

# What you need to know: Aquaculture Licenses and Importation Permits

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# Topics

- Iowa Code and Rule highlights
- Aquaculture unit license
- Importation permit
- Resources & References

Goal: basic knowledge of Code, licenses, permits, and procedures.

# Iowa Code Aquaculture

Definitions 481.A1

## What is Aquaculture?

Controlled propagation or growth of aquatic organisms

Including but not limited to fish, amphibians, reptiles, mollusks, crustaceans, gastropods, algae, and other aquatic plants

## Aquaculture Unit:

all private waters for aquaculture with or without buildings, used for the purpose of propagating, raising, holding, or harvesting aquatic organisms for commercial purposes



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# Iowa Code Aquaculture

Aquaculture — license required. 481A.141

If you engage in the business of aquaculture you must have an aquaculture unit license issued from the department.

1. Aquaculture Unit License required:
  - a. Engage in business of aquaculture for commercial purposes, rears or maintains live animals or plants for food, bait, or for stocking in waters of the state.
  - b. Fee fishing operations.
2. License shall not be issued:
  1. for aquaculture on private lakes, streams, ponds that may become stocked with fish from public waters;
  2. for private ponds stocked by the state
3. Tropical fish species or ornamental aquatic plants or animals, not utilized for human consumption or bait purposes, but maintained in closed systems and utilized by the pet industry or hobbyists are exempt from license requirements



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# Iowa Code Aquaculture

Licensed aquaculture units — activities allowed. 481A.142

1. Possess, propagate, buy, sell, deal in, and transport the aquatic organisms produced from breeding stock legally acquired, including minnows.
2. Sell fish for stocking purposes within or outside the state.

Fish which are nonindigenous to Iowa shall not be received or sold in the state unless the aquaculture unit has obtained an importation permit from the department. The department shall establish, by rule, requirements governing importation, and shall include a list of approved aquaculture species.

5. Sell bait including minnows and frogs propagated or raised within licensed unit without a bait dealers license.



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# Iowa Code Aquaculture

Licensed aquaculture units — requirements. 481A.143

1. Annual report of all fish bought, sold and shipped. Due Dec 31.
2. Secure breeding stock from licensed or lawful sources.
3. Shipments accompanied by sales invoice stating origin, date shipped, species, weight volume or count shipped with consignee information.
4. Comply with all state laws pertaining to possessing and selling bait.
5. Licensed aquaculture units shall be open to inspection by department.
6. Provision for importation permits and disease testing for Salmonids and Ictalurids; establishes detrimental diseases and pathologist list.



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# Iowa Rule for Aquaculture

“These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.142 and 481A.143”

Approved aquaculture species. 571—89.1(481A)

Importation Permit Required: 571—89.2(481A) .

1. to receive, propagate or sell in the state any aquaculture species not listed in subrule 89.1(1).
2. to import live fish, viable eggs, or semen of any species of the salmonid family (trout, salmon or char) and Ictalurid family (catfishes and bullheads)
3. Importation permits may be applied for on forms provided by the department



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# Iowa Rule for Aquaculture

Disease-free certification. 571—89.3 (481A) The salmonid family (trout, salmon or char) you must provide a statement certifying the fish, eggs or semen to be free of the following diseases:

## Diseases detrimental to the state's fishery resources. 89.3(1)

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS), Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis (IPN), Whirling Disease (*Myxosoma cerebralis*), Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis (IHN), Ceratomyxosis (*Ceratomyxa shasta*), Bacterial Kidney Disease (*R. salmoninarum*), Proliferative Kidney Disease (PKD), Enteric Redmouth (*Yersinia ruckeri*), Vibriosis (*Vibrio* sp.)

## Reportable diseases 89.3(2)

Ictalurids: Enteric Septicemia of Catfish (*Edwardsiella ictaluri*) (ESC), Channel Catfish Virus Disease  
Salmonids: Furunculosis (*Aeromonas salmonicida*).

## Certified pathologists for inspection list will be provided 89.3(3)



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# Aquaculture Unit License

Application Form and Procedure.

Steps:

1. Complete the Application form found on IDNR website.  
Name, Location, facility type, location of facilities...include email please.
2. Mail form to address provided, include payment (\$32).
3. License will be mailed to you in 5-7 business days after receipt.
4. Options:
  1. New applicant or Renewal. Renewals require receipt of Annual Report.
  2. Resident or Non-resident.
  3. Issued only to an individual, not a business.



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# Aquaculture Importation Permits

## Steps:

1. Complete the Application form found on IDNR website.
  1. Two options: Salmonids/Catfish; Non-indigenous Species
  2. Name, DNR Number, Location, facility type, location of facilities.
  3. Origin.
2. Health inspection report.
3. Mail completed form with health report to address provided.

No Fee
4. If all materials are acceptable, the permit will be mailed to you in 5-7 business days after receipt.



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# Aquaculture Importation Permits

Permit:

1. Valid only for one year, up to December 31.
2. Valid only for the facility stated on the permit, and animal lots or groups inspected in the disease certificate.
3. Valid only for the Aquaculture Unit and waters listed on the application.
4. Copy of permit and license must be carried while transporting or selling the imported species in Iowa.



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# Aquaculture Importation Permits

Health inspections, disease certifications...

Testing conducted by Certified Pathologists or Veterinarians.

1. Bacteriology, virology, and potentially other tests performed by a diagnostic lab specializing in aquatic diseases.
2. Uses AFS Blue Book or OIE methods for sampling and testing.
3. These health reports are generally provided to you by the producers selling you the aquatic organisms.



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# Aquaculture Importation Permits

Non-indigenous aquatic species

Any species not listed in section 89.1.

1. Non-indigenous species only allowed in closed systems.
  1. Closed systems vary by animal (fish, amphibian, turtle, etc ) .
  2. Escapement prevention measures.
2. Health Certifications required
  1. Includes bacteriology, virology, parasitology reports.
3. Additional review time needed for international importations shipments or unique importations.
4. Federal rules and regulations apply to international shipments.



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# Resources & References

Application forms located on DNR website or upon request

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/Fishing-Licenses-Laws/License-Applications>

For complete versions of Iowa Code go online:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/law/statutory>

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