

A Guide to the Permitting and Authorization Process for Aquaculture in U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico



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Federal Regulatory Requirements

This *Guide* provides information on the federal permitting and authorization requirements to establish an aquaculture operation in U.S. federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf).¹ The operator of an offshore aquaculture facility must obtain all required federal permits and authorizations prior to beginning operations, *e.g.*, placing any structures or animals in federal waters of the Gulf. All applicants are strongly encouraged to request and actively participate in a Pre-Application Meeting prior to beginning the permit application process.

The information in this *Guide* outlines permitting processes that are specific to U.S. federal waters of the Gulf. Those who wish to establish an aquaculture facility in U.S. federal waters elsewhere or in state waters should contact the appropriate federal or state agencies in that jurisdiction.

Permits

Anyone who would like to establish aquaculture operations in federal waters of the Gulf must secure the appropriate federal permits, which may include a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and a Section 10 permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) (Table 1). The type of permit(s) required will vary depending on the type of aquaculture operation, *e.g.*, finfish versus macroalgae.

Each permit has specific requirements that must be incorporated into the construction and deployment phases of an offshore aquaculture project, as well as day-to-day operation and maintenance activities. Some requirements will apply to all aquaculture operations authorized to operate in the Gulf, while others may be specifically tailored to individual operations. *Note* that the EPA and the USACE are required to consult with other agencies, including the Department of Defense, during the application review/permit issuance process and may solicit public input regarding the potential impacts of each proposed project. These inputs may be reflected in the permit requirements.

¹ For purposes of federal permitting under the Clean Water Act (CWA), federal waters begin at 3 nautical miles from shore and extend to approximately 200 nautical miles from the coast. Under the Submerged Lands Act title to submerged lands in the Gulf of Mexico has been transferred to Texas and Florida out to 9 nautical miles from shore, but this does not affect CWA jurisdiction. For purposes of permitting under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors, USACE issues permits for both state and federal waters, regardless of which jurisdiction holds title to submerged lands.

Table 1. Federal permits required for offshore aquaculture operations in federal waters of the Gulf ²

Agency	Statutes/ Authorities	Purpose	Application Form(s) ³	Who initiates this action and how?	Permit
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Sections 402 and 403 of the Clean Water Act	Required for the discharge of pollutants into waters of the U.S.	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Application Forms 1 and 2B, and a Baseline Environmental Survey	Prospective applicant contacts the NOAA Regional Aquaculture Coordinator to schedule a Pre-Application Meeting. Following the meeting the operator contacts each permitting agency.	NPDES Permit
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act	Required in navigable waters of the U.S. to protect navigation for commerce	ENG Form 4345		Section 10 Permit

² Federal regulations at 50 CFR Subpart F require that aquaculture operations in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico receive a Gulf Aquaculture Permit from NOAA Fisheries. This permit is not currently required due to a recent Court decision vacating those regulations. The Department of Justice, on behalf of the United States, has appealed the Court decision and the outcome of that appeal is expected in 2020; in the meantime, the Court’s decision remains in effect.

³ Links to all forms can be found in the *Forms, Tools and Information* section of this guide.

Authorizations

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) must review and provide certain approvals for the activities permitted by the EPA and the USACE, if those activities are co-located with existing oil and gas facilities. These approvals will be incorporated into the federal permitting processes, i.e., no separate authorizations will be issued. Once all federal permits have been obtained, applicants must apply to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to receive an authorization to deploy Private Aids to Navigation (PATON), *e.g.*, markers, buoys, at their approved aquaculture operation site.

Table 2. Federal authorizations required for offshore aquaculture operations in federal waters of the Gulf

Agency	Statutes/ Authorities	Purpose	Application Form(s)/Process ⁴	Who initiates this action and how?	Form of Authorization
Authorizations					
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)	33 U.S.C. 1221 <i>et seq</i> 33 CFR §66	Ensure safe navigation Authorize Private Aids To Navigation	Private Aids to Navigation Application Form (CG-2554)	Applicant seeking to establish a private aid to navigation	Formal authorization from appropriate USCG District
Authorizations for Aquaculture Operations Co-Located with OCS Oil and Gas Facilities					
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)	Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act; Energy Policy Act of 2005; 30 CFR §500-599	Required for any offshore aquaculture operations that utilize or tether to existing oil and gas facilities	Right of Use and Easement (RUE) for Energy and Marine-Related Activities Using Existing Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Facilities	Operator of the OCS aquaculture facility proposing to initiate offshore aquaculture activities submits request for an Alternate Use RUE after contacting and receiving approval from the OCS Oil and Gas Facility Owner	A formal RUE is established using the facility for the purpose of aquaculture
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)				Permitting agencies request BSEE consultation on proposed aquaculture activities	Consultation only

⁴ Links to all forms can be found in the *Forms, Tools and Information* section of this guide.

