

Appendix—Before and After the Clean Water Act

by David L. Courtemanch, Susan P. Davies, Eileen S. Johnson, Rebecca Schaffner, and Douglas Suitor

TABLE 1: NEIWPCC Standards (1948) and Maine's Proposed Standards (1950)

Criteria type	Standard	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D	Class E*
Dissolved oxygen (DO)	Maine	>75% saturation / >7 ppm	>75% saturation / >7 ppm	>60% saturation / >5 ppm	>35% saturation / >3 ppm	<35% saturation / <3 ppm
	NEIWPCC	>75% saturation	>75% saturation	>5 ppm	Present at all times	-
Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD ppm)	Maine	0 -2.0	2.0 – 3.0	3.0 - 4.0	3.0 – 4.0	>4.0
	NEIWPCC	-	-	-	-	-
pH	Maine	6.0 – 8.0	6.0 – 8.0	5.5 – 8.5	5.5 – 8.5	5.0 – 9.0
	NEIWPCC	-	-	-	-	-
Coliform bacteria	Maine	<50/100ml	<500/100ml	<5000/100ml	<10000/100ml	>10000/100ml
	NEIWPCC	Within limits of State Health Dept.	Within limits of State Health Dept. for bathing waters	-	-	-
Odor	Maine	None	None	None	Not objectionable	Objectionable
	NEIWPCC	None	None	None	Not objectionable	-
Color	Maine	None	Not objectionable	Not objectionable	Not objectionable	Objectionable
	NEIWPCC	None	Not objectionable	Not objectionable	Not objectionable	-
Scum, floating debris	Maine	None	None	Not objectionable	Not objectionable	Objectionable
	NEIWPCC	None	None	None	Not objectionable	-
Sludge deposits	Maine	None	None	None	Not objectionable	Objectionable
	NEIWPCC	None	None	None	None	-
Turbidity, suspended solids	Maine	None	Not objectionable	Not objectionable	Not objectionable	Objectionable
	NEIWPCC	None	Not objectionable	Not objectionable	Not objectionable	-
Oil and grease	Maine	-	-	-	-	-
	NEIWPCC	None	Not objectionable	Not objectionable	Not objectionable	-
Taste producing substances, free acids or alkalies	Maine	-	-	-	-	-
	NEIWPCC	None	Not objectionable	Not objectionable	Not objectionable	-
Potentially toxic substances	Maine	-	-	-	-	-
	NEIWPCC	None	None	Not in toxic concentrations or combinations	Not in toxic concentrations or combinations	-

*NEIWPCC: Waters failing the Class D criteria were considered unsatisfactory and as Class E.

*Maine: Does not meet the requirements set forth for Class D waters, but may serve same uses as Class D, or may constitute a public nuisance depending on the amount of pollution. Class E and its criteria were never adopted into Maine statute, see Table 2.

TABLE 2: **Maine Classification Standards as Initially Adopted into Statute in 1954**

Criteria Type	Class A	Class B-1	Class B-2	Class C	Class D
Dissolved oxygen (DO) 4 ppm other waters	>75% saturation	>75% saturation	>60% saturation	5 ppm for trout waters	Some present
Coliform bacteria	<100/100ml	<300/100ml	<1000/100ml	Not harmful to public health	Not harmful to public health
Odor	–	–	–	None	Not objectionable
Scum, floating debris	–	–	–	Not objectionable	–
Waste discharge	Not allowed	Not injurious to aquatic life	Not injurious to aquatic life	Free of conditions inimical to aquatic life	–

TABLE 3: **Maine's Management Objectives for Freshwaters Adopted in 1985**

Freshwater classes	Management objectives	Dissolved oxygen	Bacteria (<i>E. coli</i>)	Biological standards and habitat characteristics
AA	Highest quality water, minimum human disturbance. No discharges allowed.* No impoundment allowed. Outstanding National Resource Waters.	As naturally occurs.	As naturally occurs.	<i>Aquatic life shall be as naturally occurs.</i> Habitat shall be characterized as free-flowing and <i>natural</i> .
A	High-quality water with limited human disturbance. Discharges limited to noncontact process water or highly treated wastewater of quality equal to, or better than, the receiving water*. Impoundment allowed.	>7ppm or 75% saturation.	As naturally occurs.	<i>Aquatic life shall be as naturally occurs.</i> Habitat shall be characterized as <i>natural</i> .
B	Good quality water. Discharge of well-treated wastewater with ample dilution permitted. Impoundment allowed.	>7ppm or 75% saturation. October 1-May 15: 9.5ppm 7-day average in fish spawning areas.	May 15–September 30: Geometric mean of 64/100ml with no single sample exceeding 236/100ml.	Discharges shall not cause adverse impacts to <i>aquatic life</i> . Water quality shall support all aquatic species <i>indigenous</i> to the receiving water <i>without detrimental change to the resident biological community</i> . Habitat shall be characterized as <i>unimpaired</i> .
C	Acceptable water quality. Achieves the interim goals of the Clean Water Act (fishable-swimmable). Discharge of well-treated wastewater permitted. Impoundment allowed.	>5ppm or 60% saturation, and 6.5ppm 30-day average. Sufficient for spawning and early life stage survival in salmonid spawning areas.	May 15–September 30: Geometric mean of 126/100ml with no single sample exceeding 236/100ml.	Discharges may cause some changes to <i>aquatic life</i> provided the waters are of sufficient quality to support all species of <i>indigenous</i> fish and maintains the <i>structure and function of the resident biological community</i> .
GPA (lakes and ponds)	Shall have a stable or decreasing trophic state. Free of algae blooms. No direct or indirect discharge of pollutants, except as licensed prior to 1986*.	<i>As naturally occurs.</i>	May 15–September 30: Geometric mean of 29/100ml with no single sample exceeding 194/100ml.	<i>Aquatic life shall be as naturally occurs.</i> Habitat shall be characterized as <i>natural</i> .

Notes: USEPA Ambient Water Quality Criteria for toxic substances apply to all classes. (38 MRS §464-4, §465, §465-A). Italicized terms are further defined in 38 MRS §466.

* Discharge of certain aquatic pesticides or chemicals may be allowed by the Maine DEP to any class for the purpose of restoring native biological communities.