

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED RULES TO  
PRESIDING OFFICERS OF EACH HOUSE OF THE LEGISLATURE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to s. 227.19(2), Stats., that the State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is submitting a final draft of proposed Clearinghouse Rule Number 98-123 to the presiding officer of each house of the legislature for standing committee review. The proposed rule amends Chapters ATCP 10 and 11, relating to fish farms, fish diseases and fish imports.

Dated this 17 day of February, 1999.

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE  
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

By

  
Ben Brancel

Ben Brancel, Secretary



State of Wisconsin  
Tommy G. Thompson, Governor



Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
Ben Brancel, Secretary

**DATE:** February 5, 1999

**TO:** The Honorable Fred Risser  
President, Wisconsin State Senate  
Room 220 South, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 57303

The Honorable Scott Jensen  
Speaker, Wisconsin State Assembly  
Room 211 North, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 57303

**FROM:** Ben Brancel, Secretary  
Department of Agriculture, Trade and  
Consumer Protection

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Rule Relating to Fish Farms, Fish Diseases and Fish Imports (Clearinghouse Rule 98-123)

Pursuant to ss. 227.19(2) and (3), Stats., the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection hereby transmits the above rules for legislative committee review. We are enclosing three copies of the final draft rule, together with the following report. Pursuant to s. 227.19(2), Stats., the department will publish a notice of this referral in the Wisconsin Administrative Register.

### 1. Background

The department is adopting this rule in response to a legislative directive under s. 95.60, Stats., which was created by 1997 Wis. Act 27. The legislation created a new fish farm registration program in DATCP to replace the fish farm licensing program previously administered by DNR. The Legislature directed DATCP to adopt rules for fish farms, fish imports and the control of fish diseases.

## 2. Rule Contents

This rule does all of the following:

- Establishes fish farm registration requirements. (The department established interim registration requirements for 1998 and 1999 by emergency rule.)
- Regulates imports of live fish and fish eggs. (The department extended current import requirements, on an interim basis, by emergency rule.)
- Establishes health standards for fish introduced into the waters of the state.
- Requires persons to report certain fish disease findings to the department.

### **Fish Farms**

#### Annual Registration

Under s. 95.60, Stats., the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) must annually register fish farms in Wisconsin. This new registration program replaces an annual licensing program previously administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

#### Who Must Register

Under this rule, a person, including the state of Wisconsin or an agency of the state, who hatches or holds fish for any of the following purposes must have an annual fish farm registration certificate from DATCP:

- Sale or distribution.
- Introduction into the waters of the state.
- Fishing.
- Use as bait or fertilizer.
- Use as human food or animal feed.
- Education, demonstration or research.

### Exemptions

There are some exemptions to the fish farm registration requirement. Under this rule, a person may do any of the following without a fish farm registration certificate:

- Hatch or hold "ornamental" fish, including goldfish, koi, tropical freshwater fish that cannot survive in temperatures below 38°F, and saltwater fish, unless commingled with non-ornamental fish or reared for bait, human food or animal feed.
- Hold bait fish under a DNR bait dealer license.
- Hatch or hold fish in a fully enclosed building solely for purposes of demonstration, education or research within that building, provided that no untreated water used to hold those fish is discharged to waters of the state.
- Exhibit fish in a public forum for not more than 15 days in a calendar year.
- Hold fish for not more than 30 days at a food processing plant, retail food store or restaurant pending slaughter or sale to consumers, provided the facility does not discharge to waters of the state any untreated water used to hold or process those fish.
- Transport live fish or fish eggs to or from a fish farm.

### Type 1 or Type 2 Registration

This rule establishes 2 types of fish farm registration:

- Type 1: The holder of a type 1 registration certificate may operate a fish farm. The operator may not sell or distribute live fish, except to a food processing plant, retail food establishment or restaurant. However, the operator may allow public fishing for a fee.
- Type 2: The holder of a type 2 registration certificate may operate a fish farm, and may engage in any of the activities authorized under a type 1 certificate. In addition, the operator may sell or distribute live fish from the fish farm.

### Annual Expiration Date

A fish farm registration certificate expires on December 31 of the calendar year for which it is issued.

### Persons Operating 2 or More Fish Farms

A person who operates 2 or more fish farms must obtain a separate registration certificate for each fish farm. A person may register 2 or more fish farms by filing a single annual application and paying a single annual fee. There is no additional fee for additional fish farms.

### Applying for a Registration Certificate

To obtain or renew a registration certificate, a fish farm operator must file an application with DATCP. DATCP must grant or deny an application within 30 days.

### Registration Fees

An operator must pay the following fee to register one or more fish farms:

- A total fee of \$25.00 if the operator registers all of the fish farms as type 1 fish farms.
- A total fee of \$50.00 if the operator registers any of the fish farms as a type 2 fish farm.

### Type 1 Fish Farm; Annual Health Certificate

Under this rule, no person may obtain a type 1 fish farm registration certificate for any calendar year beginning after December 31, 2001 unless one of the following applies:

- An accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector issues a health certificate for that fish farm not earlier than January 1 of the preceding calendar year.
- An accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector issues a health certificate not earlier than January 1 of the preceding calendar year, for each fish farm from whom the fish farm operator received fish or fish eggs in the preceding calendar year.

Health certificates issued for a type 1 fish farm or its source fish farms must comply with the same requirements that apply to health certificates issued for type 2 fish farms.

### Type 2 Fish Farm; Annual Health Certificate

Under this rule, no person may obtain a type 2 fish farm registration certificate for any calendar year beginning after December 31, 2001 unless an accredited veterinarian or

certified fish inspector issues a health certificate for that fish farm not earlier than January 1 of the preceding calendar year. The accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector must issue the annual health certificate on a form provided by the department, based on a personal inspection of the fish farm.

An annual health certificate must certify that the fish farm is free of all of the following:

- Visible signs of infectious or contagious disease.
- Whirling disease (*Myxobolus cerebralis*, or *WD*) if trout, salmon or other salmonids are hatched or kept at the fish farm.
- Other diseases, if any, which the department specifies on the certification form.

#### Denying, Suspending or Revoking a Registration Certificate

DATCP may deny, suspend or revoke a fish farm registration certificate for cause, including violations of this rule.

#### Recordkeeping

This rule requires a fish farm operator to keep a record of fish received at the fish farm, or shipped from the fish farm. Records must include the source or destination of the fish, the quantity of fish and the species of fish. The operator must keep the records for at least 5 years, and must provide them to DATCP upon request.

#### Fish Source

Under this rule, no person selling or distributing fish or fish eggs may misrepresent, directly or by implication, the source or disposition of those fish or fish eggs. A person transporting fish or fish eggs from a fish farm shall have documentary evidence showing that the person obtained those fish from that fish farm.

#### **Live Fish Imports**

##### Annual Import Permit Required

Under this rule, a person importing live fish or fish eggs into this state for any of the following purposes must have an annual import permit from DATCP:

- Introducing the live fish or fish eggs into waters of the state.

The Honorable Fred Risser  
The Honorable Scott Jensen  
February 5, 1999  
Page 6

- Using the live fish or fish eggs as bait.
- Holding the live fish or hatching the fish eggs at a fish farm.
- Selling or distributing the live fish or fish eggs for any of the above purposes.

#### Import Permit; Exemptions

No permit is required to import any of the following:

- Fish imported directly by DNR.
- "Ornamental" fish, unless they are commingled with non-ornamental fish or reared for bait, human food or animal feed.
- Fish held, for the remainder of their lives, in fully enclosed buildings solely for purposes of display or research, provided the facility does not discharge to waters of the state any untreated water used to hold those fish.
- Fish imported directly to a food processing plant, retail food store or restaurant for slaughter or sale to consumers where they will be held for not more than 30 days, provided the facility does not discharge to waters of the state any untreated water used to hold those fish.
- Fish imported and held in fully enclosed buildings for not more than 30 days pending shipment out of this state provided the facility does not discharge to waters of the state any untreated water used to hold those fish.

#### Import Shipments

A single annual permit authorizes multiple import shipments. A copy of the annual permit must accompany each import shipment.

