



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality  
 Division of Marine Fisheries  
**AQUACULTURE OPERATION PERMIT APPLICATION**

**\*\*Please note changes to the 2022 application\*\***

This application can apply to one or more Aquaculture Operation Permits. For multiple permits, please fill out the first page using the information for overall operation. Information specific to each permitted site will be completed on the site specific page and Appendix A and B. Fill out completely and initial the bottom of each page.

Application Date	
Participant I.D.	
Ph. Number	
Email	

Record Most Recent Licenses	
Fish Dealer License	
SCFL / RSCFL	
SCFL w/ Shellfish Endorsement	
RSCFL w/ Shellfish Endorsement	
Shellfish License	
Recreational Commercial Gear Lic.	

	New		Update
	Renew		Replace

**Individual Participant Information (Fill out if lease/previous AOP was in participant's name)**

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix	Date of Birth

**Operation Information - Check All Operation Types That Apply**

Primary Operator Full Name		Date of Birth	Telephone	
Operation Mailing Address:				
Operation Physical Address:				
In-Water (Shellfish Lease)			Land Based	
Bottom/Franchise		Water Column	Tank	Ponds
			Other:	

**Business Participant Information (Fill out if shellfish lease/previous AOP was in business's name)**

Business Name	Business Agent Name (First, MI, Last)

**Operation Type - Check All That Apply: Species - Check All That Apply:**

Hatchery/Nursery	Shellfish/Molluscs	Shellfish/Crustaceans	Finfish
Field Growouts	Other - Specify:		
RAS	Product to be imported from other states?	Specify:	
Other - Specify:	Market goal, e.g., retail sale, wholesale, etc.:		

**THIS SECTION IS ONLY FOR: Upland Systems, including RAS, Raceways, Ponds, Pools, etc.**

Flood Zone	FIRM Panel and ID#
How will product be transferred from nursery to grow-out area?	
How will deceased product be handled, disposed?	
How will oversized (over seed-size) product be handled, disposed?	
How will the product be harvested? Will holding containers be drained?	
Describe the water quality/chemical treatment and monitoring system.	
Describe the effluent system for liquid and solid waste, including storage and disposal.	
Please attach escapement plan as approved by NCWRC.	



## AQUACULTURE OPERATION PERMIT SPECIFIC PERMIT CONDITIONS

For violation of specific permit conditions (as specified on this form), permits may be suspended or revoked for 10 days, 30 days, or up to 6 months depending on the 3-year history of violations.

