

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT

**Permittee:** SPARO Aquatics

Mr. Michael Spranger  
14400 107<sup>th</sup> Way Southwest  
Vashon, Washington 98070

**Permit No:** NWS-2021-01058-AQ

**Issuing Office:** Seattle District

NOTE: The term "you" and its derivatives, as used in this permit, means the permittee or any future transferee. The term "this office" refers to the appropriate district or division office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) having jurisdiction over the permitted activity or the appropriate official of that office acting under the authority of the commanding officer.

You are authorized to perform work in accordance with the terms and conditions specified below.

**Project Description:** Establish a new mariculture farm cultivating sugar kelp (*Saccarina latissima*), Manila Clams (*Venerupis philippinarum*), Blue Mussels (*Mytilus edulis*), Pacific Oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*), and potentially scallops using regenerative ocean farming techniques. The site footprint including the gear and regulatory markers would be approximately 1400-ft by 310-ft totaling approximately 10 acres. Required gear would include helical and/or concrete block anchors, buoys, shellfish bags / cages, and line. No netting is proposed. The site would be inspected and maintained both above and below water regularly by small underwater ROVs (remote operated vehicles) and scuba divers. The farm would be supported by vessel(s) docked at Vashon Island. There would be no beach or tideland access, or activity associated with the proposed project. (in accordance with the plans and drawings dated February 11, 2022, attached hereto which are incorporated in and made a part of this permit).

The purpose of the project is to establish a new integrated and regenerative kelp and shellfish mariculture farm in Colvos Passage (Puget Sound).

**Project Location:** In Colvos Passage at Vashon, King County, Washington.

### Permit Conditions:

#### *General Conditions:*

1. The time limit for completing the work authorized ends on December 31, 2034. If you find that you need more time to complete the authorized activity, submit your request for a time extension to this office for consideration at least 1 month before the above date is reached.
2. You must maintain the activity authorized by this permit in good condition and in accordance with the terms and conditions of this permit. You are not relieved of this requirement if you abandon the permitted activity, although you may make a good faith transfer to a third party in compliance with General Condition 4 below. Should you wish to cease to maintain the authorized activity or should you desire to abandon it without a good faith transfer, you must obtain a modification to this permit from this office, which may require restoration of the area.
3. If you discover any previously unknown historic or archeological remains while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify this office of what you have found. We will initiate the Federal and State coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
4. If you sell the property associated with this permit, you must obtain the signature of the new owner in the space provided and forward a copy of the permit to this office to validate the transfer of this authorization.
5. You must allow representatives from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.

6. After a detailed and careful review of all the conditions contained in this permit, the permittee acknowledges that, although said conditions were required by the Corps, nonetheless the permittee agreed to those conditions voluntarily to facilitate issuance of the permit; the permittee will comply fully with all the terms of all the permit conditions.

*Special Conditions:*

a. You must provide a copy of the permit transmittal letter, the permit form, and drawings to all contractors performing any of the authorized work.

b. The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.

c. You must implement and abide by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) requirements and/or agreements set forth in the Biological evaluation for Informal ESA Consultation for NWS-2021-1058-AQ dated March 29, 2022, in its entirety. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) provided the enclosed Letter of Concurrence (LOC) with a finding of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" based on this document on June 10, 2022, (USFWS Reference Number FWS/R1/2022-0035813). The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) provided the enclosed LOC with a finding of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" based on this document on June 24, 2022, (NMFS Reference Number WCRO-2022-00938). Both agencies will be informed of this permit issuance. Failure to comply with the commitments made in this consultation constitutes non-compliance with the ESA and your U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit. The USFWS/NMFS is the appropriate authority to determine compliance with the ESA.

d. Incidents where any individuals of fish species, marine mammals and/or sea turtles listed by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries) under the Endangered Species Act appear to be injured or killed as a result of discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. or structures or work in navigable waters of the U.S. authorized by this Nationwide Permit verification shall be reported to NOAA Fisheries, Office of Protected Resources at (301) 713-1401 and the Regulatory Office of the Seattle District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (206) 764-3495. The finder should leave the animal alone, make note of any circumstances likely causing the death or injury, note the location and number of individuals involved and, if possible, take photographs. Adult animals should not be disturbed unless circumstances arise where they are obviously injured or killed by discharge exposure or some unnatural cause. The finder may be asked to carry out instructions provided by NOAA Fisheries to collect specimens or take other measures to ensure that evidence intrinsic to the specimen is preserved.

e. In order to meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act you may conduct the authorized activities from July 16 through February 15 in any year this permit is valid. You shall not conduct work authorized by this permit from February 16 through July 15 in any year this permit is valid. If changes to the originally authorized work window are proposed, you must re-coordinate these changes with the Services and receive written concurrence on the changes. Copies of the concurrence(s) must be sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, Regulatory Branch, within 10 days of the date of the revised concurrence.

f. The time limit for completing the work authorized ends December 31, 2034. If you find that you need more time to complete the authorized activity, submit your request for a time extension to this office for consideration at least one month before the above date is reached.

**Further Information:**

1. Congressional Authorities. You have been authorized to undertake the activity described above pursuant to:
  - Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899 (33 United States Code (U.S.C.) 403).
  - Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).
  - Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C 1413).
2. Limits of this authorization.
  - a. This permit does not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, State, or local authorization required by law.
  - b. This permit does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
  - c. This permit does not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
  - d. This permit does not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project.
3. Limits of Federal Liability. In issuing this permit, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following:
  - a. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted activities or from natural causes.
  - b. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the United States in the public interest.
  - c. Damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this permit.
  - d. Design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work.
  - e. Damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.
4. Reliance on Applicant's Data. The determination of this office that issuance of this permit is not contrary to the public interest was made in reliance on the information you provided.
5. Reevaluation of Permit Decision. This office may reevaluate its decision on this permit at any time the circumstances warrant. Circumstances that could require include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. You fail to comply with the terms and conditions of the permit.
  - b. The information provided by you in support of your application proves to have been false, incomplete, or inaccurate (See 4 above).
  - c. Significant new information surfaces which this office did not consider in reaching the original public interest decision.

Such a reevaluation may result in a determination that it is appropriate to use the suspension, modification, and

revocation procedures contained in 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 325.7 or enforcement procedures such as those contained in 33 CFR, Parts 326.4 and 326.5. The referenced enforcement procedures provide for the issuance of an administrative order requiring you to comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and for the initiation of legal action where appropriate. You will be required to pay for any corrective measures ordered by this office, and if you fail to comply with such directive, this office may in certain situations (such as those specified in 33 CFR, Part 209.170) accomplish the corrective measures by contract or otherwise and bill you for the cost.

6. Extensions. General condition 1 establishes a time limit for the completion of the activity authorized by this permit. Unless there are circumstances requiring either a prompt completion of the authorized activity or a reevaluation of the public interest decision, the Corps will normally give favorable consideration to a request for an extension of this time limit.

Your signature below, as permittee, indicates that you accept and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.

*michael spranger*

August 4, 2022

Michael Spranger  
SPARO Aquatics

(DATE)

This permit becomes effective when the Federal official, designated to act for the Secretary of the Army, has signed below.

*Matthew J. Bennett*

16 August 2022

For Alexander "Xander" L. Bullock  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer

(DATE)

When the structures or work authorized by this permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this permit will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(TRANSFEEE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)