined fill [see GC 18(b)] or excavation in flowing waters is allowed. To accomplish this:

i. Bank stabilization work below ordinary high water (OHW) shall utilize erosion controls such as inflatable cofferdams, jersey barrier, silt screen, turbidity curtain, etc. where practicable to prevent sediment input to the stream and to minimize turbidity and sedimentation impacts for sensitive life stages. Bank stabilization above OHW must utilize erosion controls.

ii. Management techniques such as temporary flume pipes, culverts, cofferdams, etc. must be used to maintain normal flows within the stream boundary's confines, or water diversions may be used immediately up and downstream of the work footprint (see Appendix A, Endnote 6) or work must be performed in the dry under no flow conditions, or under very low flow conditions following the practices in GC 22(a).

(i) Minimization. In order to make the Category 2 review process more efficient and result in a faster decision, new and replacement stream crossings should be designed using the least intrusive and environmentally damaging method following this sequential minimization process: 1) spans with no stream impacts, 2) spans with stream impacts, and 3) embedded culverts with stream simulation or low-slope design.

(j) Maintenance Requirements. The permittee shall maintain the work authorized herein in good condition and in conformance with the terms and general conditions of this permit to facilitate aquatic life passage as stated in GC 22(a). Culverts that develop "hanging" inlets or outlets, result in bed washout, or a stream that doesn't match the characteristics of the substrate in the natural stream channel such as mobility, slope, stability confinement will require maintenance or repair to comply with this GC. This does not apply to GC 22(f) above.

(k) Maintenance and Replacement Information. An existing stream crossing must be authorized and in compliance with all conditions of its authorization(s) to qualify for maintenance not subject to regulation. See Appendix A, Endnote 7. A non-serviceable crossing is not eligible for maintenance and is therefore considered as a replacement crossing [see 22(d)].

(l) Work Window. For projects that otherwise meet the terms of Category 1, in-stream construction work shall be conducted during the low flow period July 15 - October 1 in any year. Projects that are not to be conducted during that time period are ineligible for Category 1 and shall be screened pursuant to Category 2, regardless of the waterway and wetland fill and/or impact area.

*(See next page for Corps General Stream Crossing Standards.)*

[1] Design and construction shall be in accordance with the stream simulation document listed at Appendix E. 8(a).

Corps General Stream Crossing Standards (required for Category 1, recommended for Category 2):

(a) Culverts must be embedded:

- ≥ 2 feet for box culverts and other culverts with smooth internal walls,
- ≥ 1 foot for corrugated pipe arches
- ≥ 1 foot and at least 25 percent for corrugated round pipe culverts

(b) For new crossings, spans[1] are required to avoid or cause minimal disruption to the streambed and to meet the requirements of General Condition 22(a) and 22(b). Footings and abutments must be landward of 1.2 times bankfull width. To the greatest extent practicable, work in the stream shall be minimized, and design and construction shall allow the streambed's natural structure and integrity to remain intact. Any fill or excavation of the streambed below bankfull width other than footings, support pilings, or work specified in 22(h)ii requires Category 2 review and, unless demonstrated otherwise, stream simulation[2] to establish substrate and banks in the span structure and work area as specified in (d) and (e) below.

(c) For replacement crossings, spans[1] are required to meet the requirements of General Condition 22(a) and 22(b). Footings and abutments shall be landward of 1.2 times bankfull width. Unless demonstrated otherwise, stream simulation[2] is required to establish substrate and banks in the span structure and work area as specified in (d) and (e) below.

(d) Crossings must have a natural bottom substrate within the structure matching the characteristics of the substrate in the natural stream channel and the banks (mobility, slope, stability, confinement, grain and rock size)[2] at the time of construction and over time as the structure has had the opportunity to pass significant flood events. To allow terrestrial passage for wildlife and prevent undermining the footings, crossings shall have a bank on both sides of the stream matching the horizontal profile of the existing stream and banks[2].

(e) Crossings must be designed and constructed[2] with appropriate bed forms and streambed characteristics so that water depths and velocities are comparable to those found in the natural channel at a variety of flows. In order to provide appropriate water depths and velocities at a variety of flows and especially low flows, it is usually necessary to reconstruct the streambed or preserve the natural channel within the structure. Otherwise, the width of the structure needed to accommodate higher flows will create conditions that are too shallow at low flows. The grain and rock size, and arrangement of streambed materials within the structure should be in accordance with (d) above. Flows could go subsurface within the structure if only large material is used without smaller material filling the voids.

**23. Wetland Crossings.**

(a) All temporary and permanent crossings of wetlands shall be suitably culverted, bridged, or otherwise designed to: i) Withstand and prevent the restriction of high flows, ii) Not obstruct the movement of or not substantially disrupt the necessary life-cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the wetland, including those species that normally migrate through the area, beyond the actual duration of construction unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. See Appendix E for the Maine DEP's crossing standards.

(b) To qualify for Category 1, new and replacement wetland crossings that are permanent shall be culverted, spanned or bridged in such a manner as to preserve hydraulic and ecological connectivity, at its present level, between the wetlands on either side of the road. To meet this requirement, we

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[1] For the purposes of this GP, spans are bridges, three-sided box culverts, open-bottom culverts or arches that span the stream with footings landward of bankfull width.

[2] Design and construction shall be in accordance with the stream simulation document listed at Appendix E, 8(a).

recommend that culverts, spans or bridges be placed at least every 50 feet with an opening at least 2 feet high and 3 feet wide at ground level where practicable. Closed bottom culverts shall be embedded at least 6 inches with a natural bottom.
(c) In the case of non-compliance, the permittee shall take necessary measures to correct wetland damage due to lack of hydraulic and ecological connectivity.
(d) Any work that results in flooding, results in impacts to wetlands on either side of the wetland crossing in excess of Category 1 thresholds, or impacts wetland drainage from the upgradient side of the wetland crossing does not qualify for Category 1.

**24. Discharge of Pollutants.**
(a) All activities involving any discharge of pollutants into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, authorized under this GP shall be consistent with applicable water quality standards, effluent limitations, standards of performance, prohibitions, and pretreatment standards and management practices established pursuant to the Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 USC 1251), and applicable state and local laws. If applicable water quality standards, limitations, etc., are revised or modified during the term of this GP, the authorized work shall be modified to conform with these standards within six months of the effective date of such revision or modification, or within a longer period of time deemed reasonable by the Corps in consultation with the EPA. Issuance of a LURC or DEP NRPA permit confirms that state water quality standards are met.
(b) All projects authorized by this GP shall be designed, constructed and operated to minimize or eliminate the discharge of pollutants.
(c) All activities involving any discharge of pollutants into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, authorized under this GP must comply with Section 402 [33 U.S.C. 1342] of the CWA and the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (40 CFR 122).

**25. Spawning, Breeding and Migratory Areas.** Activities and impacts such as excavations, discharges of dredged or fill material, and/or suspended sediment producing activities, in fish migratory areas, fish and shellfish spawning or nursery areas, or amphibian and migratory bird breeding areas, during spawning or breeding seasons shall be avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

**26. Storage of Seasonal Structures.** Coastal structures, such as pier sections and floats, that are removed from the waterway for a portion of the year (often referred to as seasonal structures) shall be stored in an upland location located above mean high water (MHW) and not in tidal wetlands or mudflats. These seasonal structures may be stored on the fixed, pile-supported portion of the structure that is seaward of MHW. This is intended to prevent structures from being stored on the marsh substrate, mudflats, or the substrate seaward of MHW. Seasonal storage of structures in navigable waters, e.g., in a protected cove on a mooring, requires Corps and local harbormaster approval.

**27. Environmental Functions and Values.** The permittee shall make every reasonable effort to carry out the construction or operation of the work authorized herein in a manner that maintains as much as is practicable, and minimize any adverse impacts on existing fish, wildlife, and natural environmental functions and values.

28. Protection of Vernal Pools (VPs).
(a) Impacts to VP Management Areas[1] for all VPs on, and known VPs surrounding, the project site shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.
(b) The following management practices must be followed for all work within the VP Management Area (750' of a VP's edge) of all VPs in order to qualify for Category 1 when there is fill placed in a water of the U.S., including wetlands:

i. Similar to the DEP's Significant Wildlife Habitat regulations[2]:
   1. No disturbance within the VP Depression or VP Envelope (area within 100 feet of the VP Depression's edge)[3];
   2. Maintain a minimum of 75% of the Critical Terrestrial Habitat (area within 100-750 feet of the VP Depression's edge) as unfragmented forest with at least a partly-closed canopy of overstory trees to provide shade, deep litter and woody debris[3];
   3. Maintain or restore forest corridors connecting wetlands and significant vernal pools;
   4. Minimize forest floor disturbance; and
   5. Maintain native understory vegetation and downed woody debris.

ii. Cape Cod style-curbing or no curbing options shall be used on new roads to facilitate amphibian passage[2].
(c) For work not complying with the requirements in (b) above, applicants shall submit an application to the Corps for at least Category 2 review with information on directional buffers in accordance with the VP Directional Buffer Guidance document[2]. Conservation of the unimpacted area within the VP Management Area will often be required.
(d) GC 2 requires applicants to delineate or approximately identify on the project plans all waters of the U.S., which include vernal pools. Appendix A, Page 1 lists VP Category 1 thresholds.

