



Office of Catfish Inspection Programs

DEVELOPING RULE FOR CATFISH INSPECTION

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*Office of Catfish Inspection Programs
Food Safety and Inspection Service*

Association of Food and Drug Officials
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Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008

- The '2008 Farm Bill.'
- Signed into law on June 18, 2008.
- Amends the Federal Meat Inspection Act to make catfish an amenable species under the Act.



Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008

- Specific components:
 - Requires that domestic and imported farm-raised catfish undergo inspection by FSIS.
 - Secretary of Agriculture is to define “catfish.”
 - Creates a voluntary grading program for catfish under AMS.
 - FSIS is required to take into account the conditions under which catfish are raised and transported to a processing establishment.
 - Requires that catfish be subject to continuous inspection.
 - Requires that imported catfish inspection programs be found to be equivalent to FSIS regulations before catfish products may be imported into the United States.

The Present Situation

- Currently, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) operates a Federal inspection program for all seafood.
- The Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration conducts a voluntary, fee-for-service, inspection and grading program. This inspection program provides a mark of inspection.

FSIS Participants

- Office of the Administrator (OA)
- Office of Catfish Inspection Programs (OCIP) – *Lead*
- Office of Policy and Program Development (OPPD)
- Office of Data Integration and Food Protection (ODIFP)
- Office of Outreach, Employee Education and Training (OOEET)
- Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement & Review (OPEER)
- Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Outreach (OPACE)
- Office of Management (OM)
- Office of Field Operations (OFO)
- Office of Public Health Science (OPHS)
- Office of International Affairs (OIA)

FSIS Catfish Inspection Implementation

- FSIS is drawing on all available expertise:
 - USDA agencies
 - Agricultural Marketing Service
 - Agricultural Research Service
 - Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
 - Foreign Agricultural Service
 - National Agricultural Statistics Service
 - Federal partners
 - Food and Drug Administration
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Academia
 - Auburn University
 - Mississippi State University
 - University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff

FSIS Catfish Inspection Implementation

▶ PROPOSED RULE

- FSIS has developed and is clearing the proposed rule through the Department.
- FSIS has been given 18 months to publish a final rule.
- FSIS intends to publish a proposed rule in the Summer of 2009.

FSIS Catfish Inspection Implementation

▶ PROPOSED RULE

- Components of the Rule:
 - Adapt the regulatory framework for catfish.
 - Use risk analysis determine chemical residue, microbiological and water quality requirements.
 - Develop the requirements for catfish import and export

FSIS Catfish Inspection Implementation

▶ DOMESTIC OUTREACH

- On April 9, 2009, FSIS convened a USDA internal stakeholders meeting to discuss the proposed catfish inspection program.
 - AMS, ARS, CSREES, NASS, FAS
- On June 4th, 2009, FSIS convened a federal partners meeting to discuss the proposed catfish inspection program.
 - FDA, NOAA, State, USTR, USDA

FSIS Catfish Inspection Implementation

▶ *DOMESTIC OUTREACH*

- In addition, FSIS is developing a series of training materials specific to catfish that will be available to the public. Topics include:
 - Compliance Guidelines
 - HACCP
 - SSOPs
 - Grant of Inspection

FSIS Catfish Inspection Implementation

▶ *INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH*

- FSIS is partnering with the Foreign Agriculture Service, United States Trade Representative, Department of State, and the United States Agency for International Development to ensure that we meet all of our international trade obligations.
- FSIS is committed to providing regular updates to all of our trading partners in order to ensure transparency.

FSIS Catfish Inspection Implementation

▶ *INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH*

- FSIS is developing an aggressive outreach program for foreign trading partners.
 - Phase One: Foreign Embassy Visits, Washington, DC.
 - Phase Two: Site Visits.
 - Phase Three: International Conferences.
 - Hong Kong and Washington, DC.

FSIS Catfish Inspection Implementation

▶ COMMENT PERIOD

- Upon publication of the proposed rule, FSIS will convene a series of public meetings for all stakeholders.

Summary

- ▶ The 2008 Farm Bill requires FSIS to establish a continuous inspection program for catfish.
- ▶ FSIS is working closely with key partners, in particular FDA, in so doing.
- ▶ FSIS will conduct a vigorous outreach program for catfish producers.
- ▶ FSIS anticipates publishing the final rule in December 2009.

A circular ripple effect in water, centered on a white background. The ripples are concentric and spread outwards from the center. In the middle of the ripples, the letters 'OCIP' are written in a dark, serif font.

OCIP



**FOOD SAFETY AND
INSPECTION SERVICE**