Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Code Book

The regulations in this Code Book are hereby adopted by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission under authority of Amendment 35 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas. All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

I1.00 Aquatic Animal Health Requirements

I1.03 Fish Health Requirements For Importation Outside Of VHSV-Positive Areas

I1.01 Definitions

For purposes of the requirements in this Addendum Chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

Appropriate Fish Sample– A number of fish, as described below, must include any fish with lesions or behavioral anomalies.

Facility inspection sample number based on an assumed pathogen prevalence level (APPL). Facility inspections must be conducted at the 2% APPL level.

Population Size (Number of fish)	Number of Fish Requi
50	50
100	75
250	110
500	130
2000	145
>100,000	150

Facility Inspection: An inspection of an entire facility that establishes whether or not the facility is free from specific diseases. Critical parts of a facility inspection program are 1) the facility must have biosecurity to prevent the introduction of diseases between inspections, and 2) that any fish introduced onto the facility meet the Commissions inspection requirements, and are free of regulated pathogens. Facility level inspections are the preferred testing method and the model set by international standards (OIE).

Facility Inspection Requirements: Fish Farms with over >100,000 fish on the facility must submit 150 fish representing all fish species and culture units present on a farm or facility. The ratio of fish species on the farm or facility should be reflected in the composition of the sample. The sample should not be collected from tanks or raceways used for short-term storage of fish produced in other culture units. Biosecurity must be in place and maintained to prevent a change in health status during the period from sample collection to harvesting and moving of the fish. Sample must be collected

during appropriate season by a qualified independent party. Facility inspections must be conducted at least once annually, but twice annually for Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus (VHSV) positive areas.

Lot Inspection: An inspection of a single lot of fish (fish that are of the same age, species, brood stock, facility, and water source). Lot inspections establish only the disease status of a specific group of fish on a particular day. Lot Inspections are valid only for as long as the disease status of the lot is protected by biosecurity measures.

Lot Inspection Requirements: – 60 fish per lot of fish of the same age, species, brood stock, facility, and water source; which must not be co-mingled with other fish populations between sample collection and fish shipment. Biosecurity must be in place and maintained to prevent a change in health status during period from sample collection to harvesting and moving of the fish. A sample must be collected during appropriate season by a qualified independent party and testing should be conducted as close as possible to anticipated fish movement. Facilities holding species listed as threatened, endangered, or of greatest conservation concern may utilize a sentinel species from the same genus which are located in the same water source for a minimum of 30 days prior to sample collection.

Appropriate Season– The first day of March until the first day of June solstice, and the first day of September until the first day of December solstice.

Appropriate Testing Methods– A screening and confirmatory test conducted as described in the inspection section of the most recent edition of the “American Fisheries Society – Fish Health Section Blue Book,” or the most recent edition of the World Organization for Animal Health “Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals,” or conducted according to the approved protocols in a laboratory listed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service which has been approved to test for aquatic animal pathogens,

or in a USDA NAHLN laboratory by an official NAHLN protocol.

Biosecurity Required–

For facilities relying on Facility Inspections:

New aquatic animals must have a health certification status equivalent to, or greater than, that of current health certification status of the facility, or they must be maintained in a biosecure quarantine that protects the main facility from infectious disease introduction. Disinfected eggs from quarantined animals may be moved out of quarantine and the fry moved onto the main facility. Facilities may only use water sources for which the Commission deems there is no evidence that regulated pathogens are present, or must disinfect the water prior to its introduction onto the facility proper.

For facilities relying on Lot Inspections:

A lot of fish (same age, species, water source, broodstock, and facility) must not be co-mingled with other fish on the facility between sample collection and fish shipments. Between sampling and shipping, the fish must be maintained in water sources for which there is no evidence that regulation pathogens are present, or must disinfect the water prior to its introduction into the quarantine area.

Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)– An official document issued by a federal, state, tribal, or accredited veterinarian certifying that the fish identified on the document have been inspected and were found to satisfy the regulations pertaining to their intended movement – within the same state, between states, or internationally. Void 30 days after issuance.

Certificate of Veterinary Usage– A CVI documenting no clinical signs of disease and infection will be accepted for health certification for educational display purposes (e.g. zoos, public aquaria, museums) where individual specimens remain in captivity in a closed system throughout their life.

