

May 15, 2005

President's Message

Greetings fellow aquaculture enthusiasts! Spring is here in full glory. While it feels grand to be out in the sun, the USGS estimates the normal stream flow for Michigan the first half of April to be slightly below normal, to moderate drought watch levels. Hopefully May will provide us a good mixture of rain and sun.

Michigan Aquaculture 2005 this past March in Lansing was a big success. Presenters from the industry, MSU, and State agencies provided a series of informative talks on pond construction and regulations, pond maintenance, fish health, aquaculture equipment, and fish production. I give thanks to Ron and Bob (program committee), our sponsors, Michigan State Representatives who stopped in, all our speakers, Farm Bureau, MDA, USFWS, and yes, MDEQ. I would also like to give a warm welcome to our new MAA members! It was really great to meet with everyone who attended, and I hope that all of you left with the same positive attitude as I did concerning progress of MAA. Let's now start thinking how we can do even better next year. For that I need your input. What you would like to see and hear at Michigan Aquaculture 2006? One topic that comes to mind is Sustainable Aquaculture Practices.

On the legislative front, there are still a few mainstream issues on the horizon. Word from MDA has indicated that water use reporting for aquaculture is only required for ground water use, both artesian and pumping. There appears to be mounting concern, however, that legislation may be initiated this year to attempt to develop a fee structure for water usage in the State. While perhaps only conjecture at this point, we, as an industry, need to take a hard proactive approach to ensure our rights and liberties. What can you (all of us), do to help out? Our association will be most effective if we all work together in all manners of the following: staying abreast of political agendas in all our areas, notifying MAA members of potential problems, attending public meetings and hearings, networking with other agriculture industries in the state, and talking to our constituents and state legislators.

2006 may bring about new health certification for importation of cool and warm water species. If this does occur, it's likely that similar measures would follow for stocking certain fish species in public waters. MAA's overall consensus is that we need to work together to ensure that all Michigan waters are adequately protected from proven outside threats of disease and exotic introduction. Along similar lines, new interstate transport regulations for aquatic animals have been adopted by nearly every state in the North Central Region. Unfortunately there has been little, if any, attempt between states to standardize health certification requirements. As a result, anyone planning on exporting fish to, or receiving fish from, another state, needs to carefully examine the specific regulations for the receiving state. In addition, most states require a health certification to transport aquatic organisms across state lines. A few good starting points include the list of state contacts and transport requirements located on the NCRAC web site (<http://ag.ansc.purdue.edu/aquanic/ncrac/>), as well as the salmonid importation article written by Cecil Baird.

MAA has received an invitation from Farm Bureau to participate in a small agriculture industry expo in the capital building on the 24th of May. Anyone with ideas for food items, posters, fliers, etc., representing the industry, or a willingness to commit to helping out should contact me via email (weekschr@msu.edu) or by phone 517/ 353-5453.

In closing I would like to wish all of you the very best! Let's continue to protect our environment and serve our industry to the best of our ability. Have an outstanding season everyone!!!

Best regards,
Chris Weeks



Editor Note: Excuse the delay in getting out the newsletter in April, but Spring business got underway and time became very limited for writing the newsletter.

Great Lakes and Surrounding States Have Varied and Conflicting Salmonid Importation Requirements

By Cecil Baird - IAAI President Elect & Editor

After doing some research into the salmonid importation requirements of Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky for an aquaculture feasibility study in my home state of Indiana, I've found quite a range in laws and requirements regarding salmonid importation into those states. I have included a table at the end of this article to give a brief summary of importation requirements of these states.

Indiana's requirements are listed in the *Special Conditions for Trout and Salmon in Indiana Applicable to the Fish Haulers and Suppliers Permit, Aquaculture Permit, and Importation Permit which was effective January 1, 2004 and Revised September 18, 2003*. You can get a copy of this by requesting it from the IDNR at 765-342-5527, or going to the following website: <http://ag.ansc.purdue.edu/aquanic/ncrac/actr/scftasii.pdf>

If you're a fish hauler that brings in salmonids from outside of Indiana, or for that matter from outside the Great Lakes basin you need to be aware of these *Special Conditions*. Three consecutive years of health inspections free of IPN and WD are required from within the basin to bring salmonids into Indiana. Tests for nine pathogens for three consecutive years are required for fish brought into Indiana from outside the Great Lakes basin starting in 2005, with one more year required thereafter every year until 5 years are required by 2007. Even if a prospective supplier outside the basin starts inspecting fish at his facility for the nine pathogens in 2005, the facility will always be behind the required years until the year 2009.

