



# MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

## IMPORT PERMIT APPLICATION

### Application to Import Live Fish and / or Fish Eggs into Montana

All importations of live fish or fish eggs for introduction into any private or public pond, stream, lake or other water in Montana, or fish transported through Montana, must be accompanied by a permit issued by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Application for an import permit must be made in writing on this form to the following address:

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Fish Health Lab  
4801 Giant Springs Road  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
Phone (406)-452-6181**

This application should be completed by the individual requesting the importation. **If requesting importation of salmonid fish or eggs, a current fish health inspection report must accompany this application.**

Note: State of Montana Statutes (87-3-221/222/223/224) make it unlawful to import salmonid eggs or fish into Montana without proper certification. Montana FWP has developed rules under authority of this statute to serve as specific guidelines for proper certification and importation procedures.

Instructions: Complete parts 1-5 of this application and mail the application to Montana FWP at the address above.

### 1. Applicant

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Pond License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: An import permit will not be issued for importation to a private pond unless the pond had been licensed by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

### 2. Importation Information

Species: \_\_\_\_\_ Eggs: \_\_\_\_\_ Fish: \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Date of Importation: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Transportation: \_\_\_\_\_

Destination of Importation: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Source of Fish or Eggs:**

Name of Hatchery or Source of Fish or Eggs: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner or Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Is a fish health inspection report for the source location available? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please include: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Other Information:**

Include any information or comments that you feel will be useful in evaluating this application:

**5. Applicant Assurance:**

The information I have provided on this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge:

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

---

*For Office Use Only*

**FWP Action Taken:**

**Date Application Received**

**Permit Approved** \_\_\_\_\_ **Permit Denied** \_\_\_\_\_

**Permit Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments and Permit Limitations:**

**Application Reviewed by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

## Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Fish Importation Rules

An import permit is required for importation of any fish of any species into Montana, except fish intended for a home or office aquarium. Fish may only be imported to a legal location, such as a legally licensed private pond.

Montana statutes dealing with fish importation and import permits are found in: 87-3-209 through 224, 87-3-105 and 87-5-701 through 721.

### FWP Administrative Rules

12.7.502 DESIGNATED PATHOGENS (1) The following salmonid pathogens are determined by the department to pose a threat to existing fisheries for purposes of Montana's fish health and importation laws, 87-3-209, MCA et seq:

- (a) infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus (IHNV),
- (b) infectious pancreatic necrosis virus (IPNV),
- (c) viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSV),
- (d) Oncorhynchus masou virus (OMV),
- (e) Renibacterium salmoninarum (bacterial kidney disease),
- (f) Aeromonas salmonicida (furunculosis),
- (g) Yersinia ruckeri (type 1, common or Hagerman enteric redmouth disease),
- (h) Myxobolus cerebralis (salmonid whirling disease).

(2) The following non-salmonid fish pathogens are determined by the department to pose a threat to existing fisheries for purposes of Montana's fish health and importation laws, 87-3-209, MCA et seq:

- (a) Bothriocephalus acheilognathi (Asian tapeworm),
- (b) White sturgeon virus (WSIV).

(3) The department may add pathogens to the lists in subsections (1) and (2) as necessary to protect Montana fisheries from introduction or spread of disease. (History: Sec. 87-3-223, MCA; IMP, Sec. 87-3-209, 87-3-210, 87-3-221, 87-3-222, 87-3-223, 87-3-224, 87-3-225, 87-3-226, 87-3-227, MCA; NEW, 1991 MAR p. 1275, Eff. 7/26/91.)

12.7.503 CERTIFICATION INSPECTION PROCEDURES (1) Disease free certification inspections as required by 87-3-221, MCA, shall be made using microbiological techniques and procedures which are equivalent to or more sensitive than procedures prescribed by the Fish Health Section of the American Fisheries Society in the "Fish Health Bluebook" Procedures for the Detection and Identification of Certain Fish Pathogens, Third Edition, 1985, Kevin Amos. A copy of this publication may be obtained from American Fisheries Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110, Bethesda, Maryland 20814-2199. (History: Sec. 87-3-223, MCA; IMP, Sec. 87-3-209, 87-3-210, 87-3-221, 87-3-222, 87-3-223, 87-3-224, 87-3-225, 87-3-226, 87-3-227, MCA; NEW, 1991 MAR p. 1275, Eff. 7/26/91.)

12.7.504 APPROVED PATHOLOGISTS (1) Disease free certifications and inspections required by 87-3-221, MCA, shall be conducted by individuals certified by the American Fisheries Society as Fish Health Inspectors or Fish Pathologists. All inspectors and pathologists are subject to approval by the director of the department. If an inspection is conducted by an inspector or pathologist not approved by the director, the inspection will not be accepted and another inspection must be conducted by an inspector or pathologist approved by the director prior to approving the importation. Inspectors or pathologists who own or have a financial interest in the hatchery or fish culture facility being inspected may not conduct the inspection for that facility. This does not preclude inspectors employed by state or federal agencies from conducting inspections for facilities operated by the

employing agency. (History: Sec. 87-3-223, MCA; IMP, Sec. 87-3-209, 87-3-210, 87-3-221, 87-3-222, 87-3-223, 87-3-224, 87-3-225, 87-3-226, 87-3-227, MCA; NEW, 1991 MAR p. 1275, Eff. 7/26/91.)

