



## NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



August 29, 2025

**Subject: Electronic Application for Designated Port Exception Permit (DPEP) PB 25-003**

**Background:** In general, all wildlife must be imported or exported through a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) designated port, as listed in 50 CFR 14.12. If you would like to import or export wildlife through a port other than a designated port, you may apply for a Designated Port Exception Permit (DPEP). A DPEP **is not required** if you intend to import or export wildlife at a designated port(s). In the past, importers and exporters could only apply for a DPEP by completing a paper form and submitting it to a Service Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) Permit Office.

OLE is launching a voluntary new electronic DPEP application, which allows users to apply online for a new DPEP or to renew/amend a current or expired DPEP. This electronic option facilitates the application and issuance process and allows users to track the status of their application(s), pay application fees electronically, and copy previous applications for renewal of a DPEP.

**Action:** Effective September 2, 2025, you can use the new electronic DPEP application to apply for a DPEP. Although the Service will continue to accept and process applications submitted on paper forms, we encourage you to take advantage of the new electronic application option.

The new electronic DPEP application can be found in the eDecs system (<https://edecs.fws.gov/>). To complete an electronic application for a DPEP, you must already have, or create, an eDecs filer account.

A DPEP will only be issued for the following purposes: scientific purposes, to minimize deterioration, or loss, or to alleviate undue economic hardship. You must upload supporting documentation showing adequate justification for one of these three purposes.

If the DPEP is issued, the permit will be sent to you at the email address provided in your application.

The DPEP **does not** convey any rights, benefits, or privileges beyond authorizing you to import or export wildlife through the ports specified on the permit.

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