Federal Consultation and Review Requirements

Federal agencies will apply the relevant and applicable provisions of the laws identified below during the permit development process. To expedite consultations and reviews, applicants must submit all necessary information in a timely manner.

Table 3. Required Federal Consultations and Reviews

Consultation or Review	Description of the Requirement
Endangered Species Act	Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with the NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or both, before taking any action that may affect an endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat to insure their actions are not likely to jeopardize any listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat.
Essential Fish Habitat	The essential fish habitat (EFH) provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires federal agencies to consult with NOAA Fisheries when activities they undertake or permit have the potential to adversely affect EFH.
National Historic Preservation Act	Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR Part 800) requires any federal agency issuing a permit to account for potential effects of the proposed aquaculture activity on historic properties, <i>e.g.</i> , shipwrecks, prehistoric sites, cultural resources. If a proposed aquaculture activity has the potential to affect historic properties, these details must be provided by the applicant as part of the application package.
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act	The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act requires any federal agency issuing permits to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries if the proposed aquaculture activities could potentially harm fish and/or wildlife resources. These consultations may result in project modification and/or the incorporation of measures to reduce these effects.
National Marine Sanctuary Resources Act	Section 304(d) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) requires any federal agency issuing permits to consult with NOAA’s National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) if the proposed aquaculture activity is likely to destroy or injure sanctuary resources. As part of the consultation process, the NMSP can recommend reasonable and prudent alternatives. While such recommendations may be voluntary, if they are not followed and sanctuary resources are destroyed or injured in the course of the action, the NMSA requires the federal action agency(ies) issuing the permit(s) to restore or replace the damaged resources.
Marine Mammal Protection Act	The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) prohibits the harassment, hunting, capturing or killing of marine mammals without a permit from either the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce. Section 118 of the MMPA addresses the incidental capture of marine mammals during commercial fishing operations. Section 118 also establishes the Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAP), which provides a mechanism to legally authorize incidental take of a marine mammal in a commercial fishery. To be eligible for the exemption, any commercial vessel or non-vessel gear (<i>e.g.</i> ,

	aquaculture facilities) engaging in a Category I or II fishery must obtain a MMAP certificate from NOAA Fisheries or a designated agent and must report every incidental death or injury of marine mammals that results from commercial fishing operations (including aquaculture) within 48 hours. Fishery categories are published in the annually reviewed and revised NOAA Fisheries List of Fisheries (LOF), which is available on the NOAA Fisheries website and in the <i>Federal Register</i> .
National Environmental Policy Act	The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to prepare either an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA) for any federal action affecting the quality of the human environment, unless it is determined the activity is categorically excluded from NEPA.
Coastal Zone Management Act	The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA) encourages coastal states to develop and implement coastal zone management plans as a basis for protecting, restoring, and establishing a responsibility in preserving and developing the nation's coastal communities and resources. Coastal states with an approved coastal zone management program are authorized to review certain federal actions affecting the land or water uses or natural resources of its coastal zone for consistency with its program. Under the CZMA, a state may review: activities conducted by, or on behalf of, a federal government agency within or outside the coastal zone that affects any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone; an application for a federal license or permit; and any plan for the exploration or development or, or production from, any area that has been leased under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act for offshore minerals exploration or development. The CZMA requires federal agency activities to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a state's approved coastal zone management program.

Overview of the Permitting and Authorization Process

There is a three-phase process for obtaining and operating under permits and authorizations for establishing an aquaculture operation in federal waters of the Gulf (Figure 1).

Pre-Application Phase

Prospective applicants will provide information outlined in the Pre-Application Checklist to the NOAA Regional Aquaculture Coordinator (NOAA RAC). The NOAA RAC will share this information with federal permitting and authorizing agencies and schedule a Pre-application Meeting via conference call with the prospective applicant and relevant agencies. During the Pre-Application Meeting the applicant will present project information and agencies will ask any questions and present any concerns on the proposed activity.

