

Abbreviated Joint Permit Application For Noncommercial Riparian Shellfish Aquaculture Structures

Preface

The attached application is intended to be used by persons applying for permits to deploy up to 160 square feet of aquaculture structures in the tidal waters of Virginia, for the noncommercial culture of shellfish. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission's General Permit #3 defines riparian shellfish gardening as the grow-out of native shellfish species in protective structures such as floats, bags, cages, etc. adjacent to a private, noncommercial pier or otherwise within a waterfront property owner's riparian area, exclusively for private, noncommercial purposes. The General Permit also specifies that the structures shall not adversely impact navigation or existing stands of submerged aquatic vegetation. If you do not believe your project will meet these requirements for the General Permit you should complete the standard Joint Permit Application rather than the attached abbreviated form. You may obtain a standard Joint Permit Application by contacting the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) at (757) 247-2252 or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) at (757) 201-7652.

Application Process

The applicant needs only to fill out one copy of the application, including the required drawings, and return it to VMRC for processing. **To expedite the review of your application, please ensure that your application is complete and that the required drawings are clear and contain the requested information.**

VMRC will forward copies of the application to the Health Department and your Local Wetlands Board for their review. The Health Department may contact you regarding shellfish handling and harvesting procedures if your project is being conducted in polluted waters.

If the project qualifies for VMRC's General Permit #3, the Corps of Engineers has determined that it will also qualify for either their Regional Permit Number 17 or Number 19. In most cases, you will not receive any correspondence from the Corps. Should you care to review the conditions contained in the Corps' Regional Permits, you may obtain copies by contacting the Corps at the number listed above.

Please return your completed application to:

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Habitat Management Division
2600 Washington Avenue, 3rd Floor
Newport News, Virginia 23607-4317