

FINALIZATION OF PROGRAM GUIDANCE

The attached finalized guidance “Disposition of Fish or Eggs Resulting from Department Operations” was developed to provide direction for staff and to inform the public on how the Department will donate, sell, or dispose of dead fish or eggs. The guidance was developed by Bureau of Fisheries Management staff in conjunction with the Bureaus of Legal Services, Finance, and Law Enforcement.

The Department has donated or sold fish and eggs to consumers without using solicitation or bid processes. The process of donating or selling excess fish and eggs has not been consistent throughout the state and has had differing levels of transparency and competition. This document provides guidelines on handling excess fish or eggs collected during Department field operations, including spawning operations, population assessments, netting, electroshocking, spent hatchery broodstock, fish health or contamination sampling, fish removals, and chemical rehabilitation projects. Reasonable efforts should be made to utilize the fish in order to allow members of the public to enjoy the benefits of Wisconsin’s natural resources and prevent the fish from going to waste. Fish that are not donated or sold may be properly disposed of by Department staff or a contracted waste hauler.

SUMMARY -

- A. Dead fish resulting from any Fisheries Management activities should, in order of priority, be:
 - 1. donated to one or several nonprofit organizations if fit for human consumption,
 - 2. sold to the highest bidding for-profit business, or
 - 3. landfilled/disposed.
- B. All fish eggs are considered unfit for human consumption and may be sold to for-profit businesses.
- C. In order to obtain fish or eggs and ensure a fair process, agreements will be set up in advance with nonprofits and businesses through solicitation or bid processes.

The public comment period was open from March 1-22, 2016. Only one comment was received:

“It seems appropriate to address state listed species here. I would suggest an explicit prohibition on sale and donation of state ET species or parts of these.”

This clarification that the department will not donate or sell endangered or threatened fish species or parts thereof was added to the final guidance document.

For additional questions, contact:

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