

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE

11-21

3/22/21

FUNDING FOR INSPECTION OF INVASIVE WILD-CAUGHT CATFISH OUTSIDE HOURS OF OPERATION

I. PURPOSE

Once the Agency has the necessary information described in this notice, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) will no longer bill establishments that process invasive wild-caught catfish for inspections that occur outside of scheduled hours (i.e., overtime and holiday time). In addition, FSIS will reimburse establishments for any overtime or holiday hours previously billed starting on October 1, 2021. This notice provides inspection program personnel (IPP) with information for states where invasive wild-caught catfish may be found and recording payroll time and attendance.

II. BACKGROUND

A. In the FY21 appropriations bill (the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act), Congress allocated funds to FSIS to cover industry costs for inspections outside the regularly scheduled hours of operation for the processing of wild-caught invasive species of catfish (Siluriformes fish from the family *Ictaluridae*). Based on a list of invasive species provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FSIS has determined that these fish are typically domestic species and labeled "Blue Catfish," "Channel Catfish," and "Flathead Catfish." FSIS also has identified the states where these catfish are considered invasive in the waterways and where there are federally inspected establishments that may process these wild-caught invasive catfish.

B. The list of States with Federal establishments that may process invasive wild-caught catfish species include:

- Alabama
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Nevada
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Virginia

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic

NOTICE EXPIRES: 4/1/22

OPI: OPPD

III. IPP RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. IPP assigned to establishments that process wild-caught catfish are to make the establishment management aware of the content of this notice at the next weekly meeting.
- B. If establishment management states that they process **invasive** wild-caught catfish and would like to operate outside of normal operating hours, IPP are to review the establishment's Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) records to verify that they process wild-caught catfish. If the establishment processes wild caught catfish labeled as "Blue Catfish," "Channel Catfish," or "Flathead Catfish" in the States identified in II.B, IPP are to determine they are processing wild-caught invasive species.
- C. If IPP verify that the establishment processes invasive wild-caught catfish utilizing the documentation provided by the establishment, they are to document this in a Memorandum of Interview (MOI) and inform the District Office (DO) of the establishment's eligibility.
- D. The DO is to inform Headquarters Office of Field Operations of the establishments that process invasive wild-caught catfish. OFO headquarters is to inform the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) of these establishments.
- E. IPP are to continue to record their time outside of scheduled hours (i.e., overtime and holiday time) to existing accounting codes, based on current procedures.

IV. OCFO RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. OCFO is to reimburse establishments that process invasive wild-caught catfish for any overtime or holiday hours that were billed and collected for reimbursable services provided on or after October 1, 2021.
- B. OCFO will ensure these establishments will not be billed for future overtime or holiday hours.

V. QUESTIONS

IPP are to refer questions regarding this notice to their immediate supervisor or to the Office of Policy and Program Development through [askFSIS](#) or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935. When submitting a question, complete the web form and select General Inspection Policy for the inquiry type.



Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development