



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

**Washington Animal Disease  
Diagnostic Laboratory**

# **Choose Your Own Adventure: Moving Fish Interstate**



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# It's not easy!

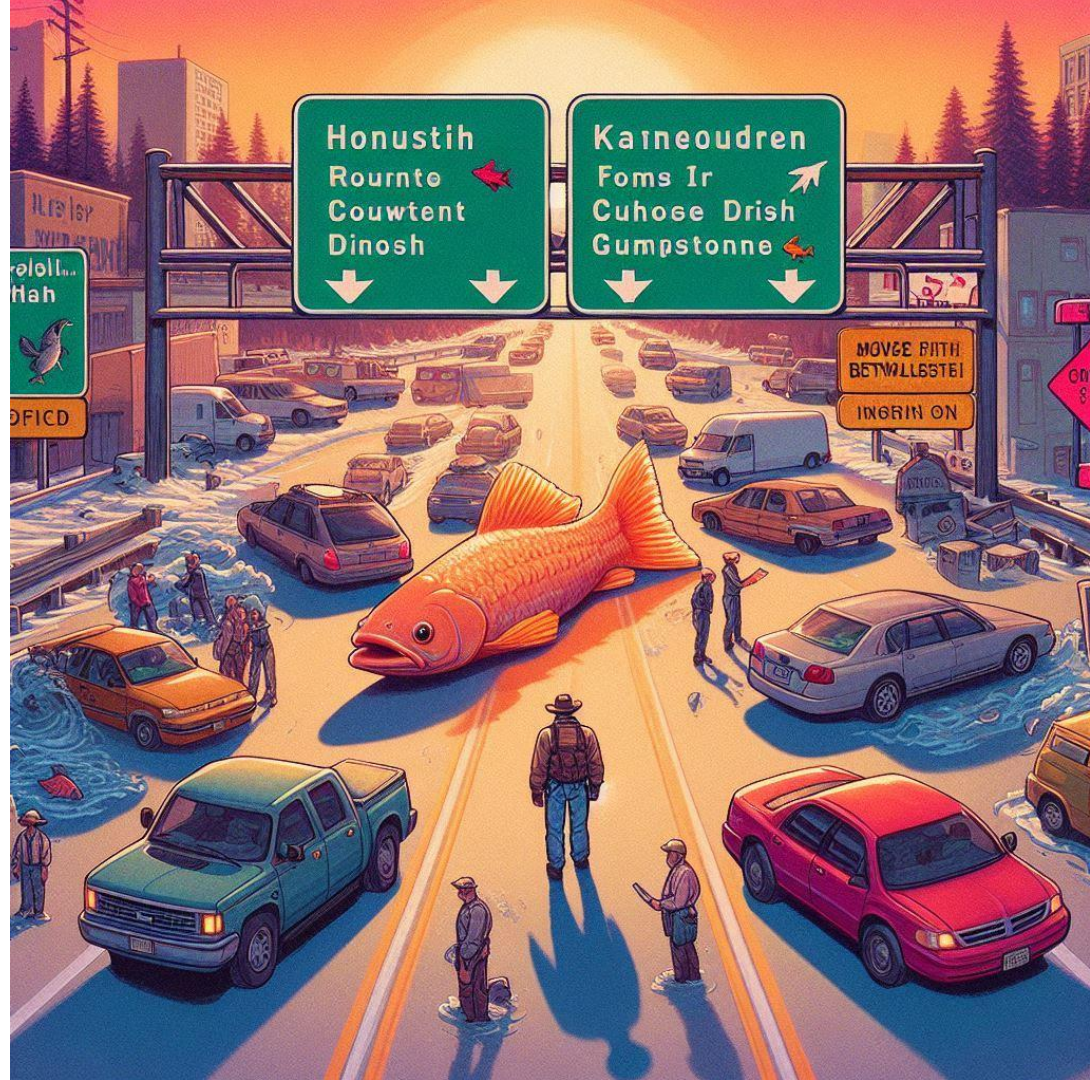
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- A real-world example
- A breakdown of the challenges
- A real-world solution



# A real-life example....

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# Goal:



Move white sturgeon from  
Oregon to Nevada and  
Washington



# Nevada Written Import Requirements

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- NAC: Chapter 504
- Permit required
- Board of Wildlife Commissioners Regulations



# Nevada Verbal Import Requirements

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These are obtained by contacting the regulators directly. This list doesn't supersede the actual regulations, but it is what the regulators are referring to for testing requirements.