The Pre-Application Meeting provides applicants and federal agencies the opportunity to discuss potential locations and other relevant information related to the proposed aquaculture operation to help identify potential issues *prior* to beginning the permit application process. The Pre-Application Meeting is not mandatory. However, prospective applicants are *strongly encouraged* to participate in this meeting as it can facilitate coordination and transparency, thereby creating a smoother permitting experience.

Prospective applicants should contact the NOAA RAC for more information on the Pre-Application Meeting process.

Permit Application and Development Phase

Applicants must complete and submit separate EPA NPDES and USACE Section 10 application forms, as appropriate. *As appropriate, applicants are encouraged to submit both applications at or around the same time to allow for concurrent review.*

While preparing permit applications, applicants are encouraged to maintain open communication with the relevant point of contact at each federal agency. Federal agencies may also contact applicants if additional information is needed to assist in their review processes and applicants should provide the necessary information in a timely fashion to reduce delays in obtaining permits.

Permit Issuance and Operation Phase

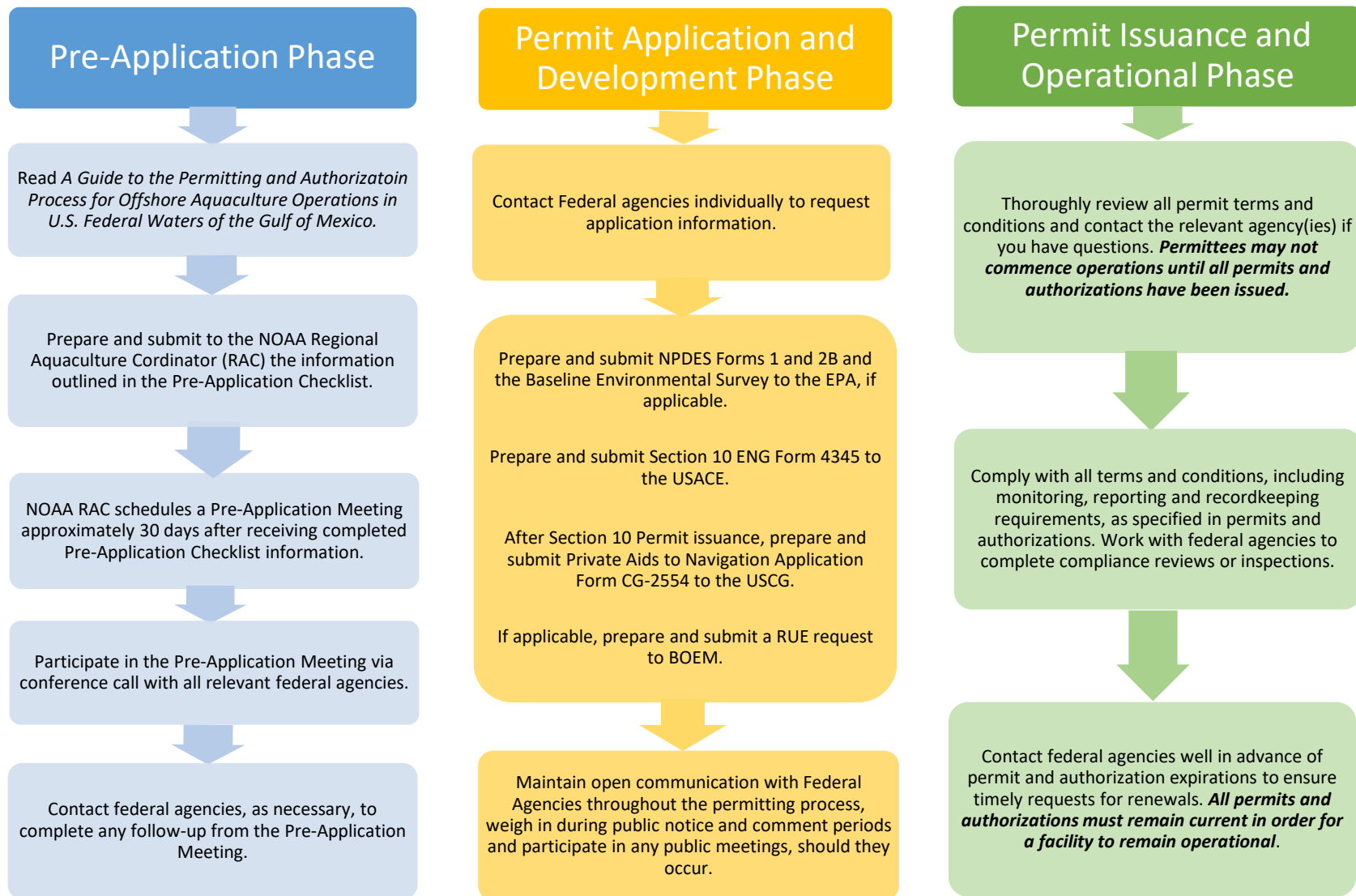
All required permits must be issued before operations may commence, i.e., before structures or animals may be placed in the water. Permits contain a variety of terms and conditions with which the operator must comply, so the operator should read the permit and develop the necessary systems and schedules to ensure that all operational requirements are met, all monitoring is conducted according to methods and schedules, all records are properly kept, and all reports are submitted on time.

