



University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point
Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility



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Compliance Reminder

This is a reminder to all Wisconsin DATCP registered fish farms: there are requirements that must be followed to stay in compliance regarding importation, record keeping, and stocking of fish into waters of the state. If you are contacted by a DATCP animal health inspector and are asked for documentation, you must provide it. Also, please remember that there are fish health requirements for moving fish from farm to farm and from farm into waters of the state – check with both DATCP & DNR for current health requirements regarding Fish Health Certificate and testing for VHS. The following will help you with compliance requirements.

Importing Requirements – ATCP 10.62

If you will be importing live fish or fish eggs from another state into Wisconsin, you must obtain an import permit prior to importation. To request an import permit application, call 608-224-4887 or write to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Division of Animal Health, Aquaculture, PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-9811. In addition, a permit from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is required to import **non-native** species of fish or fish eggs, under Section NR 29.735, Wisconsin Statutes.

Record Keeping – ATCP 10.61

As a fish farm operator, you need to keep the following records for all fish and fish eggs shipped from or received at your fish farm:

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

It is recommended that these items should be bills of sale/purchase receipts and for farmers who do not have official sales receipts, these transactions must be kept in an organized sales/purchases log. As a fish farm operator, you shall keep those records for at least 5 years and, upon request, shall make them available to the department for inspection and copying.

Stocking onto farms or into Waters of the State – ATCP 10.64 or NR 29.736 & 29.981

In order to stock fish, the recipient must have a DATCP fish farm registration (which is not waters of the state) or they must have a DNR fish stocking permit (for waters of the state).

The question has been asked – “Does the distributor (stocker) have legal responsibility to ensure that his/her fish are being stocked legally?” The answer to this question is yes, if the distributor does the stocking. If the distributor simply sells fish to a private party who takes them home and stocks them, then the answer is probably going to be no, unless he was otherwise conspiring with the purchaser to stock illegally. A DNR citation issued for this violation would normally cost \$1,133. The maximum penalty per stocking violation is \$2,138.

You can refer to DATCP 10.64 and DNR rules NR 29.736 Stocking of fish and NR 29.981 Parties to a violation for more information on stocking regulations.