

ARKANSAS REGISTER

Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



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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 11.01 Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus Fish Importation Requirements – Areas Deemed Positive for VHSV

Newspaper Name Arkansas Democrat Gazette

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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.

11.01 Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus Fish Importation Requirements – Areas Deemed Positive for VHSV

Requirements:

- A. A Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit ~~may~~ **will only** be issued to persons **holding a valid fish farmer, fish dealer, or independent hauler permit** who submit on forms supplied by the Commission satisfactory documentary proof including the following information:
1. Proof an appropriate fish sample has been collected by a qualified independent party during the appropriate season and submitted to a fish health inspection laboratory for analysis; **and**
 2. Inspection reports from a qualified testing laboratory asserting the sample tested negative for VHSV by appropriate testing methods, and
 3. Written documentation from a qualified independent party asserting the fish are farm-raised, the farm or facility uses a VHSV-free water source, and fish or eggs to be shipped to Arkansas have not been mixed with, or potentially contaminated by, fish or water not meeting standards specified for a Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit. To be eligible for a Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit, a farm or facility must provide written documentation from a qualified independent party verifying the farm or facility has a biosecurity plan sufficient to prevent contamination of permit-eligible fish by ineligible fish or by water not from a VHSV-free source, and the farm or facility follows the biosecurity plan without exception. The fish health inspection report must be no more than 60 days old from the date of reported test results at time of application for Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit from Commission.
- B. ~~An annual~~ **The Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit is an annual non-transferrable permit** issued in ~~2~~ **6** ~~six-month~~ intervals in compliance with Addendum D1.01. The first interval is January 1 - June 30, and the second interval is July 1 – December 31. The second interval of the permit will be issued only after new semi-annual testing results are submitted to the Commission. Annual renewal may be granted based upon submission to the Commission of new documents as described above that include new semi-annual testing results. Failure to conduct a semi-annual inspection will result in a 1-year suspension of the Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit.
- C. **EXCEPTIONS:** A Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit shall not be required for import of live fish from a VHSV-positive state if:
1. The fish are moving to a state-inspected slaughter facility meeting the following criteria:
 - a. The slaughter facility must discharge wastewater into a municipal sewage system that includes wastewater disinfection;
 - b. The slaughter facility must either render or compost offal, including carcasses.
 2. The fish are moving to a qualified diagnostic facility for disease testing.
 3. ~~The fish are ornamentals~~ **Marine or tropical aquarium trade fish species and that** meet the following criteria:
 - a. The fish are moving directly to a home aquarium;

- b. The fish are moving to wholesale or retail distributors of ~~ornamental~~ **marine and tropical aquarium** fish and will be **permanently confined held** in a **closed system** (aquaria, tanks, or lined pools).