
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

May 20, 2016

Coast Seafoods Company
Attn: Mr. Greg Dale
25 Waterfront Drive
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Mr. Dale:

Subject: Amendment to the Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for the Coast Seafoods Company Mariculture Operations in Humboldt Bay Project

Files: Coast Seafoods Company
ECM PIN CW- 215003, WDID No. 1B01140WNHU

On April 25, 2016, we received your letter requesting an amendment to the April 25, 2012, Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for the Coast Seafoods Mariculture Operations in Humboldt Bay Project (Project). The certification was amended May 7, 2013, to allow Coast Seafoods the option to use basket-on-longline oyster cultivation methods within the Project limits. The April 25, 2016, letter requested the certification be amended to:

- 1) Extend the certification term for a one year period beginning June 30, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017; and
- 2) Allow changes to the configuration of oyster longlines within approximately 7.88 acres of its existing intertidal footprint, whereby existing 2.5-foot spaced single-hung longlines would be reconfigured to 5-foot spacing with double-hung lines along the new transects.

In response to your request for a certification extension, the certification is hereby amended to expire June 30, 2017.

The Regional Water Board finds that modification of the current 2.5-foot spacing to 5-foot spacing with double-hung lines within a 7.88 acre area will assist Coast Seafoods in

exploring cultivation methods that may have less of an impact to eelgrass than existing methods. The Project description in the certification is hereby revised to include the following additional finding:

A 7.88-acre portion of existing 2.5-foot spaced oyster longline cultivation acreage will be converted to a 5-foot spaced, double-hung longline configuration in the summer of 2016. Double-hung longlines have two rows of oysters strung one on top of the other, with the first (bottom) row of oysters at eight inches above the substrate and the second (top) row of oysters at 16 inches above the substrate. The top and bottom rows of oysters are supported by separate PVC pipes.

Condition No. 9 of the Certification states, "Prior to implementing any change to the project that may have a significant or material effect on the findings, conclusions, or conditions of this Order, the Applicant shall obtain the written approval of the Regional Water Board Executive Officer." I hereby issue an amendment to the project description and expiration date of the certification for the Coast Seafoods Company – Mariculture Operations in Humboldt Bay Project (WDID No. 1B01140WNHU). I certify that the remainder of the Water Quality Certification sections of the April 25, 2012, Order are still valid.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Brendan Thompson at (707) 576-2699 or at Brendan.Thompson@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Matthias St. John
Executive Officer