



Application Type
Facility Type
Major / Minor

Renewal
Industrial
Minor

**NPDES PERMIT FACT SHEET
INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIAL WASTE (IW)
AND IW STORMWATER**

Application No. PA0044024
APS ID 724950
Authorization ID 1508277

Applicant and Facility Information

Applicant Name	Pennsylvania Fish And Boat Commission 1735 Shiloh Road Benner Spring Fish Research Station State College, PA 16801-8435		
Applicant Address	Facility Name 229 Great Bend Turnpike Pleasant Mount, PA 18453-4664		
Applicant Contact	Facility Address Mindy McClenahan Facility Contact Walt Yetter		
Applicant Phone	Facility Phone (814) 353-2229 (570) 448-2101		
Client ID	Site ID 135455 250988		
SIC Code	Municipality 0921 Mount Pleasant Township		
SIC Description	County Agriculture - Fish Hatcheries And Preserves Wayne		
Date Application Received	EPA Waived? November 8, 2024 Yes		
Date Application Accepted	If No, Reason November 8, 2024		
Purpose of Application	Renewal of existing NPDES permit to discharge industrial waste.		

Summary of Review

The applicant is requesting to renew an existing NPDES permit to discharge treated wastewater from a concentrated aquatic animal production facility to West Branch Lackawaxen River, a High Quality-Cold Water Fishes, Migratory Fishes (HQ-CWF, MF) receiving water in state water plan basin 01-B (Lackawaxen River). As per the Department's current existing use list, the receiving stream does not have an existing use classification that is more protective than its designated use.

This facility is considered a flow-through fish hatchery since the hatchery source water is taken directly from West Branch Lackawaxen River. Three on-site wells can provide up to 250 gpm of flow to the facility, if needed. The facility is not subject to the requirements under 40 CFR Part 451 since the facility produces less than 100,000 lbs of aquatic animals per year.

There are no documented negative impacts from the hatchery on West Branch Lackawaxen River. The latest Integrated Water Quality Report lists no impairments for the river.

The facility produces the following species: Walleye (200lbs/yr), Tiger Muskellunge (2870lbs/yr), Muskellunge (2060lbs/yr), Lake Trout (3150lbs/yr), and Channel Catfish (210lbs/yr).

DEP personnel toured the facility on 11/4/2025 as part of this renewal process. Both Mindy McClenahan (client contact) and Walt Yetter (facility contact) were present during the visit to assist DEP staff in learning about the facility. The tour included observations of the hatch houses, Outfall 001, the raceways, the main influent pipe, the well building, and the clarifier, among other areas.

According to the previous permit cycle, each raceway at the facility has 1 quiescent zone at the end to collect solids. The quiescent zones are piped to a clarifier and the over topping water from the clarifier flows into the settling pond before being

Approve	Deny	Signatures	Date
X		 William Hon / Environmental Engineer Specialist	January 8, 2026
X		 Edward Dudick P.E. / Environmental Engineer Manager	January 8, 2026

Summary of Review

discharged. When the clarifier is cleaned, solids are distributed to a series of concrete drying beds. Periodically, the drying beds are emptied with an excavator and the compost is trucked to fields for land application.

The system for this facility is as follows: The facility intakes water from the West Branch Lackawaxen River and distributes it to either the concrete raceways, the hatch houses, or the earthen ponds, depending on where water is needed. The facility takes in water from three wells located on the property. These wells specifically feed water to the hatch houses. The waste generated is organic with excess fish food and waste being in a concrete clarifier. Solids recovered are pumped to a drying bed once a month from March to November. Flow for this facility is measured via a weir.

There are two outfalls listed for the facility: Outfall 001 and Outfall 002. Outfall 001 is the main outfall for the facility and all wastewater flows to Outfall 001. Outfall 002 is out of commission due to damage. Sampling for Outfall 002 will remain in effect for the new permit cycle in case repairs are completed in the future. DMR for Outfall 002 will be labeled as "No Discharge" as no sampling occurs.

The applicant reports the average flow during operation was 1.77mgd. This is slightly up from the previous permit cycle (1.56mgd). For this renewal, the limitations and monitoring requirements are carried over from the previous permit. These requirements are consistent with the requirements found in DEP's PAG-11 General Permit for discharges from aquatic animal production facilities. The discharge was not modeled with WQM 7.0 during this permit renewal.

The following are chemicals added into the hatchery process:

Chemical	Purpose	Frequency of Use	Max Daily Use	Change From Previous Permit
Formalin (37% Formaldehyde)	Fungus control	60 days/yr	11.5gal	No
Chloramine-T	Treat Fish Infection	25 days/yr	38.5lbs	No
Hydrogen Peroxide, 35%	Fungus, parasite, and disease treatment	60 days/yr	56.6gal	No
Terramycin TM200	Cold water disease	25 days/yr	2.34lbs	No
Diquat Dibromide	Bacteria gill disease	30 days/yr	1.7gal	No
Professional Lysol	Gill disease	30 days/yr	0.4gal	No
Romet TC	Systemic bacterial infections	30 days/yr	0.05lbs	No
Sodium Chloride	Stress reduction	60 days/yr	80lbs	No
Florfenicol	Systemic bacterial infections	30 days/yr	0.18lbs	No
Pennox-343	Otolith Marking	60 days/yr	15.6lbs	No
Aquashade	Block light penetration	60 days/yr	5gal	No

The total annual production numbers in the application are based on everything stocked between February and December. September is typically when there is the most biomass on station since the cool water fish are at their final growth stage. With some of the species being in the ponds and others in the raceways, there is no way of knowing what amount of biomass is on site at any given time since there is no way to inventory the fish growing in the ponds. The total annual production numbers will vary widely from year to year as programs are added or changed.

The standard template Part C condition titled "Drug and Chemical Usage for Aquaculture Facilities" is included in the permit. The maximum usage rate for Florfenicol identified in the permit application is under the maximum usage rate recommended for the facility in the December 13, 2010 email from Dharmin. The voluntary Part C.I.E. monitoring condition for Florfenicol is carried over from the previous permit. Since formaldehyde is classified as a probable human carcinogen, concentrations shall not be detectable using the most sensitive analytical method available.

DRBC Docket No. D-1980-032 CP-5 exists for this facility. The docket was approved on June 5, 2024 and will expire on June 5, 2034. There are no other recommended limitations listed in the DRBC docket.

There are no documented negative impacts from the hatchery on West Branch Lackawaxen River. The latest Integrated Water Quality Report lists no impairments for the river.

The following Special Conditions are added into the permit:

- DRBC Requirements

Summary of Review

- BMP Plan and Minimum Required BMPs for Aquaculture
- Drug and Chemical Usage for Aquaculture
- Additional Definition for Aquatic Animal Production
- Formaldehyde and Florfenicol Sampling

The PPC plan for the facility was attached to the application and is in effect as of October 1, 2024.

The latest inspection performed at this facility occurred on 11/16/2022 and resulted in no NOVs. There are no open violations in the Clean Water Program for this facility.

Recommend Approval.

Public Participation

DEP will publish notice of the receipt of the NPDES permit application and a tentative decision to issue the individual NPDES permit in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* in accordance with 25 Pa. Code § 92a.82. Upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, DEP will accept written comments from interested persons for a 30-day period (which may be extended for one additional 15-day period at DEP's discretion), which will be considered in making a final decision on the application. Any person may request or petition for a public hearing with respect to the application. A public hearing may be held if DEP determines that there is significant public interest in holding a hearing. If a hearing is held, notice of the hearing will be published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* at least 30 days prior to the hearing and in at least one newspaper of general circulation within the geographical area of the discharge.