#### Import Recipients

A person holding an import permit may import live fish or fish eggs to the following persons, and no others:

- A person holding a current DATCP fish farm registration certificate.
- A person holding a current DNR fish stocking permit.
- A person holding a current DNR bait dealer license.

- The DNR.
- Other persons identified by DATCP in the import permit.

#### Import Permit: Contents

An import permit identifies all of the following:

- The species of fish, the size or class and quantity of fish of each species, that a permit holder may import.
- The sources from which the permit holder may import fish or fish eggs under the permit. The importer identifies proposed sources in the permit application.

#### Action on Permit Application

DATCP must grant or deny an import permit application within 30 days after it receives a complete application.

#### Denying, Suspending or Revoking an Import Permit

DATCP may deny, suspend or revoke an import permit for cause, including violations of this rule.

#### Import Records

A person importing fish under a DATCP permit must keep records of each import shipment, including the import date, the source of the import shipment, the import recipient, and the size or class, quantity and species of fish included in the import shipment. An importer must retain these records for at least 5 years, and must provide them to DATCP upon request.

#### Health Certificate Required

Under this rule, no person may import any shipment of live fish or fish eggs into this state unless one of the following applies:

- The import shipment is accompanied by a health certificate issued for that particular shipment (see below).
- The import shipment originates from a fish farm and all of the following apply:
  - \* The shipment is labeled with the name and address of that fish farm.



- \* No fish or fish eggs in the import shipment were ever collected from a wild source.
- \* An accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector has issued an annual health certificate for that fish farm (see below).
- \* The importer has included a copy of the annual fish farm health certificate with the importer's application for an annual import permit or, if the DNR is the importer, DNR has provided a copy of the annual fish farm health certificate to the department.

#### Health Certificate for Individual Import Shipment

A health certificate issued for an individual import shipment must comply with all of the following:

- An accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector must issue the health certificate in the state of origin, on a form provided by the department, based on a personal inspection of the import shipment.
- The health certificate must certify that the import shipment is free of all the following:
  - \* Visible signs of infectious or contagious disease.
  - \* Infectious hematopoietic necrosis (IHN), viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) and whirling disease (*Myxobolus cerebralis*, or *WD*), if the import shipment includes salmonids.
  - \* White sturgeon iridovirus (WSI) if the import shipment includes sturgeon.
  - \* Other diseases, if any, which the department specifies on the certification form.

#### Fish Imported from Fish Farm: Annual Health Certificate

An annual health certificate issued for an out-of-state fish farm, to justify import shipments from that fish farm, must comply with all the following:

- An accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector must issue the annual health certificate in the state of origin, on a form provided by the department, based on a personal inspection of the fish farm. The annual health certificate must certify that the fish farm is free of all the following:

- \* Visible signs of infectious or contagious disease.
- \* Infectious hematopoietic necrosis (IHN), viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) and whirling disease (*Myxobolus cerebralis*, or *WD*), if the health certificate is used for imports of salmonids.
- \* White sturgeon iridovirus (WSI) if the health certificate is used for imports of sturgeon.
- \* Other diseases, if any, which the department specifies on the certification form.

### **Health Standards for Fish Introduced Into Waters of the State**

This rule establishes health standards for live fish and fish eggs introduced into waters of the state.

#### Health Standards for Salmonids

Beginning on the effective date of this rule, no person may introduce salmonids into the waters of the state unless an accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector issues a health certificate for those salmonids, or for the fish farm from which they originate. (A fish farm health certificate may not be issued prior to January 1 of the preceding calendar year.) The health certificate must certify that the fish (or the fish farm from which they originate) are free of all the following:

- Visible signs of infectious or contagious disease.
- Whirling disease (*Myxobolus cerebralis*, or *WD*).
- Other diseases, if any, which the department specifies on the certification form.

#### Health Standards for Other Fish

Beginning on January 1, 2002, no person may introduce any fish into the waters of the state unless an accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector issues a health certificate for those fish, or for the fish farm from which they originate. (A fish farm health certificate may not be issued prior to January 1 of the preceding calendar year.) The health certificate must certify that the fish (or the fish farm from which they originate) are free of all the following:

- Visible signs of infectious or contagious disease.

- Whirling disease (*Myxobolus cerebralis*, or *WD*), if the fish are salmonids.
- Other diseases, if any, which the department specifies on the certification form.

#### Issuing a Health Certificate

An accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector must issue a health certificate on a form provided by the department, based on a personal inspection of the fish or fish farm.

#### Knowingly Introducing Diseased Fish into Waters of the State

This rule prohibits any person from introducing live fish or fish eggs into waters of the state if that person knows, or has reason to know, that those fish or fish eggs are infected or show clinical signs of any reportable disease (see below).

#### **Reportable Diseases**

Under this rule, a person who diagnoses or finds evidence of certain diseases identified in this rule must report that diagnosis or finding to DATCP, in writing or by telefax, within 10 days.

### **3. Rule Modifications After Public Hearings**

In response to public hearing comments, the department modified the final draft rule as follows:

- Defined “ornamental fish” to mean goldfish, koi, tropical freshwater fish that cannot survive in temperatures below 38°F, saltwater fish and other fish which the department designates in writing.
- Modified “ornamental fish” exemptions.
- Clarified the definition of a “certified fish inspector.”
- Defined “untreated water” to mean water that has not been rendered free of pathogens by a method approved by the department.
- Clarified references to DNR statutes and permits.
- Clarified exemptions for fish held solely for “display or research.”

- Clarified that the rule applies to DNR and other state agencies (except where there are statutory exemptions); exempted DNR and other state agencies from fees; and exempted DNR from import permit requirements pursuant to s. 95.60 (2)(d), Stats.
- Required persons transporting fish or fish eggs from a fish farm to have documentary evidence showing that they obtained those fish from that fish farm.
- Clarified that “visible signs of disease” means “visible signs of infectious or contagious disease”.
- Defined “wild source” to mean waters in this state that are not registered as fish farms, or waters outside this state that are not fish farms.
- Defined “commingled” to mean kept or brought in contact with other fish or fish eggs in any environment which permits direct contact between fish or use of the same water system.
- Exempted fish and fish eggs from import permit and health certification requirements if they are imported and held for not more than 30 days in a fully enclosed facility pending shipment out of state. The exemption does not apply if the facility discharges to waters of the state any untreated water used to hold the temporarily imported fish or fish eggs.
- Required import permit applicants to identify an import recipient (e.g., a registered fish farm operator or fish stocking permit holder) who is legally qualified to receive the import shipment.
- Clarify language related to “fish or fish eggs infected with or showing clinical signs of any reportable disease.”
- Modified the health standards for fish introduced into waters of the state. An accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector must issue a health certificate for the fish themselves, or for the fish farm from which they originate. The veterinarian or fish inspector must issue the certificate based on a personal inspection, and must use inspection methods which the department specifies on the certification form. The health certificate must certify that:
  - \* The fish are free of visible signs of infectious or contagious disease.
  - \* The fish are free of whirling disease (if the health certificate is used to justify the introduction of salmonids).

- \* The fish are free of other diseases, if any, which the department specifies on the certification form.

#### **4. Response to Rules Clearinghouse Comments**

The department modified the final draft rule in response to comments from the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse. The department made the following changes, among others:

- Modified the definition of "person" to include the state of Wisconsin and its agencies. The Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse advised that DATCP had a statutory mandate to regulate DNR fish farming activities.
- Modified language requiring fish farms to register.
- Required annual health certification for type 1 fish farms. A type 1 fish farm must obtain its own health certificate, or must obtain a health certificate for each fish farm from which it receives fish.
- Clarified language related to health certification forms. DATCP may establish and modify health certification requirements by means of the instructions (orders) contained on health certification forms, but will adopt standard substantive requirements by rule.
- Incorporated minor editorial and drafting changes.

