

Zoning Ordinance

Normal High Water Line Zoning Amendments

SEC. 19-1-3. DEFINITIONS

Highest Astronomical Tide: The elevation of the highest predicted astronomical tide, referenced to Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) at Portland Head Light tide prediction station. This prediction is based on an adjustment from the Portland tidal station. The highest astronomical tide is based on the most recent National Tidal Datum Epoch (NTDE) as determined from time to time by the National Ocean Service, an office within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Normal High Water Line of Coastal Waters: That line on the shore of tidal waters which is the apparent extreme limit of the effect of the tides, i.e. the top of the bank, cliff or beach above high tide.

Normal High Water Line of Inland Waters: Adjacent to inland waters, the normal high water line shall be tThat line which is apparent from visible markings, changes in the character of soils due to prolonged action of the water or changes in vegetation, and which distinguishes between predominantly aquatic and predominantly terrestrial land. Areas contiguous with rivers and great ponds that support non-forested wetland vegetation and hydric soils and that are at the same or lower elevation as the water level of the river or great pond during the period of normal high-water are considered part of the river or great pond. Adjacent to tidal waters, the normal high water line shall be the topographic line located at the Highest Astronomical Tide, plus three (3) vertical feet upland.on the shores and banks of non-tidal waters which marks normal high water, and which is apparent because of the contiguous different character of the soil or the vegetation due to the prolonged action of the water. Relative to vegetation, it is that line where the vegetation changes from predominantly terrestrial to predominantly aquatic vegetation. (By way of illustration, aquatic vegetation includes but is not limited to the following plants and plant groups - water lily, pond lily, pickerelweed, cattail, wild rice, sedges, rushes and marsh grasses, and terrestrial vegetation includes but is not limited to the following plants and plant groups - upland grasses, aster, lady slipper, wintergreen, partridge berry, sarsaparilla, pines, cedars, oaks, ashes, alders, elms, and maples). In places where the shore or bank is of such character that the normal high water line cannot be easily determined (rockslides, ledges, rapidly eroding or slumping banks) the normal high water line shall be estimated from places where it can be determined by the above method. Areas contiguous with rivers and great ponds that support non-forested wetland vegetation and hydric soils and that are at the same or lower elevation as the water level of the river or Great pond during the period of normal high-water are considered part of the river or Great pond. **(Effective October 15, 2009)**

SEC. 19-6-11. SHORELAND PERFORMANCE OVERLAY DISTRICT

A. Purpose

In order to maintain safe and healthful conditions; to prevent and control water pollution; to protect spawning grounds of fish, aquatic life, bird and other wildlife habitat; to protect archaeological and historic resources; to protect freshwater and coastal wetlands; to control building sites, placement of structures and land uses; to conserve shore cover; to protect visual, as well as actual, points of access to inland and coastal waters; to conserve natural beauty and open space; and to anticipate and respond to the impact of development in Shoreland areas, all land use activities within the Shoreland Performance Overlay District shall conform to the applicable land use standards in Sec. 19-8-2, Shoreland Performance Standards. This district is established in accordance with the provisions of 38 M.R.S.A. §435 et seq.

The Shoreland Performance Overlay District applies to all land within two hundred fifty (250) feet, horizontal distance, of the:

- normal high-water line of any great pond and the Spurwink River
- normal high water line of tidal waters; upland edge of a coastal wetland, including all areas affected by tidal action such as cobble and sand beaches, mudflats, and rocky ledges;
- upland edge of a freshwater wetland

and all land areas within seventy-five (75) feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of a stream. This district also applies to any structure built on, over or abutting a dock, wharf or pier, or other structure extending, or located below the normal high-water line of a water body or within a wetland. **(Effective October 15, 2009)** The Town has prepared a zoning map showing the Shoreland Performance Overlay District based on the best available information at a town wide scale. The actual boundaries of this district, however, shall be determined from a field engineering determination of the topographic line as defined above.