Periodically one or more of the agencies may conduct compliance reviews or inspections. A review may be as simple as requesting clarification on an item the applicant has included in a report. However, the agency may also request records for a more thorough review and may also conduct an on-site inspection of the operation. The regulatory authorities for these reviews and inspections are clearly established, and applicants are encouraged to cooperate fully. Each agency has policies to protect Confidential Business Information (CBI); if an applicant believes that certain information required to be included in a report or inspection falls into this category, they should inform the relevant agency(s).

Permits must be in effect for the aquaculture operation to remain authorized. The permittee should be aware of expiration dates for all permits, and the deadlines for submitting applications for renewal, which are often well in advance of the expiration dates.

Permittees are encouraged to contact the permitting or authorizing agency with questions or concerns at any time, preferably as soon as they arise. The agencies generally provide guidance or technical assistance to support compliance with the relevant requirements and are invested in ensuring the success of permittees in meeting those requirements.

Figure 1. How to navigate the federal permitting and authorization process for offshore aquaculture operations in the Gulf



Federal Agency Authority and Processes⁵

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Type of Authorization: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit

Fee: None

Timeline from Submittal of a Complete Application: Approximately 180 days

Point(s) of Contact: EPA Region 4 (offshore from Florida, Alabama and Mississippi)

EPA Region 6 (offshore from Louisiana and Texas)

Summary of Authority:

For purposes of the Clean Water Act (CWA), off-shore federal waters begin 3 miles from shore for *all* states.⁶ Section 301(a) of the CWA prohibits the “discharge of pollutants” except in compliance with prescribed provisions of the CWA, including section 402. Section 402 of the CWA establishes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and authorizes EPA (or states authorized by EPA) to issue permits for point source discharges of pollutants into waters of the U.S., including the territorial seas. Only EPA issues NPDES for discharges into the contiguous zone and the ocean. The implementing regulations are at 40 CFR §122 through 129. In addition, Section 403 of the CWA, Ocean Discharge Criteria, provides that no NPDES permit may be issued for discharges into the territorial sea, the waters of the contiguous zone, or the oceans except in compliance with guidelines for the determination of degradation of those waters, per 40 CFR §125 Subpart M. An NPDES permit may or may not be required for off-shore aquaculture operations depending on the production thresholds and the types of culturing systems.

Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production Facilities (CAAP) - CAAP means a "hatchery, fish farm, or other facility" which is designated by EPA per 40 CFR §122.24, or which meets the criteria, found in 40 CFR §122 Appendix C.

⁵ See *Federal Agency Contacts* for contact information and *Tools and Information* for forms, documents and additional materials.

⁶ The term “territorial seas” means the belt of the seas measured from the line of ordinary low water along that portion of the coast which is in direct contact with the open sea and the line marking the seaward limit of inland waters and extending seaward a distance of three miles. CWA Section 502(8).

CAAP Effluent Guidelines and Standards – Guidelines for effluent limitations and new source performance standards have been developed for CAAP facilities producing 100,000 pounds or more of aquatic animals per year in net pens or submerged cage systems, per 40 CFR §451. The effluent limitations and standards for these facilities are a series of management practices designed to control the discharge of pollutants from these types of operations, and are incorporated into the permit, as relevant.