29. **Invasive Species.**
(a) The introduction, spread, or the increased risk of invasion of invasive plant or animal species on the project site, into new or disturbed areas, or areas adjacent to the project site caused by the site work is prohibited (see Appendix E, Paragraph 6).
(b) Unless otherwise directed by the Corps, all applications for Category 2 inland projects and Category 2 coastal fill projects proposing fill in Corps jurisdiction shall include an Invasive Species Control Plan (ISCP) (see Appendix E, Paragraph 6).

30. **Cranberry Development Projects.** For cranberry development projects authorized under the GP, the following conditions apply:
(a) If a cranberry bog is abandoned for any reason, the area must be allowed to revert to natural wetlands unless an Individual Permit is obtained from the Corps allowing the discharge of fill for an alternate use.

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[1] The Corps VP Management Area, which includes the VP and a750' radius from the VP's edge, is defined at Appendix A, Endnote 5.
[2] Appendix E, 10(a)-(d) provides links to the state's Significant Wildlife Habitat regulations and references that provide impact minimization measures to reference when designing projects.
[3] The no disturbance requirement in the VP envelope [see (b)(i)(1)], and (b)(i)(2), do not apply to temporary impacts associated with construction mats in previously disturbed areas of existing utility project (e.g., transmission lines, gas pipelines) or linear transportation project (e.g., roads, highways, railways, trails, airport runways and taxiways) right-of-ways provided there is a Vegetation Management Plan that avoids, minimizes and mitigates impacts to aquatic resources.

(b) No stream diversion shall be allowed under Category 1 of this GP.
(c) No impoundments of intermittent or perennial streams shall be allowed under Category 1 and an application to the Corps is required for at least Category 2 review.
(d) The project shall be designed and constructed to not cause flood damage on adjacent properties.

**31. Inspections.** The permittee shall allow the Corps to make periodic inspections at any time deemed necessary in order to ensure that the work is being or has been performed in accordance with the terms and conditions of this GP. The Corps may also require post-construction engineering drawings for completed work or post-dredging survey drawings for any dredging work.
To facilitate these inspections, the permittee shall complete and return to the Corps:
- For Category 1 projects, the Category 1 Notification Form (Appendix B).
- For Category 2 projects, the 1) Work-Start Notification Form and 2) Compliance Certification Form whenever either is provided with a Category 2 authorization letter.

**32. Maintenance.**
**(a)** The permittee shall maintain the work authorized herein in good condition and in conformance with the terms and general conditions of this permit.
**(b)** This does not include maintenance of dredging projects. Each maintenance dredging event exceeding the Category 1 thresholds (see Appendix A, Page 6) requires a new written Corps authorization unless an unexpired, written Corps authorization specifies that the permittee may "dredge and maintain" an area for a particular time period. Category 1 or 2 maintenance dredging includes only those areas and depths previously authorized and dredged.
**(c)** Some maintenance activities may not be subject to regulation under Section 404 in accordance with 33 CFR 323.4(a)(2) (see Appendix A, Endnote 7).

**33. Property Rights.** This PGP does not convey any property rights, either in real estate or material, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to property or invasion of rights or any infringement of Federal, State, or local laws or regulations.

**34. Transfer of GP Verifications.** When the structures or work authorized by this GP are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this GP, including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the entity or individual who received the GP verification, as well as the new owner(s) of the property. The permittee may transfer responsibilities and obligations under the GP verification to the new owner by submitting a letter to the Corps (see Appendix D for address) to validate the transfer. A copy of the GP verification must be attached to the letter and the letter must contain the following statement and signature: "When the structures or work authorized by this GP are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this GP, including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this GP and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below."

**35. Modification, Suspension, and Revocation.** This GP or any work authorized under Category 1 or 2 may be either modified, suspended, or revoked, in whole or in part, pursuant to the policies and procedures of 33 CFR 325.7. Any such action shall not be the basis for any claim for damages against the United States.

**36. Restoration Directive.** The permittee, upon receipt of a notice of revocation of authorization under this GP, shall restore the wetland or waterway to its former condition without expense to the United States and as directed by the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative. If the permittee fails

to comply with such a directive, the Secretary or his designee may restore the wetland or waterway to its former condition, by contract or otherwise, and recover the cost from the permittee.

37. **Special Conditions.** The Corps may independently, or at the request of the Federal resource agencies, impose other special conditions on a project authorized pursuant to this GP that are determined necessary to minimize adverse navigational and/or environmental effects or based on any other factor of the public interest. Failure to comply with all conditions of the authorization, including special conditions, constitutes a permit violation and may subject the permittee to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties and/or an ordered restoration.

38. **False or Incomplete Information.** If the Corps makes a determination regarding the eligibility of a project under this GP and subsequently discovers that it has relied on false, incomplete, or inaccurate information provided by the permittee, the GP authorization shall not be valid and the U.S. government may institute appropriate legal proceedings.

39. **Abandonment.** If the permittee decides to abandon the activity authorized under this GP, unless such abandonment is merely the transfer of property to a third party, he/she may be required to restore the area to the satisfaction of the Corps.

40. **Enforcement Cases.** This GP does not apply to any existing or proposed activity in Corps jurisdiction associated with an on-going Corps or EPA enforcement action, until such time as the enforcement action is resolved or the Corps and/or EPA as appropriate determines that the activity may proceed independently without compromising the enforcement action.

41. **Duration of Authorization.** This GP expires on October 11, 2015. Activities authorized under this GP that have commenced (i.e., are under construction) or are under contract to commence before this GP expires will have until October 11, 2016 to complete the activity under the terms and conditions of the current GP.

42. **Previously Authorized Activities.**
(a) Projects that have received authorization (Category 1 or 2) from the Corps and that were completed under the previous PGPs, nationwide permits, regional general permits or letters of permission, shall remain authorized.
(b) Activities authorized pursuant to 33 CFR Part 330.3 ("Activities occurring before certain dates") are not affected by this GP.
(c) Any work not commenced nor completed that was authorized in a written letter from the Corps under the PGP in effect between October 11, 2005 and October 11, 2010 remains authorized subject to the terms and general conditions of this GP along with any special conditions in the authorizing written letter.

43. **NEPA Compliance.** The Maine PGP was authorized in full compliance with Council for Environmental Quality ("CEQ") NEPA regulations. The Corps has determined that individual permit actions taken under the terms and conditions of the PGP are not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

10/12/10

District Engineer — Date

# APPENDIX A: DEFINITION OF CATEGORIES

| A. INLAND WATERS AND WETLANDS | **Inland Waters and Wetlands:** Waters that are regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, including rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and wetlands, and excluding Section 10 Navigable Waters of the U.S. The jurisdictional limits are the ordinary high water (OHW) mark in the absence of adjacent wetlands, beyond the OHW mark to the limit of adjacent wetlands when adjacent wetlands are present, and the wetland limit when only wetlands are present. For the purposes of this GP, fill placed in the area between the mean high water (MHW) and the high tide line (HTL), and in the bordering and contiguous wetlands[1] to tidal waters are reviewed in the Navigable Waters section. (See II. Navigable Waters on page 4 below.) | |
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| | Projects not meeting Category 1 require an application for review as a Category 2 or Individual Permit project.<br>All Category 1 and 2 projects must comply with all of this GP's applicable terms (Pages 1 – 4) and general conditions (Pages 5–18). | |
| ACTIVITY | CATEGORY 1 | CATEGORY 2 |
| (a) NEW FILL/ EXCAVATION DISCHARGES<br><br>(You must reference (b) – (e) below for other thresholds that may be relevant to your project.) | 1. <15,000 square feet (SF) (in LURC or DEP territories) of inland waterway and/or wetland fill and associated secondary impacts[2] (e.g., areas drained, flooded, fragmented, mechanically cleared or excavated). Fill area includes all temporary and permanent fill, and regulated discharges associated with excavation. Construction mats are considered as fill. [See General Condition (GC) 18(g).]<br>Provided:<br>◦ Historic fill + proposed impact area <15,000 SF and subdivision fill complies with GC 5, Single and Complete Projects.<br>◦ No work in special aquatic sites (SAS)[4] other than wetlands.<br><br>2. Construction mats[4] of any area necessary to conduct activities that were previously authorized, authorized under Category 1, or not subject to regulation (see Endnote 7). Authorized construction mats must be in place for <3 months, removed immediately upon work completion, and the wetlands must be restored (see GC 19).<br><br>3. For work in Vernal Pool (VP) Management Areas (includes VPs)[5]:<br>◦ See GC 2 and Appendix C for VP delineation requirements.<br>◦ See GC 28 to determine if work qualifies for Category 1 or 2.<br>◦ See Appendix E, Page 3 for VP documents providing mitigation guidance. | 1. ≥15,000 square feet (SF) (in LURC or DEP territories) to <3 acres of inland waterway and/or wetland fill and associated secondary impacts (e.g., areas drained, flooded, fragmented, or excavated). Fill area includes all temporary and permanent fill, and regulated discharges associated with excavation. Mechanical clearing without grubbing or other soil disturbance >3 acres as a secondary impact may still be eligible for Category 2 at the discretion of the Corps.<br><br>2. Specific activities with impacts of any area ≥15,000 SF required to affect the containment, stabilization, or removal of hazardous or toxic waste materials that are performed, ordered, or sponsored by a government agency with established legal or regulatory authority. Wetlands must be restored in place.<br><br>3. Temporary structures, work, and discharges (including construction mats[4]) ≥15,000 SF necessary for construction activities or access fills or dewatering of construction sites, provided that the associated primary activity is authorized by the Corps, authorized under Category 1, or not subject to Corps regulation.<br>GCs 16 -19 are particularly relevant.<br><br>See GC 2 and Appendix C for wetland delineation requirements. |

