

Coastal

CAMA General Permit (Coastal Area Management Act)

What Activities Require This Permit? You must obtain a CAMA (Coastal Area Management Act) permit for your project if it meets all of the following conditions:

- it is in one of the 20 counties covered by CAMA;
- it is considered "development" under CAMA;
- it is in, or it affects, an Area of Environmental Concern (AEC) established by the Coastal Resources Commission (CRC);
- it doesn't qualify for an exemption;
- the project requires another state or federal permit(s).

What Is The Purpose of This Permit? General permits are used for routine projects that usually pose little or no threat to the environment. CAMA general permits are intended for major development such as, but not limited to, docks, piers, bulkheads, the placement of riprap and maintenance excavation of canals, channels, basins and ditches. Its purpose is to protect, manage and promote the environment, public trust rights, and the economy of the North Carolina coast.

Who Issues This Permit? Contact the Division of Coastal Management (DCM) district office that serves your area. A field representative will visit the project site to determine if your project is eligible for a general permit. If it is, the representative will help you complete a permit form with your name and address, the location and description of the proposed project and a project sketch.

How Much Will This Permit Cost? You must pay an application fee to cover the costs of processing the application when you apply for a general permit. This should be paid with a check made out to the Department of Environmental Quality or DEQ. The fee for most general permits is \$200, but some have a fee of \$400 depending upon the type of project.

What Are My Payment Options for Permit Application Fees? The application fee may be paid by check or money order.

If Paying by Check, Who do I Make the Check Payable to and Where Do I Send the Check? Checks should be made out to the Department of Environmental Quality, or DEQ. They may be given to the field representative at the time of the site visit or delivered to the DCM district office.

Where Can I Get The Application For This Permit? Applicants should contact the DCM district office and request approval for development. The applicant shall provide information on site location, dimensions of the project area and the applicant's name and address. In addition, the applicant shall provide (1) confirmation that a written statement has been obtained and signed by the adjacent riparian property owner(s) indicating they have no objections to the proposed work; or (2) confirmation that the adjacent property owners have been notified by certified mail of the proposed work. The notice shall instruct property owners to provide written comments on the proposed development to the Division of Coastal Management within 10 days of receipt of the notice. The notice must also say that no response shall be interpreted as no objection.

How Long Will It Take To Review My Application? Most general permits are issued on site.

Where Do I Submit My Application? Contact the DCM district office that serves your area with the requested information. A list of district offices is available on DCM's Web site located at the following link:
<http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/coastal-management/about-coastal-management/staff-listing>.

How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid? The activity authorized by most general permits must be completed within 120 days of the issuance of the permit. If more time is needed to complete the project, it is necessary to re-examine the project to determine if the general authorization may be re-issued.

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Notes/Comments: The Coastal Area Management Act defines development as: "any activity in a duly designated area of environmental concern ... involving, requiring or consisting of the construction or enlargement of a structure; excavation; dredging; filling; dumping; removal of clay, silt, sand, gravel or minerals; bulkheading; driving of pilings; clearing or alteration of land as an adjunct of construction; alteration or removal of sand dunes; alteration of the shore, bank or bottom of the Atlantic Ocean or any sound, bay, river, creek, stream, lake or canal" {NCGS 113A-103(5)(a)}. The 20 coastal counties are: Beaufort, Bertie, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington.

Legal Authority/Statute Reference: North Carolina General Statutes §113A-118, §113-229 and 15A NCAC 07J .0201

Link: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/coastal-management/coastal-management-permits/permit-types>

Statewide Contact Information:

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