NPDES permits may be individual (specifically tailored to a single facility) or general (tailored to cover multiple operations with similar types of discharges, often within a specified geographic area). For individual permits, EPA Form 1 must be submitted by all NPDES applicants; concentrated aquatic animal production (CAAP) operations must also submit Form 2B. Where general permits exist applicants will usually request coverage using a specified Notice of Intent. However, at the current time there is not a general permit for off-shore CAAP operations in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, so an individual permit application is required.

Standard Process:

EPA Regions 4 and 6 issue permits for federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. See information in Federal Agency Contacts section of this guide to determine the appropriate office. Once a complete application has been received and EPA tentatively decides to issue a draft permit, the Agency will develop a permit with discharge limits, monitoring requirements and special conditions, as applicable.

The CWA Ocean Discharge Criteria guidelines are used to determine the degree of degradation of ocean water quality. EPA, NOAA and BOEM have developed joint guidance for the Baseline Environmental Survey (BES) specifically for offshore operations in the Gulf of Mexico. A BES that adequately addresses all elements outlined in the joint guidance should satisfy the minimum information requirements of multiple agencies, including application information that EPA requires to make a determination consistent with the Ocean Discharge Criteria.

EPA publishes notice of the draft permit for public comment, typically for 30 to 60 days depending on the level of public interest. Following the close of the public comment period, EPA will consider all comments received and, as appropriate, finalize the permit. Depending upon the nature of the proposed discharge and the complexity of the public comments the permitting process could exceed 180 days from the day the application is received. A clear and complete application package will expedite the issuance process.

NPDES permits are issued for a period not to exceed five years. Monitoring results must be regularly reported to EPA (the frequency will be identified in the permit), and annual reports may also be required. EPA may also perform compliance inspections at the facility. Permits must be reapplied for every 5 years for as long as the facility continues to discharge.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Type of Authorization: Section 10 Permit

Fee: Maximum fee of \$100⁷

Timeline from Submittal of a Complete Application: Approximately 60 - 120 days⁸

Point(s) of Contact: USACE Galveston District
USACE Mobile District
USACE Jacksonville District
USACE New Orleans District

Summary of Authority:

Proposed finfish facilities outside the limits of the territorial seas (or the zone that is three nautical miles from the baseline) are subject to the USACE Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act authority as extended through the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, if they are anchored to the seabed. (Reference 33 CFR 320.2(b), which describes that the authority of the Secretary of the Army to prevent obstructions to navigation in navigable waters of the United States was extended to artificial islands, installations, and other devices located on the seabed, to the seaward limit of the outer continental shelf, by section 4(f) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953 as amended (43 U.S.C. 1333(e)).

Standard Process:

The USACE standard application form is ENG Form 4345. This must be completed and submitted for the USACE to begin processing a standard permit application, unless local variations of the application form have been developed to facilitate coordination with other federal, state and/or local agencies. If complete, the proposal is advertised on public notice within 15 days; if incomplete, information needed to complete the application is requested within 30 days. The USACE complete application and public notice requirements are found at 33 CFR 325.1(d) and 325.3.

Please note, information needed to complete this form and advertise the project on public notice may not be sufficient to complete the

⁷ There is no fee for coverage under a general permit.

⁸ General permit coverage is generally obtained more quickly than coverage under an individual permit.

evaluation and make a permit decision. For example, consistent with the application form requirements, a complete description of the proposed activity including drawings; the location, purpose and need for the proposed activity; scheduling of the activity; a list of authorizations required by other agencies, including all approvals received or denials already made; and the applicant's signature on the application must be provided. Following the close of the public notice period, the USACE may ask for additional information from the applicant, including information to make a public interest determination, environmental data or information on other alternative sites. If consultations or studies are required for NEPA, Section 7 of the ESA, Section 106 of the NHPA and/or EFH provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, these must be completed before a permit decision is made.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



Type of Authorization: Right of Use and Easement (RUE) Permit for alternate use of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) facilities for energy or marine-related purposes

Fee: Based on usage acreage for the RUE (an annual rent is calculated)

Timeline from Submittal of Complete Information: 45 days

Point(s) of Contact: Office of Leasing and Plans

Summary of Authority:

The Summary of Authority is found in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, as well as BOEM's regulations for the lease or establishment of Right of Use and Easements in 30 CFR §585.

