

SPECIFICATIONS FOR CHANNEL CATFISH - 2019

Number: 9,800 14-18" Channel Catfish for 26 Connecticut lakes/ponds.

Size: The average size of 14-18" Channel Catfish should be about 16 inches, with no individuals smaller than 13 inches (approx. 1.25lb average size).

Strain/Species: All catfish must be Channel Catfish. Neither Blue Catfish nor Channel Catfish X Blue Catfish crosses are acceptable. The delivery may include up to 30% albino Channel Catfish.

Time of delivery: On or about May 21, 2019, but not later than May 31, 2019 nor earlier than May 15, 2019. No weekend deliveries or on May 27 (Memorial Day).

Condition of fish: For payment by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the fish must be alive and deemed in good health by the State of Connecticut Fish Pathologist or a DEEP Fisheries Biologist. The Channel Catfish will be made available for inspection by the pathologist or fisheries biologist upon entering the State of Connecticut at a designated location. The pathologist or fisheries biologist will be allowed to sample the adults for disease and general health. Sample counts of fish and weights will also be taken by a fisheries biologist. Dead and unhealthy fish will not be stocked, but may be retained for analysis.

Disease status: A comprehensive disease inspection is required. Channel Catfish must be free of serious diseases, including Channel Catfish Virus Disease (CCVD), Columnaris (*Flavobacter columnaris*), Proliferative Gill Disease (PGD), Edwardsiellosis, *Aeromonas* sp. and Channel Catfish herpes virus. Fish health inspection reports (from a certified pathology laboratory in the vendor's state or region) should be submitted to the Connecticut Fish Health personnel in advance for review. Testing of fish for viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) is mandatory for any facility that is within the United States Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) quarantine area and each separate lot of fish within the same shipment must be VHS free.

Dreissenid Mussels: Transportation water must be free of Dreissenid mussel adults or larvae (Zebra and Quagga mussels). Communication from the vendor's State Department of Natural Resources should indicate that no viable populations of zebra mussels have been documented in the waters from which Channel Catfish are obtained. No water, except from a well-water source, is to be added to the transportation truck during transportation to Connecticut. After all fish have been offloaded, transportation water will be released away from surface waters under the inspection of a DEEP Fisheries Biologist.

Aquatic Nuisance Species: No other aquatic animals or plants are to be transported to Connecticut (including other fish, amphibians or aquatic plants species). Shipments will be inspected for the presence of Aquatic Nuisance Species upon arrival.

Coordination agreement: The initial meeting location will be determined by the DEEP. The vendor will notify the DEEP Fisheries Division (860) 424-3474 or alternatively call DEEP Fisheries Biologist Chris McDowell (860) 424-4143/ (860) 916-1613, at least two weeks before loading, again on the day of loading, and about 24 hours and 2 hours before reaching the Connecticut border. Stops within the State of Connecticut will include: an initial meeting location (most likely a highway rest stop, commuter lot, or weigh-in area), and stops at several lakes in Connecticut. Fish may be offloaded at several locations on each lake.

Care of fish: Drivers should be knowledgeable of pH, dissolved oxygen, and water temperature requirements of Channel Catfish. They should also be experienced in proper acclimation and handling procedures.