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STATE OF DELAWARE				
DEP	ARTMENT OF NATURAL RES	OURCES AND		
	ENVIRONMENTAL CONT	ROL		
NORTH FISH US	A, INC.	Docket No.		
Request for a	Standard Coastal	2025-P-CCE-0012		
Zone Act Perm	it (CZA-447P).			
	HEARING			
DATE:	Thursday, August 21,	2025		
TIME:	6:00 p.m.			
BEFORE: Lisa A. Vest, Hearing Officer				
LOCATION: Remote Proceeding				
	Wilmington, DE 19801			
REPORTED BY:	Brianna N. Fleming			
JOB NO.:	7517342			

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1 PROCEEDINGS

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THE HEARING OFFICER: Time is
6:00 p.m., it is Thursday, August 21, 2025, and we are
here today to provide the virtual platform for the
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental
Control to conduct its virtual public hearing in the
matter of North Fish USA, Inc.

They have a pending coastal zone permit application before the department, and this is the public hearing to vet this to the public. For those of you that may not recognize me, my name is

Lisa Vest, and Secretary Patterson has appointed me to serve as the hearing officer for tonight's proceeding.

I have a few introductory remarks that I need to go through and then we will go right in to the applications -- or to the presentations rather about the application.

Also, I want to apologize in advance because I am flying this ship solo this evening, so if I seem to stutter or have a pause or two, it's because I'm working everything behind the curtain as well.

For those of -- members of the public that may need additional assistance, there is an ability to show captions on the Zoom platform. At the

bottom of your screen you should see, depending on what kind of system you're using, there is either a "Show captions" button or there might be a little ellipse with three dots that say "More."

If you click on that, that'll bring up your options and you can choose to have closed captioning going on during this meeting. You can also choose the language. Zoom provides up to 20 languages, so we just always want to make sure that people are aware of that.

While there are no sign-in sheets to speak of for tonight's proceeding because it is being held virtually, Zoom does generate a list of those who will be in attending -- or in attendance of this meeting tonight. So the department does keep a record of those who join us in these type of events. And again, thank you for taking the time to be here.

At the conclusion of these introductory remarks, I will be turning the floor over to representatives from the department. They will have a brief presentation describing the application and essentially how we got here tonight for this hearing to take place. Following the department's presentation, we will have a similar presentation done

by the applicants, representatives from North Fish, and following that, we will open the floor to the one member of the public that pre-registered to speak tonight.

We do have a policy that members of the public can join us and offer live comment. That deadline to be a pre-registrant closed at noon today, and Mr. Willis is the only one who was signed up. So following the presentations, he will have the ability to offer his live comment.

Again, I just want to set a few parameters for this event and then we'll just get right to it. Number one, all comment received in this matter must solely be limited to the subject matter of tonight's hearing, which again is the matter of the pending coastal zone application filed by North Fish USA.

Number two, in order to ensure that everyone who wishes to offer comment for the secretary's consideration is accommodated, the record in this matter will not close at the conclusion of the proceedings tonight, but rather it will remain open through September 5th.

And by the way, I'll -- I'll probably

say this a couple times before we're done, but all comment bears the same weight as far as the department is concerned. So whether you're a member of the public that offers live comment tonight, or if you send in written comment between now and September 5th, it all bears the same weight and it'll all be entered into the record to be considered by the secretary.

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Number three, there is only one authentic record of this formal hearing tonight, and it will be the official court reporter's transcript. As soon as we receive that from Veritext, we will immediately post that on the hearing page.

Number four, the statutory purpose of tonight's hearing is to build the record with regard to this permit application. The record consisting of the transcript of the hearing tonight, any and all written comments that are received, the exhibits, the presentations that we'll hear tonight, they will all be reviewed by the secretary prior to he making a decision in this matter. And again, when he makes the decision, there will be a secretary's order issued by the department, and that order will contain his decision on this permit application and state the reasons therefore.

Lastly, it is important to note that no decision has already been made by the department, nor will any decision be made tonight regarding this pending application. We are here to vet it to the public, as I've already said, and to provide a platform for anybody from the public that wish to offer comment and we will build the record accordingly. That being said, I am going to turn the platform over to the department. Eddie Meade has a brief presentation regarding this matter.

So Eddie, when you're ready, you may begin.

MR. MEADE: Thank you, Lisa.

Good evening. My name is Eddie Meade; I'm an environmental scientist in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control with the Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy. The Coastal Zone Acts regulates new and existing manufacturing, heavy industry, and bulk product transfer activities through a permitting system within the State's designated Coastal Zone, as defined by the Coastal Zone Act, which generally runs the length of the state along the Delaware River, Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, Delaware Bay, Inland Bays, and Atlantic Ocean.