Standard Process:

The application should be sent to BOEM's Plans section within the Office of Leasing and Plans. Applicants must contact the oil and gas lessee and owner of the existing OCS oil and gas facility and reach a preliminary agreement as to the proposed activity for use of the existing facility. BOEM will review for completeness and either deem the application complete or send a request for information (RFI). BOEM will review the area and determine if there are biological or cultural resources in the proposed area and if there are resources exclusions zones. If so, buffers would be applied around the identified resources. BOEM will review and issue a permit within 45 days after the application has been deemed complete, contingent on the acceptable reviews by the Office of Environment and BSEE, and on a decommissioning assessment of the operation, for which the company must then secure financial assurance in the amount determined by BOEM and retain such financial assurance until all obligations have been fulfilled, as determined by BOEM. BOEM will send their response/review to the permitting agencies.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement



Type of Authorization: Review/Approval

Fee: None

Timeline from Submittal of Complete Information: 45 days

Point(s) of Contact: Gulf of Mexico Region

Summary of Authority:

Under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), 43 U.S.C. §§ 1331 *et seq.*, and further defined under 30 CFR §200-299 the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement has regulatory responsibility for oil, gas and sulphur exploration, development and production operations on the Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). BSEE is responsible for minimizing or eliminating conflicts between exploration, development and production of OCS mineral resources and the recovery of other resources on the OCS.

Standard Process:

Consultation with BSEE will be necessary for aquaculture sites proposed on the federal OCS by the permitting agencies. BSEE will review aquaculture applications and provide comments to the appropriate permitting agencies with regards to the potential conflict, interaction or effects on mineral exploration, development and production operations on the Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Transfer or use of any offshore oil and gas facility for aquaculture or related activities will require BSEE approval.

U.S. Coast Guard



Type of Authorization: Private Aid to Navigation (PATON) Permit

Fee: None

Timeline from Submittal of Complete Information: 90 days, following USACE Section 10 permit approval

Point(s) of Contact: Coast Guard District Seven (Florida)

Coast Guard District Eight (Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas)

Summary of Authority:

The Coast Guard has authority to control private aids to navigation in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and on the outer continental shelf, and on the high seas when the owner is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. This includes regulating the establishment, maintenance and discontinuance of private aids to navigation. (14 USC 83).

The District Commander authorizes private aids to navigation. Private aids may, in some instances, comprise an entire aid system. Private aids may be used to mark navigation obstructions, piers, docks and private navigation channels that may be of use to a private user group. The characteristics of a private aid to navigation shall conform to the U.S. Aids to Navigation System (33 CFR 66.01-10).

Standard Process:

When the applicant receives the USACE permit approval for the aquaculture project it is necessary that the applicant directly contact the USCG District Private Aids to Navigation Section via email to request a Coast Guard marking determination for the aquaculture project. At that time, you may ask questions and discuss the necessary Private Aids to Navigation markings. If markings are required, then the applicant shall be required to forward a signed and completed CG-2554 - Private Aids to Navigation application along with copy of the USACE permit approval for the aquaculture project to the appropriate USCG District Private Aids to Navigation Section via email or USPS mail. CG-2554 Application is required a minimum of 90 days prior to installation of required/proposed Private Aids to Navigation.



Department of Defense

Type of Authorization: Informal Review Only

Fee: None

Timeline from Submittal of Complete Information: 50 days

Point(s) of Contact: Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse

Summary of Authority:

The Clearinghouse works with industry to overcome risks to national security while promoting compatible development. Development outside the installation fence line has the potential to degrade military testing, training and operations. The DoD does not have direct authority over offshore development, but does participate in state and federal review processes. The Clearinghouse performs reviews to help developers minimize risk and learn if any compatibility challenges might arise in one of the official processes. While DoD encourages developers to engage this process early, it is entirely voluntary for a private developer.

Standard Process:

When a project proponent provides a proposal to the DoD, the Clearinghouse shares the information with the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corp, Joint Staff and Combatant Commands. If a likely impact to military testing, training or operations is identified, the Clearinghouse provides a local point-of-contact to the requestor so that discussions can take place. There is no approval or denial of the project. The process is initiated through the Clearinghouse website.