The department did not make the following changes suggested by the Rules Clearinghouse:

- The Clearinghouse suggested, in effect, that DATCP had no authority to deny, suspend or revoke a registration certificate. DATCP believes it has that authority pursuant to s. 93.06(7), Stats.
- The Clearinghouse suggested modifying a note to state that all fish farms are exempt from DNR fishing regulations, not just registered fish farms. DATCP does not agree. These exemptions existed under the previous DNR private fish hatchery licensing program. It is commonly accepted by DATCP, DNR and the aquaculture industry that these exemptions apply only to registered fish farms.
- The Clearinghouse also questioned why the department delayed the requirement for fish farms to obtain fish health certificates until January 1, 2002, when the corresponding statute took effect on October 14, 1997. The department provided a

delayed effective date because there is no real alternative. At this time, there are not nearly enough qualified fish inspectors or testing facilities to meet the health certification requirements. The delayed effective date will give the aquaculture industry reasonable time to create the necessary health infrastructure.

## **5. Fiscal Estimate**

A fiscal estimate is attached. The new fish farm program created under s. 95.60, Stats., will have a significant fiscal impact on the department. The department must establish and maintain a fish farm registration and import permit system. The department must also conduct fish farm inspections, investigate law violations, and provide veterinary, technical and informational services. The Legislature appropriated \$265,000 GPR and 5.00 FTE for this program (for 1998-99, \$97,900 and 2.00 FTE are frozen). The department will receive approximately, \$64,000 PR each year from registration fees.

## **6. Small Business Analysis**

A small business analysis ("final regulatory flexibility analysis") is attached. This rule will affect small businesses engaged in farming fish. For most fish farms, this rule will not increase fees. This rule will require fish farms to keep business records, but will not require any new reporting requirements. Fish farms and fish importers will incur additional costs to meet fish health certification requirements. These costs will be offset, in many cases, by better fish health and reduced disease transmission.

## **7. Hearing Testimony**

The department held 3 hearings on October 13-15, 1998, in Madison, Eau Claire and Green Bay. The department also accepted written comments for the hearing record until October 30, 1998. Results are summarized as follows:

### **Testified in favor:**

- Scott Barnes, Rushing Waters (fish hatchery), Palmyra, WI.

### **Testified in favor but suggested changes:**

- Caryl Terrell, Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter, Madison, WI.
- Tim Gollon, Gollon Bait & Fish Farm, Dodgeville, WI.

The Honorable Fred Risser  
The Honorable Scott Jensen  
February 5, 1999  
Page 14

- David Gollon, Gollon Bait & Fish Farm, Dodgeville, WI, also representing the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association.
- Roger Osegard, The Kramer Co. LLC, Plain, WI.
- Herby Radmann, Bullfrog Fish Farm, Menomonie, WI.
- Mac Graham, Star Prairie Trout Farm, Star Prairie, WI.

**Registered in opposition:**

- Sue Marquenski, DNR, Madison, WI
- Mike Rohde, Rohde AquaFarms, Montello, WI

**Registered neither for nor against:**

- Joe Ramcheck, prospective fish farmer, Green Bay, WI
- Cheryl Gain, Wisconsin Department of Commerce-small business ombudsman, Madison, WI
- Hui-Min Hsu, DNR, Monona, WI
- Jim Moore, DNR, Sturgeon Bay, WI
- Steve Hogler, DNR, Mishicot, WI
- Scott Szymanski, DNR, Green Bay, WI
- Dave Bougie, DNR, Sobieski, WI
- Terrence Lychwick, DNR, Casco, WI
- Cindy Partridge, DATCP, McFarland, WI
- Duane Brandner, DATCP, Eau Claire, WI

The Honorable Fred Risser  
The Honorable Scott Jensen  
February 5, 1999  
Page 15

**Other Comments:**

The department received written comments from 14 persons, including DNR. Many offered suggestions for changes and either stated or implied opposition to the proposed rule. Most of the comments addressed issues connected to the bait industry.



**PROPOSED ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
ADOPTING RULES**

1 The state of Wisconsin department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection proposes  
2 the following order to amend ATCP 10.02(title) and (4); and to create ATCP 10.025,  
3 10.68, 11.58 and 11.59; relating to fish farms, fish diseases and imports of live fish and  
4 fish eggs.

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**Analysis Prepared by the Department of Agriculture,  
Trade and Consumer Protection**

Statutory authority: ss. 93.07(1), 95.60(4s)(a) to (e) and (5), Wis. Stats.  
Statutes interpreted: ss. 93.07(10) and 95.60 Wis. Stats.

This rule implements s. 95.60, Stats., by doing all of the following:

- Establishing fish farm registration requirements.
- Regulating imports of live fish and fish eggs.
- Establishing health standards for fish introduced into the waters of the state.
- Requiring persons to report certain fish disease findings to the department.

The department prepared this rule in consultation with the Wisconsin aquaculture industry and the Wisconsin department of natural resources.

**Fish Farms**

**Annual Registration**

Under s. 95.60, Stats., the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection (DATCP) must annually register fish farms in Wisconsin. This new registration program

replaces an annual licensing program previously administered by the department of natural resources (DNR).

### Who Must Register

Under this rule, a person (including the state of Wisconsin or an agency of the state) operating a fish farm for any of the following purposes must hold an annual fish farm registration certificate from DATCP:

- Hatching fish eggs or holding live fish for any of the following purposes:
  - \* Sale or distribution.
  - \* Introduction into the waters of the state.
  - \* Fishing.
  - \* Use as bait or fertilizer.
  - \* Use as human food or animal feed.
  - \* Education, demonstration or research.
- Holding live fish or fish eggs owned by another person.

### Exemptions

There are some exemptions to the fish farm registration requirement. Under this rule, a person may do any of the following without a fish farm registration certificate:

- Hatch or hold “ornamental” fish (including goldfish, koi, tropical freshwater fish that cannot survive in temperatures below 38°F, and saltwater fish) unless commingled with non-ornamental fish or reared for bait, human food or animal feed.
- Hold bait fish under a bait dealer license issued by the Wisconsin department of natural resources (DNR).
- Hatch or hold fish in a fully enclosed building solely for purposes of demonstration, education or research within that building, provided that no untreated water used to hold those fish is discharged to waters of the state.
- Exhibit fish in a public forum for not more than 15 days in a calendar year, or for a longer period of time which the department authorizes in writing.
- Hold fish for not more than 30 days at a food processing plant, retail food establishment or restaurant pending slaughter or sale to consumers at that facility, provided the facility does not discharge to waters of the state any untreated water used to hold or process those fish.

- Transport live fish or fish eggs to or from a fish farm.

### Type 1 or Type 2 Registration

This rule establishes 2 types of fish farm registration:

- Type 1: The holder of a type 1 registration certificate may operate a fish farm. The operator may not sell or distribute live fish, except to a food processing plant, retail food establishment or restaurant. However, the operator may allow public fishing for a fee.
- Type 2: The holder of a type 2 registration certificate may operate a fish farm, and may engage in any of the activities authorized under a type 1 certificate. In addition, the operator may sell or distribute live fish from the fish farm.

### Annual Expiration Date

A fish farm registration certificate expires on December 31 of the calendar year for which it is issued.

### Persons Operating 2 or More Fish Farms

A person who operates 2 or more fish farms must obtain a separate registration certificate for each fish farm. A person may register 2 or more fish farms by filing a single annual application and paying a single annual fee. There is no additional fee for additional fish farms.

### Applying for a Registration Certificate

To obtain or renew a registration certificate, a fish farm operator must file an application with DATCP. The application must include:

- The name, address and telephone number of the fish farm operator.
- The fish farm location.
- The required fee (see below).
- The name, address and telephone number of the individual responsible for administering the fish farm on behalf of the operator, if other than the operator.
- Each species of fish hatched or kept at the fish farm.
- A description of the fish farm, including fish farm facilities and activities.

- A statement indicating whether the operator seeks a type 1 or type 2 registration certificate.
- A fish farm health certificate (see below).

DATCP must grant or deny an application for a fish farm registration certificate within 30 days after the department receives a complete application.

#### Registration Fees

An operator must pay the following fee to register one or more fish farms:

- A total fee of \$25.00 if the operator registers all of the fish farms as type 1 fish farms.
- A total fee of \$50.00 if the operator registers any of the fish farms as a type 2 fish farm.

The following persons are exempt from fish farm registration fees:

- A bona fide scientific research organization that is operating a fish farm solely for the purpose of scientific research.
- A primary or secondary school.
- The state of Wisconsin and its agencies.

