

LIVE BAIT PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

PERMIT TO INTRODUCE AND
TRANSFER MARINE AND
ESTUARINE ORGANISMS

APRIL 2008



LIVE BAIT

- Issue originated from eel aquaculturists complaining because they had to obtain a permit to transfer live eels into the state and bait dealers did not.
- Survey of bait dealers indicated that at least four of the nine dealers handling eels were receiving the eels from out-of-state sources.
- The original rule was put in place in 1991 in response to growth in the movement of seed shellfish (oysters and hard clams) up and down the East and Gulf coasts.
- The rule is to protect all marine and estuarine resources of the state from impacts from importation of predators, pests, parasites and disease.



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- Aquaculture operation permit holders are required to obtain a permit and perform disease testing when they receive shipments of live resources from out-of state.
- Since the retail bait industry is not otherwise regulated or permitted under MFC rules, the need to apply the Permit for Introduction and Transfers of Marine and Estuarine Organisms was not recognized.
- Furthermore, bait shops are not required to have a permit because they are not the entity placing transferred or nonnative species as bait into NC waters – **fishermen are**.



LIVE BAIT

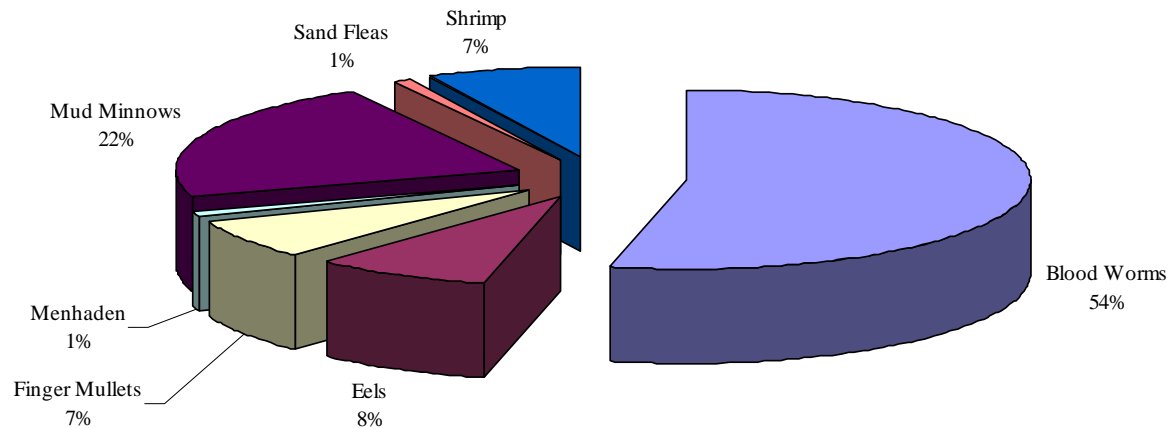
- Realizing the burden that individual permitting would place on the public and the division, the Rules Advisory Team made amendments to the existing rule to put the permitting requirements for live bait on suppliers.
- PERMIT REQUIREMENT CHANGES
- Obtain a permit or purchase imported product from a permit holder
- Permit required to hold or sell imported live bait
- Included the specific disease testing requirements
- Authority to require disinfection, quarantine, or destruction of associated organisms and transfer materials



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- The MFC referred this issue to the Finfish Committee for advice. The Finfish Committee requested an economic assessment of the proposed action primarily due to concerns about possible effects on bloodworm prices or availability. \$1 million

Type of Baits Reported in Survey



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- None of our research revealed any disease problems associated with bloodworms but DMF would still require a disease free certification that costs between \$200 and \$800 per 100-200 lb. shipment
- Packaging is a major problem with bloodworm shipments because they are packed in ziplock bags along with imported seaweed and sediment. DMF will require the seaweed and sediment be removed which will require replacement with a substitute material – Total cost \$12,345.
- Increased cost to the consumer for these requirements is estimated to be between **\$0.20 and \$0.50 per bag.**



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- Retailers that were contacted stated that they would not consider changing to a new packaging material. New packaging would have to come from suppliers or middlemen.
- Due to declining bloodworm sales, suppliers may not consider repackaging. However, there is an artificial bait to replace bloodworms that is gaining popularity.



LIVE BAIT

- Several authorities (ICES & IOE) recommending practices to monitor and control the movement of live products on national and international levels were encountered during the course of this review. The recommended rule changes are in accordance with that guidance.
- Other means of assuring the safety of imported organisms were also recommended if our usual methods produce problems and are included in the new rule.

