

PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
Water Division
Permitting and Grants Branch
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 562-9672

Public Notice No. **19FL00001**

Date: August 30, 2019

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intends to issue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to Kampachi Farms, LLC (Permit No. FL0A00001). The draft NPDES permit authorizes the discharge of industrial wastewater from a marine net-pen aquaculture facility located in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico at approximately 45 miles southwest of Sarasota, Florida. The facility would include a supporting vessel and a single floating cage in a water depth of 130 feet. The project would culture a single cohort of approximately 20,000 Almaco jack (*Seriola rivoliana*) and produce a maximum annual harvest of 88,000 lbs.

The draft NPDES permit establishes criteria on the effluent discharge and was drafted in accordance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1251, et seq.) (“Act”) and other lawful standards and regulations. The EPA is soliciting comments from the public on the draft permit and draft Environmental Assessment (EA), which was prepared to support the draft NPDES permit in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The public notice period will be open for 30 days.

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to any aspects of the permit issuance or wishing to request a public hearing, are invited to submit the same in writing within 30 days of this notice to the NPDES Permitting Section, Water Division, Environmental Protection Agency, 61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960, ATTENTION: Ms. Meghan Wahlstrom. Comments may also be sent via email to: wahlstrom-ramler.meghan@epa.gov. Pursuant to 40 CFR § 124.13, any person who believes that any draft permit condition is inappropriate must raise all reasonably ascertainable issues and submit all reasonably available arguments in full, supporting his/her position, by the close of the comment period. The public notice number and NPDES number should be included on the first page of comments.

All comments received within the 30-day period will be considered in the formulation of a final determination regarding the permit issuance. Also, within the 30-day period, any interested person may request a public hearing. Where there is a significant degree of public interest in a draft permit issuance, the EPA Regional Administrator will schedule and hold a public hearing which would be formally announced in accordance with 40 CFR § 124.10 and 40 CFR § 124.12.

After consideration of all written comments and the requirements and policies in the Clean Water Act and appropriate regulations, the EPA Regional Administrator will make a determination regarding the permit issuance. If the determination is substantially unchanged from that announced by this notice, the EPA Regional Administrator will so notify all persons submitting written comments. If the determination is substantially changed, the EPA Regional Administrator will issue a public notice indicating the revised determination. Appeal of NPDES permits may be filed after the Regional Administrator makes the above-described determination. Additional information regarding appeal of NPDES permits is available in 40 CFR § 124.19, or by contacting the Office of Regional Counsel at the address above or at (404) 562-9576.

The administrative record, including the draft permit, fact sheet, draft EA, consultation documents that are required to comply with applicable federal or state laws, other supporting documents, comments received, and additional information on hearing procedures is available at cost by writing to the EPA at the address above between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (copies will be provided at a minimal cost per page), or by downloading these documents from <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-epa-region-4-southeast>.

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of persons whom you know will be interested in this matter. If you would like to be added to our public notice mailing list, submit your name and mailing address to the EPA, at the address given above.