A person applying for a fish farm registration certificate must pay, in addition to the normal annual registration fee, a surcharge equal to the amount of that fee if DATCP determines that, within 365 days prior to submitting an application, the applicant operated a fish farm without a required registration certificate.

#### Type 1 Fish Farm; Annual Health Certificate

Under this rule, no person may obtain a type 1 fish farm registration certificate for any calendar year beginning after December 31, 2001 unless one of the following applies:

- An accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector has issued a health certificate for that fish farm not earlier than January 1 of the preceding calendar year.
- An accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector has issued a health certificate, not earlier than January 1 of the preceding calendar year, for each fish farm from whom the fish farm operator received fish or fish eggs in the preceding calendar year.

Health certificates issued for a type 1 fish farm (or its source fish farms) must comply with the same requirements that apply to health certificates issued for type 2 fish farms (see below).

#### Type 2 Fish Farm; Annual Health Certificate

Under this rule, no person may obtain a type 2 fish farm registration certificate for any calendar year beginning after December 31, 2001 unless an accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector issues a health certificate for that fish farm not earlier than January 1 of the preceding calendar year.

The accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector must issue the annual health certificate on a form provided by the department, based on a personal inspection of the fish farm. The accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector must use inspection, sampling and diagnostic methods specified by the department on the certification form.

An annual health certificate must certify that the fish farm is free of all of the following:

- Visible signs of infectious or contagious disease.
- Whirling disease (*Myxobolus cerebralis*, or *WD*) if trout, salmon or other salmonids are hatched or kept at the fish farm.
- Other diseases, if any, which the department specifies on the certification form.

The accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector who issues an annual health certificate must file the original certificate with the department, and must provide at least 2 copies to the fish farm operator. The fish farm operator must include a copy with the operator's application for a fish farm registration certificate.

#### Denying, Suspending or Revoking a Registration Certificate

DATCP may deny, suspend or revoke a fish farm registration certificate for cause. Grounds include:

- Filing an incomplete or fraudulent application, or misrepresenting any information on an application.
- Violating ch. 95, Stats., or department rules.
- Violating the terms of the registration certificate.
- Interfering with inspection.
- Failing to keep or provide required records.

### Recordkeeping

A fish farm operator must keep the following records related to fish or fish eggs which the operator ships from or receives at the fish farm:

- The name, address, and fish farm registration number if any, of the person from whom the operator received, or to whom the operator delivered fish or fish eggs.
- The date on which the operator received or delivered the fish or fish eggs.
- The location at which the operator received or delivered the fish or fish eggs.
- The size or class, quantity and species of fish or fish eggs received or delivered.

An operator must retain these records for at least 5 years, and must make them available to the department, upon request, for inspection and copying.

### Fish Source

Under this rule, no person selling or distributing fish or fish eggs may misrepresent, directly or by implication, the source or disposition of those fish or fish eggs. A person transporting fish or fish eggs from a fish farm shall have documentary evidence showing that the person obtained those fish from that fish farm. Evidence may include a bill of sale, bill of lading, import permit, health certificate, certificate of veterinary inspection or other document which identifies the fish farm.

## **Live Fish Imports**

### Annual Import Permit Required

Under this rule, a person importing live fish or fish eggs into this state for any of the following purposes must have an annual import permit from DATCP:

- Introducing the live fish or fish eggs into waters of the state.
- Using the live fish or fish eggs as bait.
- Holding the live fish or hatching the fish eggs at a fish farm for which a registration certificate is required under this rule.
- Selling or distributing the live fish or fish eggs for any of the above purposes.

### Import Permit; Exemptions

There are some exemptions to this import permit requirement. No permit is required to import any of the following:

- Live ornamental fish, or the eggs of ornamental fish, unless they are commingled with non-ornamental fish or reared for bait, human food or animal feed.
- Live fish or fish eggs that will be held, for the remainder of their lives, in fully enclosed buildings solely for purposes of display or research, provided the facility does not discharge to waters of the state any untreated water used to hold those fish.
- Live fish imported directly to a food processing plant, retail food establishment or restaurant where they will be held for not more than 30 days pending slaughter or sale to consumers at that facility, provided the facility does not discharge to waters of the state any untreated water used to hold or process those fish.
- Live fish or fish eggs imported and held for not more than 30 days in fully enclosed buildings pending shipment out of state, provided the facility does not discharge to waters of the state any untreated water used to hold those fish.
- Live fish or fish eggs that are directly imported by DNR.

### Issuing an Import Permit

The department may issue an import permit for all or part of a calendar year, based on a permit application from the importer. An importer may, at any time, apply for an amendment to an annual import permit.

### Import Shipments

A single annual permit authorizes multiple import shipments, as long as the importer complies with the terms of the permit. A copy of the annual permit must accompany each import permit.

### Import Recipients

A person holding an import permit may import live fish or fish eggs to the following persons, and no others:

- A person holding a current DATCP fish farm registration certificate.
- A person holding a current DNR fish stocking permit.
- A person holding a current DNR bait dealer license.

- The DNR.
- Other persons identified by DATCP in the import permit.

#### Import Permit; Contents

An import permit must specify all of the following:

- The expiration date of the import permit. An import permit expires on December 31 of the year for which it is issued, unless DATCP specifies an earlier expiration date.
- The name, address and telephone number of the permit holder.
- Each species of fish or fish eggs that the permit holder may import under the permit.
- The size or class of fish of each species, and quantity of fish or fish eggs of each species, that the permit holder may import under the permit.
- The sources from which the permit holder may import fish or fish eggs under the permit. The permit may incorporate, by reference, sources identified in the permit application.
- The type of import recipients to which the permit holder may import fish or fish eggs under the permit.

#### Applying for an Annual Import Permit

A person must apply for an annual import permit on a form provided by DATCP. There is no fee. A permit application must include all of the following:

- The applicant's name, address and telephone number.
- Each species of fish or fish eggs that the applicant proposes to import.
- The size or class of fish of each species, and the quantity of fish or fish eggs of each species, that the applicant proposes to import.
- Every wild source from which the applicant proposes to capture and import fish or fish eggs.
- The name, address and telephone number of every fish farm from which the applicant proposes to import fish or fish eggs, and a copy of any annual health certificate issued for that out-of-state fish farm under this rule (see below).
- The type of import recipient to whom the applicant proposes to import fish or fish eggs.



### Action on Permit Application

DATCP must grant or deny an import permit application within 30 days after it receives a complete application.

### Denying, Suspending or Revoking an Import Permit

DATCP may deny, suspend or revoke an import permit for cause, including any of the following:

- Filing an incomplete or fraudulent permit application, or misrepresenting any information on a permit application.
- Violating ch. 95, Stats., or DATCP rules.
- Violating the terms of the import permit.
- Interfering with inspection.
- Failing to keep or provide required records.

### Import Records

A person importing fish or fish eggs under a DATCP permit must keep all of the following records related to each import shipment:

- The date of the import shipment.
- The wild source, if any, from which the importer obtained the imported fish or fish eggs.
- The name, address and telephone number of the fish farm, if any, from which the importer obtained the imported fish or fish eggs.
- The name, address and telephone number of the person receiving the import shipment if that person is not the importer. The importer must also record the recipient's fish farm registration number, stocking permit number and bait dealer license number, if any.
- The location at which the import shipment was received in this state.
- The size or class, quantity and species of fish or fish eggs included in the import shipment.

An importer must retain these records for at least 5 years, and must provide them to DATCP upon request. DATCP may suspend or revoke an import permit if the importer fails to provide the required records.

### Health Certificate Required

Under this rule, no person may import any shipment of live fish or fish eggs into this state unless one of the following applies:

- The import shipment is accompanied by a health certificate issued for that particular shipment (see below).
- The import shipment originates from a fish farm and all of the following apply:
  - \* The shipment is labeled with the name and address of that fish farm.
  - \* No fish or fish eggs in the import shipment were ever collected from a wild source.
  - \* An accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector has issued an annual health certificate for that fish farm (see below), and has filed a copy with DATCP.
  - \* The importer has included a copy of the annual fish farm health certificate with the importer's application for an annual import permit or, if DNR is the importer, DNR has provided a copy of the annual fish farm health certificate to the department.

