

ARKANSAS REGISTER

Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



Secretary of State
John Thurston
500 Woodlane, Suite 026
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1094
(501) 682-5070
www.sos.arkansas.gov



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 _____

Contact Person April Soman

Contact E-mail April.Soman@agfc.ar.gov

Contact Phone 501-223-6327 Legal Division

Name of Rule 11.00 Aquatic Animal Health Requirements

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

~~11.01 Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus Fish Importation Requirements~~ **11.00 Aquatic Animal Health Requirements**

For purposes of these requirements, the following definitions shall apply to all sections of the addendum:

Appropriate Fish Sample– ~~150 fish representing all fish lots and culture units present on a farm or facility. The ratio of fish lots on the farm or facility should be reflected in the composition of the sample. The sample should not be collected from tanks or raceways used for short-term storage of fish produced in other culture units.~~ A number of fish, as described below, must include any fish with lesions or behavioral anomalies.

Facility inspection sample number based on an assumed pathogen prevalence level (APPL). Facility inspections must be conducted at the 2% APPL level.

<u>Population Size (Number of fish)</u>	<u>Number of Fish Required for Sample at 2% APPL</u>
50	50
100	75
250	110
500	130
2000	145
>100,000	150

Facility Inspection: An inspection that looks at an entire facility and establishes that the facility is free from specific diseases. Critical parts of a facility inspection program are 1) that the farm must have biosecurity to prevent the introduction of diseases between inspections, and 2) that any fish introduced onto the farm meet the Commission's inspection requirements and are free of regulated pathogens. Facility level inspections are the preferred testing method and the model set by international standards (OIE).

Facility inspection requirements: Fish Farms with over >100,000 fish on the farm must submit 150 fish representing all fish species and culture units present on a farm or facility. The ratio of fish species on the farm or facility should be reflected in the composition of the sample. The sample should not be collected from tanks or raceways used for short-term storage of fish produced in other culture units. Biosecurity must be in place and maintained to prevent a change in health status during period from sample collection to harvesting and moving of the fish. Sample must be collected during appropriate season by qualified independent party. Facility inspections must be conducted at least once annually, twice annually for VHSV positive areas.

Lot Inspection: An inspection of a single lot of fish (fish that are of the same age, same species, same brood stock, same farm, and water from the same source). Lot inspections establish only the disease status of a specific group of fish on a particular day. They are not as effective as facility inspections and are good only for as long as the disease status of the lot is protected by biosecurity measures.

Lot inspection requirements: – 60 fish per lot of fish of the same age, same species, same brood stock, same farm, and same water source; must not be co-mingled with other fish populations between sample collection and fish shipment. Biosecurity must be

in place and maintained to prevent a change in health status during period from sample collection to harvesting and moving of the fish. Sample must be collected during appropriate season by qualified independent party. Testing should be conducted as close as possible to anticipated fish movement. Facilities holding federally-listed threatened or endangered species may utilize a sentinel species from the same genus or a closely related species held in the same water source for a minimum of 30 days prior to sample collection to meet fish health requirements for state and federal culture facilities, research and educational facilities.

Appropriate Season– The first day of ~~spring~~ March until the first day of ~~summer~~ June Solstice, and the first day of ~~fall~~ September until the first day of ~~winter~~ December Solstice.

Appropriate Testing Methods– ~~Cell culture followed by an appropriate confirmatory test. The protocol must be as described in the inspection section of the most recent edition of “American Fisheries Society – Fish Health Section Blue Book,” or must be 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 VHSV.~~ 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.

Biosecurity required—

For farms relying on facility inspections—

New animals must either be of an equivalent health certification status or greater than current health certification status of the current farm population, or they must be maintained in a biosecure quarantine that protects the main farm from infectious disease introduction. Disinfected eggs from quarantined animals may be moved out of quarantine and the fry moved onto the main farm. Farms may only use water supplies for which Commission deems there is no evidence that regulated pathogens are present, or must disinfect the water prior to its introduction onto the farm proper.

For farms relying on lot inspections—

A lot of fish (same age, same species, same water source, same broodstock, same farm) must not be co-mingled with other fish on the farm between sample collection and fish shipments. Between sampling and shipping, the fish must be maintained in water supplies for which there is no evidence that regulation pathogens are present, or must disinfect the water prior to its introduction into the quarantine area.

Certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI)- an official document issued by a federal, state, tribal, or accredited veterinarian certifying that the fish identified on the document have been inspected and were found to satisfy the regulations pertaining to their intended movement – within the same state, between states, or internationally. Void 30 days after issuance.

Certificate of Veterinary usage - A CVI documenting no clinical signs of disease and infection will be accepted for health certification for educational display purposes (eg. zoos, public aquaria, museums) where individual specimens remain in captivity in a closed system throughout their life.

Culture Units– Ponds, raceways, cages or other containments used to rear fish.

Farm-raised– Fish that spend their entire life (egg to sale) on a farm or commercial facility.

~~**Lot**– A group of fish of the same age, from the same broodfish, and that live on a single farm or facility in water from the same source.~~

Qualified Independent Party– A veterinarian, a fish health inspector certified by the Fish Health Section of the American Fisheries Society, or an employee of a state agency recognized as a competent authority for fish health and assigned by that agency to collect fish inspection samples and verify biosecurity.

Qualified Testing Laboratory– Any state, federal, or private laboratory recognized by the AGFC as competent to conduct fish inspections.

Pathogens of Concern (list subject to change as new pathogens of concern emerge):

Fish Pathogens: (Required for fish species)

- Epizootic hematopoietic necrosis (EHN)
 - Infectious hematopoietic necrosis (IHN)**
 - *Orcorhynchus masou* virus disease**
 - Spring viremia of carp
 - Viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSV)
 - Infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN)
 - Bacterial kidney disease (*Renibacterium salmoninarum*)**
 - Piscirickettsiosis (*Piscirickettsia salmonis*)**
 - Whirling disease (*Myxobolus cerebralis*)**
- ** **not** required for warm water species

Mollusk Pathogens: (Required for mollusk species)

- *Bonamia exitiosus*
- *Bonamia ostreae*
- *Marteilia refringens*
- *Marteilia sydneyi*
- *Marteilia chungmuensis*
- *Mikrocytos roughleyi*
- *Perkinsus olseni/ atlanticus*
- *Candidatus Xenohaliotis californiensis*
- *Haplosporidium nelsoni*

- *Haplosporidium costale*
- *Pekinsus marinus*
- QPX

Crustaceans Pathogens: (Required for crustacean species, see Addendum J1.01 for shrimp species)

- Taura syndrome virus
- Yellowhead disease
- Spherical baculovirus (*Penaeus monodon*-type)
- Infectious hypodermal and hematopoietic necrosis
- White spot disease
- Tetrahedral baculovirus (*Baculovirus penae*)
- Crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*)
- Necrotizing hepatopancreas diseases (HPD)

VHSV-free Water Source– Water from a well, borehole or spring (the spring must be covered and free of fish), or **disinfected water source** which does not contain VHSV.

VHSV-positive State– Any state in the U.S. or any Canadian province listed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service as positive for viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ontario and Quebec).