



Aquaculture

Aquaculture (aquafarming) is known as the farming of aquatic organisms, such as fish in controlled conditions, rather than commercial fishing which is harvesting wild fish. Aquaculture facilities can be on land or in water. These facilities typically have holding areas/tanks, raceways, ponds and pits for the fish, and they have equipment to re-circulate the water and remove waste.

Aquaculture as a Drinking Water Threat

Similarly to agriculture, aquaculture can produce waste that is harmful to drinking water sources. Pathogens from aquatic organisms' waste could make its way into ground and surface water sources if they are not managed correctly. According to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), aquaculture cannot be considered a significant threat.

Where is Aquaculture Identified as a Drinking Water Threat?

Aquaculture in the Quinte area is not abundant near municipal drinking water sources. Therefore, aquaculture is considered a potential future moderate drinking water threat in drinking water Intake Protection Zones (IPZs) in Ameliasburgh, Belleville, Deseronto, Napanee, Picton, and Point Anne.

Aquaculture is also considered a low drinking water threat to municipal wells in the Quinte area.



How is Aquaculture Being Addressed?

The Quinte Source Protection Plan specifies that the MECP and the Ministry of Natural Resources must consider the impact on drinking water sources prior to issuing approvals for any aquaculture related activities where these activities would be a moderate or low drinking water threats in vulnerable areas such as, Wellhead Protection Areas or Intake Protection Zones.