

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary**  
**2017 Maine EQIP Aquatic Organism**

<b>Program:</b>	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> 2017 Maine EQIP Aquatic Organism Passage		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>	<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

**National Priorities Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated “impaired water body” (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)</b>	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)</b>	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

### State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the State priority category.	
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other State level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. 400 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
If the application is NOT for a CAP, answer the following questions as applicable. Answer ONLY ONE of 2a, 2b, 2c, or 2d - The Project PRIMARILY Benefits the following Species:	
2. a. Atlantic salmon, federally endangered (80 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Alewife, depressed or extirpated populations (70 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Brook Trout, Regional Initiative-Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (40 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Other (10 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Primary Aquatic Objective: Questions 3-6 are to be used to rank a Stream Connectivity Project (i.e., involves removing a full or partial barrier to aquatic organism passage). Question 7 is to be used to rank a Stream Habitat Complexity/Function practice project which does NOT include an aquatic passage barrier (practice 396) scenario. If Objective is to enhance BOTH stream connectivity (remove an existing passage barrier) AND to enhance stream habitat complexity/function (e.g., adding large wood or boulder clusters), answer questions 3-5 & 7; skip question 6. If Objective is to ONLY to enhance stream connectivity (remove an existing passage barrier), answer questions 3-5 only; skip questions 6 & 7. If Objective is to remove a barrier (downstream or at a pond outlet) to provide alewife access to historic breeding grounds in a pond or lake, answer questions 3, 4, and 6. Skip questions 5 & 7. Connectivity priority: Choose ONLY ONE of 3a, 3b, or 3c	
3. a. Mapped as a designated Critical Habitat for Atlantic salmon and barrier removal will allow salmon access to suitable upstream spawning and rearing habitat. (90 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Alewife is the target species and barrier removal will allow access to historic breeding grounds. (70 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Mapped as a Priority Brook Trout watershed and will benefit trout, but salmon cannot access site due to a downstream natural or man-made barrier. If the downstream barrier has a working fishway, or DMR trucks salmon around the barrier, choose 2a instead. (50 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Low priority-Does not meet any of the above conditions (-1 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Aquatic Organism Passage Barrier Severity (e.g., road-stream crossings, remnant log drive dams, side channels, and other man-made barriers): Choose only one of 4a, 4b, or 4c	
4. a. 100% of the projects have been identified or meets Maine Road-Stream Crossing Barrier Survey criteria as complete AOP barriers (i.e., perched culverts >6” and/or the structure is at least 50% blocked	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