| ACTIVITY | CATEGORY 1 | CATEGORY 2 |
|---|---|---|
| (b) BANK STABILIZATION PROJECTS | 1. Inland bank stabilization <500 FT long and <1 CY of fill per linear foot below OHW, provided:<br>◦ ≤1 cubic yard of fill per linear foot placed along the bank waterward of ordinary high water.<br>◦ Work complies with the GCs (GC 20 in particular), including:<br>○ No structures angled steeper than 1H:1V allowed. Only rough-faced stone or fiber roll revetments allowed.<br>○ No in-stream work involving fill or excavation in flowing waters (see GC 22(h)).<br>◦ In-stream work limited to Jul 15 - Oct 1 [see GC 22 (l)].<br>◦ No work in vernal pools[5] or SAS[3].<br>◦ GC 10 Endangered Species and GC 11 Essential Fish Habitat are particularly relevant. | 1. Inland bank stabilization ≥500 FT long and/or ≥1 CY of fill per linear foot, or any amount with fill in wetlands. |
| (c) RIVER/ STREAM/ BROOK WORK & CROSSINGS *and* WETLAND CROSSINGS | 1. River, stream and brook work and crossings:<br>◦ Must comply with GC 22 in particular, including:<br>○ No slip lining [see GC 22 (g)].<br>○ No in-stream work involving fill or excavation in flowing waters [see GC 22(h)].<br>○ In-stream work limited to Jul 15 - Oct 1 [see GC 22 (l)].<br>◦ No work in riffles and pools[3].<br>◦ No stream relocations.<br>◦ No dams or dikes[6].<br>◦ Work in areas designated as Atlantic salmon critical habitat or occupied by listed Atlantic salmon, or any other area occupied by a listed species is not eligible for Category 1 (see GC 10).<br>◦ No work in EFH streams except for the activities stated in GC 11.<br><br>2. Wetland crossings must comply with the particularly relevant GC 23. | 1. Work not qualifying for Category 1. |

| ACTIVITY | CATEGORY 1 | CATEGORY 2 |
|---|---|---|
| (d) REPAIR, REPLACEMENT, & MAINTENANCE OF AUTHORIZED FILLS | 1. Repair or maintenance of existing, currently serviceable, authorized fills with no expansion or change in use:<br>◦ Conditions of the original authorization apply<br>◦ Minor deviations in fill design allowed.[7]<br>◦ The repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of those structures or fills destroyed or damaged by storms, floods, fire or other discrete events is authorized, provided the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement is commenced, or is under contract to commence, within two years of the date of their destruction or damage. | 2. Replacement of non-serviceable fills, or repair/maintenance of serviceable fill, with expansion ≤3 acres, or with a change in use. |
| (e) MISCELL-ANEOUS | 1. Activities required for the containment and cleanup of oil and hazardous substances that are subject to the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300) provided that the work is done in accordance with the Spill Control and Countermeasure Plan required by 40 CFR 112.3 and any existing state contingency plan and provided that the Regional Response Team (if one exists in the area) concurs with the proposed containment and cleanup action. SAS[3] must typically be restored in place at the same elevation.<br><br>2. Scientific measurement devices whose purpose is to measure and record scientific data, such as staff gages, water recording devices, water quality testing and improvement devices, and similar structures. This excludes any biological sampling devices. Structures may not restrict movement of aquatic organisms.<br><br>3. Survey activities, such as core sampling, seismic exploratory operations, plugging of seismic shot holes and other exploratory-type bore holes, exploratory trenching, soil surveys, sampling, and historic resources surveys (but not recovery). Exploratory trenches must be restored in accordance with GC 19. The construction of temporary pads is authorized provided the discharge doesn't exceed 25 CY. This doesn't authorize permanent structures or the drilling and the discharge of excavated material from test wells for oil and gas exploration (the plugging of such wells is authorized).<br><br>4. Any work not commenced nor completed that was authorized in a written letter from the Corps under the PGP in effect between October 11, 2005 and October 11, 2010. The terms and general conditions of this GP apply along with any special conditions in the written authorization. | 1. Aquatic habitat restoration, establishment, and enhancement of wetlands and riparian areas and the restoration and enhancement of streams and other open waters with impacts of any area ≥15,000 SF, provided those activities result in net increase in overall aquatic resource functions and services.[8]<br><br>2. Projects where an EIS is required by the Corps are not eligible for Category 2. |

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| II. NAVIGABLE WATERS | **Navigable Waters of the United States**: Waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and/or the tidal and non-tidal portions of the Federally designated navigable waters (the Penobscot River, Kennebec River, and Lake Umbagog) (Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899). The jurisdictional limits are the mean high water (MHW) line in tidal waters and the ordinary high water (OHW) mark in non-tidal portions of the federally designated navigable rivers. For the purposes of this GP, fill placed in the area between the mean high water (MHW) and the high tide line (HTL), and in the bordering and contiguous wetlands[1] to tidal waters are also reviewed in this Navigable Waters section. | |
| | Projects not meeting Category 1 require an application for review as a Category 2 or Individual Permit project.<br>All Category 1 and 2 projects must comply with all of this GP's applicable terms (Pages 1 - 4) and general conditions (Pages 5 - 18). | |
| ACTIVITY | CATEGORY 1 | CATEGORY 2 |
| (a) FILL | 1. Discharges of dredged or fill material incidental to the construction of bridges across navigable waters of the U.S., including cofferdams, abutments, foundation seals, piers, and temporary construction and access fills provided the U.S. Coast Guard authorizes such discharges as part of the bridge permit or appropriate approval. Causeways and approach fills are not included in this category and require Category 2 or Individual Permit authorization.<br><br>2. Bank stabilization projects <200 linear feet:<br>◦ ≤1 cubic yard of fill per linear foot placed along the bank waterward of high tide line. No fill or equipment will occur in SAS[3].<br>◦ Work conducted in the intertidal zone must be conducted in-the-dry during low water, or between Nov. 8 – Apr. 9.<br>◦ No structures angled steeper than 1H:1V and only rough-faced stone or fiber roll revetments allowed.<br>◦ No driving of piles or sheeting.<br><br>3. For 1 and 2 above:<br>◦ Project proponents must contact the USFWS for work on coastal beaches to ensure no impacts to piping plovers, roseate terns or their habitat [see GC 10(b)ii]. | 1. <1 acre temporary or permanent fill, excavation and/or secondary impacts (e.g., areas drained, flooded, fragmented or mechanically cleared). Fill area includes all temporary and permanent waterway fills, provided:<br>◦ Temporary or permanent fill in eelgrass[14] <1000 SF.<br>◦ Permanent fill in SAS (excluding eelgrass[14]) <4300 SF. |
| (b) STREAM WORK & CROSSINGS, *and* WETLAND CROSSINGS | 1. No new fill for crossings allowed. | 1. New crossings or replacement crossings that do not fit the (c) Repair and Maintenance activity below. |

| ACTIVITY | CATEGORY 1 | CATEGORY 2 |
|---|---|---|
| (e) REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORK | 1. Repair, replacement in-kind, or maintenance[7] of existing, currently serviceable[7], authorized structures or fills:<br>• Conditions of the original authorization apply.<br>• No substantial expansion or change in use.<br>• Must be rebuilt in same footprint, however minor deviations in structure design allowed[7].<br>• The repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of those structures or fills destroyed or damaged by storms, floods, fire or other discrete events is authorized, provided the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement is commenced, or is under contract to commence, within two years of the date of their destruction or damage. Minor deviations for work involving piles shall adhere to one of the 4 methods in a - d below:<br>**a.** Piles installed in-the-dry during low water or in-water between Nov. 8th - Apr. 9th, or<br>**b.** Must be drilled and pinned to ledge, or<br>**c.** Vibratory hammers used to install any size and quantity of wood, concrete or steel piles, or<br>**d.** Impact hammers limited to one hammer and <50 piles installed/day with the following: wood piles of any size, concrete piles ≤18-inches diameter, steel piles <12-inches diameter if the hammer is ≤3000 lbs and a wood cushion is used between the hammer and steel pile, and<br>• For b – d above:<br>o In-water noise levels shall not exceed >187dB SEL re 1µPa or 206dB peak re 1µPa at a distance >10m from the pile being installed-, and<br>o In-water noise levels >155dB peak re 1µPa shall not exceed 12 consecutive hours on any given day and a 12 hour recovery period (i.e., in-water noise below 155dB peak re 1µPa) must be provided between work days.<br>• For a – d above:<br>o Work is not eligible for Category 1 if conducted in tidal portions of the Penobscot river upstream of a line extending from Turner point in Castine to Moose Point (formerly squaw point) on Cape Jellison in Stockton Springs or in tidal portions of the Kennebec or Androscoggin Rivers upstream of a line extending from Doubling point in Arrowsic to Hospital Point in West Bath. | 1. Replacement of non-serviceable structures and fills or repair/maintenance of serviceable structures or fills, with fill, replacement or expansion <1 acre, or with a change in use. |

