

VGP4 Quick Facts

- ★ General Permit 4's (VGP4s) are necessary for individuals who want to grow shellfish in on-bottom aquaculture structures exceeding 12 inches above the bottom.
- ★ VGP4's require on-bottom structures to be marked with buoys.
- ★ Individuals must apply for VGP4s within the boundaries of their existing on-bottom oyster ground lease.
- ★ Up to 250 individual aquaculture structures per acre can be permitted through the VGP4 process



QUESTIONS ABOUT VGP4s?

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VGP4 FAQ's

Q: Will I need to acquire a bond to cover my VGP4?

A: Surety bonds are not required as part of the VGP4 process.

Q: Can I apply for a VGP4 in areas where submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) exists?

A: VGP4s cannot be applied for in areas where SAV beds have been present within the last 5 years.

Q: Can I apply for floating and/or suspending aquaculture structures through the VGP4 process?

A: If you wish to grow shellfish in floating and/or suspended aquaculture structures, you must apply for a Joint Permit Application (JPA) See the following link for more information about JPAs

<https://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/JPA.aspx>

Q: How can I apply for a VGP4?

A: To apply for a VGP4, you need to fill out a Joint Permit Application (JPA) found at the Army Corps of Engineers Website at: <https://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/JPA.aspx>

Q: What are the fees associated with VGP4s?

A: The fees associated with VGP4s are project-dependent, but can range from \$125 to \$1,000.