

Application for Wyoming Game and Fish Department Designation as a Department Approved Private Fish Hatchery

A private fish hatchery must be designated as a Department approved private fish hatchery prior to stocking, selling, or transferring any live fish or eggs to any individual, live baitfish dealer or other baitfish hatchery in Wyoming. Regulations and requirements can be found in Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Regulation Chapter 51, Private Fish Hatcheries. The regulation can be found online via the “Regulations” link at the top of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department home page.

Department approved private fish hatcheries wishing to sell baitfish are authorized to import or sell only adult fathead minnows (*Pimephales promelas*) that were propagated and reared in a Department approved private fish hatchery.

In-State Private Hatcheries

The Chief of Fisheries may designate an in-state private fish hatchery as a Department approved private fish hatchery if they meet the following requirements:

- The hatchery owner must be in possession of a valid Wyoming commercial fish hatchery license. Detailed information on applying for a fish hatchery license can be found in Section 3 of Chapter 51.
- Valid fish health and AIS hatchery inspection reports indicate that the hatchery is free of aquatic invasive species (AIS) of concern and all lots at the hatchery are free of pathogens of concern in accordance with Section 5 of Chapter 51.
- The licensee has met the reporting and record keeping requirements described in Section 14 of Chapter 51.

Out-of-State Private Hatcheries

The Chief of Fisheries may designate an out-of-state private fish hatchery as a Department approved private fish hatchery if they meet the following requirements:

- The hatchery owner or authorized agent has submitted a fish hatchery importation permit application on a form provided by the Department.
- Valid fish health and AIS hatchery inspection reports indicate that the hatchery is free of AIS of concern and all lots at the hatchery are free of pathogens of concern in accordance with Chapter 51.
- The private fish hatchery meets the licensing requirements to legally operate in the state where it is located.