
SUPPLEMENTAL POLICIES

**CLASSIFICATION OF AQUACULTURE SPECIES/POPULATION
AS FOOD OR NONFOOD**

- I. Purpose of classification: Primarily for guidance in determining enforcement priority.
- II. General principles:
 - A. A particular aquaculture species/population is presumed to be a food species/population if it is reasonably likely that a) any significant part of the species/population will be consumed directly or indirectly by humans for food, or b) the species/population is consumed by an identifiable human population. Under this definition, incidental or inadvertent diversion of insignificant numbers to food use would not cause a species/population to be classified as food. ("Indirect" consumption refers, for example, to a species that is used as food for another aquaculture species that is in turn consumed by humans).
 - B. Drugs intended for use in a nonfood species/population (as defined above) are not considered to be drugs for use in a food species/population.
 - C. A nonfood presumption could be overcome by facts in a specific case. An example would be packaging of an alleged aquarium fish drug in commercial pond-size use packages. The possibility of diversion to food use should be considered even if the labeling warns against use in food species.
 - D. In general, the traditional or known use of the species involved will be the major factor in classification decisions. It should be considered, however, that some species could be used either for food or nonfood purposes. Official or authoritative species classification lists will be used whenever possible.
 - E. A food species/population will as a general rule be considered food at all life stages. However, the life stage will be a factor in determining enforcement priority with respect to use of a drug in a particular life stage.
- III. Specific Species/Population Groups

A. Baitfish

1. Three species of baitfish (golden shiners, fathead minnows and goldfish) are considered nonfood fish. (It is reported that these species comprise 90% of all baitfish.)
2. Other species may be added to this list as support for addition is provided.
3. However, the facts related to individual population may need to be examined because, for example, some baitfish are fed to broodstock (see broodfish, below).

B. Ornamental and aquarium species

1. In general, ornamental and aquarium species are nonfood species. "Ornamental and aquarium" fish are defined as: fish that are produced and maintained solely for exhibit purposes in home or public aquaria, or in ornamental garden ponds.
2. Certain species may be cross-over species. Facts related to individual populations may need to be examined.

C. Endangered and threatened species

1. By statutory prohibition, endangered and threatened populations may not be harvested. Currently, the majority of endangered and threatened populations consist of species that are ordinarily considered to be nonfood species.
2. Approximately 110 fish species are currently listed, and limited numbers of animals are involved.
3. The Center for Veterinary Medicine has issued a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in which the Center specifies the circumstances under which it will exercise regulatory discretion in the use of drugs in threatened and endangered species managed by USFWS and its contractors. The principles in the letter will be applied to other agencies, Federal and State, that are responsible for managing threatened and endangered species.

D. Broodfish

1. Significant populations of some species of broodfish are consumed directly by humans. Thus, broodfish from species that are traditionally or known to be used for food are in general considered to be food fish.
2. Exceptions will be made based on facts that establish the absence of human consumption in specific species/populations of broodfish.