Culture Units– Ponds, raceways, cages or other containments used to rear fish.

Farm-raised– Fish that spend their entire life (egg to sale) on a farm or commercial facility.

Qualified Independent Party– A veterinarian, a fish health inspector certified by the Fish Health Section of the American Fisheries Society, or an employee of a state agency recognized as a competent authority for fish health and assigned by that agency to collect fish inspection samples and verify biosecurity.

Qualified Testing Laboratory– Any state, federal, or private laboratory recognized by the AGFC as competent to conduct fish inspections.

Pathogens of Concern (list subject to change as new pathogens of concern emerge)–

Fish Pathogens: (Required for fish species)

- Epizootic hematopoietic necrosis (EHN)**
- Infectious hematopoietic necrosis (IHN)
- *Oncorhynchus masou* virus disease**
- Spring viremia of carp
- Viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSV)
- Infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN)
- Bacterial kidney disease (*Renibacterium salmoninarum*)**
- Piscirickettsiosis (*Piscirickettsia salmonis)***
- Whirling disease (*Myxobolus cerebralis*)**

** **not** required for warm water species

Mollusk Pathogens: (Required for mollusk species)

- *Bonamia exitiosus*
- *Bonamia ostreae*
- *Marteilia refringens*
- *Marteilia sydneyi*
- *Marteilia chungmuensis*
- *Mikrocytos roughleyi*
- *Perkinsus olseni / atlanticus*
- *Candidatus Xenohaliotis californiensis*
- *Haplosporidium nelsoni*
- *Haplosporidium costale*
- *Pekinsus marinus*
- *QPX*

Crustaceans Pathogens: (Required for crustacean species, see Addendum J1.01 for shrimp species)

- Taura syndrome virus
- Yellowhead disease
- Spherical baculovirosis (Penaeus monodon-type)
- Infectious hypodermal and hematopoietic necrosis
- White spot disease
- Tetrahedral baculovirosis (*Baculovirus penae*)
- Crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*)
- Necrotizing hepatopancreas diseases (HPD)

VHSV-free Water Source– Water from a well, borehole or spring (the spring must be covered and free of fish), or disinfected water source which does not contain VHSV.

VHSV-positive State– Any state in the U.S. or any Canadian province listed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service as positive for viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ontario and Quebec).

I1.02 Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus Fish Importation Requirements – Areas Deemed Positive for VHSV

Requirements:

A. A Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit will only be issued to persons holding a valid fish farmer, fish dealer, or independent hauler permit who submit on forms supplied by the Commission satisfactory documentary proof including the following information:
   1. Proof an appropriate fish sample has been collected by a qualified independent party during the appropriate season and submitted to a fish health inspection laboratory for analysis; and
   2. Inspection reports from a qualified testing laboratory asserting the sample tested negative for VHSV by appropriate testing methods, and
   3. Written documentation from a qualified independent party asserting the fish are farm-raised, the farm or facility uses a VHSV-free water source, and fish or eggs to be shipped to Arkansas have not been mixed with, or potentially contaminated by, fish or water not meeting standards specified for a Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit. To be eligible for a Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit, a farm or facility must provide written documentation from a qualified independent party verifying the farm or facility has a biosecurity plan sufficient to prevent contamination of permit-eligible fish by ineligible fish or by water not from a VHSV-free source, and the farm or facility follows the biosecurity plan without exception. The fish health inspection report must be no more than 60 days

old from the date of reported test results at time of application for Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit from Commission.

B. The Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit is an annual non-transferrable permit issued in 2 six-month intervals in compliance with Addendum D1.01. The first interval is January 1 - June 30, and the second interval is July 1 - December31. The second interval of the permit will be issued only after new semi-annual testing results are submitted to the Commission. Annual renewal may be granted based upon submission to the Commission of new documents as described above that include new semi-annual testing results. Failure to conduct a semi-annual inspection will result in a 1-year suspension of the Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit.

