



**MAINE AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION**  
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**Guiding Principles for Responsible Aquaculture in Maine**

The Maine Aquaculture Association Code of Conduct addresses the responsibility of the aquaculturist to the environment, the fish, shellfish and sea vegetables grown, and the consumer. Among the goals to be achieved through these measures are environmental, economic and social sustainability.

Companies, individuals and other groups that engage in aquaculture, singularly and collectively:

1. Shall consult and collaborate with federal, state and local authorities for the development and implementation of policies, laws, regulations, practices and procedures necessary and practicable to achieve, environmental, economic, and social sustainability of aquaculture operations.
2. Shall consult and co-operate with other aquaculture producers and sectoral suppliers for the development of and agreement on common standards and objectives.
3. Shall plan and operate aquaculture sites whose characteristics are compatible with long-term sustainable operation with acceptable ecological effects.
4. Shall plan and operate aquaculture sites in a manner that conserves water resources.
5. Shall respect appropriate considerations for species welfare that apply to the species being raised.
6. Shall take such measures as are appropriate to avoid disease outbreaks and implement regulated containment procedures should a disease outbreak occur.
7. Shall take all reasonable steps to ascertain that permissible introductions of exotic species are done in a responsible manner and in accordance with appropriate regulations.
8. Shall take all reasonable steps to ascertain that permissible transfers of species across jurisdictional lines is done in a responsible manner and in accordance with appropriate regulations.
9. Shall use therapeutic agents in accordance with applicable regulation and best management practices.
10. Shall dispose of waste and chemicals in a manner that does not constitute a hazard to human health and the environment and in accordance with the appropriate regulation.
11. Shall co-operate with those involved in research, technological development and training activities that seek to improve the social and environmental compatibility of aquaculture.
12. Shall implement improvements in technology and in management where such advances are economically possible and can assist the sustainability of the activity and improve the social and environmental compatibility of aquaculture.
13. Shall make the best efforts to produce products of the highest quality at all stages of the aquaculture process.
14. Shall strive to benefit local economies through diversification of the local economy, promotion of employment, contributions to the tax base and infrastructure.