Cooperative Nursery Program-Policy Revision

Brian McHail, Leader

Mission: To protect, conserve, and enhance the Commonwealth’s aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities
Overview

- History
- Why now?
- Reviewers
- Revisions
- Summary
History

- 1976
- 2003
- 2008/2009
- 2010 (most recent)
Why Now?

- PFBC Reorganization-2012
- Update Information
- Current/Future Issues
  - Purchased Fish
  - Selling vs. Donations
  - Pathogens
- Tournaments vs. Derbies
Reviewers

- Bureau of Hatcheries
- Bureau of Fisheries
- Bureau of Law Enforcement
- Office of Chief Counsel
- Executive Director John Arway

- Co-op Workgroup - Did not review
Revisions
III. Cooperative Nursery Unit Operating Procedures

- Purchasing fish from commercial/private hatcheries
- Obtain CNU approval
- Maintain receipts
- Maintain fish health certificates
  - CNU involvement
III. Cooperative Nursery Unit Operating Procedures

- Why provide this information?
- Pathogen/fish health issues reported
- Maintain the integrity of the CNP
III. Cooperative Nursery Unit Operating Procedures

- III.7 (page 3)
  - Place purchased fish below co-op fish or in a separate raceway

- III.8 (page 3)
  - Section IX-Disciplinary Action
IV. Obligations of Cooperative Nursery Sponsors

• IV.17 (page 4)
  • Selling Fish vs. Donations
  • Do not sell or require a donation for fish
  • Can accept donations for operational expenses

• IV.19 (page 5)
  • Section IX-Disciplinary Action
IV. Obligations of Cooperative Nursery Sponsors

- IV.20 (page 5)
  - Hold harmless statement
V. PFBC State Fish Hatchery Distribution and Offloading Procedures

• V.1-5 (page 6)
  • Cooperative Nursery Fish Distribution Procedures
  • Ensure the readiness of the nursery
    • Water flow, temperature, raceway ready
  • Assist PFBC staff with offloading
  • Counting fish for accuracy
VI. Disease Treatment

• VI.4 (page 7)
  • VFD required by FDA
  • Amendment to the Statement of Policy
VI. Disease Treatment

• VI.11-13 (page 7-8)
  • Pathogen—any parasite, bacteria, fungus, or virus that is the causative agent for a disease episode at a PFBC approved cooperative nursery

• PFBC staff recommendations
  • Uncommon/unknown pathogens
  • Pathogens outside of its geographic region
VI. Disease Treatment

- VI.11-13 (page 7-8)
  - Emergency Pathogens
    - VHS
    - Ceratomyxosis
    - IHN
    - PKD
    - ISA
    - KHV
    - SVCV
VI. Disease Treatment

VI.14 (page 8)
- Gill lice (*Salmincola spp.*)
- PFBC staff recommendations
- Corrective action-depopulation
- Do not stock unless directed by CNU
VI. Disease Treatment

- Do not stock fish
  - External signs of a pathogen
  - Uncommon/unknown pathogen
  - Pathogen outside its geographic range
  - Emergency pathogen
  - Gill lice

- Section IX-Disciplinary Action
VII. Fish Stocking Procedures

- VII.7a-i (page 9-10)
  - Fishing Tournament vs. Fishing Derby
    - Entry Fee/Registration Fee= Fishing Tournament
    - Special Population/Fun/Free= Fishing Derby
    - Hosting and Donating Fish

- Section IX-Disciplinary Action
30 Pa. C.S. § 2103(a)

- General Rule - Any water area in this Commonwealth stocked with fish furnished by the Commission shall be open to the public for the purpose of free lawful fishing.
In stocking fish reared or salvaged by the Commission or a cooperative nursery recognized by the Commission, the following acts are prohibited:

- Failure to stock fish in waters designated by Commission personnel.

- *Diversion of fish to be stocked to waters not open or accessible to free public fishing.*

- Mishandling or misuse of fish being stocked in a manner so as to damage or destroy fish.
IX. Policy Compliance

• IX.6 (page 12)
  • Misuse of cooperative nursery fish for a tournament or derby

• IX.7 (page 12)
  • Application for a suspended or removed sponsor is not guaranteed for approval
Sponsor Agreement Form

- Read/Understand/Follow
- Sign and return to the CNU
  - Envelope (postage included)
  - Scan and email
  - Send with paperwork
Cooperative Nursery Sponsor Agreement

Date: _________________       County: _________________

Sponsor Organization: ________________________________

WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE ABOVE ORGANIZATION, HAVING A DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION’S COOPERATIVE NURSERY PROGRAM, HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE STATEMENT OF POLICY FOR COOPERATIVE NURSERIES (Revised January 9, 2017), AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY ITS TERMS, INCLUDING OPERATING PROCEDURES, OBLIGATIONS OF SPONSORS, DISEASE TREATMENT, FISH STOCKING PROCEDURES, AND POLICY COMPLIANCE. WE HAVE ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE POLICY WITH THE STAFF OF THE COOPERATIVE NURSERY UNIT AND ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NURSERY OPERATION AND THE USE OF THE FISH PROVIDED BY THE PA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION.

SPONSOR ORGANIZATION SIGNATURES:
Signed: ___________________________ Position: ____________
___________________________________                            
___________________________________                            
___________________________________                            
___________________________________  
___________________________________

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
Summary

- Revisions are in place
- **Strengthen the CNP**
- Sign and send Sponsor Agreement Form
- **Contact the CNU if you have any questions**
Questions???