



# NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



January 13, 2016

**Subject: Ban on Importation and Interstate Transport of 201 Salamander and Newt Species**

**Background:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has published a final rule in the *Federal Register* listing 201 salamander and newt species as injurious species under the Lacey Act. This listing, which becomes effective on **January 28, 2016**, covers the following genera (see [Federal Register Notice](#) for complete list of species):

- *Chioglossa*
- *Cynops*
- *Euproctus*
- *Hydromantes*
- *Hynobius*
- *Ichthyosaura*
- *Lissotriton*
- *Neurergus*
- *Notophthalmus*
- *Onychodactylus*
- *Paramesotriton*
- *Plethodon*
- *Pleurodeles*
- *Salamandra*
- *Salamandrella*
- *Salamandrina*
- *Siren*
- *Taricha*
- *Triturus*
- *Tylototriton*

The listing generally makes it illegal to import live or dead specimens (including parts) of these amphibians into the United States. (NOTE: Prohibited imports include shipments transiting through the United States on their way to other foreign destinations.) Interstate transport of any type (both commercial and with respect to personal pets) is also prohibited.

The listing does not prohibit the importation or interstate transport of eggs or gametes of these species. Nor does it affect the sale and possession of these species within a State.

Direct export is still allowed from either a designated port or other location with a designated port exception permit (DPEP) **but any export must occur directly from the State where the species are present**. Designated port exception permits will only authorize use of a port in the same State where the salamanders are located, and issuance will depend on the availability of Service inspection staff and other criteria. Salamanders may not be transported between States by any means for the purpose of eventual export. (NOTE: Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) export documents are still required if the specimen is listed on any CITES Appendices).

**Action:** Effective January 28, 2016, it will be illegal to import any live or dead (including parts) prohibited salamanders, or hybrids of these species into the United States or to transport these species from one State to another (including transporting them for export) without a permit from the Service.

As of this date, these species may only be exported:

- Directly from a designated port in the State where the salamander are already located; or
- Directly from a non-designated port in the State where the salamander are located under a Service-issued designated port exception permit.

Flights carrying exports must be direct international flights to a foreign country that do not stop at an airport in another State. (Stopovers are allowed within the State from which the shipment is departing.)

Shipments moving by vehicle, truck or rail to Canada or Mexico may not enter another State in transit to these countries.

Any export shipments that transit another State by air or land will be considered contraband subject to seizure and forfeiture whether or not the exporter knew that such interstate transport would occur.

Those caught unlawfully bringing these injurious species into the United States or transporting them across State lines on or after this date face penalties that include up to 6 months in prison and fines as high as \$5,000 for individuals or \$10,000 for organizations.

Shipments that are in the process of being imported at the time of the effective date must physically arrive in the United States before January 28; shipments that enter the country on or after this date will be subject to seizure.

Contact:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Office of Law Enforcement  
703-358-1949; 703-358-2271 (fax)  
[lawenforcement@fws.gov](mailto:lawenforcement@fws.gov) (e-mail)