

Import/Export Requirements for Aquaculture Products

Division of Aquaculture

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The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and three federal agencies, United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Department of Homeland Security: U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), regulate the importation and exportation of aquatic animals and plants in Florida. This fact sheet will guide you through the regulatory process for shipping **commercial aquacultured products** in and out of Florida.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) regulates the importation of aquatic organisms that are **not aquaculture products**. Contact FWC at (850) 488-4676 or visit FWC's Importation webpage for more information.

PRIOR TO IMPORT

FDACS requires: Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) and diagnostic results.

An OCVI is a legible certificate made on an official form from the animal's state of origin, issued and signed by veterinarians licensed and accredited in the animal's state of origin. **An OCVI is valid for 30 days following issuance by the veterinarian.**

Diagnostic results must identify the type of test performed, test results, and the dates of such testing for any notifiable or reportable pathogen as determined by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (USDA APHIS VS), or the State Veterinarian.

See [USDA APHIS Aquaculture Disease Information](#) and [OIE Listed Diseases 2018](#) for information about notifiable diseases.

Health records shall include:

- Aquaculture Certificate of Registration Number
- Name and Address of consignor
- Name and Address of consignee
- Date of Shipment
- Date of entry/receipt
- Species
- Total number of animals by species
- Any pertinent recent diagnostic results performed to the group of aquatic organisms.

USFWS requires: Import and Export License. A license is required for all commercial imports or exports of wildlife. This license is **valid for one year**, requires annual renewal and must be acquired **before** importing or exporting aquatic animals and plants. The licensee must keep and allow inspection of all records and inventory.

Links for Import and Export License:

[Import/Export Application and Guide](#)
[Import/Export Webpage](#)
[Import/Export FAQs](#)

USDA APHIS requires: Import Permit for Koi, Carp, Goldfish. For live fish and gametes from [eight species susceptible](#) to Spring Viremia of Carp (SVC), USDA APHIS VS requires: an **import permit, OCVI, and inspection upon arrival**. Importers must apply for a single-use permit. For permit information, contact USDA National Import & Export Services, 4700 River Rd., Unit 39, Riverdale, MD 20737 at (301) 831-5500 option 2.

Import Permit Links:

[Permit application VS 17-129 Instructions for VS 17-129](#)

AT TIME OF IMPORT

U.S. Customs and Border

Protection requires:

Declaration for Importation or Exportation of Fish or Wildlife

This form must be filed with USFWS port authorities at an authorized port of entry and receive clearance before U.S. Customs will release each shipment. Declarations may be submitted [online](#).

Declaration Links:

[Form 3-177](#)

[Form 3-177 Instructions](#)

Two exemptions to export

declaration exist. Unless they require a permit under [50 CFR 17](#) (endangered and threatened species) or [50 CFR 23](#) (CITES-protected species), the following animals are exempt from **export declaration**:

1. Exports of live oysters, clams, mussels and scallops, and their eggs, larvae or juvenile forms intended for propagation or propagation research.
2. Exports of live U.S. farm-raised fish eggs or live farm-raised fish

USDA: Import Inspection

For species requiring import inspection by APHIS VS, imports must enter through the Port of Miami or Tampa.

Miami (Notify at least 72h prior to scheduled arrival):

(305) 876-2200

vspsmia@aphis.usda.gov

Tampa (Gainesville office, Notify at time of application for import permit):

(352) 313-3060

vspsfl@aphis.usda.gov



Division of Aquaculture

USFWS: Designated Port Exemption Permit. All wildlife must be shipped through a USFWS designated port. In Florida, this is the Port of Miami. A Designated Port Exemption Permit (DPEP) can be granted for single or multiple shipments, and may be granted for scientific purposes, or to alleviate an economic hardship by shipping through another port.

The DPEP allows aquaculture commodities to be shipped through the Port of Tampa (a staffed non-designated port), is valid for two years and costs \$100 to obtain or renew.