- It shall be unlawful to conduct aquaculture operations using marine and estuarine resources without first securing an Aquaculture Operation Permit from the Fisheries Director. 15A NCAC 03O.503(a)(1)
- Lawfully permitted shellfish relaying activities authorized by 15A NCAC 03K .0103 and .0104 shall be exempt from requirements to have an Aquaculture Operation Permit or Aquaculture Collection Permit issued by the Fisheries Director. 15A NCAC 03O.503(a)(3)
- Aquaculture Operation Permits and Aquaculture Collection Permits shall be issued or renewed on a calendar year basis. 15A NCAC 03O.503(a)(4)
- It shall be unlawful to fail to provide the Division with a listing of all designees acting pursuant to an Aquaculture Collection Permit at the time of application. 15A NCAC 03O.503(a)(5)
- All product leaving the facility shall be tagged with a water-resistant tag. Tags shall be attached to each container and provide the aquaculture facility name, address, Aquaculture Operation Number, date shipped, and type and quantity of product. 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)
- The permittee shall maintain a log of species entering the facility, including number, size, and origin, with tracking or batch number, and shipment information for product leaving the facility including date, number, size, or weight, tracking or batch number, and destination. The log shall be available for inspection and a copy shall be submitted with the annual permit renewal application. 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)
- Permittee shall request a permit modification for any species not listed on this permit prior to the species entering the facility. Additional specific permit conditions may be required for species with size and/or possession limits or closed seasons. 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)
- Per G.S. 113-203 (a3) Unless the Secretary determines that the nursery of shellfish in an area will present a risk to public health, it is lawful to transplant seed oysters or seed clams taken from permitted aquaculture operations that use waters in the prohibited, restricted, or conditionally approved classification to private beds pursuant to an Aquaculture Seed Transplant Permit issued by the Secretary that sets times during which transplant is permissible and other reasonable restrictions imposed by the Secretary under either of the following circumstances:
  - (1) When transplanting seed clams less than 12 millimeters in their largest dimension. GS 113-203(a3)(1)
  - (2) When transplanting seed oysters less than 25 millimeters in their largest dimension. GS 113-203(a3)(2)
- It is unlawful to remove oyster cages, bags, etc. from the water or to remove oysters from such cages, bags, etc. between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise. 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)
- It is unlawful to release non-native species into state waters. 15A NCAC 31.0104(a)(1)
- It is unlawful to release native species into state waters without advance notification and approval by the NCDMF. 15A NCAC 31.0104(a)(2)
- All shipments into the facility that originate outside of the State of North Carolina shall have a valid Permit to Introduce, Transfer, or Hold Imported Marine or Estuarine Organisms prior to entering the state. 15A NCAC 31.0104(a)
- If at any time a disease is suspected or any unusual changes in mortality or morbidity occurs, movement of all products should be stopped until further investigation occurs. Permittee shall immediately contact the NCDMF Permit Coordinator at (252-808-8056). The Permit Coordinator will also give you the contact information for the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS). 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)
- Solid waste/effluent must be properly contained onsite until such time as it can be properly and legally disposed. Permit holder is responsible for obtaining any and all other necessary or required federal, state, and local permits. Violation of any rule condition or items on the permit may result in suspension or revocation of the permit. 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)
- The permittee shall continuously maintain the shellfish lease marking requirements, set out in 15A NCAC 03O.0204. 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)
- The permittee of in-water aquaculture operations shall submit an effective bird mitigation plan annually prior to receiving an Aquaculture Operation Permit and implement the plan continuously. 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)



## AQUACULTURE OPERATION PERMIT ADDITIONAL AOP SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FOR:

### RECIRCULATING AQUACULTURE SYSTEMS

- In the circumstance that the facility would be damaged by flooding, the permittee must contact the NCDMF Permit Coordinator (252-808-8056) immediately. 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)
- All precautions are to be exercised to prevent the escapement of organisms from the facility into ditches, creeks, swamps, or other waters of the state. In the case that organisms are allowed escape or release through sale, theft, effluent, etc., the permittee is required to contact the NCDMF Permit Coordinator (252-808-8056) immediately. 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)
- The NCDMF Permit Coordinator will provide contact information for NC Division of Water Resources (NCDWR). Applicant must contact NCDWR for inspection of effluent system and methodology prior to release of system water. 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)
- The NCDMF Permit Coordinator will provide contact information for NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Food and Drug Protection (NCDAFDP). Applicant must contact the NCDAFDP, prior to shipment or sale of any product. 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)
- The NCDMF Permit Coordinator will provide contact information for NC Division of Waste Management (NCDWM). Solid waste to be properly contained onsite until such time as it can be properly and legally disposed. 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)
- Deceased animals to be destroyed in facility incinerator, per application commitment. 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)

