

California North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 576-2220

**Notice of Public Hearing
Order No R1-2026-0052
Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2023-0019
for the
Nordic Aquafarms California, LLC and Humboldt Bay
Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District

Nordic Aquafarms California, LLC and Humboldt Bay
Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District Ocean
Outfall and Sea Chest Intake Structures**

**WDID No. 1B20161NHUM
Humboldt County**

On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) proposes to rescind National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2023-0019 for the Nordic Aquafarms California, LLC, and Humboldt Bay Harbor Recreation and Conservation District.

This item will be open for public comment between **August 18, 2026, and September 17, 2026**. Comments and questions regarding the draft Order should be submitted to the Regional Water Board email at NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov, Attention: Justin McSmith. A public hearing concerning the tentative Order will be held during the Regional Water Board meeting scheduled for **October 1-2, 2026**. Further information regarding comment procedures and the public hearing is below.

Permittee and Facility Information

Nordic Aquafarms California, LLC (Nordic) is the owner and operator of Nordic Aquafarms California, LLC, a land-based aquaculture facility. The Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District (HBHRCD) is the owner and operator of the Intake System and Ocean Outfall infrastructure that serves the Facility.

Nordic proposed to build a recirculating aquaculture system to raise Yellowtail Kingfish and process the fish for sale on the Samoa peninsula. The facility would use the

ALEXANDRA HART, CHAIR | VALERIE QUINTO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

HBHRCD's Intake System to supply process water to their Facility and Ocean Outfall to discharge their effluent to the Pacific Ocean.

The Facility will not be constructed as currently proposed. Therefore, the NPDES permit for the Facility is being rescinded.

Public Hearing Procedures

A public hearing to consider comments and objections to the proposed order is scheduled for the Regional Water Board's **October 1-2, 2026** Board Meeting, or as announced in the Regional Water Board's agenda. This public meeting is currently scheduled to take place in-person and via video and teleconference at Best Western Miner's Inn and Convention Center 122 E Miner St Yreka, CA 96097, but the format may be changed in the future. Please follow the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board website for information on how to participate in the meeting and any updates regarding this agenda item.

Live video and audio broadcasts of the public hearing will be available via the internet and can be accessed at the [CalEPA Public Meeting Live Webcasts website](https://video.calepa.ca.gov/) (<https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>). The public hearing will be recorded.

Please be aware that dates and venues may change. You can access the current agenda for changes in dates and locations at [North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Meetings](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/), (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/). At the public hearing, the Regional Water Board will consider whether to affirm, reject, or modify the proposed order.

In order for the Regional Water Board to consider any written evidentiary material concerning this hearing, any documents, including comments, written technical reports and other evidentiary material, must be submitted to the Regional Water Board email at NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov, Attention: Justin McSmith **no later than 5:00 pm, on September 17, 2026**. All documents that are received timely will be distributed to the Regional Water Board members and interested persons. These records will also become a permanent part of the administrative record for this public hearing.

Except at the discretion of the Regional Water Board Chair, written material received after the above date will not be accepted. If the Chair chooses to accept late written material, that material will not be incorporated into the administrative record if doing so would prejudice any party or the Board. The Chair may choose to modify this rule upon a showing of severe hardship (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, sections 648.1 and 648.4).

Written comments and evidence must be submitted to the Regional Water Board **no later than 5:00pm on September 17, 2026**. Oral comments or testimony at the hearing

may summarize or explain timely submitted, or late-accepted written evidence but shall not introduce new evidence.

The time limit for oral testimony or comments will be set by the Regional Water Board Chair and are subject to change. These time limits normally allow no more than 20 minutes each for Regional Water Board staff and Dischargers. Other interested persons may also provide testimony at this public hearing. However, any testimony given by someone other than staff or the Discharger is typically limited to 5 minutes. A timer may be used, and speakers are expected to honor time limits. Where speakers can be grouped by affiliation or interest, such groups will be expected to select a spokesperson to avoid unnecessary or repetitive testimony.

Document Review

The Draft Order and related documents are available at the [Regional Water Board website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/public_notices/public_hearings/npdes_permits_and_wdrs/).
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Additionally, the Proposed Permit and file may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA. To make an appointment to review the paper file at the Regional Board office in Santa Rosa, please call (707) 576-2220.

Hearing Accommodations

The facility is accessible to people with disabilities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation should contact Valerie Quinto, Executive Officer, at (707) 543-7147 or valerie.quinto@waterboards.ca.gov at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Regional Water Board Contact

Please direct questions regarding this hearing item to Justin McSmith at (707) 576-2082 or justin.mcsmith@waterboards.ca.gov.

Valerie Quinto
Executive Officer

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