C. **EXCEPTIONS:** A Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit shall not be required for import of live fish from a VHSV-positive state if any of the following three exceptions apply:

1. The species are moving to a state-inspected slaughter facility meeting the following criteria:
    i. The slaughter facility must discharge wastewater into a municipal sewage system that includes wastewater disinfection; and
    ii. The slaughter facility must either render or compost offal, including carcasses.
2. The species are moving to a qualified diagnostic facility for disease testing.
3. The species are marine or tropical aquarium trade fish species that meet the following criteria:
    i. The species are moving directly to a home aquarium; or
    ii. The species are moving to wholesale or retail distributors of marine and

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tropical aquarium fish and will be permanently confined in a closed system (aquaria, tanks, or lined pools).

I1.03 Fish Health Requirements For Importation Outside Of VHSV-Positive Areas

Nonresident fish farm permit requestors must submit the most recent health certificate for their facility, and the previous three years' worth of health certificates (if applicable) with their first Nonresident Fish Farm application form. An annual renewal application of a nonresident fish farm permit must include all new health certificates issued since the issuance of their last permit. If selling fish obtained from sources outside of the permitted farm, health certificates from those facilities must be submitted for review prior to importation into the state, and a copy of the certificate(s) must accompany shipment to the final destination. A copy of the fish health certificates must accompany shipment with Bill of Lading. Importation of wild caught species is prohibited in accordance with Code 35.13.

Resident and Nonresident Fish Dealers/ Independent Haulers (including Pond Consultants) are required to purchase approved species from Commission permitted sources (see Code 35.01) with required fish health certificate for stocking purposes within the state. The most recent fish health certificates for sources must be submitted with application/ renewal at time of submission. If fish are obtained from a new source, their health certificate must be submitted to AGFC for review prior to the importation of the fish. A copy of fish health certificates must accompany shipment with Bill of Lading and Invoice. Importation of wild caught species is prohibited in accordance with Code 35.13.

A. A Nonresident Fish Farm Permit and Nonresident Fish Dealer Permit will only be issued to persons who submit, on forms supplied by the Commission, satisfactory documentary proof including the following information:
    1. That an appropriate fish sample has been collected by a qualified independent party during the appropriate season and was submitted to a qualified fish health inspection laboratory for analysis from the facility and for any outside sources the facility utilizes;
    2. Inspection reports from a qualified testing laboratory

asserting the sample tested negative for listed pathogens by appropriate testing methods;

3. Written documentation from a qualified independent party asserting the fish are farm-raised, the farm or facility uses a VHSV-free water source, and fish or fertilized eggs to be shipped to Arkansas have not been mixed with, or potentially contaminated by, fish or water from known sources of regulated pathogens; and
4. A completed application for the appropriate permit in compliance with Code 35.01 and Addendum Chapter J1.00.

B. Failure to submit required aquatic animal health documentation in a timely manner will result in a 1-year suspension of eligibility to obtain permit.

C. **EXCEPTIONS:** Aquatic animal health certificates shall not be required for the importation of live fish or crayfish if:

1. The species are moving to a state-inspected slaughter facility meeting the following criteria:
    i. The slaughter facility must discharge wastewater into a municipal sewage system that includes wastewater disinfection; and
    ii. The slaughter facility must either render or compost offal, including carcasses;
2. The species are moving to a qualified diagnostic facility for disease testing;
3. Channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctantus*), Blue catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*), and Hybrid Catfish (*Ictalurus furactus X Ictalurus punctatus*) imported for commercial “foodfish” production may be imported by permitted Resident fish farmers from permitted Non-

resident fish farms located in the state of Mississippi, in the area West of Interstate Highway 55 and North of Interstate Highway 20, without a health certificate, provided such fish remain on the receiving facility premises, except to go directly to a terminal processing facility. Exclusions for these species do not apply for fish destined for recreational or other stocking purposes. Receiving facilities that include these fish as part of their farm level or lot inspection are allowed to offer for sale approved species for stocking purposes;

4. Crayfish imported for immediate human consumption; or
5. Marine or tropical aquarium fish species that meet the following criteria:
    i. The fish are moving directly to a home aquarium; or
    ii. The fish are moving to wholesale or retail distributors of marine and tropical fish and will be permanently confined in a closed system (aquaria, tanks, or pools).