

Species Produced: Aquatic plants, ornamental fish, hybrid striped bass, trout, baitfish, tilapia, catfish, largemouth bass and other species of sportfish, oysters, crawfish and crab shedding.

Production Methods: Ponds, tanks, bottom and off-bottom culture, closed systems and net pens.

Responsible Agency: Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Water Management Administration, 2500 Broening Highway, Baltimore, MD 21224, *Telephone: 410-63 1-3323; Fax: 410-631-4894.* The MDE Water Management Administration is responsible for regulating water quality standards for discharges to tidal and non-tidal surface waters and groundwater. The Waste Management Administration regulates solid waste disposal.

Water Classification: The following water classes are established: Use I - water contact recreation and aquatic life; Use 11- shellfish harvesting. Use 111-natural trout waters; and Use IV - recreational trout waters. Additional designations I-P, III-P, and IV-P are used to identify public water supplies.

Groundwaters are classified as Type I, II, or III aquifers. Solids are subdivided as hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.

Copies of Current Standards: Rather than requesting copies of the regulations/standards, the MDE prefers individual consultations to provide assistance in completing applications and interpreting applicable regulations.

Waste Classification: *Effluent -- Industrial Waste; Settleable Solids — Municipal Waste; Mortalities — Non-Hazardous Waste.*

Effluent Standards: Based upon quality of the receiving waters and best professional judgement (BPJ).

NPDES Permit: All effluents are regulated under the state's industrial discharge permit. *Criteria —40*

CFR Part 122.24. **Permit Fee — See State Discharge Permit; Individual Permit Authority — Yes 9/74; General Permit Authority — Yes 9/91.**

State Discharge Permit: All aquiculture facilities discharging to waters of the state must apply for a state industrial discharge permit. Current state policy is to exempt crab shedding operations and, on a case-by-case *basis, flow-through* systems with monthly average discharges of less than ten thousand gallons per day (GPD). The state permit is issued to all other aquiculture facilities falling below the 40 CFR threshold. Applicants with production above this level are issued both an NPDES and a state permit. The fee for the state/NPDES permit is based upon the monthly average volume of the discharge. There is no fee for aquiculture facilities discharging less than one million GPD. Discharges greater than one million GPD require an application fee of \$2,000 and an annual fee of \$5,000. Facilities requiring only a state industrial discharge permit would be charged a fee if the monthly average discharge exceeds one million GPD.

Mixing Zone: Determined individually based upon characteristics of discharge and quality of receiving waters. No mixing zones for aquiculture have been requested.

Land Application: Spray irrigation requires a permit from the Water Management Administration's Groundwater Discharge Permit Division. Settled solids approved as a soil conditioner by the Department of Agriculture do not require a permit. Composting of dead fish is encouraged as an alternative to land burial.

General Discharge Permit: No. However, the MDE would consider developing a general permit for aquiculture facilities as the volume of applications increases.