

## **RESPONSE TO COMMENTS**

### **REGARDING THE REISSUANCE OF THE FOLLOWING NPDES PERMIT**

#### **WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION, MA0005916**

##### **Introduction:**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) solicited public comments from July 25, 2007 through August 23, 2007 on the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to be issued to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (Woods Hole).

As public noticed, the Draft NPDES Permit was for the discharge of treated wastewater from fish holding tanks, raceways, and other aquaria. The facility discharges to Vineyard Sound.

During the public-notice (comment) period EPA-New England received comments from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries.

In accordance with the provisions of 40 C.F.R. §124.17, this document presents EPA's responses to comments received on the draft NPDES permit and any appropriate changes made to the public-noticed draft permit as a result of the comments. The final permit is substantially similar to the draft permit that was available for public comment. EPA did, however, revise certain requirements in the permit to provide additional clarification and as a result of the comments raised. These revisions are summarized below and are reflected in the Final Permit.

##### **Changes Made to the Final Permit**

1. The Final Permit has been modified to require that the BMP Plan be sent to the MassDEP and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries within 120 days of the effective date of the permit.
2. The Final Permit clarifies that copies of all technical information associated with medications and chemicals used for disease/parasitic control and complementary aquatic toxicology and biological pollution information be provided to the appropriate agencies within 120 days after the effective date of the permit.

**Comments submitted by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries.**

**COMMENT NO. 1**

**The effluent limitations and control measures contained in the current draft permit are adequate for the protection of marine fishery resources from impacts associated with chemical and/or biological agents that may be contained in the effluent.**

**RESPONSE NO. 1**

EPA notes this general support for the permit conditions.

**COMMENT NO. 2**

**Under the existing permit, *Marine Fisheries* was provided a copy of the facility BMP (Best Management Practices) plan. We request a copy of the updated BMP plan be sent to us along with other agencies under Part I.B. b. "Best Management Practices (BMP) Plan" to the address and contact information appearing in Part I.E. "Monitoring and Reporting."**

**RESPONSE NO. 2**

EPA agrees, and has corrected this oversight.

**COMMENT NO. 3**

**Under Part I.E., a copy of all technical information associated with medications and chemicals used for disease/parasitic control and complementary aquatic toxicology and biological pollution information is to be sent to *Marine Fisheries*. The permit does not specify a timeframe for sending the information, and we request the information be sent within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the effective date of the permit.**

**RESPONSE NO.3**

EPA agrees that adding the 120 day timeframe provides appropriate additional clarity, and has added it to the permit.