| ACTIVITY | CATEGORY 1 | CATEGORY 2 |
|---|---|---|
| (d) DREDGING AND ASSOCIATED DISPOSAL | 1. Maintenance dredging[10] for navigational purposes <1,000 CY with upland disposal. Includes return water from upland contained disposal area, provided:<br>◦ Proper siltation controls are used.<br>◦ Dredging & disposal operation limited to Nov. 8 – Apr. 9.<br>◦ No impact to SAS[3].<br>◦ No dredging in intertidal areas.<br>◦ No dredging in areas considered occupied by listed Atlantic salmon [see GC 10(b)(ii)].<br>◦ For dredging in waters outside of Atlantic salmon critical habitat, applicants must contact NMFS (Appendix D) to ensure no impacts to listed species such as shortnose sturgeon.<br>◦ Project proponents must contact the USFWS for work on coastal beaches to ensure no impacts to piping plovers, roseate terns or their habitat [see GC 10(c)]. | 1. Maintenance dredging[10] ≥1,000 CY, new dredging <25,000 CY, or projects not meeting Category 1. Includes return water from upland contained disposal areas. Disposal includes:<br>◦ Upland.<br>◦ Beach nourishment (above mean high water) of any area provided dredging's primary purpose is navigation or sand is from an upland source.<br>◦ Open water & confined aquatic disposal, if Corps finds the material suitable.<br><br>2. Beach nourishment associated with dredging when the primary purpose is not navigation requires at least a Category 2 review.<br><br>3. Maintenance or new dredging[10] and/or disposal in or affecting a SAS[3] requires an Individual Permit. See II(a) above for dredge disposal in wetlands or waters. |
| (e) MOORINGS | 1. Private, non-commercial, non-rental, single-boat moorings, provided:<br>◦ Authorized by the local harbormaster/town.<br>◦ Not associated with any boating facility.[11]<br>◦ Boat or mooring not located in a Federal Navigation Project[12] other than a Federal Anchorage[12]. Moorings in Federal Anchorage not associated with a boating facility[11] and are not for rent.<br>◦ No interference with navigation.<br>◦ No new moorings located in SAS[3]. Prior to installation of moorings, a site-specific eelgrass survey should be conducted to document that eelgrass is not present.<br>◦ When existing, authorized moorings in SAS[3] are going to be replaced, they shall be replaced with elastic mooring systems that prevent mooring chains from resting or dragging on the bottom substrate at all tides and helical anchors, or equivalent SAS protection systems where practicable.<br><br>2. Minor relocation of previously authorized moorings and moored floats, provided:<br>◦ Authorized by the local harbormaster/town.<br>◦ Not located in SAS[3]<br>◦ No interference with navigation.<br>◦ Cannot be relocated into a Federal Navigation Project[12] other than a Federal Anchorage[12] | 1. Moorings associated with a boating facility[11]. An eelgrass[14] survey may be required.<br><br>2. Moorings that don't meet the terms in Category 1 and don't require an Individual Permit. This includes private moorings with no harbormaster or means of local approval.<br><br>3. Moorings located such that they, and/or vessels docked or moored at them, are within the buffer zone of the horizontal limits[13] of a Federal Channel[12]. (See Appendix F.) The buffer zone is equal to 3 times the authorized depth of that channel.<br><br>4. An IP is required for moorings within the horizontal limits[11], or with moored vessels that extend, into the horizontal limits of a Federal Navigation Project[12], except those in Federal Anchorages[12].<br><br>For 1-4 above, siting of new individual moorings in SAS[3], including eelgrass[14], should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. If SAS[3] cannot be avoided, plans should show elastic mooring systems that prevent mooring chains from resting or dragging on the bottom substrate at all tides and helical anchors, or equivalent SAS protection systems, where practicable. |

| ACTIVITY | CATEGORY 1 | CATEGORY 2 |
|---|---|---|
| (f) STRUCTURES AND FLOATS | 1. Reconfiguration of existing, authorized structures or floats.<br><br>Provided:<br>a. Piles shall adhere to one of the 4 methods in (i) –(iv) below:<br>i. Piles installed in-the-dry during low water or in-water between Nov. 8th - Apr. 9th, or<br>ii. Must be drilled and pinned to ledge, or<br>iii. Vibratory hammers used to install any size and quantity of wood, concrete or steel piles, or<br>iv. Impact hammers limited to one hammer and <50 piles installed/day with the following: wood piles of any size, concrete piles ≤18-inches diameter, steel piles <12-inches diameter if the hammer is ≤3000 lbs and a wood cushion is used between the hammer and steel pile.<br>b. For (ii) – (iv) above:<br>i. In-water noise levels shall not exceed >187dB SEL re 1µPa or 206dB peak re 1µPa at a distance >10m from the pile being installed;, and<br>ii. In-water noise levels >155dB peak re 1µPa shall not exceed 12 consecutive hours on any given day and a 12 hour recovery period (i.e., in-water noise below 155dB peak re 1µPa) must be provided between work days.<br>c. For (i) –(iv) above:<br>i. Work is not eligible for Category 1 if conducted in tidal portions of the Penobscot river upstream of a line extending from Turner point in Castine to Moose Point (formerly squaw point) on Cape Jellison in Stockton Springs or in tidal portions of the Kennebec or Androscoggin Rivers upstream of a line extending from Doubling point in Arrowsic to Hospital Point in West Bath. | 1. Private structures or floats, including floatways/skidways, built to access waterway (seasonal and permanent)<br><br>2. Expansions to existing boating facilities[11].<br><br>For 1 & 2 above, compliance with the following design standards is not required but recommended:<br>◦ Pile-supported structures <400 SF. with attached floats totaling ≤200 SF.<br>◦ Bottom anchored floats ≤200 SF.<br>◦ Structures are ≤4' wide and have at least a 1:1 height:width ratio[11].<br>◦ Floats supported a minimum of 18" above the substrate during all tides.<br>◦ Structures & floats not located within 25' of any eelgrass[3].<br>◦ Moored vessels not positioned over SAS[4].<br>◦ No structure located within 25' of the riparian property boundary without written approval from the abutter(s).<br>◦ No structure extends across >25% of the waterway width at mean low water.<br>◦ Not located within the buffer zone of the horizontal limits[13] of a Corps Federal Navigation Project (FNP) (App. F). The buffer zone is equal to three times the authorized depth of that FNP.<br><br>3. An Individual Permit is required for structures or floats, including floatways/skidways, located such that they and/or vessels docked or moored at them are within the horizontal limits[13] of a Corps Federal Navigation Project[12] (see App. F)<br><br>4. An Individual Permit is required for structures & floats associated with a new or previously unauthorized boating facility[11]. |

