

The following table outlines a classification system for invasive fish species that is under consideration. In this table each column represents a category of fish species and each row represents an activity that might or might not be regulated. Then, for each category and species the table indicates whether and how the activity would be regulated. All non-native species are considered invasive for purposes of this classification. Native species are assumed to be non-invasive.

	CATEGORY			
	Restricted		Goldfish and koi carp	
ACTIVITY	Species that cannot survive and reproduce in Wisconsin and specified viable species used in the aquarium trade (white sturgeon, Chinese hi-fin banded shark, bitterling, ide, and weather loach)	Species in the aquaculture trade (arctic char, atlantic salmon, brown trout, chinook salmon, coho salmon, rainbow trout, pink salmon, redear sunfish, tiger trout, and tilapia)		Named problem species (alewife, zander, tench, rudd, rainbow smelt, bighead carp, black carp, silver carp, red shiner, round goby, ruffe, snakeheads, threespine stickleback, tubenose goby, white perch, sockeye salmon, eastern and western mosquito fish, grass carp, blue catfish, common carp other than koi, and sea lamprey) and any other species not listed as restricted.
transport (including importation)	OK, but DATCP permit required for importation	OK, but DATCP and DNR permits required for importation	OK, but DATCP permit required for importation	by DNR permit only
hold in “safe facility” (i.e., a container designed to prevent escape to the waters of the state)	OK	OK	OK	not allowed
hold elsewhere (e.g., farm pond, garden pond, fish farm etc.)	not allowed	allowed on registered fish farms	OK	not allowed
transfer (e.g., buy, sell, give-away)	OK	OK	OK	not allowed
introduce into waters of the state	not allowed	by DATCP and DNR permit only	not allowed	not allowed
use as bait	not allowed	not allowed	not allowed	not allowed

The categories are further defined as follows:

- 1) **Prohibited Species.** Candidate species include alewife, zander, tench, rudd, rainbow smelt, bighead carp, black carp, silver carp, red shiner, round goby, ruffe, snakeheads, threespine stickleback, tubenose goby, white perch, sockeye salmon, eastern and western mosquito fish, grass carp, blue catfish, non-koi common carp, and sea lamprey. All non-native fish species not listed or defined in one of the restricted categories below would also be prohibited.
- 2) **Restricted.** All other non-native fish species fall in this group. It is subdivided into three subcategories, each with appropriate restrictions on the following specific activities: importation, transportation, possession in “safe facilities”, possession elsewhere, transfer, introduction, and use as bait (see outline below). “Safe facility” would be defined in terms of characteristics that would prevent escape into waters of the state.
 - a) *Established non-native species not on the prohibited list.* Koi and goldfish.
 - b) *Species in the aquaculture trade.* Arctic char, atlantic salmon, brown trout, chinook salmon, coho salmon, rainbow trout, pink salmon, redear sunfish, tiger trout (brown trout x brook trout hybrid), and tilapia.
 - c) *Non-viable species and temperate freshwater species in the aquarium trade.* Although thousands of species are handled in the aquarium trade, the vast majority are not viable in Wisconsin because they are marine species or cannot survive Wisconsin winters. Non-viable species in the aquarium trade would be defined in terms of objective criteria related to salinity and thermal tolerance, and not be listed by name. Eight currently used aquarium species might be viable in Wisconsin: white sturgeon, goldfish, koi (common carp), mosquitofish, Chinese hi-fin banded shark, bitterling, ide, weather loach. Those could be listed as members of this category, but it has been suggested that white sturgeon, mosquitofish, bitterling, ide, and weather loach be considered for inclusion in the prohibited list.

This general framework has been reviewed by a broad-based citizen advisory group that included a fish farmer, a bait dealer, a representative of the aquarium industry, a commercial fisher, and representatives of DATCP, Sea Grant, USFWS, GLIFWC, DNR Science Services, the Center for Limnology, and the Conservation Congress. The following species warrant further discussion because the citizen group did not agree about them or because they were not discussed there: mosquitofish, white sturgeon, hi-fin banded shark, bitterling, ide, weather loach, blue catfish, sockeye salmon, grass carp, and hybrid striped bass. Also, permitted uses in each category may be further reviewed.