12.7.505 IMPORT PERMITS (1) Application for an import permit must be made by the owner of the destination facility. The application must be received at least 10 working days prior to the date of importation by the Fisheries Division of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Helena, Montana, 59620.

(2) A permit application shall specify species, number, size, source, destination, and date and method of shipment. If the destination is a private pond, the private pond license number shall also be included in the application. No import permit will be authorized to a private pond which is not licensed by the department for the species requested for importation. A copy of any required disease-free certifications shall be submitted with the permit application, along with other disease or inspection information concerning the shipment that may be needed to evaluate the disease risk of the importation. Requests for a permit to import salmonid fish will not be considered unless a disease certification or fish health inspection report of the source of the importation is included with the application.

(3) No import permit for salmonid fish shall be issued unless the source is certified free of pathogens determined by the department to pose a threat to existing fisheries. No import permit for salmonid eggs shall be issued unless the source is certified free of pathogens determined by the department to pose a threat to existing fisheries with the following exceptions. Salmonid eggs from a source known to contain *Myxobolus cerebralis*, causative agent of salmonid whirling disease, *Yersinia ruckeri* (ERM disease agent); or *Aeromonas salmonicida*, causative agent of furunculosis, or from a source which is in a river drainage known to contain *Myxobolus cerebralis*, *Yersinia ruckeri*, or *Aeromonas salmonicida* may be imported into Montana under the following conditions provided they are free of all other infectious agents listed in this rule:

(a) eggs must be water hardened in an iodophor containing a minimum of 75 mg/l active iodine for a minimum of 30 minutes;

(b) eggs must have been incubated from time of egg collection to date of shipping in water free of *Myxobolus cerebralis* spores;

(c) eggs must be disinfected with an iodophor solution containing a minimum of 100 mg/l active iodine for a minimum of 10 minutes before shipping and again upon arrival at their destination in Montana prior to entering any Montana water;

(d) all shipping containers must be burned and no water from the shipment may be allowed to enter any water in Montana; and

(e) eggs imported under this exception may only be imported with the recommendation of the department and authorization by the director of the department.

(4) In addition to the certification requirements, no live salmonid fish may be imported into Montana which are exhibiting clinical sign of any disease or are known to be infected with any infectious disease agent that may pose threat of harm to native or existing fish populations in Montana.

(5) Import permit requests for live non-salmonid fish or eggs will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Disease certification inspections may be required prior to issuance of an import permit for live non-salmonid fish or eggs. Certification will be required under the following circumstances:

(a) fish from a source or drainage which is known to contain pathogens determined by the department to pose a threat to existing fisheries. The department may deny any request for a permit it considers a substantial disease risk.

(b) where salmonids are also raised at the source, the source must be inspected and certified free of designated salmonid pathogens.

(6) The import permit must be obtained prior to any importation and a copy of the import permit must accompany the importation.

(7) The department may deny any import permit request it determines may pose a threat of harm to existing fisheries, even if the source or importation has been inspected and no designated pathogens were detected. For example, import permits for fish or eggs from anadromous stocks or drainages to

which anadromous fish have access may be denied regardless of disease certification status of the importation or source.

(8) The department may condition the permit in order to prevent or reduce risk, as, for example, requiring iodophor disinfection of eggs. (History: 87-3-223, MCA; IMP, 87-3-209, 87-3-210, 87-3-221, 87-3-222, 87-3-223, 87-3-224, 87-3-225, 87-3-226, 87-3-227, MCA; NEW, 1991 MAR p. 1275, Eff. 7/26/91.)

12.7.506 SHIPMENT INSPECTIONS (1) Import permittees shall agree prior to issuance of the permit and the permit shall specify that the department may inspect shipments of imported fish or eggs at mutually convenient times and locations after entering Montana and prior to release or placement.

(2) When shipments are inspected pursuant to permit conditions or illegal shipments are inspected pursuant to 87-3-224, MCA, the department may order the shipment removed from the state or destroyed in a manner that will not contaminate any waters of the state when:

(a) designated pathogens are found in the shipment;  
(b) fish in the shipment have visible symptoms of infectious diseases,  
(c) the shipment is not authorized by permit or proper certification does not accompany the shipment, or

(d) false information was provided on the permit application or required certifications. (History: 87-3-223, MCA; IMP, 87-3-209, 87-3-210, 87-3-221, 87-3-222, 87-3-223, 87-3-224, 87-3-225, 87-3-226, 87-3-227, MCA; NEW, 1991 MAR p. 1275, Eff. 7/26/91.)