| ACTIVITY | CATEGORY 1 | CATEGORY 2 |
|---|---|---|
| (g) MISCELL-ANEOUS | 1. Temporary buoys, markers, floats, etc. for recreational use during specific events, provided they are removed within 30 days after use is discontinued.<br><br>2. The placement of aids to navigation and regulatory markers which are approved by and installed in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard. (See 33 CFR 66, Chapter I, subchapter C)."<br><br>3. Activities required for the containment and cleanup of oil and hazardous substances that are subject to the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300) provided that the work is done in accordance with the Spill Control and Countermeasure Plan required by 40 CFR 112.3 and any existing state contingency plan and provided that the Regional Response Team (if one exists in the area) concurs with the proposed containment and cleanup action. SAS[3] must typically be restored in place at the same elevation.<br><br>4. Fish and wildlife harvesting, enhancement, and attraction devices and activities such as pound nets, crab traps, crab dredging, eel pots, lobster traps, and clam and oyster digging, and small fish attraction devices such as open water fish concentrators (sea kites, etc.). This does not authorize artificial reefs or impoundments and semi-impoundments of waters of the U.S. for the culture or holding of motile species such as lobster, or the use of covered oyster trays or clam racks. No activity that results in a hazard to navigation. Note: A Category 1 Notification Form is not required for these devices and activities.<br><br>5. Scientific measurement devices whose purpose is to measure and record scientific data, such as staff gages, water recording devices, water quality testing and improvement devices, and similar structures. Structures may not restrict movement of aquatic organisms. No activity results in a hazard to navigation.<br><br>6. Survey activities such as exploratory drilling, surveying and sampling activities, excluding any biological sampling devices. Does not include oil and gas exploration and fill for roads or construction pads. No activity results in a hazard to navigation. Applicants must contact NMFS to ensure no impacts to listed species. | 1. Structures or work in or affecting tidal or navigable waters, that are not defined under any of the previous headings listed above. Includes, but is not limited to, utility lines, aerial transmission lines, pipelines, outfalls, boat ramps, floatways/skidways, bridges, tunnels and horizontal directional drilling activities seaward of the mean high water line.<br><br>2. Shellfish/finfish (other than Atlantic salmon), or other aquaculture facilities with no more than minimal individual and cumulative impacts to environmental resources or navigation. –Aquaculture guidelines are provided at: www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/index.htm.<br><br>3. Specific activities with impacts of any area required to affect the containment, stabilization, or removal of hazardous or toxic waste materials that are performed, ordered, or sponsored by a government agency with established legal or regulatory authority. Wetlands must typically be restored in place at the same elevation to qualify.<br><br>4. Aquatic habitat restoration, establishment and enhancement provided those activities are proactive and result in net increases in aquatic resource functions and services.[8]<br><br>5. Projects where an EIS is required by the Corps are not eligible for Category 2. |

| ACTIVITY | CATEGORY 1 | CATEGORY 2 |
|---|---|---|
| (g) MISCELL-ANEOUS (continued) | 7. Shellfish seeding (brushing the flats[9]) projects.<br><br>8. Marine railway work not eligible for maintenance[7] (i.e. not currently serviceable[7] or in non-compliance) may be replaced "in-kind" with minor deviations[7] provided:<br>◦ Work is in the intertidal zone<br>◦ No fill expansion below high tide line.<br>◦ Work conducted in-the-dry during low water or in-water between Nov. 8 – Apr. 9.<br><br>9. Test plots <100 SF for the planting of wetland species native to the area. No grading, no structures, no plant growing devices and no interference with navigation, which require at least Category 2 review.<br><br>10. Any work not commenced nor completed that was authorized in a written letter from the Corps under the PGP in effect between October 11, 2005 and October 11, 2010. The terms and general conditions of this GP apply along with any special conditions in the written authorization | |

**Endnotes/Definitions**

[1] **Bordering and Contiguous Wetlands:** A bordering wetland is immediately next to its adjacent waterbody and may lie at, or below, the ordinary high water mark (mean high water in navigable waters) of that waterbody and is directly influenced by its hydrologic regime. Contiguous wetlands extend landward from their adjacent waterbody to a point where a natural or manmade discontinuity exists. Contiguous wetlands include bordering wetlands as well as wetlands that are situated immediately above the ordinary highwater mark and above the normal hydrologic influence of their adjacent waterbody. Note, with respect to the federally designated navigable rivers, the wetlands bordering and contiguous to the tidally influenced portions of those rivers are reviewed under "II. Navigable Waters."

[2] **Direct, Secondary, and Cumulative Impacts/Effects:**

Direct Impacts: The immediate loss of aquatic ecosystem within the footprint of the fill.

Secondary Impacts: These are effects on an aquatic ecosystem that are associated with a discharge of dredged or fill materials, but do not result from the actual placement of the dredged or fill material. Information about secondary effects on aquatic ecosystems shall be considered prior to the time final section 404 action is taken by permitting authorities. Some examples of secondary effects on an aquatic ecosystem are a) fluctuating water levels in all impoundment and downstream associated with the operation of a dam, b) septic tank leaching and surface runoff from residential or commercial developments on fill, and c) leachate and runoff from a sanitary landfill located in waters of the U.S. Put another way, secondary effects are those impacts outside the footprint of the fill that arise from and are associated with the discharge of dredged or fill material, including the operation of an activity or facility associated with the discharge. Examples may include habitat fragmentation; interruption of travel corridors for wildlife (for example, for amphibians that migrate to and from seasonal or vernal pools used as breeding habitat); hydrologic regime changes; and impacts from operation and maintenance activities for constructed facilities; such as noise/lighting, storm water runoff, and road kill of wetland dependent wildlife. Using the directions contained in the guidelines, we consider the circumstances of a proposed discharge and the project of which it is a part to evaluate the scope, extent, severity, and permanence of direct, secondary, and cumulative adverse effects upon the aquatic ecosystem.

Cumulative Impacts: The extent of past, present, and foreseeable developments in the area may be an important consideration in evaluating the significance of a particular project's impacts. Although the impacts associated with a particular discharge may be minor, the cumulative effect of numerous similar discharges can result in a large impact. Cumulative impacts should be estimated only to the extent that they are reasonable and practical.

[3] **Special Aquatic Sites:** Includes wetlands and saltmarsh, mudflats, riffles and pools, and vegetated shallows (predominantly comprised of eelgrass in Maine).

[4] **Construction Mats:** Constructions, swamp and timber mats (herein referred to as "construction mats") are generic terms used to describe structures that distribute equipment weight to prevent wetland damage while facilitating passage and providing work platforms for workers and equipment. They are comprised of sheets or mats made from a variety of materials in various sizes. A timber mat consists of large timbers bolted or cabled together. Corduroy roads, which are not considered to be construction mats, are cut trees and/or saplings with the crowns and branches removed, and the trunks lined up next to one another. Corduroy roads are typically installed as permanent structures. Like construction mats, they are considered as fill whether they're installed temporarily or permanently.

[5] **Vernal Pools:** A vernal pool, also referred to as a seasonal forest pool, is a temporary to semi-permanent body of water occurring in a shallow depression that typically fills during the spring or fall and may dry during the summer. Vernal pools have no permanent inlet or outlet and no viable populations of predatory fish. A vernal pool may provide the primary breeding habitat for wood frogs (*Rana sylvatica*), spotted salamanders (*Ambystoma maculatum*), blue-spotted salamanders (*Ambystoma laterale*), and fairy shrimp (*Eubranchipus* sp.), as well as valuable habitat for other plants and wildlife, including several rare, threatened, and endangered species. A vernal pool intentionally created for the purposes of compensatory mitigation is included in this definition. For the purposes of this GP, the presence of any of the following species in any life stage in any abundance level/quantity would designate the waterbody as a vernal pool: fairy shrimp, blue spotted salamanders, spotted salamanders or wood frogs. The Corps may determine during a Category 2 review that a waterbody should not be regulated as a VP based on available evidence. For the purposes of this GP*, the VP Management Areas are the: Vernal Pool Depression (includes the vernal pool depression up to the spring or fall high water mark, and includes any vegetation growing within the depression), Vernal Pool Envelope (area within 100 FT of the VP Depression's edge) and Critical Terrestrial Habitat (area within 100-750 FT of the Vernal Pool Depression's edge). [*Note: Critical Terrestrial Habitat is defined as 100 -750 FT on page 243 of the document "Science and Conservation of Vernal Pools in Northeastern North America," Calhoun and deMaynadier, 2008, which is referenced in Appendix E, page 3, Paragraph 10(b).

[6] **Water Diversions:** Water diversions are activities such as bypass pumping or water withdrawals. Temporary flume pipes, culverts or cofferdams where normal flows are maintained within the stream boundary's confines aren't water diversions. "Normal flows" are defined as no change in flow from pre-project conditions.

[7] **Maintenance:** a) In accordance with 33 CFR 323.4(a)(2), any discharge of dredged or fill material that may result from any of the following activities is not prohibited by or otherwise subject to regulation under Section 404 of the CWA: "Maintenance, including emergency reconstruction of recently damaged parts, of currently serviceable structures such as dikes, dams, levees, groins, riprap, breakwaters, causeways, bridge abutments or approaches, and transportation structures. Maintenance does not include any modification that changes the character, scope, or size of the original fill design." Otherwise, the following work is regulated and subject to the Category 1 or 2 thresholds in Appendix A above: The repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of any previously authorized, currently serviceable structure or fill, or of any currently serviceable structure or fill authorized by 33 CFR 330.3 – "Activities occurring before certain dates." provided that the structure or fill is not to be put to uses differing from those uses specified or contemplated for it in the original permit or the most recently authorized modification. b) Minor deviations in the structure's configuration or filled area, including those due to changes in materials, construction techniques, or current construction codes or safety standards that are necessary to make repair, rehabilitation, or replacement are authorized. c) Currently serviceable means useable as is or with some maintenance, but not so degraded as to essentially require reconstruction. d) No seaward expansion for bulkheads or any other fill activity is considered Category 1 maintenance. e) Only structures or fills that were previously authorized and are in compliance with the terms and condition of the original authorization can be maintained as a non-regulated activity under 33 CFR 323.4(a)(2), or in accordance with the Category 1 or 2 thresholds in Appendix A. f) The state's maintenance provisions may differ from the Corps and may require reporting and written authorization from the state. g) Contact the Corps to determine whether stream crossing replacements require a written application to the Corps for at least a Category 2 review.

