Fish Importation Regulations

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF
GAME, FISH AND PARKS
523 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE | PIERRE, SD 57501

Fish importation prohibited -- Exceptions. A person may not import live fish or any fish reproductive product into the state except for the following: **(1)** A person possessing a valid fish importation permit issued by the department; **(2)** An angler fishing on any boundary water as defined in § 41:07:01:01; or **(3)** A person importing fish designated for aquaria use.

Application requirements for fish importation permit -- Validity. A person shall make application for a fish importation permit on forms provided by the department. The application must be received at least ten working days prior to the date of importation if the application is from a new facility or supplier. The application period shall be waived for a fish importation permit if the facility or supplier has a valid fish health inspection certification or fish health report on file with the department. Applications are subject to review by the department's fish health coordinator. Application can be obtained through the Game, Fish and Parks website.

Commercial importation permit -- $40 application fee. Authorizes licensed aquaculture hatcheries, fee fishing hatcheries, wholesale bait dealers and retail bait dealers to import live fish and fish reproductive products into the state. The permit is valid for 12 months from the date on the export facilities most recent fish health inspection report. An annual fish importation report shall be submitted on forms provided by the department prior to the issuance of an annual commercial importation permit for the following year.

Non-commercial importation permit -- Free. Authorizes applicants to import live fish and fish reproductive products for non-commercial purposes into the state. The permit is valid for 12 months from the date on the export facilities most recent fish health inspection report

Pathogens of regulatory concern. Screening is required for the following fish pathogens:

(1) For all fish species:
   a. Viral hemmorrhagic septicemia virus – V.H.S

In addition, screening for the following pathogens is required for the following fish families:

(2) Salmonidae:
   a. Oncorhynchus masou virus - O.M.V.;
   b. Salmonid rickettsial septicemia virus - S.R.S.;
   c. Infectious salmon anemia virus - I.S.A.;
   d. Infectious pancreatic necrosis virus - I.P.N.;
   e. Infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus - I.H.N.;
   f. Epizootic epitheliotropic disease virus - E.E.D.;
   g. Spring viremia of carp virus - S.V.C.;
   h. *Renibacterium salmoninarum* - bacterial kidney disease;
   i. *Aeromonas salmonicida* - furunculosis;
   j. *Yersinia ruckeri* - enteric redmouth;
   k. *Ceratomyxa shasta* - ceratomyxosis; and
   l. *Myxosoma cerebralis* - whirling disease

(3) Acipenseridae:
   a. White sturgeon iridovirus - W.S.I.; and
   b. Shovelnose sturgeon iridovirus - S.S.I.

(4) Polyodontidae:
   a. Shovelnose sturgeon iridovirus - S.S.I.

Importation requirements for fish or fish reproductive products. Before the department may issue an importation permit for fish or any fish reproductive product, a current fish health certification or a fish health inspection report shall be submitted to the department.

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Fish Health Inspection or Fish Health Certifications Requirements:

(1) A fish health inspection may only be conducted by:

a. An individual who is currently certified by the American Fisheries Society as a fish pathologist or a fish health inspector or;

b. An individual who is currently authorized by a state to conduct official fish health inspections in that state, and who has completed a fish health inspection training program approved by the department or;

c. A licensed veterinarian who has completed a fish health inspection training program approved by the department.

(2) Fish health samples collected during the fish health inspection must be screened for regulated pathogens at a recognized laboratory approved by the department.

(3) Each fish health inspection and laboratory screening shall be conducted according to procedures in "Suggested Procedures for the Detection and Identification of Certain Finfish and Shellfish Pathogens," or according to procedures of the “World Animal Health Organization (OIE) Aquatic Code,” 19th Edition, 2016.

(4) The application for an importation permit will be denied if an emergency or prohibited disease or causative pathogen is detected in wild-caught fish or at an aquaculture facility.

(5) If a notifiable disease or causative pathogen is detected in wild-caught fish or at an aquaculture facility, the department’s fish health official may allow the fish or fish reproductive products to be imported if the official determines the requested importation will not cause the introduction or spread of any notifiable aquatic animal pathogens to areas they currently do not occur.

(6) The fish or fish reproductive products to be imported, if obtained from man-made or natural waters and brought into a facility prior to shipping, have been quarantined from other fish or fish reproductive products and inspected independently.

(7) The fish or fish reproductive products to be imported, if obtained from man-made or natural waters, have been inspected within the past twelve months. In addition, other fish populations from this water must have been inspected within the same time period as determined by the department’s fish health official.

(8) The fish or fish reproductive products to be imported, if cultured at a facility, have been inspected within the past twelve months.

Packaging and shipping procedure. Any live fish or fish reproductive product that requires an importation permit shall be packaged and shipped in the original containers from a facility that has been inspected as provided in these regulations. The original copy of the importation permit must accompany each shipment and shall include a statement of prophylactic treatments used prior to departure from the original facility. The importation permit must be readily accessible to South Dakota authorities. Shipments arranged by a broker may be imported if they are delivered directly from the certified facility, in original containers, to the receiver in South Dakota.

Inspection of shipments. Any live fish or fish reproductive product imported under this chapter is subject to inspection either at the place of entry into the state or at other locations suitable to the department. The inspection may include the removal of reasonable samples of fish or any fish reproductive product for biological examination.

Shipments in violation of rules -- Disposal. Any shipment failing to display an importation permit, found to be diseased upon inspection, containing any species not authorized by the import permit, or otherwise in violation of this chapter shall be refused entry, immediately destroyed, or transported out of the state at the direction of the fish health coordinator as designated by the secretary.

In-transit shipments exempt -- Exceptions. Any in-transit shipment through South Dakota substantiated by an invoice or shipping document is not subject to the provisions of this chapter. However, such a shipment shall be considered an importation if any repackaging or exchange of containers or water in containers is attempted within the borders of the state.