

Technical Bulletin

NPDES General Permit NCG600000



NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

March 17, 2025

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 pounds (9,072 kilograms) harvest-weight of aquatic animals per year, feed more than 5,000 pounds (2,268 kilograms) of food per calendar month, and discharge more than **30 days per year**.
- **Warm-water** species facilities that produce a minimum 100,000 pounds (45,359 kilograms) harvest-weight of aquatic animals per year, and discharge at least **30 days per year**.

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.

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

- Cold-water CAAP effluent monitoring and sampling requirements are specified in Part I, Section C. Three separate monitoring tiers are included:
 - Tier I – Facilities producing > 20,000 and < 100,000 pounds per year
 - Tier II – Facilities producing > 100,000 and < 250,000 pounds per year
 - Tier III – Facilities producing greater than 250,000 pounds per year
- Warm-water CAAP effluent monitoring and sampling requirements are specified in Part I, Section D.
- Seafood Packing and Rinsing effluent monitoring and sampling requirements are specified in Part I, Section E.
- CAAP facilities shall develop and implement an Operation and Maintenance Best Management Practice (BMP) plan (Part I, Section G).
- Permittee shall develop and implement a waste management plan (Part I, Section H).
- DEQ shall perform Instream Biological Monitoring (IBM) at the specified Cold-Water CAAPs once per permit cycle (Part I, Section I).
- Permittee shall submit an NOI application before general permit expiration to renew coverage (Part I, Section J).
- Permittee shall collect all before the effluent joins, or is diluted by, any other wastestream, substance, or waterbody (Part II, Section D. 1).
- 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).
- Permittee must report any/all permit limit or monitoring exceedances to the Division within 24 hours from the time he/she becomes first aware of the limit exceedance (Part II, Section E. 6).

The NCG600000 General Permit is intended to replace the state's current NCG530000 General Permit.

Frequently Asked Questions

1) I currently have coverage under the NCG530000 General Permit. How do I transfer my coverage to this new General Permit?

A Notice of Intent (NOI) application form must be submitted to the Division before October 31, 2025 in order for your coverage to be transferred over to this new NCG600000 General Permit.

If the Division does not receive an NOI for your facility before October 31, 2025, your existing coverage under the NCG530000 General Permit will be revoked and any discharge will be prohibited.

2) How do I apply for new coverage or rescind my coverage under this General Permit?

New Coverage: New applicants seeking coverage are required to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) along with an application fee of \$100.

Rescind Coverage: If an existing permittee plans to eliminate their discharge and no longer requires coverage under this General Permit, the permittee will need to request rescission of permit coverage from the Division's Compliance and Expedited Permitting Unit by letter.

3) What plans am I required to submit?

This General Permit has multiple special conditions which require the development and submittal of plans within one (1) year of the effective date on your Certificate of Coverage (COC).

All permittees must submit a Waste Management Plan to the Division (Part I, Section H).

Permittees with a CAAP facility must submit an Operation and Maintenance BMP plan to the Division (Part I, Section G).

4) Do I need to submit monitoring results?

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).

5) 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).

6) Where do I find my stream classification?

The stream classifications (i.e. water supply WS-IV, C, Tr, etc.) can be found on the Supplement page of your Certificate of Coverage. If you are unsure of your stream classification, you can contact the Division's Compliance and Expedited Permitting Unit.

7) How do I know if my stream is impaired?

If the receiving stream is impaired, it will be indicated on the Supplement page of your Certificate of Coverage. Additional monitoring may be required.

North Carolina provides a report of Impaired waters to EPA every two years, called the 303(d) list. The latest 303(d) list can be found at: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-planning/modeling-assessment/water-quality-data-assessment/integrated-report-files>

8) 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 labs performing NC-certified methods is available from the Division.

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

If your business name or ownership changes, you must complete and submit a Name/Ownership Change Form. This is considered a minor modification and has no fee. This form is available on the DEQ website at: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/permitting/npdes-wastewater/npdes-compliance-and-enforcement/compliance-forms>

10) When does my coverage expire? How do I renew it?

Your Certificate of Coverage expires when this General Permit expires on **April 30, 2030**. A Notice of Intent (NOI) application form must be submitted to the Division no later than 60 days from the expiration date of the General Permit in order to maintain coverage. Existing permittees will then receive a renewed Certificate of Coverage (CoC) if all applicable permit annual fees have been paid. There is not a fee for requesting renewal.

Contact Information

For additional information on NPDES wastewater permitting and compliance, please contact us at:

NCDEQ / DWR / NPDES
Compliance and Expedited Permitting Unit
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1617

Phone: (919) 707-9130

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

Asheville	828-296-4500
Fayetteville	910-433-3300
Mooresville	704-235-2100
Raleigh	919-791-4200
Washington	252-946-6481
Wilmington	910-796-7215
Winston-Salem	336-776-9800

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

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

Other Information about North Carolina's NPDES General Permits Program

Copies of our General Wastewater Permits, technical bulletins, application forms, guidance documents, and other miscellaneous forms can be found at: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/permitting/npdes-wastewater/npdes-permitting-process/npdes-general-permits>

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 – **Replaced by NCG600000**

NCG550000 – Single-family residences and other 100% Domestic < 1,000 GPD

NCG560000 – Pesticides

NCG580000 – Re-use from conjunctive use reclaim water systems

NCG590000 – Water treatment plant dischargers [wastewater from conventional and greensand systems]

NCG600000 – Aquaculture, fish/seafood packing and rinsing