The purpose of tonight's hearing is to review a Coastal Zone Act standard permit application submitted by North Fish USA Incorporated, referred to as North Fish, to manufacture smoked fish within the Coastal Zone. The proposed operation is to take place within an existing building at 200 Centerpoint Boulevard in Newcastle, Delaware.

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North Fish is proposing to produce several smoked fish products. Deliveries to North Fish would include fresh and frozen fish, which would then be cleaned, gutted, and stored in brine tanks. After brining, the fish would be allowed to dry and then would be smoked at either 90 degrees Fahrenheit for cold smoking or 165 degrees Fahrenheit for hot smoking. Maximum production of smoked fish would be 9.9208 tons per day, or 3,095.2896 tons per year.

North Fish and the DNREC Coastal

Program section coordinated for several months over
multiple application revisions to reach administrative
completeness. This included coordination with other
sections within the department. Over the course of
these revisions, North Fish provided additional
information including emissions calculations and
proposed offsets. North Fish submitted a final

application on July 14, 2025. The department deemed the application to be administratively complete on July 27, 2025.

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The application was then noticed and made available in the News Journal, the Daily State News, and the DNREC public notices website. Versions were made available in both English and Spanish on the DNREC public notices website, and the notices were posted in the Newcastle and Route 9 public libraries. A direct email was also sent out to subscribers on the Coastal Zone Act list serve. Additionally, the hearing was added to the Delaware public meeting calendar on July 29, 2025.

The production process of the proposed smoked fish manufacturing was analyzed for potential impacts. Potential pollution generated by the smoked -- by the smoking process would be particulate matter (PM) and volatile organic compounds or VOCs. Emissions generated by the smoking process would fluctuate throughout the year and would -- and would increase near holidays.

Under typical operating conditions, PM would not exceed -- exceed 0.8215 pounds per day or 0.128154 tons per year, and VOCs would not exceed 0.33

pounds per day or 0.05148 tons per year. Under peak operating conditions, generation of particulate matter would not exceed 0.256308 tons per year, and total VOCs would not exceed 0.10296 tons per year.

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In addition to particulate matter and VOCs, there are potential odor impacts associated with the manufacturing of smoked fish. There are no proposed changes to wastewater or stormwater. The entire manufacturing process would be conducted in an existing building, so there are no changes to impervious surfaces. No hazardous waste permit is required to produce smoked fish. Particulate matter and VOCs generated by producing the smoked fish would be mitigated using a wet scrubber.

This wet scrubber decreases the total particulate matter emissions by approximately 69 percent and VOC emissions by approximately 85 percent. Should the wet scrubber be damaged or stop working, the production process would be halted until the wet scrubber is functional. North Fish submitted an odor control plan to -- to address potential obnoxious odors as described by the following measures. All organic waste would be bagged and disposed of in two-cubic yard plastic dumpsters. These waste

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containers are non-porous, corrosion resistant and washable from the inside.

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Layers of baking soda would be applied to the bottom of the bin and between layers of waste. These bins would be washed inside the building every three days. The waste itself would be picked up twice a day, with one pickup taking place at the end of the day to prevent any waste from sitting in the dumpsters overnight.

Oh, sorry about that. Whoa, lost my spot there for a second. Where am I at? The planting plan, there we go. This is -- this slide illustrates the proposed tree planting plan. We are here tonight to solicit public comment on the North Fish CZA permit application. No decision on the public on the permit application will be made tonight. The public comment period will remain open through September -- through September 5, 2025. The Secretary of DNREC will make a decision after the record has been closed and reviewed.

I'm sorry about this. It seems like -- oh, I -- I skipped a slide. My apologies. After the mitigation through the use of a of a -- no, I went through all that. No, I did not.

After the mitigation through the use of a wet scrubber, total maximum generation of particulate matter would not exceed 0.256308 tons per year and total VOCs would not exceed 0.10296 tons per year. Therefore, North Fish would be required to more than offset the total 0.359268 tons per year of emissions. North fish is proposing to plant 20 trees in the business park where the building is located.

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These trees would be a mix of four- to 5-year-old approximately four -- five to six feet tall Native Black Cherry, Loblolly, Pine, and Scarlet -- and Scarlet Oak Trees. The trees would trap particulate matter on their leaves and bark and promote the growth of beneficial microorganisms which remove VOCs such as methane from the atmosphere. Additionally, the planting of trees would result in the removal of up to 0.48 tons per year of CO2, offsetting the emissions from the proposed manufacturing process at a ratio of point -- of 1.33 to one.