[DPEP Application and Guide](#)

Inspection fee information is available [online](#) or by contacting USFWS Office of Law Enforcement at (703) 358-1949 or lawenforcement@fws.gov.

Mail completed permits and payments to:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
[Southeastern Region Law Enforcement Office](#)
1875 Century Blvd, Suite 380
Atlanta, GA 30345
(404) 679-7057
(404) 679-7065 fax

For any questions regarding USFWS permits, please contact:
(404) 679-7195
permitsEastLE@fws.gov

Inspection Office Contacts:
[Miami Wildlife Inspection Office](#)
10426 NW 31st Terrace
Miami, FL 33172
(305) 526-2620
miami_wlinspectors@fws.gov

[Tampa Wildlife Inspection Office](#)
4662 Air Cargo Rd.
Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33614
(813) 348-1500
(813) 872-7869 fax fwsole_tampa@fws.gov

AFTER IMPORT: RECORDS

Health records, such as OCVIs (or interstate use of [APHIS 7001](#)), diagnostic results or USDA import permit ([VS17-129](#)), for all aquatic organisms imported into Florida must be retained for **at least two years** by certified aquaculturists. Records must be available for inspection by the FDACS, Division of Aquaculture upon request.

EXPORT

Many countries of import require specific documentation of animal health status. For countries that require export health certification, USDA APHIS' endorsement (*seal of approval*) is required. Contact USDA APHIS VS for endorsement information. *See contact information at bottom of right column.* Additional information is also available on USDA's "[IREGs](#)" (International Animal Product Export Regulations) webpage.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS

There are additional regulations for specific aquaculture products. See the [Aquaculture Best Management Practices](#) for species specific information.

Penaeid Shrimp - All intrastate shipments of penaeid shrimp in Florida require an OCVI. Florida's OCVI form can be ordered from the FDACS, [Division of Animal Industry](#), State Veterinarian's Office by contacting the Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at: (321) 697-1400 or DiagLab@FreshFromFlorida.com.

Sturgeon - All imports of live sturgeon into Florida must be accompanied by an OCVI from the state or country of origin.

Shellfish - Shellfish or shellfish gametes **imported into Florida** must be accompanied by **diagnostic results** from an accredited laboratory and an OCVI. The OCVI and diagnostic results must document that the stock shows no evidence of the following pathogens: Quahog Parasite Unknown (QPX) in clams; *Haplosporidium nelsoni* (MSX), *Perkinsus marinus* (Dermo) and *Bonamia exitiosa* in oysters. **Oysters from nurseries, hatcheries, and leases on the Atlantic Coast may not be transferred to Florida Gulf Coast waters.**

Aquatic Snails - The **importation and interstate movement** of live aquatic snails is regulated by USDA APHIS, Plant Protection Quarantine and FDACS Division of Plant Industry (DPI). [APHIS PPQ Form 526](#) (Plant Pest Permit) is required for the importation or interstate movement of any snails listed as plant pests. Contact [USDA APHIS PPQ](#) for more information on snails recognized as plant pests and permitting requirements. DPI also has [Guidelines for Importing Exotic and Non-Florida U.S. Arthropods](#), which gives an overview of DPI permitting requirements for aquatic snail species. For any questions related to importing aquatic snails into Florida contact DPI at (888) 397-1517 or by email at DPIHelpline@FreshFromFlorida.com.

Aquatic Plants - FDACS, Division of Plant Industry (DPI) oversees the possession of nonnative plant species. Aquatic plant classifications can be found in [Prohibited Aquatic Plants, Rule 5B-64.011, F.A.C.](#) See [Aquatic Plant Aquaculture fact sheet](#) for more information.

For additional international import and export information contact:

USFWS:
(800) 344-9453

USDA APHIS Miami:
(305) 876-2200

USDA APHIS Gainesville:
(352) 313-3060

