

# Marine Fisheries

## Aquaculture Seed Transplant Permit

**What Activities Require This Permit?** To allow shellfish lease/franchise holders to purchase shellfish seed from permitted aquaculture operations that use waters in the prohibited, restricted, or conditionally approved classification for placement on their private beds.

**What Is The Purpose of This Permit?** To track the movement of seed sized shellfish (clams less than 12 millimeters in their largest dimension, and oysters less than 25 millimeters in their largest dimension) and to ensure that the product is re-submerged and grown-out on shellfish leases and franchises in open waters. This permit fulfills the requirements for shellfish seed in prohibited, restricted, or conditionally approved classifications from state law and the National Shellfish Sanitation Program to protect public and environmental health.

**Who Issues This Permit?** N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, Habitat and Enhancement Section.

**How Much Will This Permit Cost?** No cost.

**Where Can I Get The Application For This Permit?** N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, Aquaculture, 3441 Arendell Street, Post Office Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557; phone: 252-515-5500; 1-800-682-2632; 252-515-5485 or [zach.harrison@deq.nc.gov](mailto:zach.harrison@deq.nc.gov)

**How Long Will It Take To Review My Application?** 2-3 days or less.

**Where Do I Submit My Application?** N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, Aquaculture, 3441 Arendell Street, PO Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557-0769 or [zach.harrison@deq.nc.gov](mailto:zach.harrison@deq.nc.gov)

**How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid?** Permits are valid from the date of issuance to December 31 each year.

**Notes/Comments:** There are reporting requirements associated with this permit on the part of the seller. The seller must hold a valid Aquaculture Operations Permit and the buyer must hold a valid Aquaculture Operations Permit or Under Dock Oyster Cultivation Permit. Multiple purchases and transfers can be made under a permit until December 31 of the calendar year.

**Legal Authority/Statute Reference:** N.C. General Statute 113-203.

**Link:** <https://deq.nc.gov/aquaculture-permits>

### Statewide Contact Information:

N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries  
Aquaculture  
3441 Arendell Street  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
Telephone: 252-515-5500; 1-800-682-2632; 252-515-5485

Or

[Zach.harrison@deq.nc.gov](mailto:Zach.harrison@deq.nc.gov)