

Marine Fisheries

Transplant Oysters from Seed Oyster Management Areas (SOMA Permit)

What Activities Require This Permit? Shellfish lease and franchise holders who wish to harvest oysters from designated seed oyster management areas and transport/relay them to their private shellfish leases or franchises.

What Is the Purpose of This Permit? To allow harvesters to harvest from designated seed oyster management areas to plant oysters on their shellfish lease or franchise.

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; 252-515-5478.

How Long Will It Take to Review My Application? One week (7 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 casey.silva@deq.nc.gov

How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid? Permits are valid between April 1 and October 15 each year.

Notes/Comments: The relay is restricted to 100 bushels per acre of shellfish lease, not to exceed 1,000 bushels per lease. Permittees must submit a SOMA transplant report to the division by Oct. 31 (no future relay permits will be issued if a transplant report is not received).

Legal Authority/Statute Reference: N.C. General Statute 113-169.1, 113-203; N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03K .0208, 03R .0116

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; 252-515-5478

Or

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