



Import/Export Requirements for Aquaculture Products

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Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300
Tallahassee Office: (850) 617-7600
Bartow Office: (863) 578-1870
Email: Aquaculture_Certificate@FDACS.gov
Website: www.FDACS.gov

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), United States 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 or out of the state of Florida. This fact sheet will guide you through the regulatory process for shipping commercial aquaculture products in or out of the state 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 an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) and diagnostic results for certain species to be submitted to Aquaculture_Health@FDACS.gov for review and approval prior to shipment to a certified aquaculture farm. (See page 2 for additional regulations prior to shipment.)

An OCVI is a legible certificate made on an official form from the animal's state of origin, issued and signed by a veterinarian 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 (WOAH), USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (USDA APHIS VS), or the State Veterinarian.

See USDA APHIS Aquaculture Disease Information and WOAHL Listed Diseases for information about notifiable diseases. See USDA APHIS Aquaculture Disease Information and WOAHL Listed Diseases for information about notifiable diseases.

USFWS requires an Import and Export License 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](#)

USDA APHIS requires an 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, APHIS, VS, Strategy & Policy - Live Animal Imports, 4700 River Road, Unit 39, Riverdale, Maryland 20737 or by phone at (301) 851-3300, option 2.

Import Permit Links:
[Instructions for VS 17-129](#)

**Note, effective May 31, 2022, APHIS VS requires submission of all new and renewal permit applications via the [APHIS eFile system](#).*

AT TIME OF IMPORT

U.S. Customs and Border Protection requires a 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, sperm, gametes, 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 Inspections

For species requiring import inspection by APHIS VS, imports must enter through the Port of Miami or Tampa. To import or export through Tampa please schedule with the Gainesville office.

Miami (Please notify at least 72 hours prior to scheduled arrival):

Phone: (305) 876-2200

Email: vs.mpo@usda.gov

Gainesville (Please notify at the time of application for import permit):

Phone: (352) 313-3060

Email: Vspsfl@usda.gov



AT TIME OF IMPORT (cont.)

USFWS requires a 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

License requirement information, application instructions and relevant inspection fee information is available [online](#) or by contacting USFWS Office of Law Enforcement:

Phone: (703) 358-1949

Email: lawenforcement@fws.gov

Mail completed permits and payments to:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southeast Region
Law Enforcement Office
1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 380
Atlanta, Georgia 30345
Phone: (404) 679-7057

For any questions regarding USFWS permits, please contact:

Phone: (404) 679-7195

Email: PermitsEastLE@fws.gov

Inspection Office Contacts:

Miami Wildlife Inspection Office
3701 North West 82nd Avenue
Doral, Florida 33166
Phone: (305) 526-2994 or 2620
Fax: (305) 526-7480
Email: Miami_wlinspectors@fws.gov

Tampa Wildlife Inspection Office
Mail: 8710 West Hillsborough Avenue
Suite 366
Tampa, Florida 33615
Physical: 4662 Air Cargo Road
Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33614
Phone: (813) 348-1500
Fax: (813) 348-1534
Email: 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 Division of Aquaculture staff 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 International Animal Product Export Regulations ([IREGs](#)) webpage.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS

There are additional regulations for specific aquaculture products. See the [Aquaculture Best Management Practices](#) for species specific information. diagnostics from an accredited lab and

Penaeid Shrimp - All intrastate shipments of penaeid shrimp to an aquaculture facility 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:
Phone: (321) 697-1400
Fax: (321) 697-1467
Email: DiagLab@FDACS.gov

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

Shellfish - Shellfish or shellfish gametes **imported into Florida** to a certified aquaculture producer 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 (PPQ) and FDACS DPI. Contact [USDA APHIS PPQ](#) for 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: Phone: 1-888-397-1517
Email: DPIHelpline@FDACS.gov

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

For additional international import and export information, contact:

USFWS:

1-800-344-9453

USDA APHIS Miami:

(305) 876-2200

USDA APHIS Gainesville:

(352) 313-3060

