

Marine Fisheries

Aquaculture Operation Permit

What Activities Require This Permit? Aquaculture operations utilizing marine or estuarine species that produce artificially propagated stocks, or obtains such stocks for the purpose of rearing in a controlled environment, as defined below.

What Is The Purpose of This Permit? To authorize and track the propagation or purchase of marine or estuarine resources from permitted sources for rearing in a controlled environment, while protecting the state's natural resources from disease, gene mixing, and over competition. 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, Habitat and Enhancement Section, 3441 Arendell Street, Post Office Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557; phone: 252-726-7021; 1-800-682-2632; 252-808-8056.

How Long Will It Take To Review My Application? Four weeks (28 days) or less for a new facility; two weeks (14 days) or less for an existing operation.

Where Do I Submit My Application? N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, Habitat and Enhancement Section, 3441 Arendell Street, PO Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557-0769.

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. 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 030 .0501 - .0503.

Link: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/habitat/enhancement/shellfish-leases>

Statewide Contact Information:

N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries
Habitat and Enhancement Section
3441 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557
Telephone: 252-726-7021; 1-800-682-2632; 252-808-8056