### Health Certificate for Individual Import Shipment

A health certificate issued for an individual import shipment must comply with all of the following:

- An accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector must issue the health certificate in the state of origin, on a form provided by the department, based on a personal inspection of the import shipment. The accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector must use inspection, sampling and diagnostic methods specified by the department on the certification form.
- The health certificate must certify that the import shipment is free of all the following:
  - \* Visible signs of infectious or contagious disease.
  - \* Infectious hematopoietic necrosis (IHN), viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) and whirling disease (*Myxobolus cerebralis*, or *WD*), if the import shipment includes salmonids.

- \* White sturgeon iridovirus (WSI) if the import shipment includes sturgeon.
- \* Other diseases, if any, which the department specifies on the certification form.
- The accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector who issues the health certificate must file the original certificate with the department, and must provide at least 2 copies to the importer. The importer must include a copy with the import shipment.

Fish Imported from Fish Farm; Annual Health Certificate

An annual health certificate issued for an out-of-state fish farm, to justify import shipments from that fish farm, must comply with all the following:

- An accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector must issue the annual health certificate in the state of origin, on a form provided by the department, based on a personal inspection of the fish farm. The accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector must use inspection, sampling and diagnostic methods specified by the department on the certification form.
- The annual health certificate must certify that the fish farm is free of all the following:
  - \* Visible signs of infectious or contagious disease.
  - \* Infectious hematopoietic necrosis (IHN), viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) and whirling disease (*Myxobolus cerebralis*, or *WD*), if the health certificate is used for imports of salmonids.
  - \* White sturgeon iridovirus (WSI) if the health certificate is used for imports of sturgeon.
  - \* Other diseases, if any, which the department specifies on the certification form.
- The accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector who issues the annual health certificate must file the original certificate with the department, and must provide at least 2 copies to the fish farm operator. The importer must include a copy with the importer's application for an annual import permit.

## Health Standards For Fish Introduced Into Waters of the State

This rule establishes health standards for live fish and fish eggs introduced into waters of the state.

### Health Standards for Salmonids

Beginning on the effective date of this rule, no person may introduce salmonids into the waters of the state unless an accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector issues a health certificate for those salmonids, or for the fish farm from which they originate. (A fish farm health certificate may not be issued prior to January 1 of the preceding calendar year.) The health certificate must certify that the fish (or the fish farm from which they originate) are free of all the following:

- Visible signs of infectious or contagious disease.
- Whirling disease (*Myxobolus cerebralis*, or *WD*).
- Other diseases, if any, which the department specifies on the certification form.

### Health Standards for Other Fish

Beginning on January 1, 2002, no person may introduce any fish into the waters of the state unless an accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector issues a health certificate for those fish, or for the fish farm from which they originate. (A fish farm health certificate may not be issued prior to January 1 of the preceding calendar year.) The health certificate must certify that the fish (or the fish farm from which they originate) are free of all the following:

- Visible signs of infectious or contagious disease.
- Whirling disease (*Myxobolus cerebralis*, or *WD*), if the fish are salmonids.
- Other diseases, if any, which the department specifies on the certification form.

### Issuing a Health Certificate

An accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector must issue a health certificate on a form provided by the department, based on a personal inspection of the fish or fish farm. The accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector must use inspection, sampling and diagnostic methods specified by the department on the certification form and must file the original certificate with the department.

## Knowingly Introducing Diseased Fish into Waters of the State

This rule prohibits any person from introducing live fish or fish eggs into waters of the state if that person knows, or has reason to know, that those fish or fish eggs are infected or show clinical signs of any reportable disease (see below).

### **Reportable Diseases**

Under this rule, a person who diagnoses or finds evidence of any of the following diseases must report that diagnosis or finding to DATCP, in writing or by telefax, within 10 days:

- Any aquatic animal disease that is foreign or exotic to Wisconsin.
- Channel catfish virus (CCV).
- Enteric septicemia of catfish (ESC).
- Infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus (IHN).
- White sturgeon iridovirus (WSI).
- Myctobacteriosis infection.
- Proliferative kidney disease.
- *Streptococcus iniae*.
- Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS).
- Whirling disease (*Myxobolus cerebralis*, or *WD*).

---

1           **SECTION 1.** ATCP 10.02(title) is amended to read:

2           **ATCP 10.02(title) REPORTABLE DISEASES; GENERAL.**

3           **SECTION 2.** ATCP 10.02(4) is amended to read:

1 ATCP 10.02(4) EXEMPTION. This section does not require a veterinarian to  
2 report a diagnosis or finding made by the department or the Wisconsin department of  
3 health and ~~social~~ family services.

4 SECTION 3. ATCP 10.025 is created to read:

5 **ATCP 10.025 REPORTABLE DISEASES; FISH.** (1) REPORT

6 REQUIRED. A person who diagnoses or finds evidence of any of the following diseases  
7 in this state shall report that diagnosis or finding to the department, in writing or by  
8 telefax, within 10 days after making the diagnosis or finding:

9 (a) Any aquatic animal disease that is foreign or exotic to Wisconsin.

10 (b) Channel catfish virus (CCV).

11 (c) Enteric septicemia of catfish (ESC).

12 (d) Infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus (IHN).

13 (e) White sturgeon iridovirus (WSI).

14 (f) Mycobacteriosis infection.

15 (g) Proliferative kidney disease (PKD).

16 (h) *Streptococcus iniae*.

17 (i) Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS).

18 (j) Whirling disease (*Myxobolus cerebralis*, or *WD*).

19 (2) EXEMPTION. Subsection (1) does not require a person to report a diagnosis  
20 or finding made by the department or the Wisconsin department of health and family  
21 services.

22 SECTION 4. ATCP 10.68 is created to read:

1            **ATCP 10.68 FISH FARMS.** (1) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

2            (a) "Certified fish inspector" means any of the following:

3            1. An individual who is currently certified by the American fisheries society as a  
4 fish health inspector or fish pathologist.

5            2. An individual whom a state authorizes and the department approves to certify,  
6 on behalf of that state, the health of fish in that state.

7            (b) "Commingled" means kept or brought in contact with other fish or fish eggs  
8 in any environment which permits direct contact between fish or use of the same water  
9 system.

10           (c) "Fish farm" means a facility at which a person hatches fish eggs or holds live  
11 fish.

12           (d) "Food processing plant" means a facility licensed under s. 97.29, Stats.

13           (e) "Individual" means a natural person.

14           (f) "Operator" means a person who owns or controls a fish farm. "Operator"  
15 includes the operator's employees and agents.

16           (g) "Ornamental fish" means goldfish, koi, tropical freshwater fish that cannot  
17 survive in temperatures below 38°F, saltwater fish and other fish which the department  
18 designates in writing.

19           NOTE: You may obtain a current list of fish designated as "ornamental fish" by  
20           contacting the department at the following address:

21  
22           Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
23           Division of Animal Health  
24           P.O. Box 8911  
25           Madison, WI 53708-8911  
26           Phone: (608) 224-4872

1  
2 (h) "Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, cooperative  
3 association, limited liability company, trust, the state of Wisconsin or its agencies, or  
4 other organization or entity.

5 (i) "Retail food establishment" means a facility licensed under s. 97.30, Stats.

6 (j) "Restaurant" means a facility licensed under s. 254.64, Stats.

7 (k) "Salmonid" means fish or fish eggs of the Salmonidae family. "Salmonidae"  
8 means fish or fish eggs of the family that includes trout, salmon, grayling, char, Dolly  
9 Vardon, whitefish, cisco and inconnu.

10 (l) "Self-contained fish rearing facility" has the meaning given in s. 29.01(12r),  
11 Stats.

12 (m) "Untreated water" means water that has not been rendered free of pathogens  
13 by a method approved by the department.

14 (n) "Waters of the state" has the meaning given in s. 281.01(18), Stats.

