

## Licensed Aquaculture Operations FAQ

- 1) **What species are you wanting to propagate, sell or transport and where are they coming from?** *import regulations may vary depending on species*
  - a. Aquatic Species Originating **Within U.S.**
    - i. Contact **Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) Fisheries Department, 405-521-3721** to verify if you need any special permit(s) to import them into Oklahoma
      1. [https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/sites/default/files/2021-09/aquatic\\_import\\_export\\_permit.pdf](https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/sites/default/files/2021-09/aquatic_import_export_permit.pdf)
        - a. **\*\*Grass Carp Minnows, species listed on Aquaculture License Application** – see attachment on Restricted Fish, Title 800:20-1-2 (a)(2)
  - b. Aquatic Species Originating **Outside of U.S.**
    - i. Contact the local **USDA import/export office, 405-751-1701** for international imports/exports
  - c. Restricted Fish – see attachment
- 2) **Are there special requirements for your operational facility?**
  - a. All aquatic species should be kept in adequate water, provided with adequate feed and be kept in appropriate natural or manmade structures.
  - b. A Catastrophic Die Off Plan is required – see attachment
    - i. Carcass Disposal Rules with the **Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF) - Agricultural Environmental Management Services (AEMS), 405-522-5492** must be followed – see attachment
      1. Special permits may be needed from **Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), 800-869-1400**
  - c. Aquatic species propagated for a licensed Aquaculture operation must be originally obtained from other commercially produced operations.
    - i. **All aquatic species shall be confined to the lands and waters of the licensee so as to prohibit: 1) contact with wild fish or other aquatic species in public waters and 2) such wild fish or other aquatic species from becoming a part of the commercial production. (Laws 2002, SB 920, c. 295, § 2 Section 6-313)**
    - ii. **No person may sell, offer to sell or have in possession for the purpose of selling any game fish. (§ 29 Section 6-302)**
- 3) **What are your plans for selling fish? Are you wanting to process them?**
  - a. Special licenses and/or permits may be needed depending on your intent of processing the fish and method of sale i.e. farmers markets, grocery stores, etc.
    - i. Contact **Oklahoma Health Department - Food Services, 405-426-8250**
      1. <https://oklahoma.gov/health/services/licensing-inspections/consumer-health-service/foods.html>

2. <https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/challenges-of-meeting-oklahomas-farmers-market-regulations-and-varied-requirements.html>
- ii. Processing catfish requires additional involvement with the USDA **Food Safety & Inspection Services (FSIS) - Dallas District Office, 214-767-9116**

**4) Aquaculture Resources –**

- a. National Aquaculture Association (NAA) - <https://thenaa.net/>
- b. OSU Extension –
  - i. <https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/getting-started-in-aquaculture.html>
  - ii. <https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/aquaculture-realities-and-potentials-when-getting-started.html>
- c. Langston University Aquaculture Program - <https://www.langston.edu/aquaculture-programs>
- d. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - <https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/how-my-waterway>

If you are interested in becoming a licensed Aquaculture producer or have any additional questions, please contact:

**ANIMAL INDUSTRY SERVICES**

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