

ARKANSAS REGISTER

Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



Secretary of State
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Name of Department Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Agency or Division Name Legal Division

Other Subdivision or Department, If Applicable _____

Previous Agency Name, If Applicable _____

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Name of Rule 35.12 Aquatic Animal Health Certification Requirement for Importation

Newspaper Name Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Date of Publishing August 16, 17, 18, 2020 and September 13, 14, 15, 2020

Final Date for Public Comment October 15, 2020

Location and Time of Public Meeting 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock AR 72205, 9:00 a.m.

35.12 ~~Permit Required To Possess Silver Carp, Bighead Carp, Diploid Black Carp Or European Rudd~~ Aquatic Animal Health Certification Requirement for Importation

~~It is unlawful to possess live silver carp, bighead carp, diploid black carp, or European rudd without a current Restricted Species Possession Permit.~~ It is unlawful to import, transport, or otherwise receive into Arkansas live fish or fertilized eggs from any source outside of Arkansas without a valid Fish Health Disease Free certification. Screening and confirmatory test must be conducted as described in the inspection section of the most recent edition of "American Fisheries Society – Fish Health Section Blue Book," the most recent edition of the World Organization for Animal Health "Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals", conducted according to approved protocols in a laboratory listed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service approved to test for aquatic animal pathogens, or in a USDA NAHLN laboratory by an official NAHLN protocol. See Addendum I1.00 for specific requirements.

Exceptions:

1. Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), Blue Catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*) and Hybrid Catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*) X Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) for commercial foodfish production may be imported by permitted Resident fish farmers from permitted Non-resident fish farms located in the state of Mississippi in the area West of Interstate Hwy 55 and North of Interstate Hwy 20 without a health certificate provided they remain on the receiving facility except to go directly to a terminal processing facility. Exclusions for these species do not apply for fish destined for recreational or other stocking purposes.
2. Federally listed threatened or endangered species or species of greatest conservation concern may utilize a sentinel species from the same genus or located in the same water source to meet health certification requirements.
3. A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection will be accepted in lieu of health certifications for educational display purposes (eg. zoos, public aquaria, museums, etc.) where specimens remain permanently in captivity in a closed aquarium system.

PENALTY: Class 4-3