

# Marine Fisheries

## Aquaculture Operation Permit

**What Activities Require This Permit?** Aquaculture operations growing marine or estuarine species or species that could impact coastal waters in a controlled environment.

**What Is The Purpose of This Permit?** To authorize and track the growth, purchase, and sale of marine or estuarine organisms for rearing in a controlled environment. A controlled environment provides and maintains throughout the rearing process one or more of the following: (i) food; (ii) predator protection; (iii) salinity; (iv) temperature controls; or (v) water circulation, utilizing technology not found in the natural environment.

**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 or [casey.silva@deq.nc.gov](mailto:casey.silva@deq.nc.gov)

**How Long Will It Take To Review My Application?** 10 days or less for a new facility; 5 days or less for an existing operation.

**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](mailto:casey.silva@deq.nc.gov)

**How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid?** Permits are valid from the date of issuance to December 31 each year.

**Notes/Comments:** A site visit will be made prior to issuance of this permit. Permit specific information must be provided on a tag or label for all containers of hatchery or aquaculture products.

**Legal Authority/Statute Reference:** N.C. General Statute 113-169.1; N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03I .0101 and 03O .0501 - .0503.

**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

[Casey.silva@deq.nc.gov](mailto:Casey.silva@deq.nc.gov)