

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 1, 2019**

Prepared on December 21, 2018

**ITEM NUMBER:** 6

**SUBJECT:** **General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG993003 for Discharges from Aquaculture Facilities and Aquariums, Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2019-0001**

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**KEY INFORMATION**

**Location:** Locations throughout the Central Coast Region  
**Place IDs:** 204210, 792426, 239526, 792425, 237344, 817515, 257147, and 216328  
**Type of Facilities:** Facilities that contain, grow, hold, or study aquatic animals and/or plants  
**Type of Waste:** Flow-through water, which may contain pollutants related to feeding, residuals of drugs used for maintenance of animal health, and residuals of chemicals used for cleaning equipment and maintaining facility water quality conditions  
**Existing Order:** Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2013-0041 (NPDES Permit No. CAG993003), General Permit for Discharges from Aquaculture Facilities and Aquariums (General Permit)

**This Action:** **Adopt Order No. R3-2019-0001**

**SUMMARY**

This action will reissue the region-wide General Permit covering aquaculture facilities and aquariums. All eight facilities enrolled under the existing General Permit have been in continuous compliance with the General Permit conditions. Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) staff made minor edits to the existing 2013 permit. No comments were received during the public comment period. Central Coast Water Board staff recommends adoption of the General Permit, as proposed.

**DISCUSSION**

The purpose of this General Permit is to regulate discharges from aquaculture facilities and aquariums in compliance with the federal Clean Water Act and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Aquaculture facilities and aquariums are facilities that contain, grow, hold, or study

aquatic species and have discharges to surface waters of the Central Coast Region. Examples of eligible discharges include those from abalone growing facilities, steelhead trout rearing facilities, salmon rearing facilities, marine mammal laboratories, and aquariums.

### **2013-2018 Permit Compliance**

Eight facilities are enrolled in this General Permit. As noted in Section D. Compliance Summary of the Fact Sheet (Attachment F, Page F-6 of the General Permit), all of the facilities were in compliance with the discharge effluent limits in the General Permit.

### **Changes from the 2013 General Permit**

There are minor changes proposed to the previous adopted General Permit (Order No. R3-2013-0041), which include:

- Updated facility information;
- Updated references to the most recent Ocean Plan edition and other plans and policies;
- Addition of authorization for the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer to add monitoring and reporting requirements if necessary;
- Clarification of requirements for the transfer of permit coverage to a new facility owner;
- Clarification of requirements for the termination of permit coverage;

In addition, the General Permit has been amended to authorize discharges to inland surface waters. This change may result in enrollment of additional facilities discharging to inland surface waters.

### **COMMENTS**

No comments were received during the public comment period.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2019-0001.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

For copies, please refer to the Central Coast Water Board's internet website at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2019/2019\\_agendas.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2019/2019_agendas.html)

1. Proposed Order No. R3-2019-0001, including the following attachments:
  - Attachment A – Definitions
  - Attachment B – Notice of Intent Form
  - Attachment C – 2019 Facility Discharge Location Map
  - Attachment D – Standard Provisions
  - Attachment E – Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP)
  - Attachment F – Fact Sheet
  - Attachment G – Notice of Termination Form