I have not been able to find one facility outside the basin that is doing the required testing for nine pathogens as required in the *Special Conditions*. One Brook trout supplier that is certified disease free by the Fish & Wildlife Service did start after some prodding and poking by me, but I was disappointed to find he only tested the last fish in his series of raceways which doesn't cut it for Indiana's requirements. Some states only require a facility inspection and go by the logic that any fish in the last section of a raceway will be infected if any pathogens are present in the upper raceway. This is another conflicting requirement I have found among the states.

I've been hearing some haulers and producers inside and outside the state, may not be aware of, or are ignoring these

Special Conditions. Furthermore they may be tempted to do inter-basin to intra-basin transfers that are not recorded, and selling the trout later as intra-basin trout as long as they have the same species on hand. No specific names or accusations -- just something I'm hearing in the industry through my contacts inside and outside the state. One unknown individual on the Aquanic web site stated, "I know people that haul fish into Ohio, among other states, that don't have any disease paperwork and no one has said anything."

Although it's no excuse, I believe the severity of the *Special Conditions* regarding out-of-basin producers may be actually increasing our chances of bringing in unwanted pathogens or strains of pathogen by discouraging compliance. Dr. Myron Kibus, a very well know fish pathologist in the state of Wisconsin, says too severe of standards *can* cause people to go "underground" and discourages compliance. Wisconsin only requires one year of testing verses three or more in some of the other Great Lakes states. Dr. Kibus states Wisconsin gets very high compliance, and it's an excellent source of data. His department received applications for 105 permits for 17 species of fish from 13 states in 2004. Dr. Kibus, tells me required inspections over 2 years are questionable on an epidemiological standpoint.

Please keep in mind if diseases are imported into this state through aquaculture, it can only hurt us as producers for obvious reasons, and the finger would ultimately be pointed at the aquaculture industry.

Salmonid Importation Requirements

State: Indiana

Permit Required: Yes, Importation Permit \$5.00 Hauler and Supplier's Permit No fee

Health Inspection Required: Yes, Parental Stocks origins within the basin test must show parental broodstock have been free of WD and IPNv and the facility has been free of WD and IPNv for the last three consecutive years (2005). Fish or eggs originally from Pacific northwest may also require testing for CS and PKD. Parental stocks outside the basin must test for VHS, IHN, CS, PKD, Furunculosis (*Aeromonas salmonicida*), BKD, Enteric Redmouth, IPN, WD. Parental Stocks origins from outside the basin for three years in 2005, four in 2006, and five in 2007. "Fish found to carry pathogens for WD, IPN, or other viral pathogens will not be sold or released in Indiana." Fish carrying bacterial pathogens, but showing no clinical signs of disease or elevated mortality, may be sold if the supplying hatchery is also within the Great Lake basin."

State: Ohio

Permit Required: Yes, Transportation Permit. \$65.00

Health Inspection Required: According to Ohio Dept. of Ag for out-of-state producers to import salmonids you need to test fish, eggs, or sperm for the following: CS, IHN, IPN, PKD, VHS, WD, ISA (ISA states and zones only where reported). 1 year testing required on above pathogens. Fish must be free of the above pathogens to be imported. Be aware for fish to be *planted* into the Lake Erie Watershed with origins from outside the Great Lakes States, the source facility must have been inspected annually for the *previous five years* and have been found free of the following pathogens: VHS, IHN, CS, PKD, WD, BKD, furunculosis (*aeromonas salmonicida*), and enteric redmouth.

“Disinfected hatcheries must be re-populated with pathogen free fish and inspected one time for source fish to qualify for approval.” “Any uncertified fish that come into the facility after testing void the certification until the facility is retested.”

Note: The Ohio DNR has dropped the IPN testing requirement for stocking, and for testing of facilities within the state of Ohio, but the IPN testing requirement still stands for *importation* from other states according to the Department of Agriculture.