15 (2) REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE REQUIRED. Except as provided in sub.  
16 (3), a person operating a fish farm for any of the following purposes shall obtain a  
17 registration certificate for that fish farm:

18 (a) Hatching fish eggs or holding live fish for any of the following purposes:

- 19 1. Sale or distribution.
- 20 2. Introduction into the waters of the state.
- 21 3. Fishing.
- 22 4. Use as bait or fertilizer.
- 23 5. Use as human food or animal feed.



1           6. Education, demonstration or research.

2           (b) Holding live fish or fish eggs owned by another person.

3           NOTE: A DNR fish stocking permit is not needed to stock fish into a fish farm  
4                        registered under sub. (2). However, a DNR stocking permit is needed to  
5                        stock fish into the waters of the state. (See s. 29.53, Stats.)

6  
7           A DNR sport fishing license is not required to fish within a registered fish  
8                        farm. Persons fishing at a registered fish farm do not need to comply with  
9                        season, size or bag limits. (See s. 29.01(3), Stats.)

10  
11           Toxicants required for fish farming operations may be used in self-  
12                        contained fish rearing facilities if there is no discharge from the  
13                        facility, or if the discharge of the chemical is allowed under a  
14                        Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit.  
15                        Otherwise, a DNR aquatic pesticide use permit is required. (See ss.  
16                        29.29(5) and 283.31, Stats.) Pesticide applications must comply with  
17                        ch. ATCP 29, Wis. Adm. Code, administered by the department of  
18                        agriculture, trade and consumer protection. There may be other federal,  
19                        state, or local regulations pertaining to the use of these toxicants.  
20

21           (3) EXEMPTIONS. A person may do any of the following without a registration  
22                        certificate under sub. (2):

23           (a) Hold, rear, sell or distribute live ornamental fish, or hatch the eggs of  
24                        ornamental fish, unless the ornamental fish or fish eggs are commingled with non-  
25                        ornamental fish or fish eggs or are reared for bait, human food or animal feed.

26           (b) Hold live bait fish under a bait dealer license issued by the state of Wisconsin  
27                        department of natural resources under s. 29.137, Stats.

28           (c) Hold or rear live fish, or hatch fish eggs, in a fully enclosed building solely  
29                        for purposes of display or research within that building, provided that no untreated water  
30                        used to hold those fish or fish eggs is discharged to waters of the state.

1 (d) Exhibit live fish in a public forum for not more than 15 days in a calendar  
2 year, or for a longer period of time which the department authorizes in writing for a  
3 specific exhibit.

4 (e) Hold live fish or fish eggs for not more than 30 days at a food processing  
5 plant, retail food establishment or restaurant pending slaughter or sale to consumers at  
6 that facility, provided that the facility does not discharge to waters of the state any  
7 untreated water used to hold or process those fish or fish eggs.

8 (f) Transport live fish or fish eggs to or from a fish farm.

9 (4) TYPE 1 OR TYPE 2 REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE. (a) Except as  
10 provided in par. (b), a person required to hold a fish farm registration certificate under  
11 sub. (2) may hold either a type 1 or type 2 registration certificate.

12 (b) A person may not sell or distribute live fish or fish eggs from a fish farm  
13 without a type 2 registration certificate, except that a person holding a type 1 registration  
14 certificate may do any of the following:

15 1. Allow fishing at the fish farm, including public fishing for a fee.

16 2. Sell or distribute live fish or fish eggs to a food processing plant, retail food  
17 establishment or restaurant at which the fish or fish eggs are held for not more than 30  
18 days pending slaughter or sale to consumers at that facility, provided that the facility does  
19 not discharge to waters of the state any untreated water used to hold or process those fish  
20 or fish eggs.

21 3. Move live fish between type 1 fish farms which that person operates in this  
22 state.

1 NOTE: A person holding a type 1 registration certificate may, at any time during  
2 the registration year, convert that certificate to a type 2 certificate by  
3 paying the additional fee under sub. (8) and complying with health  
4 certification requirements under sub. (14).

5  
6 (5) ANNUAL EXPIRATION DATE. A fish farm registration certificate under  
7 sub. (2) expires on December 31 of the calendar year for which it is issued.

8 (6) PERSONS OPERATING 2 OR MORE FISH FARMS. A person who  
9 operates 2 or more fish farms shall obtain a separate registration certificate under sub. (2)  
10 for each fish farm. A person may obtain annual registration certificates for 2 or more fish  
11 farms by filing a single annual application under sub. (7) and paying a single annual fee  
12 under sub. (8). There is no additional charge for additional fish farms. A registration  
13 certificate is not transferable between persons or locations.

14 NOTE: A person registering 2 or more fish farms may choose to register those  
15 fish farms as type 1 or type 2 fish farms. The applicant submits only one  
16 annual application and pays only one annual fish farm registration fee.  
17 There is no additional charge to register additional fish farms. If any of  
18 the fish farms is registered as a type 2 fish farm, the applicant must pay  
19 the type 2 registration fee.

20  
21 (7) APPLYING FOR A REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE. To obtain or renew a  
22 fish farm registration certificate under sub. (2), a fish farm operator shall file an  
23 application with the department. The operator shall file an application on a form  
24 provided by the department. An operator may, by filing a single application form, obtain  
25 registration certificates for 2 or more fish farms. The application shall include all of the  
26 following:

27 (a) The name, address and telephone number of the fish farm operator.

1 (b) The location of each fish farm for which the operator seeks a registration  
2 certificate. The location shall include the county, township, section number and fire  
3 number of the fish farm.

4 (c) For each fish farm under par. (b), a statement indicating whether the operator  
5 seeks a type 1 or type 2 registration certificate.

6 (d) The fee required under sub. (8).

7 (e) The name, address and telephone number of the individual responsible for  
8 administering each of the fish farms under par. (b) on behalf of the operator, if the  
9 individual administering that fish farm is not the operator.

10 (f) The species of fish hatched or kept at each fish farm under par. (b).

11 (g) A description of each fish farm under par. (b), including fish farm facilities  
12 and activities.

13 (h) A copy of each health certificate required under sub. (13) for a type 1 fish  
14 farm or under sub. (14) for a type 2 fish farm. If an operator is registering a fish farm for  
15 the first time, the department may issue a registration certificate before the operator files a  
16 health certificate, provided that the operator obtains and files the required health  
17 certificate within 30 days after the department issues the registration certificate or within  
18 30 days after the operator stocks fish at the fish farm.

19 (i) Other relevant information required by the department.

20 NOTE: You may obtain a registration form by contacting the department at the  
21 following address:

22  
23 Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
24 Division of Animal Health  
25 P.O. Box 8911  
26 Madison, WI 53708-8911

1 Phone: (608) 224-4872

2  
3 A fish farm operator may also need certain permits from the Wisconsin  
4 department of natural resources (DNR). Contact DNR to find out about  
5 DNR permit requirements.  
6

7 (8) REGISTRATION FEES. (a) Except as provided in par. (b), an operator shall  
8 pay the following annual fee to obtain registration certificates for one or more fish farms:

- 9 1. A total fee of \$25 if the fish farms are all type 1 fish farms.  
10 2. A total fee of \$50 if any of the fish farms is a type 2 fish farm.

11 (b) The following persons are exempt from registration fees under this  
12 subsection:

- 13 1. A bona fide scientific research organization that is operating a fish farm solely  
14 for the purpose of scientific research.  
15 2. A primary or secondary school.  
16 3. The state of Wisconsin and its agencies.

17 (c) A fish farm operator shall pay the full annual registration fee for a fish farm  
18 registered for less than a full calendar year.

19 (d) An applicant for an annual fish farm registration certificate under sub. (2)  
20 shall pay, in addition to the annual registration fee prescribed by this subsection, a  
21 surcharge equal to the amount of that fee if the department determines that, within 365  
22 days prior to submitting an application, the applicant operated a fish farm without a  
23 registration certificate in violation of sub. (2) or (4)(b). Payment of the surcharge does  
24 not relieve the applicant of any other civil or criminal penalty or liability that may result  
25 from the violation, nor does it constitute evidence of a violation.

1 (9) ACTION ON REGISTRATION APPLICATION. The department shall grant  
2 or deny a registration application within 30 days after the applicant files a complete  
3 application under sub. (7).

