

Application for Wyoming Game and Fish Department Designation as a Department Approved Private Fish Hatchery Authorized to Sell Live Baitfish

A private fish hatchery must be designated as a Department Approved Private Fish Hatchery prior to selling live baitfish to any individual, live baitfish dealer or other baitfish hatchery in Wyoming. Department Approved Private Fish Hatcheries are authorized to import or sell only commercially produced fathead minnows (*Pimephales promelas*).

In-State Private Hatcheries

Private hatcheries within Wyoming must meet all requirements in the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Regulation Governing Fish Hatcheries (Chapter 51). In-state hatcheries must apply for and receive a valid Private Fish Hatchery license (\$187) from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Department).

Prior to obtaining any live baitfish, in-state private hatcheries that are currently authorized to sell only salmonids shall submit a detailed request specifying proposed amendments to the original fish hatchery license to the Chief of Fisheries for consideration of approval. The request shall define if the minnows imported to the hatchery are for brood stock development or for resale. Brood stock rearing units cannot be a natural water body and must be void of any wild fish. Fathead minnows imported to the hatchery for resale shall be kept in rearing units removed from salmonid production and fully self contained for inventory management of the fish received and sold.

In-State Private Hatcheries are inspected a minimum of once a year by the Department for fish health compliance and to be certified free of aquatic invasive species. Department personnel may conduct additional inspections of the facility as deemed necessary (Chapter 51, Section 4).

Out-of-State Private Hatcheries

Private hatcheries outside of Wyoming must have a valid private fish hatchery license issued by the state in which the live baitfish will be propagated. Out-of-state private hatcheries wishing to sell fish to licensed Wyoming live baitfish dealers or hatcheries must submit a written request for consideration by the Chief of Fisheries to be designated an out-of-state Approved Private Fish Hatchery authorized to sell live baitfish. The request must demonstrate that all of the Private Baitfish Hatchery Requirements below have been met. This designation must be received in writing from the Chief of Fisheries.

Out-of-state Approved Private Fish Hatcheries shall be authorized to sell only fathead minnows (*Pimephales promelas*). The minnows may be sold only to Wyoming licensed

live baitfish dealers or hatcheries that have received written authorization to import live baitfish to Wyoming.

Private Baitfish Hatchery Requirements

The hatchery must use only water from wells or recycled water from within the facility without mixture from outside waters or contact with species other than fathead minnow for all ponds, tanks, and shipping containers.

No wild fish may be contained within the hatchery at any time.

Only adult fathead minnows spawned, hatched, and reared at the facility may be sold as commercially produced live baitfish.

Disease Testing

Each year, the hatchery must provide documentation of two consecutive years of freedom from certified pathogens from an independent laboratory approved by U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) or a state agency aquatic animal health laboratory if an accredited Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) is not available to test for the pathogens listed below.

Samples must include at least 150 fathead minnow and must include moribund (sick) fish observed during sampling.

Collection of samples shall be overseen and processed on site by an APHIS accredited DVM or a state agency approved aquatic animal health inspector.

The 150 fish sample must include all ponds and grow out tanks used for the production of fathead minnows. For example, a sample from a hatchery with 15 ponds of fathead minnows should include 10 minnows from each of the 15 ponds.

Hatcheries testing positive for any pathogens of concern as defined in Chapter 10 Regulation, Appendix I, Section 2(b) shall not import fish to Wyoming until they have re-established a 2-year history of disease free inspections.

Fish health inspection reports shall be deemed current for a period of one (1) year from the last date of the fish health results.

Aquatic Invasive Species Sampling

Each year, the hatchery must provide documentation of two (2) consecutive years of freedom from aquatic invasive species (AIS) from a Department approved independent inspector with expertise in aquatic invertebrate and aquatic plant taxonomy.

At least annually during summer, the inspector shall inspect the hatchery water sources, holding facilities (including ponds, holding tanks, raceways, etc.), and any fish handling areas and equipment used for the production of fathead minnows.

A visual check of at least 50% of the total number of hatchery ponds shall be made for all AIS annually. Every pond shall be inspected at least once every two (2) years. As part of each inspection, one pond edge will be examined and a hard surface will be checked for mussels. Any suspect plants or mollusks will be collected for examination.

Hatcheries testing positive for any AIS shall not import fish to Wyoming until they have re-established a 2-year history of AIS free inspections.

Aquatic Invasive Species:

- Zebra and quagga mussels (GENUS *Dreissena*)
- New Zealand mud snails (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*)
- Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*)
- Rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*)
- Brook stickleback (*Culaea inconstans*)
- Bighead, silver and largescale silver carp (GENUS *Hypophthalmichthys*)
- Black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*)
- Snakehead (GENERA *Channa* and *Parachanna*)
- Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)
- Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)
- Curly pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)
- All other species designated as AIS by the state within which the hatchery resides.

Biosecurity

Hatcheries producing other species in addition to fathead minnow must include a biosecurity plan as part of the application to import minnows into the state of Wyoming.

At a minimum, the plan must ensure that:

- No other fish species will be stocked into or allowed to enter any pond used for the production of fathead minnow.
- Waters from any portion of the farm used for production of species other than fathead minnow may not be recycled to any area of the farm utilized for fathead minnow production.
- No trucks or equipment including boots, nets, and buckets that have had contact with other species or water used for production of other species may be used in portions of the hatchery used for fathead minnow.

Shipments of Fish

The person authorized to import live baitfish, or his authorized agent, shall immediately notify the Chief of Fisheries if a shipment contains any other fish species, vegetation, or other organisms. The shipment of concern shall be quarantined and held until final disposition is determined following inspection by the Department.

Vehicles used for the transport of fish into Wyoming shall be placarded with signage indicating that the equipment is being used to transport fish. Letters, numbers, or symbols displayed on the placard shall be at least three inches in height, excluding shading and bordering, and shall be of a color that contrasts with the placard background color. Vehicle operators transporting fish shall be in possession of all documents required by Wyoming Statute and Commission regulations. Live fish shipped by common carrier (e.g., UPS, Federal Express) are exempt from this requirement.

Record Keeping

On forms provided by the Department, a licensee shall maintain on the premises of the fish hatchery, or at his residence, legible, current, accurate and complete fish production records for a minimum of the past three years to date.

Records shall identify the numbers and size of all fathead minnows that have been sold and shipped to Wyoming and include the names of all recipients and purchasers and the dates of all transactions. Upon request, all records shall be produced for inspection by the Department.