State: Michigan

Permit Required: Yes, No official permit form, but you must submit one of the following: a. Official Interstate Health Certificate, b. Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection c. Fish Disease Report. No fee.

Health Inspection Required: Yes, VHS, IHN, WD, PKD For two consecutive years.

Fish must be free of emergency diseases VHS, IHN, CS, PKD to be imported

State: Illinois

Permit Required: Yes, Salmonid Import Permit. No fee.

Health Inspection Required: Yes, VHS, IHN, CS, PKD, 1 year. “A salmonid import permit must be issued for a period of up to 6 months following the inspection of the source hatchery. The salmonid import permit will be reissued if the owner/operator of the source hatchery certifies that there has been no change in the disease status of the source hatchery in the 6 month period following *annual inspection*. A bill of sale, listing quantity, species, and hatchery of origin shall be provided and retained by the final recipient of the fish for two years.”

State: Wisconsin

Permit Required: Yes, Annual Import Permit. No fee.

Health Inspection Required: Yes, IHN, VHS, WD, 1 year

State: Minnesota

Permit Required: Yes, Transportation Permit. No fee.

Health Inspection Required: Yes, Fish, eggs and sperm for IHN, IPN, WS, PKD, Enteric Redmouth, Furunculosis *

From nonenzootic area shipped to “*containment facility*” (see definitions website cited) One year. From *nonenzootic disease area* shipped to “*standard facility*” (see definitions website cited) three years. If cannot show disease history import to quarantine facility only. From *emergency enzootic area* shipped to “*contained facility*” eggs only disease free history for three years. From *emergency enzootic area shipped to “standard facility”* eggs only and disease free history for five years. *Eggs with enteric redmouth, WD, or furunculosis may be imported if treatment approved by commissioner. BKD fish may be imported into areas where the disease has been previously introduced.”

State: Kentucky

Permit Required: Yes, Transportation Permit and Bill of Lading required. No fee.

Health Inspection Required: No, No specific pathogens specified however fish must be “free of disease.”

Can’t bring in non-native fish, only native or naturalized species. Brook, Brown, and Rainbow trout are therefore O.K.

State: New York

Permit Required: “Importers must be licensed.” No fee.

Health Inspection Required: Fish imported for stocking purposes must be free of *Myxobolus cerebralis* (WD). Although New York adheres to the protocols of the Great Lakes Fish Health Committee Model Program, New York does not have an explicit law or regulation that appears on official books, so New Yorks program is not an explicit requirement. However the WD restriction is an official requirement. New York attempts to achieve the goals of the Model Program by including conditions in stocking permits of private hatchery license conditions that require inspections for emergency diseases (VHS, IHN, CS, PKD,) and the restricted diseases (WD, IPN, BKD, BF, ERM EED).

State: Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania did not respond by the time this newsletter went into print.

Please email me Cecil Baird at jjbaird@ligtel.com or call me at (260) 894-9055 if you would like sources, statutes, and links for the preceding information. I couldn’t justify the extensive space needed in the newsletter.

Reader's Note from the Editor

I'm currently working with other Aquaculture Leaders on a Web Site for Great Lakes Basin Fish Health Concerns and Standards. Stay tuned for the Announcement of this Web Site in the Great Lakes Region.



Released February 25, 2005, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on Trout Production call John Lange at (202) 720-0585, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Trout Value of Sales Increased 7 Percent from 2003

The total value of all sales, both fish and eggs, received by trout growers in the 20 selected States totaled 68.7 million dollars during 2004, an increase of 7 percent from 2003. For the Nation, sales of fish totaled 63.9 million dollars for 2004, while egg sales totaled 4.83 million dollars. The State of Idaho accounted for 51 percent of the total value of fish sold.

The number of trout 12 inches and longer sold during 2004 totaled 47.5 million fish, up 3 percent from the previous year. The average price per pound was \$1.04, unchanged from 2003. The value of sales for the 2004 marketing year was 57.1 million dollars, up 8 percent from 2003. Based on the dollar value, 72 percent were sold to processors and 18 percent were sold to fee and recreational fishing establishments.

