

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) hatcheries meet the definition of a cold water Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production (CAAP) facility as defined in Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR) 122.24, which is a fish hatchery, fish farm, or other facility which contains, grows, or holds cold water fish species or other cold water aquatic animals including, but not limited to, the *Salmonidae* family of fish (e.g., trout and salmon) in ponds, raceways, or other similar structures. In addition, 20 of these CAAP facilities discharge to water bodies of the United States at least 30 calendar days per year, produces at least 20,000 pounds harvest weight (9,090 kilograms) of aquatic animals per year, and feeds at least 5,000 pounds (2,272 kilograms) of food during the calendar month of maximum feeding. These 20 hatcheries thus require National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits from three Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) districts:

- 5 hatcheries within the North Coast RWQCB
 - Iron Gate, Trinity River, Mad River, Warm Springs, and Coyote Valley
- 11 hatcheries within the Central Valley RWQCB
 - 5 in Redding sub-region: Mount Shasta, Crystal Lake, Darrah Springs, Feather River and Thermalito Annex
 - 4 in Rancho Cordova sub-region: Nimbus and American River, Mokelumne River, and Moccasin Creek
 - 2 in Fresno sub-region: San Joaquin River and Merced River
- 4 within the southern Lahontan RWQCB
 - Hot Creek, Fish Springs, Black Rock, and Mojave River

“Orders” are issued by the RWQCB pursuant to section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act and implementing regulations adopted by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and chapter 5.5, division 7 of the California Water Code (commencing with section 13370). An Order serves as a NPDES permit for point source discharges from CAAP facilities to surface waters. The Orders also serve as Waste Discharge Requirements pursuant to article 4, chapter 4, division 7 of the Water Code (commencing with section 13260).

40 CFR 122.48 requires that all NPDES permits specify monitoring, reporting and record keeping requirements to implement federal and State regulations. Required samples and measurements are representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge, and follow a Quality Assurance-Quality Control Program which conforms to USEPA guidelines or to procedures approved by the RWQCB. Chemicals and Aquaculture Drugs are authorized for pathological/fish disease treatment, and chemical, bacteriological, and bioassay analyses are conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the Department of Public Health (DPH). CDFW hatcheries must also develop and comply with a Best Management Practices and Pollution Prevention (BMPP) Plan as required by 40 CFR Part 451. The BMPP plan must include, at a minimum: *Operational requirements for solids control, materials storage, structural maintenance, recordkeeping, and training.*

CDFW complies with all State and Federal laws and regulations to ensure that operations of its fish hatcheries do not harm receiving waters.