



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



June 26, 2026

Subject: Final Rule Amending 50 CFR Part 10 Shellfish Definition

PB 26-002

Background: On June 23, 2026, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) published a [final rule](#) in the *Federal Register* amending the definition of “shellfish” in 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10. The revision expands the definition of “shellfish” to include all mollusks, including those without shells, such as squid, octopus, and cuttlefish, for the purposes of Subchapter B of Title 50 of the CFR.

The amended regulatory definition reads as follows:

Shellfish means an aquatic invertebrate animal of the following taxa:

- (1) Phylum Mollusca, including but not limited to, oysters, clams, squid, octopus, or cuttlefish; and*
- (2) Order Decapoda, including, but not limited to, lobsters, crabs, crayfish, shrimp or other crustaceans; and*
- (3) Any part, product, egg or offspring thereof, or the dead body or parts thereof (excluding fossils), of any species included in paragraphs (1)–(2) of this definition, whether or not included in a manufactured product or in a processed food product.*

Action: Effective **July 23, 2026**, wildlife or wildlife products that meet the amended definition of shellfish and are being imported or exported for human or animal consumption, will be included in the shellfish and fishery product exceptions and exemptions provided in sections:

- 14.21 Shellfish and fishery products,
- 14.55 Exceptions to clearance requirements,
- 14.62 Exceptions to import declaration requirements,
- 14.64 Exceptions to export declaration requirements, and
- 14.92 What are the exemptions to the import/export license requirement?

This change does not exempt these imports and exports from the marking requirements in 14.81-14.82.

Shipments arriving into or departing from the United States **on or before July 22, 2026**, must continue to comply with the existing regulations, including, but not limited to, prior notice, declaration, clearance, and licensing requirements. Wildlife or wildlife products containing any regulated species, as well as shellfish imported or exported **for purposes other than human or animal consumption** must continue

to comply with all applicable requirements under Part 14. The Service retains its authority to ensure compliance with applicable laws, including the Endangered Species Act and the Lacey Act.

For questions, please email lawenforcement@fws.gov.

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