

# 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; 252-515-5485.

**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 [zach.harrison@deq.nc.gov](mailto:zach.harrison@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; 252-515-5485

Or

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