



How to Apply for Restricted Species Aquaculture & Fish Permits

The following guidelines are provided to facilitate new applications, but all applicants shall follow all regulations for these new permits pursuant to sections 671, 671.1, 671.7 and 671.8 of California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14. These sections are provided in the Restricted Species Laws and Regulations Manual 671 (wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Restricted-Species). If you need an application or require further assistance with the application, contact the License and Revenue at (916) 928-5846 or SPU@wildlife.ca.gov.

Application Requirements

All locations must be permitted separately on an individual application due to specific location requirements. The following documents, information and fees shall accompany each new restricted species permit:

1. A completed New Restricted Species Permit Application (FG1312). Contact the License and Revenue Branch to obtain an application.
2. A Restricted Species Inventory of Animal form (FG1313) that provides the common and scientific name of the each species; the actual number of each species; and the weight, volume, or count of each species. Contact the License and Revenue Branch to obtain a Restricted Species Inventory of Animal form.
3. Payment for the permit, inspection and (nonrefundable) application fees as specified on the application. Acceptable forms of payment are a cashier's check, money order, personal or business check or credit card. The credit card authorization form (FG1443) is required and available online at <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=106167>.
4. A written statement detailing the type of business that will be conducted with the restricted species requested.
5. A copy of the applicant's current aquaculture registration issued by the department (for Aquaculture permit only).
6. A copy of the applicant's written facility Emergency Action Plan. The Emergency Action Plan shall be titled with a revision date, updated annually, be readily available and posted in a conspicuous place at the location in the event of escape or containment failure and include, but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Written plan of action for emergencies including a description of emergency measures in the event of a containment failure;
 - b. List of the re-capture and mobile transport equipment available and where they are located, including but not limited to nets and temporary containers; and
 - c. List of emergency telephone numbers that includes the local Department regional office and other contacts as specified on the permit.

Location Requirements

1. Aquaculture: Applicants shall pay for one inspection each year to verify the location requirements. If additional inspections are required to verify corrections of facilities or for compliance with these regulations, an additional fee shall be charged. The inspection fee may be waived if a fish pathologist as defined in subsection 245(b)(5) has inspected the applicant's facilities within the last six months, determines that the facility's housing meets the minimum applicable requirements in section 671.7 and no fish health issues have been identified in the past year.



2. Aquaculture: Applicants shall submit to the Department, a current map of all enclosures housing restricted species in California listed on their inventory. Each enclosure shall be numbered both on the map and physically on the enclosure. The number on the enclosure should be a minimum of two inches high, permanently attached, and clearly visible for ease of identification. The map shall also include identification of the species residing in the enclosure and the dimensions (Length x Width x Height) of the enclosure for ease of identification. An enclosure is defined as the structure where a restricted species is confined. If a structure or enclosure is divided into more than one confined area, each area is considered a separate enclosure and shall be shown as a separate enclosure on the map. If an enclosure houses more than one species that co-exist, and is not divided, it shall be considered one enclosure.
3. Fish: Applicants for Fish Permits are exempt from enclosure inspection fees.
4. All live restricted species shall be held, raised, and transported in closed-water systems. The department may inspect these systems at any time to determine if they are adequate for the specific restricted species being held.
 - a. Closed-water system is defined as a closed system or systems that treat holding water and sediments sufficiently to ensure against the release of live organisms, including parasites, pathogens and viruses, into the waters of the state. For purposes of this section, municipal treated sewage systems are not considered waters of the state.
5. Facilities and transport systems must be designed so that biosecurity is maintained in the case of failure of the primary containment system.
6. Access to facilities and transport systems containing restricted species shall be restricted through means determined to be adequate by the department to assure against unauthorized removal of restricted species.
7. Co-mingling or hybridization of restricted and non-restricted species is prohibited unless authorized by the department. If restricted species are co-mingled or hybridized with non-restricted species, all such animals shall be considered restricted species for the purpose of these regulations. Such co-mingled restricted species that can be individually identified as non-restricted and that can be separated from the restricted species may be exempt from this provision with prior department approval.
8. Every restricted species permittee shall have a written Emergency Action Plan readily available and posted in a conspicuous place in the event of an escape or a containment failure involving a restricted species.
9. Permittees are responsible for the capture and for the costs incurred by the department related to capture of escaped animals or a containment failure. Checklist for Renewing Your Restricted Species Permit

Wholesale Sales Requirements

1. Restricted species may be sold alive by Aquaculture or Fish permittees if both parties hold a restricted species permit issued by the Department for the species being sold and only if the permit(s) specifically authorize live sales.
2. All shipping containers of restricted species shall be labeled as restricted aquaculture product unless specifically authorized differently in the restricted species permit issued by the department.
3. All restricted species sold shall be accompanied by a sales invoice, showing the name and address of the permittee, the permittee's restricted species permit number, date of sale, the common and scientific name of the species, and the weight, volume, or count of each species sold. The restricted species and all applicable documents shall be immediately made available to the department upon request.



4. No live restricted species shall be stocked in private, public or fish-for-fee facilities or released in the waters of the state. Laws and Regulations

Retail Sales Requirements for Terminal Markets

1. Terminal market is defined as a retail sale location holding live restricted species aquaculture product for human consumption following the sales requirements shown below:
 - a. All restricted species sold or leaving the premises of a terminal market shall be dead and accompanied by a sales receipt showing the date of purchase and name of business where purchased or be packaged in accordance with subsection 240(c) of Title 14 regulations.
 - b. It is unlawful for any person to allow any live restricted species to leave a terminal market or be released in the waters of the state.

Permit Validity and Renewal

1. Permits expire one year from the date that the permit is issued.
2. The Department will automatically mail renewal instructions and applications 10-12 weeks prior to the permit's date of expiration.