

Technical Bulletin

For General Permit NCG530000



NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

Volume I July 26, 2007

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, requiring an individual NPDES permit.

This general permit covers **concentrated aquatic animal production (CAAP) facilities** (fish 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* 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.

Changes from Previous General Permit

Several important changes from the previous permit include:

- In Part I, Section C has been edited and reformatted to clarify which facilities qualify under this permit.
- In Part II, Section B, 1.a.b.c.and d. have been edited to clarify, and updated to include revised penalty amounts.

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 encouraging Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize pollutants in stormwater and wastewater discharges, and
4. To prioritize problem areas using analytical data to assess discharge contributions.

Key Permit Requirements

- Permittee shall satisfy annual parameter monitoring and effluent sampling requirements (Part I, Section A)
- Permittee shall collect all samples before the effluent joins, or is diluted by, any other wastestream, water or substance (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 new pollutants to the discharge (Part II, Section E:3).
- The Permittee must report any/all permit limit or monitoring exceedences to the Division within 24 hours from the time he/she becomes first aware of the limit exceedence (Part II, Section E:6).
- The Permittee shall evaluate its need to comply, **if required**, under Part V, Special Conditions – Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) **Do I need to submit monitoring results annually?**
No. You do not have to submit monitoring reports for this permit, however all monitoring data and analytical results must be kept on site **for three 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). **Special Conditions** and reporting requirements apply to facilities that produce a minimum 100,000 lbs (45,359 kilos) harvest-weight of aquatic animals per year (see Part V).

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

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).

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

The stream classification, i.e. 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 a North Carolina-certified lab to analyze samples?**

Yes, a North Carolina-certified lab must be used to perform analytical monitoring. pH values - the only exception - 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, SWU-239. This minor modification requires the Director's approval. Forms are available by contacting the NPDES Program at (919) 733-5083.

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

Find the permit expiration date on the first page of the General Permit. This General Permit expires on **July 31, 2012**. Approximately 180 days prior to expiration, the Division will mail you a notice requesting you to apply for renewal.

Other Information

For additional information, please contact us at:

N.C. Division of Water Quality
Surface Water Quality Section
NPDES Program
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1617

Phone: (919) 733-5083

Fax: (919) 733-0719

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

Asheville:	828-296-4500
Mooreville:	704-663-1699
Winston-Salem:	336-771-5000
Raleigh:	919-571-4700
Fayetteville:	910-433-3300
Washington:	252-946-6481
Wilmington:	910-395-3900

Other Information about North Carolina's NPDES General Permits Program

Find the following documents by contacting the NPDES Program (919-733-5083).

- Copies of General Permits and Fact Sheets

NCG500000 – *Non-contact cooling water, boiler blowdown, cooling tower blowdown, condensate, hydroelectric dams*

NCG510000 – *Groundwater Remediation*

NCG520000 – *Sand Dredging*

NCG530000 – *Fish/Seafood packing and rinsing, fish farms*

NCG550000 – *Single-family residences*

- Previous General Permit *Technical Bulletins*

The Division maintains a website on the World Wide Web at <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/>. Also try the DENR Customer Service Center (1-877-623-6748).

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