

Executive Officer's Summary Report
8:30 a.m., July 23, 2009
North Coast Regional Water Board
David C. Joseph Hearing Room
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, California

Item: 6

Subject: Public Hearing Order No. R1-2009-0040 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements to replace Order No. R1-2005-0096 in the matter of **Crescent City Harbor District Seafood Processing Wastewater Treatment Facility** NPDES No. CA0024473, WDID No. 1A84005ODN

DISCUSSION

The Crescent City Harbor District (hereinafter Discharger) is currently discharging under Order No. R1-2004-0024 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0024473 adopted on May 12, 2004. The Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge, dated December 5, 2008, and applied for an NPDES permit renewal to continue the discharge of up to 0.8 millions gallons per day (MGD) of treated wastewater from the District's seafood processing wastewater treatment system. The application was deemed complete on April 10, 2009.

The Discharger owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility which serves seafood processors located within the Crescent City Harbor District. Final products include live crab, whole-cooked crab, frozen crab sections, and whole and frozen bottom fish. At present, the facility serves only the Alber Seafood Company located immediately to the west of the wastewater treatment system. Wastewaters resulting from fish and crab processing and chlorinated rinse water are produced intermittently during the crab and bottom fish seasons and treated by the Discharger's wastewater treatment facility. Process water may also include non-contact cooling water, boiler water, freshwater, pressure relief water, refrigerator condensate, water used to transfer seafood to the facility, live tank water, other non-process water (excluding wastewater from floor drains), and chemicals used during cleanup at the seafood processor.

Wastewater treatment is accomplished by a rotating, self-cleaning screen designed to treat up to 800,000 gallons per day (GPD) of process wastewater. A 500,000-gallon holding tank is available for flow equalization. The holding tank is bypassed during periods of low flow. The volume of process water flow ranges up to 100,000 GPD, with an average flow rate of approximately 13,000 GPD. The average concentration of process water suspended solids is approximately 87.5 mg/L. The average concentration of Oil and Grease is approximately 8.6 mg/L. Fish solids that pass through screens in the floor drains at the seafood processor (primarily fish scales) are

captured on the rotating screen, bagged, and sent to the local solid waste transfer station for disposal. Up to 1,000 gallons of wastewater may also be discharged weekly when wastewater pumps are maintained during non-processing periods. This pump maintenance water consists of residual process water diluted with fresh water.

Treated wastewater from the facility is mixed with up to 6.12 MGD of treated municipal wastewater from the City of Crescent City Wastewater Treatment Facility, which is regulated by NPDES Permit No. CA0022756. Two 4-MGD pumps transfer the combined effluent to a new 24-inch diameter ductile iron outfall discharging approximately 800 feet into the Pacific Ocean through a rocky slot in the surf zone adjacent to the Battery Point Lighthouse.

The discharge authorized by this Order must meet minimum federal technology-based requirements based on the *Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Canned and Preserved Seafood Processing Point Source Category* in 40 CFR Part 408 and/ or Best Professional Judgment (BPJ) in accordance with Part 125, section 125.3. Two subcategories of the Canned and Preserved Seafood Processing Point Source Category apply to the discharge - the Dungeness and Tanner Crab Processing in the Contiguous States Subcategory (40 CFR 408, Subpart H) and the Non-Alaskan Conventional Bottom Fish Processing Subcategory (40 CFR 408, Subpart U). The provisions of Subpart U apply to wastewaters resulting from the processing of bottom fish such as flounder, ocean perch, haddock, cod, sea catfish, sole, halibut, and rockfish.

Water quality-based effluent limitations more stringent than minimum federal technology-based requirements are established in this Order to meet applicable water quality standards. This Order includes water quality-based effluent limitations for ammonia, total chlorine residual, cadmium, copper, nickel, zinc, and non-chlorinated phenolic compounds.

A copy of the draft permit and/or information to access the draft on the Regional Water Board website was mailed to the Discharger and interested agencies. This item was opened for public comment between May 4, 2009 and June 4, 2009. The Discharger provided written comments on the draft permit in an email on June 3, 2009 requesting technical clarifications and minor changes to the draft NPDES permit. No other comments on the draft permit were received. The proposed Order has been modified in response to the comments received. Copies of the Discharger's comment letter and staff's Response to Comments are included as attachments to this Staff Report.

PRELIMINARY STAFF
RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Order R1-2009-0040 as proposed.