and affects AOP throughout the year), OR is an impassible dam without a functioning fishway. (60 points)	
4. b. <100% but at least one of the projects have been identified or meets Maine Road-Stream Crossing Barrier Survey criteria as complete AOP barriers (i.e., perched culverts >6” and/or the structure is at least 50% blocked and affects AOP throughout the year), OR is an impassible dam without a functioning fishway. (40 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. 100% of the projects have been identified or meets Maine Road-Stream Crossing Barrier Survey criteria for a PARTIAL AOP barrier (i.e., velocity barrier, low-flow barrier, or perched <6”), OR is a partial barrier not associated with a road-stream crossing (e.g., remnant log drive dam, blocked side channel, debris dam). (20 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Stream Miles Accessible after Barrier Removal-if diadromous species (e.g. alewife) access to a historic breeding pond is the restoration objective, skip and answer Question 6 below. NOTE: All solid blue lines in ArcGIS above the project site(s) count toward total upstream miles available after barrier removal. Dashed blue lines (intermittent) streams are NOT to be counted. Accessible stream mile calculation stops at the 1st upstream barrier, which is typically the next road-stream crossing. Choose only one of 5a, 5b, 5c, or 5d	
5. a. Greater than 2.5 upstream stream miles accessed after barrier removal (50 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. 1.5-2.5 upstream stream miles accessed after barrier removal (40 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. c. 0.5 to 1.5 upstream stream miles accessed after barrier removal (30 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. d. Less than 0.5 upstream stream miles accessed after barrier removal (10 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Historic Breeding Pond Alewife Carrying Capacity after Barrier Removal. Alewife carrying capacity = surface acres x 235. NOTE: If the currently excluded pond breeding species is NOT alewife, the species will need to be identified and replacement carrying capacity calculation criteria (i.e., fish/surface acres) will need to be supplied by a biologist from the managing agency and provided to the NRCS State Biologist or EQIP Program Manager. Numbers used for ranking below will be changed in proportion to the change in fish/surface acre. Choose only one of 6a, 6b, 6c, or 6d	
6. a. Alewife Carrying Capacity is greater than 300,000 (70 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Alewife Carrying Capacity is less than 300,000, but greater than 100,000 (40 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. c. Alewife Carrying Capacity is less than or equal to 100,000 (20 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Fish other than alewife is the target species (5 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Stream Habitat Complexity/Function Practice Scenario: Project does NOT include an aquatic passage barrier (practice 396) scenario. Choose only one of 7a, 7b, or 7c.	
7. a. Economical stream habitat complexity enhancement (i.e., large wood placements, remnant log drive dam removal, obstruction removal, boulder clusters) (50 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Complex and expensive in stream habitat complexity enhancement (i.e., in stream rock structures)(30 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. c. Floodplain connectivity, riparian buffer establishment, streambank stabilization, or similar offered conservation practices adjacent to a water body that will enhance aquatic environments. (10 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

### Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the Local priority category.	
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other Local level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. 250 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
If application is NOT for a CAP, answer the following questions as applicable, Local Working Group Priorities: Choose only one of 2a or 2b.	
2. a. Local Working Group has identified wildlife habitat enhancement as a high priority resource concern for the county where the project is located. (35 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Local Working Group has NOT identified wildlife habitat enhancement as a high priority resource concern for the county where the project is located. (25 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Structural removal: Choose only one of 3a, 3b or 3c	
3. a. All projects planned are barrier removals (e.g. dam removal, road decommission) (75 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Fifty percent or more of the projects planned are barrier removals (e.g. dam removal, road decommission) with no engineered AOP structures (e.g. stream simulation road stream crossings, technical fishway (50 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Projects planned consist of only engineered AOP structures (e.g. stream simulation road stream crossings, technical fishway (25 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Partner Contribution to Project-a partner is an entity, other than the landowner, which contributes to the project completion: Choose only one of 4a, 4b, or 4c.	
4. a. Significant financial and/or technical assistance is currently in place from Partner's workload (e.g., Partner is lead for ESA consultation, engineering designs, permit acquisition), so NRCS' contribution will be mostly FA (100 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Partners are involved, but NRCS will have to contribute significant technical and financial assistance to complete the project. (50 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. No partner involvement (10 point)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Small tributary cold water refugia: Choose only one of 5a, 5b, 5c.	
5. a. All projects are < .25 stream miles from a confluence from a mainstem "River" system (e.g. Penobscot River, Kennebec River, Kenduskeag River) or tidal and is the only known complete or partial barrier between. (40 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. At least one project is < .25 stream miles from a confluence from a mainstem "River" system (e.g. Penobscot River, Kennebec River, Kenduskeag River) or tidal and is the only known complete or partial barrier between. (20 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. c. No projects are < .25 stream miles from a confluence from a mainstem "River" system (e.g. Penobscot River, Kennebec River, Kenduskeag River) or tidal and is the only known complete or partial barrier between. (-1 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

**Land Use:**

Resource Concerns	Practices
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**Ranking Score**

<p>Efficiency:</p> <p>Local Issues:</p> <p>State Issues:</p> <p>National Issues:</p> <p><b>Final Ranking Score:</b></p>
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This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

<p><b>NRCS Representative:</b></p>  <p><b>Signature Date:</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:</b></p>  <p><b>Signature Date:</b></p>
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