



Fish Health and You: The Aquatic Animal Health (England & Wales) Regulations 2008.

Fisheries.



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The Aquatic Animal Health Directive.

The UK has had longstanding controls on aquatic animal diseases that have made a major contribution to the high health status of our valuable fish and shellfish resources. Current legislation introduced in 1992 is due to be replaced in 2008 with a new Aquatic Animal Health Directive developed to reflect recent changes to aquaculture in the European Union. The Directive will be enacted in England and Wales through the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2008.

Registration.

Under the new Aquatic Animal Health Directive (EC Directive 2006/88/EC), all aquaculture production businesses (APB's) must be authorised by the competent authority, in this case the Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) based at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas).



The Directive carries a derogation to register rather than authorise specific low-risk installations. This will be implemented for fisheries stocked for angling purposes. The registration will require a named person, normally the owner, lease holder, or manager to take responsibility for the waters. That person must provide all reasonable help and access in the event of a fish mortality problem and must report any suspicion of a notifiable disease to the Fish Health Inspectorate.

The registration process is required to be completed by 1st August 2009. After that date, Environment Agency removal consents and section 30 introductions will no longer be granted for non-registered fisheries. Application forms can be obtained when applying for either an introduction or removal consent. Alternatively registration can be completed in advance. Forms can be obtained from the Fish Health Inspectorate

or on-line at
www.efishbusiness.co.uk

