

NOTICE

January 6, 2017

Re: Prohibited Fish Species in British Columbia

To All Live Fish Importers and Pet Supply or Live Food Retailers:

The Government of British Columbia is taking action in the enforcement of the BC *Wildlife Act's* Controlled Alien Species (CAS) Regulation, which controls the possession, breeding, shipping, and release of alien animals that pose a serious threat to people, wildlife and ecosystems in the province. This regulation could directly impact your business, and therefore it is important to read this entire notice.

As of December 18th, 2012, the possession, breeding, shipping and release of listed live fish species under Schedule 3 of the CAS Regulation became prohibited. As a pet supply or live food retailer, live fish importer, or other interested stakeholder we are asking for your cooperation, and recommend that you familiarize yourself with the list of Schedule 3 species provided on the reverse of this notice.

Amnesty Period: January 9th - July 9th, 2017

The Government of British Columbia recognizes that this regulation may have a sudden impact to your business, as a listed species may be in your possession. If this is the case, to help you comply with the regulation, the Government of British Columbia has implemented a six month amnesty period. During this six month amnesty period, you are allowed to possess the Schedule 3 species you currently have **ONLY** for the purpose of shipping it to a jurisdiction that lawfully allows the possession of it, or turning it over to the Conservation Officer Service (without penalty). Any possession, breeding, shipping, or release that does not meet the conditions of this amnesty period will be investigated by the BC Conservation Officer Service and potential charges could result. This Amnesty period begins **(January 9th, 2017)** and ends **(July 9th, 2017)** to allow you time to export or give up the Schedule 3 species currently in your possession.

DO NOT flush or release any species in order to comply with the CAS Regulation. If you are currently in possession of a Schedule 3 species, make sure to export it from the province by the end of the amnesty period or contact the B.C. Conservation Officer Service for assistance.

For more information, please contact the **Conservation Officer Service (RAPP Line): 1-877-952-7277** or visit www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Deputy Chief Chris Doyle
OIC Provincial Operations
BC Conservation Officer Service

List of Schedule 3 Species under the Controlled Alien Species Regulation

- (1) Fish of the following species of the family *Channidae*:
- (a) all species of the genus *Channa* [*Asian snakeheads*];
 - (b) all species of the genus *Parachanna* [*African snakeheads*].
- (2) *Misgurnus anguillicaudatus* [*oriental weatherfish or weather loach*] of the family *Cobitidae*.
- (3) Fish of the following species of the family *Cyprinidae*:
- (a) *Ctenopharyngodon idella* [*grass carp*];
 - (b) *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* [*silver carp*];
 - (c) *Hypophthalmichthys nobilis* [*bighead carp*];
 - (d) *Mylopharyngodon piceus* [*black carp*];
 - (e) all species of the genus *Rhodeus* [*bitterlings*];
 - (f) *Tanichthys albonubes* [*White Cloud Mountain minnow*];
 - (g) *Tinca tinca* [*tench*].
- (4) Fish of the following species of the family *Gobiidae*:
- (a) *Neogobius fluviatilis* [*monkey goby*];
 - (b) *Neogobius melanostomus* [*round goby*];
 - (c) *Proterorhinus semilunaris* [*tubenose goby*];
 - (d) *Rhinogobius brunneus* [*Amur goby*].
- (5) All fish species of the family *Ictaluridae* [*including bullheads, channel catfish and madtoms*].
- (6) *Gambusia affinis* [*western mosquitofish*] of the family *Poeciliidae*.

* **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** The list of Schedule 3 species provided above has been added for convenience of reference only. Please refer to the most up-to-date list of Schedule 3 species by visiting <http://www.bclaws.ca/> and searching under the Laws of British Columbia tab for the BC *Wildlife Act's* Controlled Alien Species Regulation.