Again, this slide illustrates the planting plan. And I'll -- just to recap, we're here tonight to solicit public comment on the North Fish CCA permit application. No decision on the permit

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- application will be made tonight. Public comment period will be open through September 5, 2025.
- 3 Afterwards, the secretary of DNREC will make a
- 4 decision after the record has been closed and
- 5 reviewed. And then finally, this is a list of DNREC
- 6 exhibits.
- THE HEARING OFFICER: All right, thank
- 8 you Eddie. Just for housekeeping purposes, the slide

proposed by the department, are they the same ten

- 9 that we are viewing right now, Exhibits 1 through 10
- 11 exhibits that are posted on the hearing page?
- MR. MEADE: They are.
- 13 THE HEARING OFFICER: And have they
- been changed or altered in any way since their
- 15 posting?

10

- MR. MEADE: They have not.
- 17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Very good. Let
- 18 the record reflect that DNREC proposed Exhibits 1
- 19 through 10 as identified on the department's
- 20 | PowerPoint slide just now as well as the -- they are
- 21 the same as the ones that are posted on the hearing
- 22 page, they are formally hereby entered into the record
- 23 being generated in this matter.
- 24 //

If not,

already been received by us, excellent.

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please get it to Eddie at your earliest convenience.

That being said, you can begin when ready.

MR. TKANADWQ: Thank you very much,
Lisa. Thank you very much Eddie, and thank you very
much everybody who made it out today to participate in
our public hearing.

My name is Timothy Tkanadwq; I'm North Fish's head accountant, a financial director of sorts. I run all the numbers, especially project management such as moving our corporation to Delaware. I'm joined tonight by Nick Borisenko, who is our company's COO, Chief Operations Officer, and is responsible for basically running the production facility on a day-to-day basis and production of smoked fish as a whole at North Fish.

Now briefly about our company history, North Fish was initially founded in 1998 in Toronto, Canada. We have since grown and expanded our presence, especially in the U.S. by rebranding and opening a Florida manufacturing facility in 2022, specializing in light seafood processing, which for us was smoked fish. Prior to that in Toronto, the company was mostly for focused on import, export, and distribution. And in the U.S. we were able to delve a

little bit more into manufacturing.

Now with certain growth that our company was very fortunate to enjoy, we were able to expand our presence in the northeast markets where historically and economically the sale and consumption of seafood is much more prevalent than that in southern states such as Florida, especially smoked fish.

And we were able to open a relatively modest distribution facility in New Jersey at the end of 2023. And right now with the global situation gearing more and more to -- global and economic situation, gearing more and more toward deeper processing, we would like to entirely move our smoked fish facility to Delaware, which would garner some advantages for us.

Now a little bit more about us from a numbers perspective. We are fundamentally and wholly a small business, we employ around 30 employees currently and by moving to Delaware, we hope to boost that number up to 40. North Fish is not a multimillion dollar corporation. We are a proud 100 percent U.S.-based company that really hopes to get involved in the community and hire locally. We really

do hope to source all of our employees from Newcastle and from the local community. As mentioned previously, we're consolidating all of our facilities into Delaware and putting all of our eggs in one basket so to speak by shutting down the Jersey distribution facility and the Florida production facility.

Overall, our vision is simple. We strive to deliver the best value to our consumers for the best price possible, and we do that by controlling every single batch and monitoring all of our quality control processes, such as distributing all of the fish that we manufacture in-house in refrigerated vehicles.

Now many people may wonder why we're moving to Delaware and that's a great question, but we were able to weigh a lot of risks and benefits to this move, and ultimately Delaware would always come out on top. Now by being in Delaware, we would take advantage of a large consumer base -- based primarily in the Northeastern U.S. I have a little map right there. Lots of people eat a lot of smoked fish in the Northeast. This is much more difficult down south.

Favorable weather. Now many people

would laugh. You know, "What would weather have to do with fish processing?" I would thoroughly disagree, and I'm sure Nick would disagree even more. It has everything to do with smoked fish. I mean coolers, freezers, refrigeration, even the product its -- itself just sweats so much more and has to work so much harder in 100 degree Florida heat, whereas here the mild Atlantic climate would really allow us to achieve a supreme quality in our -- in our smoking process, just based on the elements that we have outside. The winters are mild and the summers aren't too hot either compared to Florida.

We also really like the strong tight knit local community in Delaware, which I came to enjoy and came to understand and appreciate much more after already moving here and starting to set up shop with the company. It seems like everyone knows each other in Delaware, which is very, very different from Florida and other big states where manufacturing and processing is just very, very cumbersome and difficult to do.

Aside from that, we also see robust industrial economic and employment benefits in Delaware. It really is an up and coming state with

net positive migration to it and a robust job market to -- to work from, especially production employees as opposed to maybe office workers or some sort of virtual workers. We would really benefit from a -- a strong day-to-day presence of, you know, honest people coming into work every single day to work with their hands.

A little more about where we sell to.

This is a brief map of our current coverage.

Obviously we're looking to expand that as well, but once again, fundamentally northeast presence, around 200 stores in the Northeast that we sell, to over 2 million consumers. We also pride ourselves in processing over ten different types of -- species of fish. So we have a large scale of fish that we dabble with, from salmon, trout, mackerel, herring, so not just one specific type.

Finally, a few words about our smoked fish manufacturing process. We are incredibly, incredibly proud to only use four ingredients in all of our products regardless. We only use fish, salt, water, and natural wood smoke. We never use liquid smoke in any of our smoking processes. Only natural wood smoke, which is caused by gently burning and

simmering embers of hickory wood -- hickory wood chips, which ultimately lead to the minimal emissions that the company will be producing.

By virtue of being a small business,

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robust quality control and attention to each batch, we really do treat our company as a family.

We're -- once again, I -- I cannot emphasize enough that we are not a multimillion dollar corporation coming in with, you know, boilerplate standards. We understand that smoking fish is an art, it's a craft. Very few people understand that and we pay very, very close attention to every single step of the way. We also have some mechanization and automation, but we always include a human factor to that.

We understand that technology is the way to grow forward, but some things like natural wood smoke, using simple salt, and good quality water from the Delaware Bay, nothing changes that. And finally, not only are we committed to delicious smoked fish, we're also committed to doing it in a clean, safe, legal, and environmentally friendly manner, such as offsetting all of our emissions and more than all of it through -- via wet scrubbers and tree planting as a whole.

So I appreciate everyone's time for hearing a little bit about North Fish and we really, really hope to begin manufacturing in Delaware soon. Thank you very much.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay, thank you very much.

The presentations having been concluded, we will move to the public comment portion. As I mentioned previously, we do have a mechanism by which members of the public can pre-register that they get recognized at the time of the hearing to offer their comment. In this particular matter we only had one person pre-register. I can see that Mr. Willis is here.

Good evening, Mr. Willis, thank you for joining us. You know how this goes. You're given three minutes, so whenever you're ready, you may begin.

MR. WILLIS: I just want to say thank you for allowing me to give my public comment. I say I've reviewed the entire 124 pages of the application. I think it's worthy to say that it's been one I -- I normally try to attend every closed door a hearing I possibly can. And this has been the -- this

application is one of the best. It's very detailed, I like the way they -- they -- I really do like the offset program.

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In the past, I've been a critic of the offset program, but I think North Fish has done a very good job, especially with the planting of the trees and the way the details that with the plant -- the detail of the planted trees.

The questions I do have for offset is do you want to put your -- the salt -- the run off salt into the sewer system? Will that have an impact, a corrosion impact, on the city sewer system? And that's about it. But I -- all in all, I think this application should be approved and I wish North Fish good luck in the future.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,

Mr. Willis, and we'll certainly enter those comments
into the record.

As I mentioned previously, Mr. Willis was the only one who pre-registered to speak this evening. So that being said, we're going to move now to conclude the hearing. As we always put in our transcripts and -- and make known to the public, there are three basic ways that members of the public can

1 offer their comment for inclusion into the record.

Mr. Willis did this evening is one. You can also visit our hearing page online. There is a little button there on the hearing page that says "Click here to make a comment," and that will make your comment available to me, that it'll send it directly to me. So that's one way. And of course you can always send an email.

Eddie, I would ask if you -- if you have a -- if you still have your PowerPoint ready, if you would put up the final slide that offers all of that information. If not, no biggie.

But like I said, you can -- members of the public are -- are welcome to sign up to speak live, they can visit the hearing page and click the button that says "Leave a comment," you can send an email directly to us at the DNREC hearing comments page. And all of this stuff is available online as I said, the presentations are available that we've -- that we've seen tonight.

Lastly, if you want to send an -- if you want to send a regular letter offering comment, you can certainly do so. Just direct it to me and it

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1	can be accepted through the United States Postal
2	Service at the address that once again is on the
3	hearing page. But for the benefit of the record, it
4	would be to DNREC, attention me, and the address would
5	be 89 Kings Highway, Dover, Delaware, 19901.
6	I want to thank everybody for taking
7	the time and joining us for this hearing tonight.
8	This matter is formally concluded. Thank you all.
9	(Whereupon, at 6:25 p.m., the
10	proceeding was concluded.)
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CERTIFICATE

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I, BRIANNA N. FLEMING, the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn; that the proceedings were recorded by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by a qualified transcriptionist; that said digital audio recording of said proceedings are a true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

BRIANNA N. FLEMING Notary Public in and for the State of Maryland

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, SARA MCVEY, do hereby certify that this transcript was prepared from the digital audio recording of the foregoing proceeding, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

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SARA MCVEY

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