



FISHERIES GENERAL MEMORANDUM

ORDER NO. 119

SUBJECT : Guideline in the importation of milkfish (*bangus*) fry, *Chanos chanos*

As an additional guideline in the implementation of Fisheries Administrative Order No. 221, particularly for the importation of live milkfish (*bangus*) fry, *Chanos chanos*, and in view of the persistent illegal importation of shrimp fry, which is prohibited by law, under the guise of milkfish fry, the following guideline is hereby issued for information and compliance of all concerned:

Section 1. Accreditation. – Applications for importation of milkfish (*bangus*) fry will only be processed and evaluated when the following accreditation process has been complied with:

A. Accreditation of importers. All importers must be accredited by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) before they can qualify to import milkfish (*bangus*) fry. Qualified importers will be accredited after submission and evaluation of the following documents:

1. Copy of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) registration, and copy of Company By-Laws (for SEC-registered companies;
2. Copy of Mayor's Permit;
3. Copy of Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Registration; and,
4. Submission of Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN).

B. Accreditation of milkfish fry supplier from country of origin. Suppliers or shippers of milkfish (*bangus*) fry from source country should be endorsed by the appropriate government agency of that country to BFAR that these are duly registered business entities or enterprises with no derogatory record, and that the fry are sourced from hatcheries with no record of outbreak of any serious fish diseases for the past two (2) years. The endorsement should contain the following information: name of supplier/shipper, address, telephone/fax number, business registration number, and, location of hatcheries/source of fry.



C. Accreditation of buyers of imported bangus fry. Buyers of imported fry from the importer, including resellers shall also be accredited. The following information should be provided to BFAR for monitoring and evaluation purposes: names of buyers/resellers, contact numbers, and addresses, containing exact location of culture farms.

Section 2. *Authorized personnel to file applications to import.* – To sustain credibility of applications for importations of milkfish fry, only the importer will be allowed to file the application to import at the Bureau. Filing of applications by representatives of brokerage companies and by other persons will not be entertained. However, in case of legitimate physical absence of the importer from the country, a duly authorized representative, having Special Power of Attorney, may transact in his behalf only during the period of his absence. Only original copies of application to import submitted by the importer shall be processed/ evaluated.

Section 3. *Procedure for importation.* –

A. New Applicants:

1. Compliance with accreditation process stated in Section 1 hereof;
2. Submission of completed and signed application form;
3. Payment of a non-refundable application fee of one hundred fifty pesos (Php150.00);
4. Submission of an Affidavit of Undertaking that the importer shall not cause the importation of any prohibited species and that violation of this undertaking shall result in the revocation of accreditation and forfeiture of bond, without prejudice to the filing of criminal charges; and,
5. Deposit of cash bond covering each shipment as a guaranty of good faith in filing the application and for the satisfactory compliance with existing fishery laws, rules and regulations at the rate of five hundred pesos (Php 500.00) per one million pieces of fry to be imported or fraction thereof. The cash bond already deposited may be credited/adjusted to the cash bond requirement of subsequent importations.

B. Accredited Applicants:

1. Submission of completed and signed application form;
2. Payment of application fee;
3. Submission of Affidavit of Undertaking;
4. Disposition Report of previous importation; and
5. Deposit of cash bond.

Section 4. Port of Origin. – Each shipment must bear a certification in the English language that the shipment has been inspected and found to contain milkfish (*bangus*) fry only and none of the species prohibited for importation at the country of destination. The certification must contain the name and signature of the Inspecting Quarantine Officer.

Section 5. Port of Entry. – All importations of milkfish (*bangus*) fry will enter only through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and the Centennial Airport. Entry will only be allowed upon presentation and surrender to Fisheries Quarantine Officer of the original copy of the Health Certificate issued by the competent authority from country of origin and the original copy of Permit to Import covering the particular shipment. Entry of shipments through the Subic Bay International Airport, the Laoag International Airport, and other airports is prohibited.

Section 6. Effectivity. – This guideline shall take effect immediately after its approval and shall remain in force unless modified or revoked.

Section 7. Repealing clause. – All orders, memoranda, and other issuances, including Fisheries Memorandum Order No. 098, inconsistent with the provisions of this guideline are hereby deemed amended or revoked.

Issued this 20th day of May, 2003, after consultation with the concerned sector on the same date, in Quezon City, Philippines.


MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.
Director