4 (10) DENYING, SUSPENDING OR REVOKING A REGISTRATION  
5 CERTIFICATE. The department may deny, suspend or revoke a fish farm registration  
6 certificate for cause, including any of the following:

7 (a) Filing an incomplete or fraudulent application, or misrepresenting any  
8 information on an application.

9 (b) Violating applicable provisions of ch. 95, Stats., this chapter, or ch. ATCP 11.

10 (c) Violating the terms of the registration certificate.

11 (d) Preventing a department employe from performing his or her official duties,  
12 or interfering with the lawful performance of his or her duties.

13 (e) Physically assaulting a department employe while the employe is performing  
14 his or her official duties.

15 (f) Refusing or failing, without just cause, to produce records under sub. (11) or  
16 respond to a department subpoena.

17 (g) Paying a registration fee with a worthless check.

18 NOTE: The denial, suspension or revocation of a registration certificate is  
19 subject to a right of hearing under ch. 227, Stats., and ch. ATCP 1, Wis.  
20 Adm. Code. The department will not deny registration to a new owner of  
21 a fish farm merely because ownership has changed.

22  
23 (11) RECORDKEEPING. (a) A fish farm operator shall keep all of the  
24 following records related to fish or fish eggs which the operator ships from or receives at  
25 the fish farm:

1           1. The name, address, and fish farm registration number, if any, of the person  
2 from whom the operator received, or to whom the operator delivered fish or fish eggs.

3           2. The date on which the operator received or delivered the fish or fish eggs.

4           3. The location at which the operator received or delivered the fish or fish eggs.

5           4. The size or class, quantity and species of fish or fish eggs received or  
6 delivered.

7           (b) An operator required to keep records under par. (a) shall retain those records  
8 for at least 5 years and shall make them available to the department, upon request, for  
9 inspection and copying.

10          (12) FISH SOURCE. (a) No person selling or distributing fish or fish eggs may  
11 misrepresent, directly or by implication, the source or disposition of those fish or fish  
12 eggs.

13          (b) A person transporting fish or fish eggs from a fish farm shall have  
14 documentary evidence showing that the person obtained those fish from that fish farm.  
15 Evidence may include a bill of sale, bill of lading, import permit, health certificate,  
16 certificate of veterinary inspection or other document which identifies the fish farm.

17          (13) TYPE 1 FISH FARM; ANNUAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE. (a) No  
18 person may obtain a type 1 fish farm registration certificate for any calendar year  
19 beginning after December 31, 2001 unless one of the following applies:

20           1. An accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector has issued a health  
21 certificate for that fish farm not earlier than January 1 of the preceding calendar year.

1           2. An accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector has issued a health  
2 certificate, not earlier than January 1 of the preceding calendar year, for each fish farm  
3 from which the fish farm operator received fish or fish eggs in the preceding calendar  
4 year.

5           (b) Health certificates issued under par. (a) shall comply with the same  
6 requirements that apply to health certificates issued for type 2 fish farms under sub. (14).

7           (c) A fish farm operator shall include copies of all health certificates required  
8 under par. (a) with the operator's application for an annual fish farm registration  
9 certificate under sub. (7).

10           (14) TYPE 2 FISH FARM; ANNUAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE. (a) No  
11 person may obtain a type 2 fish farm registration certificate for any calendar year  
12 beginning after December 31, 2001 unless an accredited veterinarian or certified fish  
13 inspector issues a health certificate for that fish farm not earlier than January 1 of the  
14 preceding calendar year. The accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector shall issue  
15 the health certificate on a form provided by the department, based on a personal  
16 inspection of the fish farm. The accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector shall  
17 use inspection, sampling and diagnostic methods specified by the department on the  
18 certification form.

19           NOTE: To obtain a health certification form, contact the department at the  
20 following address:

21  
22           Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
23           Division of Animal Health  
24           P.O. Box 8911



1 Madison, WI 53708-8911  
2 Phone: (608) 224-4872

3 (b) A health certificate under par. (a) shall certify all of the following:

4 1. That fish at the fish farm are free of visible signs of infectious or contagious  
5 disease.

6 2. That salmonids at the fish farm are free of whirling disease (*Myxobolus*  
7 *cerebralis*, or *WD*), if any salmonids are hatched or kept at the fish farm.

8 3. That fish at the fish farm are free of other diseases, if any, which the  
9 department specifies on the certification form.

10 (c) An accredited veterinarian or certified fish inspector who issues a health  
11 certificate under this subsection shall file the original certificate with the department, and  
12 shall provide at least 2 copies to the fish farm operator. A fish farm operator shall include  
13 a copy of the certificate with the operator's application for an annual fish farm  
14 registration certificate under sub. (7).

15 NOTE: A certification form which specifies disease inspection,  
16 sampling and diagnostic procedures under sub. (14)(a), or additional  
17 disease certification requirements under sub. (14)(b)3., constitutes an  
18 order under s. 93.07(10), Stats., which is reviewable under ch. 227, Stats.,  
19 and ch. ATCP 1 unless the department has adopted those requirements by  
20 rule. If a health certification does not comply with instructions on the  
21 certification form, the certification is invalid.  
22

23 SECTION 5. ATCP 11.58 and 11.59 are created to read:  
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**ATCP 11.58 FISH IMPORTS.** (1) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

(a) "Certified fish inspector" means any of the following:

1. An individual who is currently certified by the American fisheries society as a fish health inspector or fish pathologist.

2. An individual whom a state authorizes and the department approves to certify, on behalf of that state, the health of fish in that state.

(b) "Commingled" means kept or brought in contact with other fish or fish eggs in any environment which permits direct contact between fish or use of the same water system.

(c) "Fish farm" means a facility at which a person hatches fish eggs or holds live fish.

(d) "Food processing plant" means a facility licensed under s. 97.29, Stats.

(e) "Individual" means a natural person.

(f) "Operator" means a person who owns or controls a fish farm. "Operator" includes the operator's employees and agents.

(g) "Ornamental fish" means goldfish, koi, tropical freshwater fish that cannot survive in temperatures below 38°F, saltwater fish and other fish which the department designates in writing.

NOTE: You may obtain a current list of fish designated as "ornamental fish" by contacting the department at the following address:

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
Division of Animal Health  
P.O. Box 8911

1 Madison, WI 53708-8911  
2 Phone: (608) 224-4872  
3

4 (h) "Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, cooperative  
5 association, limited liability company, trust, the state of Wisconsin or its agencies, or  
6 other organization or entity.

7 (i) "Retail food establishment" means a facility licensed under s. 97.30, Stats.

8 (j) "Restaurant" means a facility licensed under s. 254.64, Stats.

9 (k) "Salmonid" means fish or fish eggs of the Salmonidae family. "Salmonidae"  
10 means fish or fish eggs of the family that includes trout, salmon, grayling, char, Dolly  
11 Vardon, whitefish, cisco and inconnu.

12 (l) "Untreated water" means water that has not been rendered free of pathogens  
13 by a method approved by the department.

14 (m) "Waters of the state" has the meaning given in s. 281.01(18), Stats.

15 (n) "Wild source" means waters in this state that are not registered as fish farms,  
16 or waters outside this state that are not fish farms.

17 (2) ANNUAL IMPORT PERMIT REQUIRED. Except as provided in sub. (3),  
18 no person may import live fish or fish eggs into this state for any of the following  
19 purposes except under an annual import permit from the department:

20 (a) Introducing the live fish or fish eggs into waters of the state.

21 (b) Using the live fish or fish eggs as bait.

22 (c) Holding the live fish or hatching the fish eggs at a fish farm for which a  
23 registration certificate is required under s. ATCP 10.68(2).

1 (d) Selling or distributing the live fish or fish eggs for any of the purposes under  
2 pars. (a) to (c).

3 NOTE: A person importing any of the following must also obtain an importation  
4 permit from the state of Wisconsin department of natural resources  
5 (DNR):

- 6
- 7 • Live fish or fish eggs of species that are not native to Wisconsin. (See  
8 s. 29.525(1), Stats.)
- 9
- 10 • Live rough fish or rough fish eggs, except goldfish, dace and suckers.  
11 (See s. 29.47(6), Stats.)
- 12

13 An application for an import permit under this section also serves as an  
14 application for a DNR import permit. The department will forward the  
15 permit application to DNR if DNR permit requirements apply.

16

17 Under s. 29.53, Stats., no person may use imported fish or fish eggs to  
18 stock waters of the state without a stocking permit from DNR (unless the  
19 stocking is subject to an exemption under s. 29.53, Stats.). An import  
20 permit application under this section does not serve as an application for a  
21 DNR stocking permit.

22

23 (3) EXEMPTIONS. No permit is required under sub. (2) to import any of the

24 following:

25 (a) Live ornamental fish or the eggs of ornamental fish, unless the ornamental  
26 fish or fish eggs are commingled with non-ornamental fish or fish eggs, or are reared for  
27 bait, human food or animal feed.

28 (b) Live fish or fish eggs that will be held, for the remainder of their lives, in  
29 fully enclosed buildings solely for purposes of display or research, provided that no  
30 untreated water used to hold those fish or fish eggs is discharged to waters of the state.

31 (c) Live fish imported directly to a food processing plant, retail food  
32 establishment or restaurant where they will be held for not more than 30 days pending

1 slaughter or sale to consumers at that facility, provided that the facility does not discharge  
2 to waters of the state any untreated water used to hold or process those fish or fish eggs.

3 (d) Live fish or fish eggs imported and held for not more than 30 days in fully  
4 enclosed buildings pending shipment out of this state, provided that no untreated water  
5 used to hold those fish or fish eggs is discharged to waters of the state.

6 (e) Live fish or fish eggs that are directly imported by the Wisconsin department  
7 of natural resources.

8 (4) ISSUING AN ANNUAL IMPORT PERMIT. The department may issue an  
9 import permit under sub. (2) for all or part of a calendar year, based on an application  
10 under sub. (9). A permit holder may, at any time, apply under sub. (9) for an amendment  
11 to an existing permit.

12 (5) COPY MUST ACCOMPANY IMPORT SHIPMENT. Every import  
13 shipment under sub. (2) shall be accompanied by a copy of the import permit which  
14 authorizes that shipment.

15 (6) IMPORT RECIPIENTS. A person holding an import permit under sub. (2)  
16 may import live fish or fish eggs to the following persons, and no others:

17 (a) A person holding a current fish farm registration certificate, under s. ATCP  
18 10.68, which authorizes that person to hold live fish or fish eggs of the type imported.

19 (b) The state of Wisconsin department of natural resources.

1 (c) A person holding a current fish stocking permit, under s. 29.53, Stats., which  
2 authorizes that person to stock live fish or fish eggs of the type imported.

3 (d) A person holding a current bait dealer license under s. 29.137, Stats., which  
4 authorizes that person to hold live fish or fish eggs of the type imported.

5 (e) Other persons identified by the department in the permit.

6 (7) UNAUTHORIZED IMPORTS. No person holding an import permit under  
7 sub. (2) may violate the terms of the permit or exceed the authorization granted in the  
8 permit. A permit is not transferable between importers.

9 (8) IMPORT PERMIT; CONTENTS. An import permit under sub. (2) shall  
10 include all of the following:

11 (a) The expiration date of the import permit. An import permit expires on  
12 December 31 of the year for which it is issued, unless the department specifies an earlier  
13 expiration date.

14 (b) The name, address and telephone number of the permit holder.

15 (c) Each species of fish or fish eggs that the permit holder may import under the  
16 permit.

17 (d) The size or class of fish of each species, and the quantity of fish or fish eggs  
18 of each species, that the permit holder may import under the permit.

1 (e) The sources from which the importer may import live fish or fish eggs under  
2 the permit. The permit may incorporate, by reference, sources identified in the permit  
3 application under sub. (9).

4 (f) The type of import recipient under sub. (6) to which the importer may import  
5 live fish or fish eggs under the permit.

6 (9) APPLYING FOR A PERMIT. A person seeking an import permit under sub.  
7 (2) shall apply on a form provided by the department. There is no fee. A permit  
8 application shall include all of the following:

9 (a) The applicant's name, address and telephone number.

10 (b) Each species of fish or fish eggs that the applicant proposes to import.

11 (c) The size or class of fish of each species, and quantity of fish or fish eggs of  
12 each species, that the applicant proposes to import.

13 (d) Every wild source from which the applicant proposes to capture and import  
14 fish or fish eggs.

15 (e) The name, address and telephone number of every fish farm from which the  
16 applicant proposes to import fish or fish eggs, and a copy of any health certificate issued  
17 for that fish farm under sub. (16).

18 (f) The type of import recipient under sub. (6) that the applicant proposes to  
19 import fish or fish eggs to.

20

1 NOTE: You may obtain an application form by contacting the department at the  
2 following address:

3  
4 Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
5 Division of Animal Health  
6 P.O. Box 8911  
7 Madison, WI. 53708-8911  
8 Phone: (608) 224-4872

9 (10) ACTION ON PERMIT APPLICATION. The department shall grant or  
10 deny a permit application under sub. (9) within 30 days after the department receives a  
11 complete application.

12 NOTE: The department may impose conditions on an import permit, pursuant to  
13 s. 93.06(8), Stats.

14 (11) DENYING, SUSPENDING OR REVOKING AN IMPORT PERMIT. The  
15 department may deny, suspend or revoke an import permit under sub. (2) for cause,  
16 including any of the following:

17 (a) Filing an incomplete or fraudulent permit application, or misrepresenting any  
18 information on a permit application.

19 (b) Violating applicable provisions of ch. 95, Stats., this chapter or ch. ATCP 10.

20 (c) Violating the terms of the import permit, or exceeding the import  
21 authorization granted by the permit.

22 (d) Preventing a department employe from performing his or her official duties,  
23 or interfering with the lawful performance of his or her duties.

24 (e) Physically assaulting a department employe while the employe is performing  
25 his or her official duties.  
26



1 (f) Refusing or failing, without just cause, to produce records under sub. (12) or  
2 respond to a department subpoena.

3 NOTE: The denial, suspension or revocation of an import permit is subject  
4 to a right of hearing under ch. 227, Stats., and ch. ATCP 1, Wis. Adm.  
5 Code.  
6

7 (12) IMPORT RECORDS. (a) A person, including the Wisconsin department of  
8 natural resources, that imports fish or fish eggs under sub. (2) shall keep all of the  
9 following records related to each import shipment:

10 1. The date of the import shipment.

11 2. The wild source, if any, from which the importer obtained the imported fish or  
12 fish eggs.

13 3. The name, address and telephone number of the fish farm from which the  
14 importer obtained the imported fish or fish eggs, if the importer obtained them from a fish  
15 farm.

16 4. The name, address and telephone number of the person receiving the import  
17 shipment if that person is not the importer. The importer shall also record the recipient's  
18 fish farm registration number under s. ATCP 10.68, stocking permit number under s.  
19 29.53, Stats., or bait dealer license number under s. 29.137, Stats., if any.

20 NOTE: See sub. (6).

21 5. The location at which the import shipment was received in this state.

22 6. The size or class, quantity and species of fish or fish eggs included in the  
23 import shipment.

1 (b) A person required to keep records under par. (a) shall retain those records for  
2 at least 5 years and shall make them available to the department, upon request, for  
3 inspection and copying.

4 NOTE: An import permit holder must keep and provide records under sub. (12),  
5 regardless of whether the importer is located in this state or another state.  
6 The department may deny, suspend or revoke an import permit under sub.  
7 (11) if the importer fails to keep records, or fails to provide them to the  
8 department upon request.

9  
10 (13) IMPORTING DISEASED FISH. No person may import any live fish or fish  
11 eggs into this state if that person knows, or has reason to know, that those fish or fish  
12 eggs are infected or show clinical signs of any reportable disease under s. ATCP 10.025.

13 (14) HEALTH CERTIFICATE REQUIRED. No person may import any  
14 shipment of live fish or fish eggs into this state unless one of the following applies:

15 (a) The import shipment is accompanied by a health certificate issued for that  
16 shipment under sub. (15).

17 (b) The import shipment originates from a fish farm and all of the following  
18 apply:

19 1. The import shipment is labeled with the name and address of that fish farm.

20 2. No fish or fish eggs in the import shipment were ever collected from a wild  
21 source.