Where to Find More Information

Federal Agency Contacts

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Office of Leasing & Plans: Michelle Uli Picou, michelle.picou@boem.gov 504.736.2747

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

Gulf of Mexico Region: Doug Peter, douglas.peter@bsee.gov 504.736.7514

Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse

Email: osd.dod-siting-clearinghouse@mail.mil

Telephone: 703-571-9078

Mail: 3400 Defense Pentagon, Room 5C646, Washington, DC 20301 – 3400

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries

NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/aquaculture/marine-aquaculture-noaa-fisheries-southeast-region>

Southeast Regional Aquaculture Coordinator: Jess Beck-Stimpert, nmfs.ser.aquaculture@noaa.gov 727.551.5755

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Offices: <http://www.usace.army.mil/Locations.aspx> (see map for coverage zones)

Galveston District: Kristi McMillan, 409-766-3931 kristi.m.mcmillan@usace.army.mil

Mobile District: Dylan Hendrix, 251-694-3772 dylan.c.hendrix@usace.army.mil

Jacksonville District: John Fellows, 813-769-7070 john.p.fellows@usace.army.mil

New Orleans District: Martin Mayer, 504-862-2255 martin.s.mayer@usace.army.mil

U.S. Coast Guard

Coast Guard District Seven (CGD7), Miami (covers Florida):

Andrew Engle, andrew.m.engle@uscg.mil 305.415.6755

Coast Guard District Eight (CGD8), New Orleans (covers Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas):

Tim Boriskie, D8oanpaton@uscg.mil 504.671.2328

Mail: Private Aids to Navigation Section, 500 Poydras Street, Suite 1230, New Orleans, LA 70130

Website: <http://www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/district-8/district-divisions/waterways/PATON>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. EPA Regional Aquaculture Coordinators: <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/contact-us-aquaculture#regional>

Region 4, Atlanta, Georgia (covers Mississippi, Alabama, Florida):

Meghan Wahlstrom-Ramler, wahlstrom-ramler.meghan@epa.gov 404.562.9672

Region 6, Dallas, Texas (covers Texas, Louisiana):

Jim Afghani, afghani.jim@epa.gov 214.665.6615

Forms, Tools and Information

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Permits

Permit Application Form 1: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-05/documents/form_1_epa_form_3510-1.pdf

Permit Application Form 2B: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-05/documents/form_2b_epa_form_3510-2b.pdf

Compliance Guide for the Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production Point Source Category:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-11/documents/caap-aquaculture_compliance-guide_2006.pdf

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permits

Permit Application (Form ENG 4345):

<http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/RegulatoryProgramandPermits/ObtainPermit.aspx>

NOAA Fisheries

Basis-of-Design Technical Guidance for Offshore Aquaculture Installations in the Gulf of Mexico:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/basis-design-technical-guidance-offshore-aquaculture-installations-gulf-mexico>

Marine Mammal Permits and Authorizations: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act>

Annual List of Fisheries (interactions with marine mammals): <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-protection-act-list-fisheries>

U.S. Coast Guard Permits

Private Aids to Navigation Application Form 2554: https://media.defense.gov/2017/Nov/20/2001846135/-1/-1/0///Hqs-nas-t-001/cg-6/CG-61/CG-612/Forms%20and%20Reports%20Management/Forms%20to%20be%20Posted/CG_2554.pdf

Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse: <https://www.acq.osd.mil/dodsc/contact/dod-review-process.html>

Fish and Wildlife Service Trust Resources: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>

Gulf of Mexico State Artificial Reef Programs

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/habitats/artificial_reef/

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries: <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/artificial-reef-program>

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources: <http://www.dmr.ms.gov/marine-fisheries/artificial-reef>

Alabama Marine Resources Division: <http://www.outdooralabama.com/artificial-reefs>

Florida Department of Environmental Protection: <http://myfwc.com/conservation/saltwater/artificial-reefs/>

Marine Mammal Authorization Program: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-authorization-program>

National Park Service National Register of Historic Places: <https://www.nps.gov/history/preserve-places.htm>

National Marine Sanctuaries: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/welcome.html>

NOAA Fisheries

Critical Habitat: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/endangered-species-conservation/critical-habitat>

Essential Fish Habitat: <http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/protection/efh/habitatmapper.html>

List of Fisheries: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/interactions/lof/>