

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

G. AMBIENT WATER QUALITY MONITORING

On or before March 1, 2021, Within 6 months of the effective date of this permit, the permittee must submit an ambient water quality monitoring plan to the Department for review and approval, to monitor five (5) sampling stations established by the Department. The stations to be monitored are BB02, PB01, PB02, PB03, and PB04. See **Attachment F** of the Fact Sheet of this permit for a map depicting the locations of the monitoring sites. The proposed monitoring plan must conform with a Department approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). All sampling and analysis must be conducted by a) methods approved by 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 136, b) alternative methods approved by the Department in accordance with the procedures in 40 CFR Part 136, or c) as otherwise specified by the Department. As part of the parameter specific monitoring plan, the permittee must submit a monitoring plan to the Department for review and approval, to utilize a minimum of two (2) Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCPs) to gather more information on the currents and the behavior of tidal exchanges in the near field and far-field.

Beginning May 1, 2021, the permittee must commence ambient monitoring at the five (5) designated sites established by the Department at a frequency of approximately every three (3) weeks twice per month (2/Month) between May 1st and October 31st of each year. Each monitoring event must be conducted during a four (4) three-hour sampling window on the second half of an ebb or flood tide. Minimum parameters to be monitored via a sonde are temperature, salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll *a*, and turbidity. Minimum parameters to be monitored via grab samples are total phosphorus, total kjeldahl nitrogen, nitrate + nitrite nitrogen. In addition to the parameter specific ambient water quality monitoring, the permittee must deploy the ADCPs at the approved designated sites established by the Department.

On or before December 31st of each year, the permittee must submit a report to the Department summarizing the data collected from the ambient water quality monitoring plans and report any trends or anomalies with the data.

H. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE PLAN

Within 6 months after commencement of the initial operations (eggs on-site), the permittee must submit a written Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Plan for the facility to the Department for review and comment. The plan must provide a systematic approach by which the permittee must at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS**H. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE PLAN (cont'd)**

An acceptable O&M plan must ensure the following items are adequately addressed:

1. Solids Control
 - a. Methods and practices to ensure efficient feed management and feeding strategies that limit feed input to the minimum amount reasonably necessary to achieve production goals and sustain targeted rates of aquatic animal growth in order to minimize potential discharges to waters of the State.
 - b. In order to minimize the discharge of accumulated solids from the solids processing system and production systems, identify and implement procedures for routine cleaning of rearing units and any settling tanks, and procedures to minimize any discharge of accumulated solids during the inventorying, grading, and harvesting of aquatic animals in the production system.
 - c. Procedure for removal and disposal of mortalities.
2. Materials Storage
 - a. Ensure proper storage of drugs¹, pesticides², feed, chemicals and any petroleum and/or hazardous waste products in a manner designed to prevent spills that may result in the discharge of drugs, pesticides, or feed to waters of the State.
 - b. Implement procedures for properly containing, cleaning, and disposing of any spilled material that has the potential to enter waters of the State.
3. Structural Maintenance
 - a. Inspect the production system and the wastewater treatment system on a routine basis in order to identify and promptly repair any damage.
 - b. Conduct regular maintenance of the production system and the wastewater treatment system in order to ensure that they are properly functioning.

¹ **Drug.** “Drug” means any substance defined as a drug in section 201(g)(1) of the *Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act* [21 U.S.C. § 321].

² **Pesticide.** “Pesticide” means any substance defined as a “pesticide” in section 2(u) of the *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act* [7 U.S.C. § 136 (u)].

SPECIAL CONDITIONS**H. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE PLAN (cont'd)**

4. Recordkeeping
 - a. Maintain records for fish rearing units documenting the feed amounts and estimates of the numbers and weight of fish.
 - b. Maintain records that document the frequency of cleaning, inspections, repairs and maintenance.
 - c. Maintain records that document drug/pesticide/other compound use as indicated under Special Condition I, Disease Control.
 - d. Carry out all necessary MEPDES Licensing and Compliance related activities, and maintain associated documentation for a minimum of 3 years.
5. Training
 - a. In order to ensure the proper clean-up and disposal of spilled material adequately, train all relevant personnel in spill prevention and spill response.
 - b. Appropriately qualified managerial and operational staff shall be available and trained in the proper operation, maintenance, and upkeep of the Recirculating Aquaculture System, along with any related production and wastewater treatment systems, including training in feeding procedures and proper use of equipment to prevent unauthorized discharges.
6. Waste Water Operations
 - a. Provide a flow chart for the wastewater treatment process, the sludge and solids dewatering and removal process, and effluent discharge system.
 - b. Identify and develop operational and maintenance standard operating procedures for the treatment system components used to treat clean water, sludge water from cleaning mechanical filters, sludge water from backflushing biological treatment filters, and other wastewaters, as applicable:
 - (1) Belt/drum filters and thickeners;
 - (2) Use of flocculants/coagulants;
 - (3) Clarifiers/settling tanks;
 - (4) Fish exclusion barriers;

SPECIAL CONDITIONS**H. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE PLAN (cont'd)**

- (5) Centrifuges;
- (6) UV disinfection/sterilization;
- (7) Chemical storage and disposal;
- (8) Intake/outfall maintenance;
- (9) Other

Define each of the following operator responsibilities:

- (1) Operations Manager qualifications and duties;
- (2) Staff duties;
- (3) Sample collection and analysis;
- (4) Regulatory reporting:
 - a. Discharge monitoring reports
 - b. Spill/release reports;
- (5) Any other operator responsibilities not listed.

By December 31 of each year, or within 90 days of any process changes or minor equipment upgrades, the permittee must evaluate and modify the O&M Plan including site plan(s) and schematic(s) for the wastewater treatment facility to ensure that it is up to date. The O&M Plan must be kept on-site at all times and made available to Department and USEPA personnel upon request.

Within 90 days of completion of new and or substantial upgrades of the wastewater treatment facility, the permittee must submit the updated O&M Plan to their Department inspector for review and comment.