



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

MEMORANDUM

DAVID P. LITTELL  
COMMISSIONER

To: All Organized Municipalities in the State of Maine  
From: Richard P. Baker, Shoreland Zoning Coordinator  
Re: Maps of Moderate and High Value Wetlands for Shoreland Zoning Purposes  
Date: January 3, 2007

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All of Maine's organized municipalities should now be aware of the Board of Environmental Protection's approval of amendments to the *State of Maine Guidelines for Municipal Shoreland Zoning Ordinances* (Chapter 1000 of the DEP's rules). The Board has set July 1, 2008 as the deadline for municipalities to update their shoreland zoning ordinances.

Following the Board's establishment of a deadline for municipalities to amend their respective ordinances the DEP staff conducted numerous workshops in conjunction with the regional planning agencies. We have also published two newsletters on the subject, and have mailed hundreds of copies of the amended Guidelines to municipal officials. Hopefully, your town is well on its way toward updating its ordinance.

An important amendment to the Guidelines is found in the Resource Protection district criteria (Section 13(A)(1)). Before the recent amendments, the wetlands ratings from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's 1973 wetland survey were the basis for zoning areas adjacent to moderate and high value freshwater wetlands. The recent amendments no longer reference the 1973 survey. Instead, the Guidelines now refer to the wetlands ratings as assigned by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as of May 1, 2006. Wetlands that are rated moderate or high value for waterfowl and wading bird habitat as of May 1, 2006 meet the criteria for zoning the areas within 250 feet of those wetlands for Resource Protection.

Included with this memorandum are three copies of the map for your town indicating those wetlands that are rated as moderate or high value. While many of the wetlands may already be zoned for Resource Protection based on the earlier ratings, you may find that others must now be rezoned to the Resource Protection District.

Note that the Department does not expect developed areas to be zoned as Resource Protection regardless of the rating of a particular wetland. You may also notice that some of the rated wetlands are found along streams that are currently zoned as a Stream Protection District. In those cases the Department does not expect that the municipality

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will replace the Stream Protection District with a Resource Protection District. It may remain as a Stream Protection District.

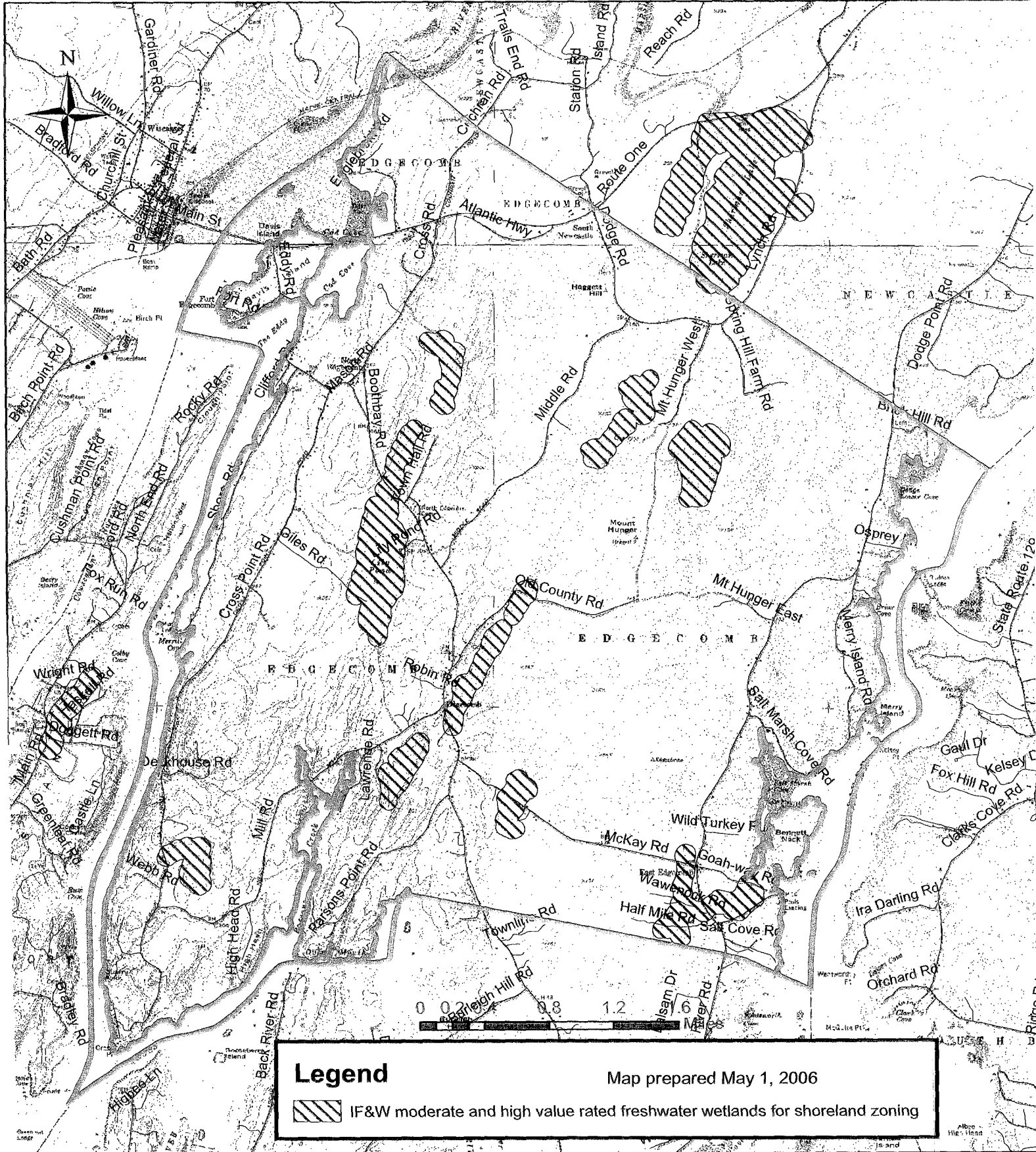
Please also note that the enclosed map only includes the wetlands that are rated moderate or high value. Other wetlands that are greater than ten acres, and that are not rated as moderate or high value must continue to be zoned. Those wetlands, though not required to be zoned for Resource Protection, have been included within your shoreland zoning ordinance for at least the last ten years.

Finally, if the updated wetlands ratings result in your municipality changing a district to the Resource Protection District, the current law requires the landowner to be notified of the proposed rezoning.

If you have any questions relating to the wetlands ratings and the appropriate zoning district to apply, please contact your regional DEP office and speak with the Department's shoreland zoning coordinator.

Thank you.

# Town of Edgecomb Moderate & High Value Freshwater Wetlands



## Legend



IF&W moderate and high value rated freshwater wetlands for shoreland zoning

Map prepared May 1, 2006

This map shows only moderate and high value rated freshwater wetlands.

Please note that low value and non-rated freshwater wetlands are still required to be zoned, as they have been since 1989.