

WAC 246-282-032 Relay permit. (1) The department will issue a relay permit to a person to move shellfish from a harvest site in a growing area classified as "restricted" or "conditionally approved" in closed status meeting the criteria for "restricted" classification, if all of the following conditions are met.

(a) The person possesses a valid shellfish operation license.

(b) The person possesses a valid harvest site certificate listing both the initial harvest site and the grow-out site.

(c) The initial harvest site and grow-out site meet the requirements for relay specified in this chapter and the NSSP Model Ordinance.

(d) The person submits a completed written application and plan of operations approved by the department completely describing the procedures and conditions of the relay operation.

(e) The person conducts and documents a separate validation study approved by the department for each of the following periods of time when shellfish will be relayed:

(i) May 1 through October 31; and

(ii) November 1 through April 30.

(f) The person pays the department a relay permit application fee or renewal fee as required by this chapter.

(2) Each validation study for a relay permit must demonstrate that shellfish harvested from a specified initial site do not contain excessive levels of fecal coliform bacteria and when relayed to a specified grow-out site for a specified time period consistently purge themselves of bacteria to approved levels. Each validation study must meet all of the following conditions.

(a) It must document that the geometric mean fecal coliform bacteria level in a minimum of five 100-gram tissue samples, representative of shellfish of the same species in the entire initial harvest site, is equal to or less than 1300, with no sample having more than 2300.

(b) It must document that specified relay procedures, times, and environmental conditions reduce fecal coliform bacteria in a minimum of five 100-gram tissue samples, representative of the entire lot of shellfish relayed, to levels that are equal to or less than:

(i) 330, with no more than two samples having greater than 230;

or

(ii) Ten percent greater than the geometric mean of a minimum of five 100-gram tissue samples representative of the same shellfish species grown continuously for a minimum of six months at the grow-out site.

(c) It must be repeated a minimum of once every twelve years for a continuing operation and whenever relay conditions change.

(d) All samples must be analyzed by an approved laboratory.

(3) A person operating under a relay permit must follow all procedures in the plan of operations approved by the department, including:

(a) Staking or marking the grow-out site to be easily identified by the person until the minimum relay period of time is passed;

(b) Considering the beginning of the minimum relay time period for a lot to be the moment that the last part of the lot is added to the grow-out site;

(c) Relaying shellfish to a designated grow-out site for a minimum of seven days, or longer period of time as approved by the department; and

(d) Keeping records for each relayed lot of shellfish that show a lot identification number; the species, location, date, and quantity moved from the initial harvest site; the grow-out location; and the date of first harvest of any of those shellfish from the grow-out site.

(4) For each lot of shellfish relayed to a site for a grow-out period of less than fourteen days, a person must:

(a) Collect at least one sample from the shellfish lot at the initial harvest site and have it analyzed by an approved laboratory to demonstrate that the lot contains no more than 2300 fecal coliform bacteria per 100 grams of shellfish tissue; and

(b) Collect at least one sample from the shellfish lot at the grow-out site at the end of the relay period and have it analyzed by an approved laboratory to demonstrate that the lot contains fecal coliform bacteria within the maximum limits determined by a validation study, as described in subsection (2)(b) of this section, before releasing control of the shellfish lot.

(5) A person is exempt from any fees for an initial application and a validation study conducted by the department for a relay permit for the purpose of relaying shellfish from a growing area that the department downgraded from a classification of "approved" or "conditionally approved" to "restricted" within the previous twenty-four months.

(6) A person's relay permit expires on the same date as the person's shellfish operation license.

(7) A person is exempt from the provisions of subsection (1)(e) of this section for the purpose of relaying shellfish to an approved grow-out site for a minimum of six months.

(8) A person possessing a valid shellfish operation license may act as an agent for another person possessing a valid shellfish relay permit for the purpose of harvesting shellfish from the initial harvest site specified in the permit, provided that the agent conducting the harvest is:

(a) Documented in the permit;

(b) In possession of a copy of the permit at the time of harvest; and

(c) Conducting activities described in the written plan of operations approved by the department for the agent's shellfish operation.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 69.30.030. WSR 11-17-104, § 246-282-032, filed 8/22/11, effective 9/22/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 69.30.030 and 43.20.030. WSR 01-04-054, § 246-282-032, filed 2/5/01, effective 3/8/01.]