[8] **Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment and Enhancement:** The Corps will decide if a project qualifies and must determine in consultation with federal and state agencies that the net effects are beneficial. The Corps may refer to Nationwide Permit 27 published in the 3/12/07 Federal Register. Activities authorized here may include, but are not limited to: the removal of accumulated sediments; the installation, removal, and maintenance of small water control structures, dikes, and berms; the installation of current deflectors; the enhancement, restoration, or establishment of riffle and pool stream structure; the placement

of in-stream habitat structures; modifications of the stream bed and/or banks to restore or establish stream meanders; the backfilling of artificial channels and drainage ditches; the removal of existing drainage structures; the construction of small nesting islands in inland waters; the construction of open water areas; the construction of native shellfish species habitat over unvegetated bottom for the purpose of habitat protection or restoration in tidal waters; shellfish seeding; activities needed to reestablish vegetation, including plowing or discing for seed bed preparation and the planting of appropriate wetland species; mechanized land clearing to remove non-native invasive, exotic, or nuisance vegetation; and other related activities. Only native plant species should be planted at the site.

[9] **Brushing the Flats:** The placement of tree boughs, wooden lath structure, or small-mesh fencing on mudflats to enhance recruitment of soft-shell clams (*Mya arenaria*).

[10] **Maintenance Dredging:** This includes only those areas and depths previously authorized by the Corps and dredged.

[11] **Boating Facilities:** Facilities that provide for a fee, rent, or sell mooring space, such as marinas, yacht clubs, boat clubs, boat yards, town facilities, dockominiums, etc.

[12] **Federal Navigation Projects (FNPs):** FNPs are comprised of Federal Channels and Federal Anchorages. See Appendix F for their location and contact the Corps for more information. "Horizontal Limits" is the outer edge of an FNP. "Buffer Zone" is equal to three times the authorized depth of that channel.

[13] **Horizontal Limits:** The outer edge of a Federal Navigation Project (FNP). See Appendix F and contact the Corps for information on FNP's.

[14] **Eelgrass (Zostera marina):** A type of rooted aquatic vegetation that exists in intertidal and shallow subtidal areas known as vegetated shallows. See www.nero.noaa.gov/hcd/ for eelgrass survey guidance.

[15] **Structures:** The height of structures shall at all points be equal to or exceed the width of the deck. For the purpose of this definition, height shall be measured from the marsh substrate to the bottom of the longitudinal support beam.

US Army Corps of Engineers®
New England District

# Appendix B: Category 1 Notification Form

(for all Inland and Navigable Water Projects in Maine subject to Corps jurisdiction)

Two (2) weeks **before** work commences, submit this to the following mailing address or complete the form at www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg, "State General Permits," "Maine." Call (207) 623-8367 with any questions.

Maine Project Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
675 Western Avenue #3
Manchester, Maine 04351

State Permit Number: _____
Date of State Permit: _____
State Project Manager: _____

Permittee: _____
Address, City, State & Zip: _____
Phone(s) and Email: _____

Contractor: _____
Address, City, State & Zip: _____
Phone(s) and Email: _____

Consultant/Engineer/Designer: _____
Address, City, State & Zip: _____
Phone(s) and Email: _____

Wetland/Vernal Pool Consultant: _____
Address, City, State & Zip: _____
Phone(s) and Email: _____

Project Location/Description: _____
Address, City, State & Zip: _____
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates: _____
Waterway Name: _____
Work Description: _____
_____

Provide any prior Corps permit numbers: _____
Proposed Work Dates: Start: _____ Finish: _____

Area of wetland impact: _____ SF (leave blank if work involves structures & no fill in Navigable Waters)
Area of waterway impact: _____ SF (leave blank if work involves structures & no fill in Navigable Waters)
Area of compensatory mitigation provided: _____ SF

Work will be done under the following Appendix A categories (circle all that apply):

I. Inland Waters and wetlands: a b c d e
II. Navigable Waters: a b c d e f g

Your name/signature below, as permittee, indicates that you accept and agree to comply with the terms, eligibility criteria, and general conditions of Category 1 of the Maine General Permit.

Permittee Printed Name: _____

Permittee Signature: _____ Date: _____

US Army Corps of Engineers
New England District

# Appendix C: Information Typically Required for Department of the Army Permits

(Category 2 & Individual Projects)

The following information may not be necessary for all projects. For a more comprehensive checklist, go to www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg "Forms" and then "Application and Plan Guideline Checklist." Please check with our Maine office for project-specific requirements at (207) 623-8367.

**All Projects:**

- ☐ Corps application form (ENG Form 4345) as appropriate.
- ☐ Photographs of wetland/waterway to be impacted.
- ☐ Purpose of the project.
- ☐ Legible, reproducible black and white (no color) plans no larger than 11"x17" with bar scale. Provide locus map and plan views of the entire property.
- ☐ Typical cross-section views of all wetland and waterway fill areas and wetland replication areas.
- ☐ In navigable waters, show mean low water (MLW) and mean high water (MHW) elevations. Show the high tide line (HTL) elevations when fill is involved. In other waters, show ordinary high water (OHW) elevation.
- ☐ On each plan, show the following for the project:
  - ☐ Vertical datum and the NAVD 1988 equivalent with the vertical units as U.S. feet. Don't use local datum. In coastal waters this may be mean higher high water (MHHW), mean high water (MHW), mean low water (MLW), mean low lower water (MLLW) or other tidal datum with the vertical units as U.S. feet. MLLW and MHHW are preferred. Provide the correction factor detailing how the vertical datum (e.g., MLLW) was derived using the latest National Tidal Datum Epoch for that area, typically 1983-2001.
  - ☐ Horizontal state plane coordinates in U.S. survey feet based on the [insert state grid system] for the [insert state] [insert zone] NAD 83.
- ☐ Show project limits with existing and proposed conditions.
- ☐ Limits of any Federal Navigation Project in the vicinity of the project area and horizontal State Plane Coordinates in U.S. survey feet for the limits of the proposed work closest to the Federal Navigation Project;
- ☐ Volume, type, and source of fill material to be discharged into waters and wetlands, including the area(s) (in square feet or acres) of fill in wetlands, below the ordinary high water in inland waters and below the high tide line in coastal waters.
- ☐ Delineation of all waterways and wetlands on the project site, including vernal pools:
  - ☐ Use federal delineation methods and include Corps wetland delineation data sheets. See GC 2; Endnotes 1, 3 and 14 in Appendix A; and www.nero.noaa.gov/hcd for eelgrass survey guidance.
  - ☐ Appendix A, (e) Moorings, contains eelgrass survey requirements for the placement of moorings.
  - ☐ Labels on the plans should indicate whether the federal wetland is also a ME DEP "Wetlands of Special Significance," i.e, coastal wetland, great pond, or one of the eight "Freshwater Wetlands of Special Significance" such as "Critically imperiled or imperiled community," "Significant wildlife habitat," etc. [see Appendix E, 10(a)].
- ☐ For activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., include a statement describing how impacts to waters of the U.S. are to be avoided and minimized, and either a statement describing how impacts to waters of the U.S. are to be compensated for (or a conceptual or detailed mitigation plan) or a statement explaining why compensatory mitigation should not be required for the proposed impacts. Please contact the Corps for guidance.

- ☐ Provide information on secondary and cumulative effects associated with the project (see GC 3).
- ☐ Indicate that application materials were submitted to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) and the appropriate tribes (see Section 3(d) on Page 4).
- ☐ The name(s) of federal endangered and threatened "listed species or habitat" present in the action area (see GC 10 and Appendix E).
- ☐ Identify and describe potential impacts to Essential Fish Habitat (see GC 11).
- ☐ Invasive Species Control Plan (see GC 29).

**Information typically required for dredging projects**:

- ☐ Sediment testing, including physical (e.g., grain-size analysis), chemical and biological testing. For projects proposing open water disposal, applicants are encouraged to contact the Corps as early as possible regarding sampling and testing protocols. Sampling and testing of sediments without such contact should not occur and if done, would be at the applicant's risk.
- ☐ The area in square feet and volume of material to be dredged below mean high water.
- ☐ Existing and proposed water depths.
- ☐ Type of dredging equipment to be used.
- ☐ Nature of material (e.g., silty sand).
- ☐ Any existing sediment grain size and bulk sediment chemistry data for the proposed or any nearby projects.
- ☐ Information on the location and nature of municipal or industrial discharges and occurrence of any contaminant spills in or near the project area.
- ☐ Shellfish survey.
- ☐ Location of the disposal site (include locus sheet).
- ☐ Identify and describe potential impacts to Essential Fish Habitat (see GC 11).
- ☐ Delineation of submerged aquatic vegetation (e.g., eelgrass beds).