## Disease Certification Requirements for Importation of Fish in Nevada

For each lot of fish you will need to provide an official fish health certificate which verifies that the fish have been tested and are negative for the following:

- (1) Virology – includes IHN, VHS, IPN, and OMV. Minimum of 60 fish must be sampled. Can be pooled into groups of 5 fish.
- (2) Bacteriology – includes furunculosis and ERM. Minimum of 60 fish must be sampled. Each fish must be sampled individually; no pooling.
- (3) BKD – minimum of 60 fish. Can be pooled into groups of 5 fish – Salmonids only
- (4) Whirling Disease – minimum of 60 fish. Can be pooled into groups of 5 fish – Salmonids only
- (5) LMBV (largemouth bass virus) – Centrarchids only
- (6) SVC (Spring viremia of carp) – Cyprids only
- (7) CCV (channel catfish virus) – Channel and blue catfish only

A lot is defined as a group of fish of the same species and age that have been continuously shared a common water source throughout their history.

An Importation Permit from the NV Department of Wildlife is also required prior to shipping fish into the State. This form can be found on our webpage.

Revised June 9, 2014



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# Washington Written Import Requirements

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- WAC 220-370
  - IHNV, IPNV, VHSV, OMV, ISAV, and *Myxobolus cerebralis*
- WAC 220-370-050(20)





# Washington Verbal Import Requirements

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- IHNV

# A breakdown of the challenges....





# A lot of questions....

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- Who is the regulator?
- Are there clear, written regulations available to the public?
- Are there regulations applicable to the species being moved?
- Which laboratories can perform the testing?





# Challenges

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- Testing requirements
  - Salmonid-centric
  - Lacking
    - Don't exist
    - Whimsically-applied
    - Different than what's written
  - Unclear
    - Last minute decisions
  - Biologically inappropriate
  - Unvalidated tests
- Samples collector
- Testing laboratories



# A real-world solution....

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the following systems, which fully encloses a farm-raised deer herd and is approved by the department:

- (1) A double fence that meets all of the following requirements:
  - (a) Each fence is at least 8 feet high at every point.
  - (b) The 2 fences are at least 8 feet but not more than 16 feet apart at every point.
- (2) A solid barrier that is at least 8 feet high at every point.

**History:** CR 07-107: cr. Register November 2008 No. 635, eff. 12-1-08; correction in (intro.) and renumbering made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1. and 7., Stats., Register November 2008 No. 635; CR 15-092: am. (1) (b) Register July 2016 No. 727, eff. 10-1-16.

### Subchapter VIII — Fish

**ATCP 10.60 Definitions.** In this subchapter:

- (1) “Contiguous parcels” means land parcels that are adjacent or that share a common boundary. “Contiguous parcels” includes parcels that are separated only by a river, stream, section line, public road, private road, or railroad or utility right of way.

## Things that are working:

- Regulation by the state authority with significant animal movement knowledge and regulatory veterinary infrastructure
  - An appropriate but dynamic list of agents of concern
  - Existing understanding of laboratory qualifications for animal movement testing
  - No conflict of interest as regulator and regulatee
- Built around Certificate of Veterinary Inspection is required to import fish
  - Veterinary profession and licensure
  - Fish health focus (as opposed to fish pathogens)





# Future Concerns:

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- Dearth of validated tests
- Fish farmer buy-in
- Zero-risk ideology



# Questions? Comments? Disagreements?



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