

Marine Fisheries

Aquaculture Operation Permit

What Activities Require This Permit? Aquaculture operations growing marine or estuarine species or species that could impact coastal waters in a controlled environment.

What Is The Purpose of This Permit? To authorize and track the growth, purchase, and sale of marine or estuarine organisms for rearing in a controlled environment. A controlled environment provides and maintains throughout the rearing process one or more of the following: (i) food; (ii) predator protection; (iii) salinity; (iv) temperature controls; or (v) water circulation, utilizing technology not found in the natural environment.

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

How Long Will It Take To Review My Application? 10 days or less for a new facility; 5 days or less for an existing operation.

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

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: A site visit will be made prior to issuance of this permit. Permit specific information must be provided on a tag or label for all containers of hatchery or aquaculture products.

Legal Authority/Statute Reference: N.C. General Statute 113-169.1; N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03I .0101 and 03O .0501 - .0503.

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

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