

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DATCP 1/8/2016

LRB Number	15-4185/1	Introduction Number	AB-0640	Estimate Type	Original
Description Regulation of aquaculture and fish farms					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

2015 Assembly Bill 640 changes or exempts aquaculture and fish farm activities from certain Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requirements relating to wetland permits, natural bodies of water used as fish farms, dams on navigable streams, Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permits, variances to water quality standards, water withdrawals under the Great Lakes Compact, Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) loan guarantees, and navigable water permits. The bill also allows the Department of Transportation to issue permits for the transportation of fish and minnows in vehicles that exceed certain weight limitations.

The Division of Animal Health in the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) currently registers approximately 3,000 fish farms in Wisconsin. Of these registered fish farms, approximately 200 are commercial fish farms that are required to be registered in order to sell or distribute live fish or fish eggs. Approximately 2,500 of these fish farms are not required to be registered but do so in order to legally stock or fish from their personal ponds.

Annual fish farm registration fees are determined by the activities of the fish farm and the number of fish farms to be registered. Fish farm registration fees range from \$37.50 to \$300.

The bill may allow fish farms currently registered with DATCP to expand their facility. It is unknown how many registered fish farms would be impacted by the changes proposed in the bill. Regardless, there is no fiscal effect on DATCP as these entities are already registered.

The bill may increase the number of entities that wish to register with DATCP as a fish farm as a result of the proposed bill. It is unknown how many entities would become registered as fish farms. Therefore, the revenue generated by and the costs associated with DATCP licensing any new fish farms are indeterminate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications