DRAFT HANDOUT

PUBLIC HEARING ON EPA'S DRAFT NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT

KAMPACHI FARMS, LLC – PERMIT NUMBER FL0A00001

JANUARY 28, 2020

Public Hearing Agenda

This public hearing is being conducted to provide an opportunity for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to hear public comments on the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and draft National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) Assessment for a marine aquaculture facility in the Gulf. The bulk of the time during this hearing will be devoted to oral public comment as follows:

Public Hearing Agenda

5:00 PM **Doors Open and In-person Registration Available**

5:30 PM **Facilitator Opening Remarks** (Facilitator – Jan Connery, ERG, EPA Contractor)
EPA Introductory Remarks (Presiding Officer – Jeaneanne Gettle, Division Director)

5:45 PM **Public Hearing** (Facilitator – Jan Connery, ERG, EPA Contractor)
- Review of Process and Ground Rules
- Statements by Elected Officials and Government Representatives
- Public Comment

9:15 PM **Closing Statements** (Presiding Officer – Jeaneanne Gettle, Division Director)

9:30 PM **Adjourn**

Ground Rules

If you would like to make an oral comment at this meeting and have not pre-registered, please inquire at the registration desk whether time is available to accommodate walk-in commenters and, if so, how to sign up. Oral commenters will speak in the order they pre-registered. Each oral comment will be limited to 3 – 5 minutes as needed to accommodate a large volume of commenters. Please inquire at the registration desk for an update on comment time limitations. Every effort will be made to accommodate all requests for speaking time; however, EPA cannot guarantee that all persons will have an opportunity to contribute oral comments. Interested parties are welcome to also submit written comments to EPA, as described in the Public Notice.

To help ensure a productive meeting for everyone who has taken the time to attend this evening, please:

- Maintain an atmosphere of courtesy and respect for all attendees.
- Before the meeting starts, be sure to silence your cell phone and anything else that beeps.
- Maintain silence during all official remarks and public comments.
- If you are making an oral comment, be sure to end within the allotted time.
- If you need to leave the room for any reason, do so right after the person speaking has finished their remarks.

How to Obtain More Information

The public notice contains detailed information about public comment procedures, appeal procedures, and information about the permit issuance process after the public hearing. More information about the draft NPDES permit, draft NEPA document, proposed facility information, public hearing transcript, and any supporting documents can be obtained from the EPA using the contact information below:

Website: [HYPERLINK "https://go.usa.gov/xda3w"]
Telephone: 404-562-9750
E-mail: [HYPERLINK "mailto:R4NPDES.Kampachi@epa.gov"]

Information about the Proposed Facility

Kampachi Farms, LLC is proposing to operate a pilot-scale marine aquaculture facility (Velella Epsilon) located in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico approximately 45 miles southwest of Sarasota, Florida. The project would culture approximately 20,000 Almaco Jack and produce a maximum annual harvest of 88,000 pounds. The fish raised in the cage will be sourced from brood stock caught in the Gulf. A single floating cage will be placed at a water depth of approximately 130 feet. The cage is a fully enclosed submersible fish pen that will be deployed on an engineered multiple anchor mooring system. The facility would include a supporting vessel throughout the life of the project.

NPDES Permitting Process

The NPDES permit program, created by the Clean Water Act, is the basic tool for regulating the discharge of pollutants from point sources into waters of the United States. The Clean Water Act requires that NPDES permits include conditions stringent enough to ensure that discharges do not cause violations of the water quality standards where the discharge originates. More information about NPDES permits and permits relating to aquaculture can be found at the following two EPA websites:

1. [HYPERLINK "http://www.epa.gov/npdes/about-npdes"]
2. [HYPERLINK "http://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-aquaculture-permitting"]

Summary of NPDES Permit Conditions for the Proposed Facility

The draft NPDES permit authorizes the discharge of industrial wastewater from a marine net-pen aquaculture facility. The draft permit includes many conditions to protect the Gulf and ensure that no unreasonable degradation of the marine environment occurs. The main NPDES permit conditions that Kampachi Farms must implement to protect the environment and collect reliable information are summarized below:

1. **Environmental Monitoring –** The permittee will be required to monitor and sample environmental parameters that are sufficient to assess the impact of the facility's discharge on water, sediment, and biological quality. The monitoring conditions in the permit include facility operational parameters, 12 water quality parameters, and 9 parameters related to sediment and benthic quality. The monitoring must happen at three locations: 1) up-current of the facility; 2) at the facility discharge; and 3) down-current of the facility.

2. **Best Management Practices (BMPs)** – BMPs are required as non-numeric discharge limitations to prevent or minimize the discharge of wastes and pollutants to the Gulf. The permittee must develop and implement BMPs for feed management, waste collection and removal, material storage, structural maintenance, training, and record keeping.

3. **Facility Damage Prevention and Control** – The Facility Damage Prevention and Control conditions ensures that the facility can be operated and maintained to mitigate any environmental impacts during natural and man-made disasters. These conditions are designed to prevent the release of fish from entering the Gulf. The Permittee is required to develop procedures dealing with fish containment, fish transfer, disaster prevention practices, and disaster cleanup.

4. **Quality Assurance** – The permittee is required to develop and implement Quality Assurance provisions to ensure that the environmental data collected during the permit term is reliable and accurate. The Quality Assurance conditions are designed to support sample collection and analysis, document representative sampling conditions of all monitoring activities, and document data anomalies at the facility, in the discharge, and in the Gulf.