### FINFISH

- All species of finfish to be used in aquaculture operations shall be approved by the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries. 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)
- It is unlawful to possess, sell, offer for sale, purchase, barter, exchange, donate, or transport finfish taken under an Aquaculture Operation Permit (AOP) without approved documentation designed to track the movement of finfish as an aquaculture product from its source to the consumer. Approved documentation must stay with the product until reaching its final destination and includes invoices, bills of sale, bills of lading, and other appropriate forms of documentation. Please note: If product is sold to a dealer, a trip ticket is not required, and harvest will not be recorded on a trip ticket. Approved documentation for transportation shall include the following information: 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)
  - Date;
  - County;
  - AOP holder name;
  - AOP number;
  - Species;
  - Number of containers;
  - Estimated total quantity (lbs or number);
  - Destination.
- The permittee shall maintain documentation identifying the sources of all life stages of finfish and a record of all finfish transported including dates of transport, quantity, species, size ranges, and destination. The record shall be submitted annually with the annual permit renewal application unless otherwise specified on the permit. 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)
- It is unlawful to possess finfish off-site of an aquaculture facility for the purposes of transporting for sale without a label on the outside of the container holding the product. Labels should be made out of a durable material and be affixed to the outside of each container. All labels should include the following information: 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)
  - AOP holder name;
  - AOP number;
  - Species;
  - Estimated quantity (lbs or number); and
  - Size group;
- The permittee or designees utilizing the permit shall call the NCDMF Communications Center at 800-682-2632 or 252-726-7021 prior to use of the permit, specifying activities and location including species and estimated quantity. 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)
- The permittee shall request a permit modification for any changes not depicted in the permit application or addressed on this permit including additional designees. Additional specific permit conditions may be required. 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)
- It is unlawful to fail to provide the NCDMF a listing of all properly licensed designees acting under an AOP at the time of application. 15A NCAC 03O.0502(1)





## AQUACULTURE OPERATION PERMIT APPLICATION SITE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

- PLEASE FILL OUT A SEPARATE APPENDIX SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS

Shellfish Bottom Lease/Franchise # \_\_\_\_\_

Shellfish Water Column Lease # \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Shellfish Lease Operational Address \_\_\_\_\_

Species \_\_\_\_\_

Waterbody \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Waterbody Classification:    Approved     Conditionally Approved     Restricted     Prohibited

**Materials, methods, and equipment to be used on the permit area:**

Type	Dimensions	Quantity
Bottom material enhancement (shell, alternative substrate)		
Soft bags		
Hard cages		
Floating cages, Upwellers, etc.		
Land-based structures		
Buoys		
Cover Nets		
Harvest of undersized product	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Shellfish Lease size:</b>

Method of transport and placement: \_\_\_\_\_

Harvest Methods: \_\_\_\_\_

Ploidy Status:	Diploid		Triploid	
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**AQUACULTURE OPERATION PERMIT APPLICATION  
APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS**

Shellfish Bottom Lease/Franchise # \_\_\_\_\_

Shellfish Water Column Lease # \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Shellfish Lease Operational Address \_\_\_\_\_

Species \_\_\_\_\_

Waterbody \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Waterbody Classification:    Approved  Conditionally Approved  Restricted  Prohibited

**Materials, methods, and equipment to be used on the permit area:**

Type	Dimensions	Quantity
Bottom material enhancement (shell, alternative substrate)		
Soft bags		
Hard cages		
Floating cages, Upwellers, etc.		
Land-based structures		
Buoys		
Cover Nets		
Harvest of undersized product	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Lease size:</b>

Method of transport and placement: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Harvest Methods: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ploidy Status:	Diploid		Triploid	
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**AQUACULTURE OPERATION PERMIT APPLICATION  
APPENDIX B: ADDITIONAL OPERATORS**

Operator Full Name		Date of Birth		Telephone			
Shellfish Lease/Franchise #:		Land Based					
Shellfish Water Column Lease #:		Tank		Ponds		Other:	

Operator Full Name		Date of Birth		Telephone			
Shellfish Lease/Franchise #:		Land Based					
Shellfish Water Column Lease #:		Tank		Ponds		Other:	

Operator Full Name		Date of Birth		Telephone			
Shellfish Lease/Franchise #:		Land Based					
Shellfish Water Column Lease #:		Tank		Ponds		Other:	

Operator Full Name		Date of Birth		Telephone			
Shellfish Lease/Franchise #:		Land Based					
Shellfish Water Column Lease #:		Tank		Ponds		Other:	

Operator Full Name		Date of Birth		Telephone			
Shellfish Lease/Franchise #:		Land Based					
Shellfish Water Column Lease #:		Tank		Ponds		Other:	

Operator Full Name		Date of Birth		Telephone			
Shellfish Lease/Franchise #:		Land Based					
Shellfish Water Column Lease #:		Tank		Ponds		Other:	