



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



May 5, 2017

Subject: Pearl Parties – What You Need to Know

Background: Online “pearl parties” are trending now with several direct marketing companies recruiting independent consultants as a new business venture. Oyster shells are opened online “live” to reveal a pearl that can be made into jewelry. There are a few things to know about oysters before undertaking this commercial activity.

- Oysters used in a pearl party typically originate from a foreign country, and thus are considered imports.
- Imports of oysters used in a pearl party are considered wildlife (even if the animals are ‘farmed’) and are regulated by the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) (Service).
- Importing oysters used in a pearl party as a business venture is considered a [commercial](#) activity and requires an Import/Export License from the Service prior to the first shipment arriving in the U.S.
- [Import/Export Licenses](#) cost \$100 and are valid for one year from the date of issuance.
- Each shipment of oysters imported is required to enter the U.S. through a Service designated [port](#), unless otherwise authorized by the Service.
- Shipments of oysters imported to be used in a pearl party must be [declared](#) to the Service.
- Each commercial shipment of oysters imported to be used in a pearl party requires the importer to pay user fees; \$93 per shipment minimum.
- If you have any questions, you can contact the closest Wildlife Inspection [Office](#).

Action:

Importers bringing in shipments of oysters into the U.S. without a valid Import/Export License and/or not declared are subject to enforcement action by the Service, including seizure of goods and possible monetary penalties.

Contact:

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