



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

BOB TAFT, GOVERNOR

SAMUEL W. SPECK, DIRECTOR

Division of Wildlife

Michael J. Budzik, Chief

1840 Belcher Drive

Columbus, OH 43224-1300

Phone: (614) 265-6300

January 29, 2002

RECEIVED

JAN 30 2002

OSU South Centers at Piketon

Ohio State University-Centers at Piketon
1864 Shyville Rd.
Piketon, OH 45661

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached is the *Guidance for Stocking Salmonids in Waters of the State within the Lake Erie Watershed*. The Division of Wildlife developed this guidance with input from the aquaculture industry, Ohio Aquaculture Association, The Ohio State University, and the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Working with these groups facilitated the development of a meaningful document that will protect Ohio's resources, while minimizing the impact to the aquaculture industry.

This guidance will affect anyone wishing to stock salmonids or anyone raising salmonids that will be stocked into waters of the state in the Lake Erie watershed. Ohio Law (Ohio Administrative Code 1501:31-13-01-7) requires individuals stocking any species of fish into waters of the state to first obtain permission from the Chief of the Division of Wildlife. Waters of the state are defined as all waters except those private waters that are not connected with other natural surface waters. This document will serve as guidance regarding requirements for obtaining a stocking permit.

This guidance will take effect in 2002 and is subject to change if new issues arise. We recognize that this is a dynamic issue and that the attached guidance is a "first step" to address this situation. Any changes to this guidance will first be discussed with the same groups (i.e. those listed above) that assisted in drafting the current document. Please contact Gary Isbell (614-265-6345) or John Navarro at (614-265-6347) if you have any questions. I wish to express my appreciation for your patience on this matter. I also wish to point out that the input of many of our Ohio aquaculturists was instrumental in constructing this initial guidance.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael J. Budzik in black ink.

MICHAEL J. BUDZIK
Chief

MJB: ms
Attachment

Guidance for Stocking Salmonids in Waters of the State within the Lake Erie Watershed

Recognizing the risk of disease to cultured and wild fish, including losses of fish products and fishing opportunities to the public and diminished economic returns to Great Lakes communities, The Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) established a policy that (1) encourages agencies to work toward controlling fish diseases in the Great Lakes Basin, and (2) coordinates the fish-disease control programs of the fish management agencies. To implement this policy, the GLFC's Great Lakes Fish Disease Control Committee developed a Model Program for achieving fish-disease control objectives in the Great Lakes. In the spirit of cooperation with other Great Lakes states and provinces, and as stewards of Ohio's fisheries resources, the Division of Wildlife has developed this salmonid stocking guidance for the Lake Erie watershed (see attached map).

Statutory Authority

Ohio Law (Ohio Administrative Code 1501:31-13-01-7) requires individuals stocking any species of fish into waters of the State to obtain permission from the Chief of the Division of Wildlife. Waters of the state are defined as all waters except those private waters that are not connected with other natural surface waters.

Criteria for Approval of Stocking Requests

Individuals or groups requesting stocking permits must provide the Chief of Division of Wildlife with a fish-disease inspection report for their source fish. The Chief will only issue salmonid stocking permits for waters of the State in the Lake Erie Drainage for source fish that meet the following criteria:

1. The source hatchery must be annually inspected for whirling disease (*Myxobolus cerebralis*) and infectious pancreatic necrosis and found free of these pathogens. If uncertified fish are introduced to the hatchery after the inspection, the disease free certification for the source hatchery will be void.
2. For fish obtained 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: viral hemorrhagic septicemia, infectious hematopoietic necrosis, ceratomyxosis (*Ceratomyxa shasta*), proliferative kidney disease, whirling disease (*M. cerebralis*), infectious pancreatic necrosis, bacterial kidney disease (*Renibacterium salmoninarum*), furunculosis (*Aeromonas salmonicida*), and enteric redmouth (*Yersinia ruckeri*).
3. All inspections must be conducted as per Annex I (attached).
4. Disinfected hatcheries must be re-populated with pathogen free fish and inspected one time for source fish to qualify for approval.
5. No fish exhibiting overt signs of diseases may be stocked.

Annex I

Inspection Procedures and Methods of Diagnosis

Qualifications: All samples must be collected and processed by an American Fisheries Society fish health inspector, doctor of veterinary medicine, or other fish health official as recognized by the Great Lakes Fish Health Committee.

Sample Population: The following definitions apply to designation of populations for sampling purposes.

1. The sample population for all fish, except those being inspected for whirling disease, is determined on the basis of lot and production environment. Lot is defined as those fish that originated from the same brood stock during the same year and being raised on the same water source. All lots of brood stock of a single species held in the same water supply may be considered one population regardless of the age of the fish.
2. When inspecting for whirling disease, the sample population is defined as all fish in the hatchery held in the same water supply. Samples should be weighted towards the most susceptible species and ages of fish available.

Sample Size:	Lot size (# of fish)	Sample size
	50	35
	100	45
	250	50
	500	55
	2000 plus	60

Sample Collection: Moribund fish and those with clinical signs of disease should be sampled during all inspections. The method of collecting representative samples from each lot is left to the discretion of the inspector and the fish health inspector must collect samples.

Methods of Diagnosis: The most recent editions of the following manuals provide the basis for fish-hatchery inspections and certifications.

1. *Procedures for the Detection and Identification of Certain Finfish and Shellfish Pathogens* - American Fisheries Society, Fish Health Section
2. *Fish Health Protection Regulations Manual of Compliance* - Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans

