

# Marine Fisheries

## Planting Shellfish from Prohibited (Polluted) Areas (Permit for)

**What Activities Require This Permit?** Shellfish lease and franchise holders who wish to harvest shellfish from designated polluted areas and transport/relay them to their private shellfish leases or franchises for depuration.

**What Is The Purpose of This Permit?** To allow harvesters to utilize their shellfish leases/franchises for polluted product growth, while depurating the shellfish for safe harvest.

**Who Issues This Permit?** N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, Habitat and Enhancement Section. The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries and the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, jointly issue the permits. The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, Marine Patrol Section supervises and monitors the permittees during the relaying process.

**How Much Will This Permit Cost?** No cost.

**Where Can I Get The Application For This Permit?** N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, Habitat and Enhancement Section, 3441 Arendell Street, Post Office Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557; phone: 252-726-7021; 1-800-682-2632; 252-808-8056.

**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, Habitat and Enhancement Section, 3441 Arendell Street, PO Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557-0769.

**How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid?** Permits are valid for some time over a 6-week period from approximately April 1 through May 15 each year. The relay days are determined by N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries based on resource availability, and habitat health and productivity each year, and regulated through proclamation.

**Notes/Comments:** There are reporting requirements associated with this permit. Permittees must report number of bushels of shellfish transplanted and the amount of shell transplanted (in bushels). This is separate from the annual shellfish lease reporting requirements. Shellfish leases are closed to harvest for a minimum of 21 days following the relay period. The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, Marine Patrol Section monitors the permittees during the relaying process.

**Legal Authority/Statute Reference:** N.C. General Statute 113-169.1, 113-203; N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03K .0104, 03K .0301, 03O .0501, and 18A .0303.

**Link:** <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/habitat/enhancement/shellfish-leases>

### Statewide Contact Information:

N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries  
Habitat and Enhancement Section  
3441 Arendell Street  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
Telephone: 252-726-7021; 1-800-682-2632; 252-808-8056