



Health Checks

Members have expressed some confusion over the need for a health check. So here are your questions answered:

Do I need to check the health of the fish that I am buying?

Yes, if the fish are to be stocked into a water that has connections to others including the flood plain. It forms part of the Agency's risk assessment on the potential impacts of the stocking. It is not however a guarantee of the fishes' health.

Always check with your local Agency's fisheries officer to find out if the fish need a health check and what fish need to be tested to ensure they are representative of the fish to be stocked.

So who checks the fish?

The Agency's National Fisheries Laboratory (NFL) offers a service.

OR

You can also get the fish checked independently by a consultant. However, the Agency requires that the consultant has certain qualifications. Your local Agency fisheries officer has a list of competent consultants.

How much does it cost?

The Agency's service is free.

You will have to pay for a consultant.

Where do I get the forms?

The Centre for Fish Environment and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) web site: www.efishbusiness.com. This site has been set up by the relevant Government departments to provide information for the fish movement industry.

OR

Your local Agency fisheries officer.

Does the Agency collect the fish to test them?

The Agency may be able to arrange the transport of the fish to the NFL in Brampton, Huntingdon. However since this cannot be guaranteed it is a better idea to deliver them yourself or arrange a courier to do so. You cannot just turn up with the fish but must book them into the NFL.

Can the fish supplier and the consultant be the same person?

Yes, but only if he has the necessary qualifications to be a consultant.

What if I need to stock the fish quickly - can the Agency give a section 30 consent in an emergency?

The Agency usually requires a minimum of 10 working days notice between receiving the application and the date of introduction. In a genuine emergency the Agency can process the application more quickly but this cannot be guaranteed. Contact your local Agency fisheries officer to discuss matters.

BUT PLEASE NOTE:

1. THE HEALTH CHECKS ONLY MINIMISE THE RISK TO YOUR FISHERY OF THE ENTRY OF FISH DISEASE. THEY DO NOT ELIMINATE THEM. THEREFORE YOU STOCK YOUR FISHERY AT YOUR OWN RISK.
 2. THE AGENCY HAS LEAFLET CALLED "BUYER BEWARE" SETTING OUT THE PITFALLS OF STOCKING. AGAIN ASK YOUR AGENCY FISHERIES OFFICER FOR A COPY.
 3. THE EFISHBUSINESS WEBSITE CONTAINS A USEFUL STOCKING GUIDANCE BOOKLET.
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