

***Title:* Saltwater Intrusion in Residential Wells in Maine – Local Strategies for Managing a Complex Problem**

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Saltwater intrusion into private wells has been identified in a number of coastal communities in Maine. Existing problems, combined with the construction of new homes and developments, have raised concerns about the best way to protect potable water quality along the shore. Currently, there are no state-wide programs that address saltwater intrusion in Maine; consequently, the responsibility to manage this difficult issue falls on the shoulders of local communities and individual well owners.

Maine communities have adopted a number of different strategies to address concerns about saltwater intrusion; many of these techniques have evolved over time. Currently Maine communities are using a variety of methods to minimize, monitor and regulate saltwater intrusion in private wells including:

- Public education
- Town-wide groundwater studies and flow models
- Zoning and setback requirements
- Ordinances focused on saltwater intrusion and/or groundwater protection
- Long-term monitoring
- Doing nothing

The pros and cons of these various approaches will be discussed in terms of their cost, ability to be implemented, potential effectiveness, and public acceptability. Potential conflicts that can arise at the local level with different approaches will be presented. Next, Maine's efforts will be compared to approaches other communities in the U.S are using to manage saltwater intrusion. Finally, recommendations on

effective steps local communities can take to manage and prevent saltwater intrusion will be presented.