

# Coastal

## Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Minor Development Permit

**What Activities Require This Permit?** You must obtain a CAMA (Coastal Area Management Act) Minor Development Permit for your project if it meets all the following conditions:

- it is in one of the 20 counties covered by CAMA (NCGS 113A-103 (2));
- it is considered "development" under CAMA (NCGS 113A-103(5)a);
- it is in, or it affects, an [Area of Environmental Concern \(AEC\)](#) established by the [Coastal Resources Commission \(CRC\)](#) (NCGS 113A-113);
- it does not qualify for a CAMA permit exemption
- project requires no other state or federal permit(s) (is not CAMA major development).

**What Is The Purpose of This Permit?** CAMA Minor Development Permits are required for projects that do not require major permits or general permits, such as single-family houses. CAMA minor development permits are intended to protect, manage, and conserve the environment, public trust rights, and the economy of the North Carolina coast.

**Who Issues This Permit?** Contact the CAMA [local permit officer](#) for the community where your project is located. Local permit officers (LPOs) are local government employees – often building inspectors, zoning administrators or planners – who have been trained by the Division of Coastal Management to administer CAMA minor permits for their localities. If your local government does not have a CAMA local permit officer, contact the respective [Division of Coastal Management \(DCM\) district office](#) for your area.

**How Much Will This Permit Cost?** FEE INCREASES: In accordance with General Statute 143B-279.19, beginning July 1, 2025, and every four years thereafter, permit fees will be adjusted in accordance with the Consumer Price Index computed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics during the prior two bienniums. See updated fees on the [DCM Permit Feespage](#).

**What Are My Payment Options for Permit Application Fees?** Applications fees must be paid by check or money order.

**If Paying by Check, who do I Make the Check or Money Order Payable to and Where Do I Send the Check?** Checks or money orders should be made out to the respective local government's name that is processing the application, or to NCDEQ if the DCM office is handling the application, and must be paid when you submit your application to the local permit officer.

**Where Can I Get The Application For This Permit?** Contact the CAMA [local permit officer](#) for the community where your project is located. If your local government does not have a CAMA local permit officer, contact your respective [DCM district office](#). Click to download the [minor permit application forms](#).

**How Long Will It Take To Review My Application?** Most typical complete CAMA minor permit applications can be reviewed and processed in 3 to 7 business days. However, processing may take up to 25 days, or longer if an extension of time is necessary, to complete the review under the time allowed under the Coastal Area Management Act.

**Where Do I Submit My Application?** Submit the complete application to the CAMA [local permit officer](#) for the community where the project is located. If your local government does not have a CAMA local permit officer, contact your [DCM district office](#).

**How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid?** CAMA minor permits, except beach bulldozing when authorized through issuance of a CAMA minor permit, are valid for three years and shall expire on December 31st of the third year following the year of permit issuance.

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(continued)

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**Notes/Comments:** The Coastal Area Management Act defines development as: "any activity in a duly designated area of environmental concern...involving, requiring or consisting of the construction or enlargement of a structure; excavation; dredging; filling; dumping; removal of clay, silt, sand, gravel or minerals; bulkheading; driving of pilings; clearing or alteration of land as an adjunct of construction; alteration or removal of sand dunes; alteration of the shore, bank or bottom of the Atlantic Ocean or any sound, bay, river, creek, stream, lake or canal" {NCGS 113A-103(5)(a)}. The 20 coastal counties are: Beaufort, Bertie, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Gates,

**Notes/Comments Continued:** Hertford, Hyde, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington.

**Legal Authority/Statute Reference:** North Carolina General Statute §113A-118 and 15A NCAC 07J .0201.

**Link: https:** <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/coastal-management/coastal-management-permits/minor-permit-applications>

### Statewide Contact Information:

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