

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
 - 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

Marissa McLaughlin

marissa.mclaughlin@ag.ok.gov · 405-522-6128