## 1. FEDERAL

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*
Maine Project Office
675 Western Avenue #3
Manchester, Maine 04351
(207) 623-8367; (207) 623-8206 (fax)

*Federal Endangered Species*
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Maine Field Office
17 Godfrey Drive, Suite 2
Orono, Maine 04473
(207) 866-3344; (207) 866-3351 (fax)

*Wild and Scenic Rivers*
National Park Service
North Atlantic Region
15 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
(617) 223-5203

*Bridge Permits*
Commander (obr)
First Coast Guard District
One South Street - Battery Bldg
New York, New York 10004
(212) 668-7021; (212) 668-7967 (fax)

*Federal Endangered Species*
National Marine Fisheries Service
Maine Field Office
17 Godfrey Drive Suite 1
Orono, ME 04473
(207) 866-7379; (978) 866-7342 (fax)

*Federal Endangered Species & EFH*
National Marine Fisheries Service
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930
(978) 281-9102; (978) 281-9301 (fax)

## 2. STATE OF MAINE

*Maine Department of Environmental Protection (for State Permits & Water Quality Certifications)*
Division of Land Resource Regulation
Bureau of Land and Water Quality
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
(207) 287-7688

Southern Maine Regional Office
312 Canco Road
Portland, Maine 04103
(201) 822-6300

Eastern Maine Regional Office
106 Hogan Road
Bangor, Maine 04401
(207) 941-4570

Northern Maine Regional Office
1235 Central Drive - Skyway Park
Presque Isle, Maine 04769
(207) 764-0477

*Maine Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC)* (www.maine.gov/doc/lurc/offices.html)
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022
(207) 287-2631; (207) 287-7439 (fax)

Lakeview Drive
P.O. Box 1107
Greenville, Maine 04441
(207) 695-2466; (207) 695-2380 (fax)

106 Hogan Rd, Suite 7
Bangor, Maine 04401
(207) 941-4052; (207) 941-4222 (fax)

45 Radar Road
Ashland, ME 04732-3600
(207) 435-7963; (207) 435-7184 (fax)

191 Main Street
East Millinocket, ME 04430
(207) 746-2244; (207) 746-2243 (fax)

*(For CZM Determinations)*
State Planning Office
Coastal Program
184 State Street
State House Station 38
Augusta, Maine 04333
(207) 287-1009

*(For Aquaculture Leases)*
Maine Department of Marine Resources
P.O. Box 8
West Boothbay Harbor, Maine 04575
(207) 633-9500

*(For Submerged Lands Leases)*
Maine Department of Conservation
Bureau of Parks and Lands
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
*(207) 287-3061*

## 3. HISTORIC PROPERTIES

*Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC)*
State House Station 65
Augusta, Maine 04333-0065
(207) 287-2132; (207) 287-2335 (fax)

*Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians*
Attn: Sharri Venno, Environmental Planner
88 Bell Road
Littleton, Maine 04730
(207) 532-4273, x215; (207) 532-1883 (fax)
envplanner@maliseets.com

*Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians*
Pleasant Point Reservation
Attn: Donald Soctomah, THPO
P.O. Box 343
Perry, Maine 04667
(207) 853-2600; (207) 853-6039 (fax)

*Aroostook Band of Micmacs*
Attn: Victoria Higgins, Chief
7 Northern Road
Presque Isle, Maine 04769
(207) 764-1972; (207) 764-7667 (fax)

*Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians*
Indian Township Reservation
Attn: Donald Soctomah, THPO
P.O. Box 301
Princeton, Maine 04668
(207) 796-2301; (207) 796-5256 (fax)

*Penobscot Indian Nation*
Indian Island Reservation
Attn: Ms. Bonnie Newsom, THPO
12 Wabanaki Way
Indian Island, Maine 04468
(207) 817-7471; (207) 817-7450 (fax)

## 4. ORGANIZATIONAL WEBSITES:

| | |
|---|---|
| Army Corps of Engineers, N.E. District | www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg |
| Army Corps of Engineers, Headquarters | www.usace.army.mil/CECW/Pages/cecwo_reg.aspx |
| Environmental Protection Agency | www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands |
| National Marine Fisheries Service | www.nmfs.noaa.gov |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | www.fws.gov/mainefieldoffice |
| National Park Service | www.nps.gov/rivers/index.html |
| State of Maine | www.maine.gov |
| Maine Department of Environmental Protection | www.maine.gov/dep |
| Maine Land Use Regulation Commission | www.maine.gov/doc/lurc |
| State of Maine -Aquaculture Guidelines | www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/index.htm |

# Appendix E: Additional References

**1. GC 2: Federal Jurisdictional Boundaries.**
(a) Corps Wetlands Delineation Manual, regional supplements, and Corps Wetland Delineation Data Sheets: www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg and then "Wetlands and Jurisdictional Limits."
(b) The USFWS publishes the 1988 National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands (www.nwi.fws.gov).
The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) publishes the current hydric soil definition, criteria and lists: http://soils.usda.gov/use/hydric. For the Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in N.E., see www.neiwpcc.org/hydricsoils.asp.

**2. GC 5:**
***Single and complete project*** means the total project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers. For example, if construction of a residential development affects several different areas of a headwater or isolated water, or several different headwaters or isolated waters, the cumulative total of all filled areas should be the basis for deciding whether or not the project will be covered by Category 1 or 2.
The ***Independent utility*** test is used to determine what constitutes a single and complete project in the Corps regulatory program. A project is considered to have independent utility if it would be constructed absent the construction of other projects in the project area. Portions of a multi-phase project that depend upon other phases of the project do not have independent utility. Phases of a project that would be constructed even if the other phases were not built can be considered as separate single and complete projects with independent utility.

**3. GC 10: Threatened and Endangered Species.**
(a) The following NMFS site must be referenced to ensure that listed species or critical habitat are not present in the action area [GC 10(b)] or to provide information on federally-listed species or habitat [GC 10(e)]: www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/esp/ListE&Tspec.pdf. Contact the USFWS for information to check for the presence of listed species (see Appendix D for contact information).
(b) The Endangered Species Act Consultation Handbook – Procedures for Conducting Section 7 Consultations and Conferences, defines action area as "all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action. [50 CFR 402.02]."

**4. GC 11: Essential Fish Habitat.**
As part of the PGP screening process, the Corps may coordinate with NMFS in accordance with the 1996 amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to protect and conserve the habitat of marine, estuarine and anadromous finfish, mollusks, and crustaceans. This habitat is termed "Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)", and is broadly defined to include "those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity." There are EFH waters throughout inland and coastal waters in Maine. For additional information, see the EFH regulations 50 CFR 600 at www.nero.noaa.gov/hcd including the "Guide for EFH Descriptions" at www.nero.noaa.gov/hcd/list.htm. Additional information on the location of EFH can be obtained from NMFS (see Appendix D for contact information).

**5. GC 16: Avoidance, Minimization and Compensatory Mitigation.**
(a) See www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg and then "Mitigation" to view the April 10, 2008 "Final Compensatory Mitigation Rule" (33 CFR 332) and related documents. The Q&A document states: "In order to reduce risk and uncertainty and help ensure that the required compensation is provided, the rule establishes a preference hierarchy for mitigation options. The most preferred option is mitigation

bank credits, which are usually in place before the activity is permitted. In-lieu fee program credits are second in the preference hierarchy, because they may involve larger, more ecologically valuable compensatory mitigation projects as compared to permittee-responsible mitigation. Permittee-responsible mitigation is the third option, with three possible circumstances: (1) conducted under a watershed approach, (2) on-site and in kind, and (3) off-site/out-of-kind.

(b) Compensatory mitigation may take the form of wetland preservation, restoration, enhancement, creation, and/or in lieu fee (ILF) for inclusion into the Natural Resources Mitigation Fund for projects in DEP and LURC territories. Avoidance of wetland impacts will reduce the ILF dollar total for applicants. The ILF compensation program was established to provide applicants with a flexible compensation option over and above traditional permittee responsible compensation projects. See the Maine ILF Agreement at www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg, "Mitigation" and then "Maine," or www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docstand/nrpa/ILF_and_NRCP/index.htm.

6. **GCs 19 and 29: Invasive Species.**

(a) Information on what are considered "invasive species" is provided in our "Compensatory Mitigation Guidance" document at www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg under "Mitigation." The "Invasive Species" section has a reference to our "Invasive Species Control Plan (ISCP) Guidance" document, located at www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg under "Invasive Species," which provides information on preparing an ISCP.

(b) The June 2009 "Corps of Engineers Invasive Species Policy" is at www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg under "Invasive Species" and provides policy, goals and objectives.

7. **GC 20: Bank Stabilization.**

This generally eliminates bodies of water where the reflected wave energy may interfere with or impact on harbors, marinas, or other developed shore areas. A revetment is sloped and is typically employed to absorb the direct impact of waves more effectively than a vertical seawall. It typically has a less adverse effect on the beach in front of it, abutting properties and wildlife. See the Corps Coastal Engineering Manual EM 1110-2-1100 at www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg under "Useful Links and Documents" for design and construction guidance.