The number of 6"-12" trout sold during 2004 totaled 5.53 million fish, a decrease of 14 percent from 2003. The average price per pound was \$2.63 during 2004, up 13 cents from the 2003 price. The total value of sales was 5.84 million dollars during 2004, a 2 percent increase from the previous year. The major sales outlet for 6"-12" trout was to fee and recreational fishing establishments accounting for 49 percent of the total sales, followed by government agencies with 15 percent, and other producers with 12 percent.

The number of 1"-6" trout sold during 2004 totaled 5.55 million, a 25 percent decrease from the previous year. The average value per 1,000 fish was \$174.00 during 2004, a \$5.00 increase from 2003. The total value of sales was 966 thousand dollars, down 22 percent from last year's total.

Trout egg sales in 2004 totaled 290 million eggs, up 10 percent from the 264 million eggs sold during the previous year. The average value per 1,000 eggs during 2004 was \$16.70 up 90 cents from

Michigan Universities/Research Update:

MSU:

1) Continued research on soybean meal (up to 30% SBM, 24% fish meal) diets for salmonids. No significant differences found in growth of Atlantic salmon between control (0% SBM) and 30% SBM, 24% FM extruded diets. Enzymatic functions and intestinal morphology still pending.

2) Intensive feeding training of first hatch yellow perch fry. Moderate to good success noted to 30 day survival with combination live/formulated feeds.

3) Recent and Future Environmental Regulations Affecting Michigan's Animal Agriculture FORUM and DISCUSSION for MSU Faculty and Staff April 22 (Friday), 2005. C. Weeks will attend as representative of both MSU and MAA.

New PR Committee Needed

At our Association Meeting, the idea surfaced of forming a public relations committee within MAA. The task of this committee would be develop and initiate various PR activities for the association (the capital expo is a perfect example). MAA is looking for 2-3 fine and outstanding members to spend a few hours a month to take on this challenge. Interested persons contact Bob or Chris.

Trout Production

National Agricultural Statistics Service - USDA
Washington, D.C.



2003. The total value of trout egg sales during 2004 was 4.83 million dollars, an increase of 16 percent from the 4.18 million dollars in egg sales during the previous year.

Distributed Trout

Trout distributed for restoration, conservation, and recreational purposes, primarily by State and Federal hatcheries, included 10.2 million 12" or longer fish, 39.8 million 6"-12", and 75.8 million fingerlings. The estimated value of fish and eggs distributed totaled 64.8 million dollars, up 6 percent from 2003.

Losses of Fish

Total losses of all trout intended for sale were 21.9 million fish during 2004. The top three categories were 72.8 percent lost to disease, 12.1 percent to flooding, and 9.9 percent to predators. Losses to trout raised for distribution were primarily due to disease (74 percent) and predators (17 percent).

Calendar of Events

May 21-27th
Michigan Week

Many events around the State including Capital Ag Day on May 24th. See local listing for community events in your area.

September 15-17, 2005
US Trout Farmers Association
Fall Conference
San Diego, California
Contact USTFA at 304/728-2189 or www.ustfa.org

Please Help Update MAA Electronic Directory

Anyone with email addresses – please send me an email so I can develop a current electronic mailing list for posting information and discussions.
weekschr@msu.edu

Join the MAA email discussion listing

If you're hooked up to the internet and not a part of the MAA discussion group your missing out on great

discussions and important legislative update information. To register, go to the following site:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michaqua/>

Michigan Aquaculture Web Site

www.michiganaquaculture.com

Visit for late breaking news and information resources.

Classified Ads

Advertising Info: Contact Steve Ouwinga at (231) 834-7720. Rates: \$15/ad, up to 40 words - additional words @ 35 cents per word. Newsletter dates are Jan 5, April 15, July 15 and October 15, please submit your ad no later than 5 days prior to these publishing dates.

Current Officers

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Aquaculture Interest Column

In every newsletter we would like to add at least one article written by a member of MAA. This could be something about your farm, experiences, concerns you may have, a study you might have done, or just about anything you feel would be worth passing on (aquaculture related please). If you have something you would like to contribute, send a copy to either Bob Baldwin or Chris Weeks.

“The Sky is Falling!!!”

By Bob Baldwin, Editor

I'm working on a special article about the perils of the Michigan Economic conditions of today and the problems that term limits has brought onto our great State. Look for this article on the Michigan Aquaculture web site in a few days, you'll find it under Perspectives.