



# Technical Bulletin

## NPDES General Permit NCG530000

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

Revised November 1, 2021

### Coverage Under This Permit

This permit covers point source discharges from fish packing and rinsing and/or seafood packing and rinsing operations, fish farms, and any other similar discharge. This permit does **not** apply to seafood or fish processing facilities, which require an individual NPDES permit.

This general permit covers concentrated aquatic animal production (CAAP) facilities (aquatic animal farms or hatcheries) in ponds, raceways, net pens, recirculating system, flow-through systems, submerged cage systems or similar structures, and any similar facilities that produce fish or aquatic animals, that meet the following criteria:

- **Cold-water** species facilities that produce a minimum 20,000 lbs (9,072 kilos) harvest-weight of aquatic animals per year, feed more than 5,000 lbs (2,268 kilos) of food per calendar month, and discharge more than **30 days per year**.
- **Warm-water** species facilities that produce a minimum 100,000 lbs (45,359 kilos) harvest-weight of aquatic animals per year, and discharge at least **30 days per year**.
- NOTE: The Director may designate **any** cold or warm water aquatic animal production facility a concentrated aquatic animal production (CAAP) facility, or may require an individual NPDES permit, upon determining that it is a significant contributor of pollution to the surface waters of North Carolina.

### Significant Changes from Previous General Permit

- Monitoring for warm water species and cold water species separated, and monitoring requirements added for cold water species.
- Monitoring frequency for all parameters increased to quarterly.
- Discharge characteristics updated to include additional prohibited discharges and practices.
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) requirements updated.

### NPDES Permitting Program's Objectives:

1. To reduce pollutant loads entering waters of the state,
2. To educate the permitted community about stormwater and wastewater pollutants,
3. To encourage Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize pollutants in stormwater and wastewater discharges, and
4. To assess waste-discharge contributions; to prioritize problem areas using analytical data.

### Key Permit Requirements

- Permittee shall satisfy monitoring and effluent sampling requirements (Part I, Sections A and B).
- Permittee shall comply with Best Management Practice (BMP) requirements (Part I, Section F).
- Permittee shall collect all samples before the effluent joins, or is diluted by, any other waste stream, substance, or waterbody (Part II, Section D. 1).
- The Permittee shall give notice to the Division of any planned physical system alterations or additions that could significantly increase the quantity of pollutants discharged, or introduce any new pollutant to the discharge (Part II, Section E. 3).
- The Permittee must report any/all permit limit or monitoring exceedances to the Division within 24 hours from the time permittee first becomes aware of the limit exceedance (Part II, Section E. 6).

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### 1) Do I need to submit monitoring results quarterly?

No. You do not have to submit monitoring reports for this permit, however all monitoring records (data logs and analytical results) must be kept on site **for three (3) years**. While there are no standardized Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) for this permit, the Division may request to review these data and records at any time (Part II, Section E. 1).

#### 2) Do I need to employ a Certified Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator?

Not at this time. The Division's Operator Training and Certification Unit does not currently require a certified operator for these facilities. However, the

requirement remains in the permit with clarification, in the event that future re-classification is deemed necessary (Part II, Section C. 1).

Washington: 252-946-6481  
Wilmington: 910-796-7215

**3) Where do I find my stream classification?**

The stream classifications, i.e. water supply WS-IV, C, Tr, etc., can usually be found in the Certificate of Coverage. If you are unsure of your stream classification, you can contact the NPDES Program.

**4) Do I need to use North Carolina-certified methods to analyze samples?**

Yes, analytical monitoring must be performed by a laboratory certified by North Carolina to perform that specific method. However, pH values (and other field-certified tests should be measured in the field because sample degradation is likely over time and during transport to the laboratory. A list of certified labs is available from the Division.

**5) What if I sell my business or the name of my business changes?**

If your business name or ownership changes, you must complete a Name/Ownership Change Form. This minor modification has no fee but requires the Director's approval. Forms are available by contacting the NPDES Program at (919) 707-9000.

**6) When does my permit expire? How do I renew it?**

Find the permit expiration date on the first page of the General Permit Certificate of Coverage (COC). This General Permit expires on **November 30, 2026**. As long as annual fees are paid up to date, the COC will be automatically renewed. The Division WILL NOT mail a renewal request notice. Your annual fee covers renewal.

**Other Information**

For additional information, please contact us at:

NCDEQ / DWR / NPDES Program  
1617 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1617  
Phone: (919) 707-9000

You may also contact your local Division of Water Resources Regional Office at:

Asheville: 828-296-4500  
Mooresville: 704-663-1699  
Winston-Salem: 336-771-5000  
Raleigh: 919-791-4200  
Fayetteville: 910-433-3300

**Other Information about North Carolina's NPDES General Permits Program**

Find the following documents by contacting the NPDES Program at 919-707-9000 or online at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-quality-permitting/npdes-wastewater/npdes-permitting-process-1>.

- Copies of General Permits, Fact Sheets, and Technical Bulletins
  - NCG500000 – Non-contact cooling water, boiler blowdown, cooling tower blowdown, condensate, hydroelectric dams
  - NCG510000 – Groundwater remediation for hydrocarbon fuels only (no chlorinated solvents)
  - NCG520000 – Sand dredging
  - NCG530000 – Aquaculture, fish/seafood packing and rinsing
  - NCG550000 – Single-family residences and other 100 % Domestic <1,000 GPD
  - NCG560000 – Pesticides
  - NCG570000 – Single-family residence/100% domestic for Falls Lake
  - NCG580000 – Re-use from conjunctive use reclaim water systems
  - NCG590000 – Water treatment plant dischargers (backwash wastewater from greensand and conventional systems)

The Division maintains a website at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources>.

Also try the DEQ Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/environmental-assistance-customer-service>.

For industry-specific information on minimizing pollutants, contact the North Carolina Office of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance at 919-715-6500, or online at <http://www.p2pays.org>.