8. **GC 22: Stream Crossings and Work.**

(a) Projects should be designed and constructed to ensure long-term success using the most recent manual located at www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg under "Stream and River Continuity," currently "Stream Simulation: An Ecological Approach to Providing Passage for Aquatic Organisms at Road-Stream Crossings, by the U.S. Forest Service." Section 5.3.3 is of particular importance. Sections 7.5.2.3 Construction Methods and 8.2.11 Stream-Simulation Bed Material Placement both show important steps in the project construction.

(b) For more information on High-Quality Stream Segments and their components see:

i. High-Quality Stream Segments are shown at www.maine.gov/dep/gis/datamaps.

ii. Class A Waters or Class AA Waters:
www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/38/title38sec465.html, and
www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/38/title38sec467.html.

iii. Outstanding river segments www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/38/title38sec480-P.html.

(c) The Massachusetts Dam Removal and the Wetland Regulations guidance may be used to evaluate the positive and negative impacts of culvert replacement, including the loss of upstream wetlands, which may be offset by the overall benefits of the river restoration. See www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg and then "Stream and River Continuity."

(d) The ME DOT's document "Waterway and Wildlife Crossing Policy and Design Guide for Aquatic Organism, Wildlife Habitat, and Hydrologic Connectivity," 3rd Edition, July 2008, may be used to

evaluate impacts to aquatic, wildlife and surface water resources when designing, constructing, repairing and maintaining stream crossings. Note: Adherence to this DOT document does not ensure compliance with this GP. Projects must comply with the requirements of this GP including GC 22 and the Corps General Stream Crossing Standards contained therein.
www.maine.gov/mdot/environmental-office-homepage/fishpassage/3rd%20edition%20-%20merged%20final%20version%207-01-08a1.pdf.
(e) GC 22(f): The Skidder Bridge Fact Sheet at www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg under "Stream and River Continuity" may be a useful temporary span construction method.

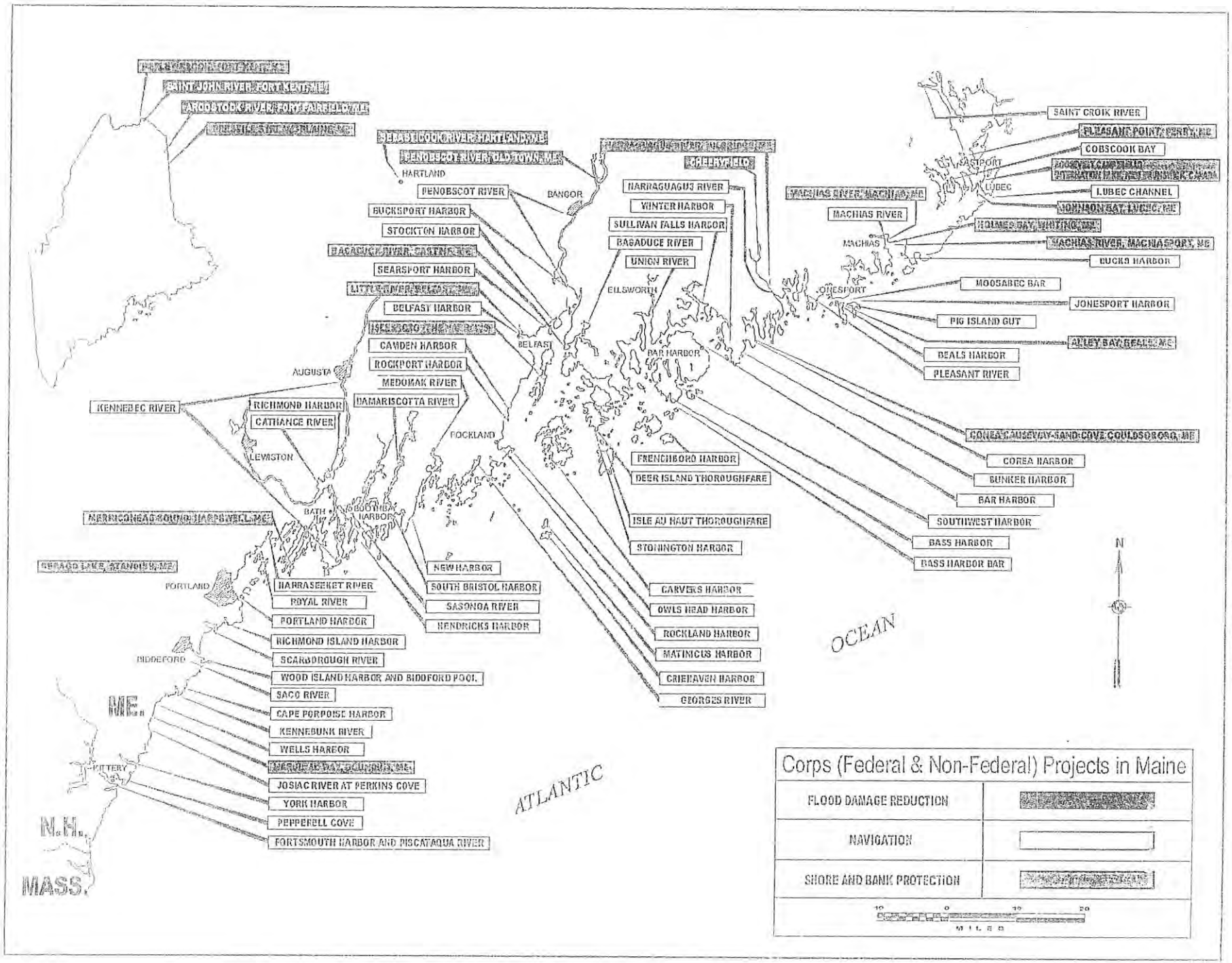
9. **GC 23: Wetland Crossings.** The Maine DEP's crossing standards are at 06-096 DEP, Chapter 305: Permit by Rule, 9) Crossings (utility lines, pipes and cables). www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/rules/NRPA/2009/305/305_effective_2009.pdf

**10. GC 28: Protection of Vernal Pools.**
(a) The state's Significant Wildlife Habitat rules (Chapter 335, Section 9(C) "Habitat management standards for significant vernal pool habitat") are located at www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docstand/nrpapage.htm#rule under "Rules."
(b) The following documents provide conservation recommendations:

i. Best Development Practices: Conserving pool-breeding amphibians in residential and commercial development in the northeastern U.S., Calhoun and Klemens, 2002. Chapter III, Management Goals and Recommendations, Pages 15 – 26, is particularly relevant. (Available for purchase at www.maineaudubon.org/resource/index.shtml and on Corps website*.)

ii. Science and Conservation of Vernal Pools in Northeastern North America, Calhoun and deMaynadier, 2008. Chapter 12, Conservation Recommendations section, Page 241, is particularly relevant. (Available for purchase via the internet. Chapter 12 is available on Corps website*.)
* www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg under "Vernal Pools."
(c) Cape Cod Curbing: For smaller roads and driveways, the most important design feature to consider is curbing. Granite curbs and some traditional curbing can act as a barrier to amphibian and hatchling turtle movements. Large numbers of salamanders have been intercepted in their migrations by curbs and catch basins. Use of Cape Cod curbs rather than traditional curbing may be one solution. Alternatively, where storm water management systems require more traditional curbing, it may be possible to design in escape ramps on either side of each catch basin. Cape Cod curbing is shown on Page 35 of the document cited in 10.b.i above. Bituminous material is not required; other materials such as granite are acceptable.
(d) The VP Directional Buffer Guidance document is located at www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg under: 1) "State General Permits" and then "Maine," and 2) "Vernal Pools."

**11. GC 32: Maintenance.** River restoration projects that are designed to accommodate the natural dynamic tendencies of the fluvial system are maintained in accordance with the project's design objectives (Category 1) or the Corps authorization letter (Category 2). These projects are generally designed to support and implement channel assessment and management practices that recognize a stream's natural dynamic tendencies.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PLEASANT POINT FERRY, ME
COBSCOOK BAY
EASTPORT
LUBEC
LUBEC CHANNEL
MACHIAS
MACHIAS RIVER
MACHIAS RIVER, MACHIASPORT, ME
BUCKS HARBOR
JONESPORT
MOOSABEC BAR
JONESPORT HARBOR
PIG ISLAND GUT
BEALS HARBOR
PLEASANT RIVER
COREA HARBOR
BUNKER HARBOR
BAR HARBOR
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BASS HARBOR
BASS HARBOR BAR
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STONINGTON HARBOR
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RICHMOND HARBOR
CATHANCE RIVER
LEWISTON
BATH
HARRASEEKET RIVER
ROYAL RIVER
PORTLAND HARBOR
RICHMOND ISLAND HARBOR
SCARBOROUGH RIVER
WOOD ISLAND HARBOR AND BIDDEFORD POOL
SACO RIVER
CAPE PORPOISE HARBOR
KENNEBUNK RIVER
WELLS HAREOR
JOSIAC RIVER AT PERKINS COVE
YORK HARBOR
PEPPERELL COVE
PORTSMOUTH HARBOR AND PISCATAQUA RIVER
PORTLAND
BIDDEFORD
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