
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. ("Indirect" consumption refers, for example, to a species that is used as food for another aquaculture species that is in turn consumed by humans). A non-food animal is defined as: species for which there is a reasonable certainty that the animal or edible products from the animal will not be consumed by humans or food-producing animals. Under this definition, incidental or inadvertent diversion of insignificant numbers of fish to food use would not cause a species/population to be classified as food.
 - 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 for a given drug's intended use 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 fish 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 during a particular life stage. This determination will be done on a case by case basis.
- III. Specific Species/Population Groups

A. Baitfish

1. Fish commercially raised to be used as bait in sport or commercial fishing e.g., fathead minnows, golden shiners and goldfish. A baitfish species will be considered a food fish if humans will consume any significant part of the species directly or indirectly.

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 exhibition purposes in home or public aquaria, or in ornamental garden ponds.
2. Certain species may be cross-over species, which can be considered both food and nonfood fish such as common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). Facts related to the administration of drugs to individual populations may need to be examined.

C. Threatened and endangered species

1. By statutory prohibition, threatened and endangered populations may not be harvested. Currently, the majority of threatened and endangered populations consist of species that are ordinarily considered to be nonfood species, although some major food species, particularly from the salmonid family, may also be protected under certain statutes.
2. 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 enforcement 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 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.