

August 10, 2026

Re: Revised fish pathogen and parasite testing for live fish importations made on or after January 1, 2027.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Fisheries Division, under the authority of Connecticut General Statute Sec. 26-55 and the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Sec. 26-55-1(g) is revising fish pathogen testing and reporting requirements to better align with current Northeast Fish Health Guidelines (attached). These guidelines are designed to prevent accidental introduction of pathogens which could prove detrimental to state waters and resident fish communities. **The purpose of this letter is to clearly articulate the new fish pathogen and parasite testing and reporting requirements to both instate and out-of-state commercial fish suppliers who have imported fish into Connecticut in recent years.**

Testing and reporting requirements are as follows:

- Testing to be conducted annually.
- Testing to be conducted by a licensed veterinarian, a certified or licensed fish health inspector, a fish pathologist certified by the American Fisheries Society, or an employee of the state responsible for the pathological inspection of fish.
- Fish samples to be submitted to a state or private laboratory following "Blue Book"¹ suggested procedures for testing and reporting.
- The pathogen testing requirements (Viral, Bacterial, and Parasitic) by family group for fish imported into Connecticut are listed in Table 1. These requirements do not pertain to testing of baitfish species.
- Results to be delivered to CT DEEP Fisheries Division via email at deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov

The testing and reporting requirements described in this letter will apply to all live fish importations made into Connecticut beginning on January 1, 2027. Fish importation permits will generally not be issued by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection unless the supplying hatchery demonstrates proof of negative results for all the listed viral and bacterial pathogens and parasites for a period of three years (i.e., the three most recent consecutive test years).

¹ AFS-FHS (American Fisheries Society-Fish Health Section). 2014. FHS blue book: suggested procedures for the detection and identification of certain finfish and shellfish pathogens, 2020 edition. Accessible at: <https://units.fisheries.org/fhs/fish-health-section-blue-book-2020/>

Table 1. Pathogen testing requirements (Viral, Bacterial, and Parasitic) by family group for fish imported into Connecticut beginning on January 1, 2027.

Family Group	Viral Pathogen	Bacterial Pathogen	Parasitic Pathogen
Salmonidae (e.g., trout, salmon, char)	- VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) - IPN (Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis) - SVC (Spring Viremia of Carp) - IHN (Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis) - SVC (Spring Viremia of Carp)	<i>Aeromonas salmonicida</i> (Furunculosis) <i>Yersinia ruckeri</i> (Enteric Redmouth Disease) <i>Renibacterium salmoninarum</i> (Bacterial Kidney Disease)	<i>Myxobolus cerebralis</i> (Whirling Disease) - Salmincola (Gill lice)
Cyprinidae (e.g., minnows, carp, including triploid grass carp) Catostomidae (e.g. Suckers) Osmeridae (e.g. smelt)	- SVC (Spring Viremia of Carp) - VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) (IPN) Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis - IHN (Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis)	<i>Aeromonas salmonicida</i> (Furunculosis) <i>Yersinia ruckeri</i> (Enteric Redmouth Disease)	
Centrarchidae (e.g. black bass) Moronidae (e.g., Striped Bass)	- SVC (Spring Viremia of Carp) - VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) - IPN (Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis) - Largemouth bass virus	<i>Aeromonas salmonicida</i> (Furunculosis) <i>Yersinia ruckeri</i> (Enteric Redmouth Disease)	
Percidae (e.g. Walleye, Yellow Perch), Esocidae (e.g. Pike, pickerel, Tiger muskie)	- SVC (Spring Viremia of Carp) - VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) - IPN (Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis) - Lymphocystis	<i>Aeromonas salmonicida</i> (Furunculosis) <i>Yersinia ruckeri</i> (Enteric Redmouth Disease)	Heterosporous
Ictaluridae (e.g. Catfishes)	- CCVD (Channel Catfish Virus Disease) - VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) - IPN (Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis)	<i>Aeromonas salmonicida</i> (Furunculosis) <i>Yersinia ruckeri</i> (Enteric Redmouth Disease) <i>Edwardsiella tarda</i> <i>Edwardsiella ictaluri</i> <i>Flavobacter columnaris</i>	PGD (Proliferative Gill Disease)
Cichlidae	- Tilapia Iridovirus - VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) - IPN (Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis) - SVC (Spring Viremia of Carp)	<i>Aeromonas salmonicida</i> (Furunculosis) <i>Yersinia ruckeri</i> (Enteric Redmouth Disease) <i>Streptococcus iniae</i> <i>Streptococcus agalactia</i>	

We thank you for your cooperation and assistance as the Fisheries Division seeks to prevent the introduction of deleterious fish pathogens into Connecticut waters. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Tom Chairvolottti (Fish Pathologist) at Thomas.Chairvolotti@ct.gov or 860-713-4303.

Once again, the most recent three years of test results for listed pathogens and parasites should be submitted to deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov. Since the revised testing requirements described in this letter take affect for all fish importations made on or after January 1, 2027, we would appreciate that the test results for 2026, 2025, and 2024 be sent to us at your earliest convenience for a seamless transition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter Arrestad".

Peter Arrestad
Director, Fisheries Division

CC: Alison Rau