**Fish Farming in Wisconsin
 *What You Need to Know***



**Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**  **Division of Animal Health**  **February 2015**

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| **You need to register if** | You hatch fish eggs or hold live fish for any of the following purposes:* Sale or distribution
* Stocking into state waters
* Fishing
* Bait or fertilizer
* Use as food for humans or animals
* Education, demonstration or research

You hold live fish or fish eggs owned by someone else. |
| **You do not need to register if** | Fish/eggs are ornamentals and are not mixed with non-ornamentals or reared for bait, or food for humans or animals. You hold live bait fish under a DNR bait dealer license and only sell the fish at retail.Fish/eggs are in a fully enclosed building, solely for education, display, or research in that building, not commingled with fish/fish eggs for other purposes, no untreated water used to hold fish or eggs is discharged to state waters, and all dead fish/offal from the building are disposed of by rendering, composting, municipal solid waste disposal or means approved by the department.You exhibit live fish publicly for 15 days or less in a calendar year, or longer with our authorization.You hold live fish or eggs for 30 days or less at a food processing plant, retail food store or restaurant pending slaughter or sale to consumers, provided that they are not commingled with fish/fish eggs used for other purposes, no untreated water used to hold fish or eggs is discharged to state waters, and all dead fish/offal are disposed of by rendering, composting, municipal solid waste disposal or means approved by the department. You are only transporting live fish or fish eggs to or from a fish farm.You hold fish at a temporary fishing event, if certain requirements are met.You hold live fish solely for the purpose of sale as pets, if certain criteria are met.You temporarily hold live fish in a Wisconsin DNR fish egg collection station located in waters of the state, solely for the purpose of collecting eggs, if certain requirements are met. |
| **If you have** **a private fish pond** | By registering your private pond, you are entitled to stock your pond without a DNR permit.If you register, you ***do*** have to meet all of our requirements for fish farms.A WI DNR aquatic pesticide or herbicide use permit may still be required. Registration is not intended for ponds that do not contain fish.Whether you register or not, you still must meet DNR requirements if your pond has an inlet or outlet connecting it to public or natural waters. |
| **Fish farm types** | Type 1 registration allows:* Fishing, including public fee fishing
* Collecting eggs from your own brood stock
* Obtaining live fish or fish eggs from a source other than your own farm (except from a wild source)
* Selling or distributing live fish/fish eggs to a food processing plant, retail store, or restaurant that meets certain requirements.
* Raising bait for personal use at your fish farm
* Moving live fish between Type 1 fish farms that you operate in Wisconsin
* Selling live fish/fish eggs off-site to consumers for food provided certain requirements are met.
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*This is only a summary of the requirements for fish farms in Wisconsin. You can find the complete statutes and rules online; web addresses are listed at the end of this document. You can also call us at 608-224-4887 to get paper copies.* ***Do not use this summary as your only reference in starting up a fish farm.***  *You need to talk to us in the Division of Animal Health at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).*

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| **Fish farm types** | Type 2 registration allows:* All the activities allowed under Type 1
* Raising bait for sale or trade
* Raising, buying, trading, or importing live fish/fish eggs for resale,

 stocking, processing, or exchange * Distributing fish/fish eggs (not produced on your fish farm) from inside this state

 to outside this state Type 3 registration allows:* All the activities allowed under Types 1 and 2
* Obtaining, selling or distributing live fish or fish eggs from a wild source of species susceptible to Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia.
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| **If you have fish farms at more than one location** | A “location” is a single parcel of land, or two or more contiguous parcels of land.  “Contiguous” means “touching,” but a road, river, railroad, or section line does not break the contiguity. Each location must be a separate registration, on a separate form.You do not have to register all your locations as the same type of fish farm. Call us before moving fish or eggs between locations to see if you need a fish health certificate. |
| **If you have more than one fish farm at the same location** | You can register more than one fish farm on the same parcel or on contiguous parcels if we certify the farms as medically separated. Call 608-224-4887 to request certification. There is a $400 (per day) fee for inspection. Each farm ***may*** be considered separate for purposes of disease control and movement; this means that you might need a fish health certificate to move fish or eggs between the farms. Contact us before moving fish or eggs. |
| **Annual fees** | Type 1 registration:* $37.50 for one registration
* $50 for two or more registrations

Type 2 and Type 3 registration:* $125 for 1-5 registrations
* $150 for 6-10 registrations
* $200 for 11-20 registrations
* $300 for more than 20 registrations

Primary and secondary schools and veterans eligible for the veteran’s fee waiver program under s. 45.44, Wis. Stats., are exempt from fees. |
| **Completing the application for registration** | Be sure to complete all areas of the form, on both sides of each page. If you don’t, it will delay your registration.You also need to register as a livestock premises if there are fish/fish eggs in the pond or you intend to stock the pond this registration year. Call 1-888-808-1910 or go to *www.wiid.org* to register your premises. Without this livestock premises code on your fish farm registration, processing will be delayed. A check or money order for the appropriate fee must accompany your application. We will not issue your registration certificate without payment.Send the application and payment to: Send Social Security number form to:**WDATCP WDATCP/DAH****PO Box Lockbox 93598 Attn: Program and Policy Supervisor****Milwaukee, WI 53293-0598 PO Box 8911** **Madison, WI 53708-8911**Call **608-224-4887** if you have questions about completing the application. |
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| **Ownership changes** | Registration is not transferable. The new owner must apply to register the farm, even if the registration was up-to-date under the previous owner. |
| **Other changes** | If there are changes in any of the information you provided on your registration application, you must contact us. Call 608-224-4887 and ask for the aquaculture program associate. |
| **Keeping records** | You need to keep the following records of all fish/fish egg shipments to or from your farm for five years:* Name, address, fish farm registration number (if any), and premises identification number (if any) of the person who shipped the fish/eggs, or to whom you delivered fish/eggs
* The date that you received or delivered fish/eggs
* The location where you received or delivered fish/eggs
* The size or class, quantity, and species of fish/eggs received or delivered
* Import permits issued by DATCP for movement of fish into Wisconsin from another state
* Fish health certificates

You do not need to keep records on the sale of live fish/eggs sold directly to a consumer for food or bait. |
| **Moving fish****Importing fish** | Health certificates are required to import live fish or fish eggs ***into*** Wisconsin from another state, or to move certain fish or fish eggs ***within*** Wisconsin.Health certificates are issued for:* An individual shipment of fish/fish eggs, which expires 30 days after it is issued.
* A fish farm inspection, which expires one year after it is issued.

Health certificates:* Must be completed by a veterinarian or fish health inspector qualified to do fish health inspections, after a full inspection
* Must include results from a qualified laboratory for required disease testing
* Must be sent to us within 7 days after completion
* Are available by calling 608-224-4887

Importing non-native species of non-ornamental fish, such as tilapia, requires DNR approval. Import permits are required from the department to import live fish/fish eggs into Wisconsin from another state if the fish/fish eggs are either coming from or going to the wild. If you register your fish farm, you may import fish/fish eggs from a fish farm in another state without an import permit as long as you have a health certificate.  |
| **Using pesticides** | You need to be certified by the Agricultural Resource Management Division of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to apply restricted-use pesticides to destroy aquatic plants, microorganisms, or other pests. This is in addition to your fish farm registration. Call 608-224-4500 for information about pesticide applicator certification.There may be other federal, state or local regulations for use of pesticides. |
| **Processing and selling fish for food** | To process or sell fish for human food, you will need to work with a food safety inspector and obtain appropriate licenses from the Food Safety Division of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Call 608-224-4700. |

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| **For more information** | Rules and statutes* Animal Health statute: *http://www.legis.state.wi.us/statutes/Stat0095.pdf* (see 95.60)
* Animal diseases and movement rule: *http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/atcp/atcp010.pdf* (see subchapter VIII)

DATCP aquaculture veterinarian **Dr. Myron Kebus**, 608-224-4876, *myron.kebus@wisconsin.gov*DATCP aquaculture license/permit program associate 608-224-4887, *DATCPfishfarms@wisconsin.gov*DATCP online fish farm website information  *http://datcp.wisconsin.gov,* click on “Animals” tab and look for “fish farms” |
|  | University of Wisconsin aquaculture specialists* Northern Region: **Ron Johnson**, 814-515-2570, *ron.johnson@ces.uwex.edu*
* Southern Region: **Jim Held**, 920-648-2902, *jaheld@wisc.edu*

DATCP food safety information 608-224-4700, *DATCPfood@wisconsin.gov*DATCP pesticide information 608-224-4500, *DATCPagriculture@wisconsin.gov*DATCP marketing information **Mike Bandli**, 608-224-5136, *mike.bandli@wisconsin.gov* |
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Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection

Division of Animal Health

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