

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

BRINGING DRAGONFISH



INTO SINGAPORE

SOME FACTS.....

- * **Asian arowana** (*Scleropages formosus*), is also commonly known as **Dragonfish**.
- * The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**CITES**) is an international agreement to ensure that trade ceases to threaten wildlife with extinction. Singapore became a signatory to CITES in 1986 and regulates trade in endangered species through a system of permits. The National Parks Board (NParks) is the national CITES authority in Singapore (wef 1 Apr 2019).
- * Dragonfish is listed as one of the most highly endangered species under **CITES Appendix I**. This listing means that commercial import/export/re-export of the fish is not allowed unless the fish is bred in captivity in operations or farms that are registered with the CITES or used for non-commercial purposes.
- * A personal allowance of **ONE Dragonfish per person** applies to travellers bringing in Dragonfish as personal pets. This personal allowance refers to the maximum quantity a traveller can import without a commercial NParks/Animal & Veterinary Services (AVS) ornamental fish license. A CITES permit from NParks is still required for import of your Dragonfish even if the quantity is within the personal allowance.
- * The import of other species of arowanas such as Pearl arowana (*Scleropages jardini*), Silver arowana (*Osteoglossum bicirrhosum*) and Black arowanas (*Osteoglossum ferreirai*) do **not** require CITES permits as they are **not** listed under CITES.

STEPS TO IMPORT DRAGONFISH

(1) Obtain a CITES export/re-export permit from exporting/re-exporting country



(2) Apply for a CITES import permit from NParks using a copy of the foreign CITES export/re-export permit as supporting document



(3a) Via Road

Allow ONE Dragonfish in ≤ 3 litres of packing water per traveller, subject to a maximum of 2 Dragonfish in ≤ 6 litres of water per car (2 or more travellers in the car).



(3b) Via Air

Allow only ONE Dragonfish in ≤ 3 litres of packing water per traveller in traveller's accompanied baggage



(4) Clearance

Declare your Dragonfish, together with the valid and original CITES export/re-export permit and CITES import permit to Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) officers at the Red Channel during arrival for verification. Obtain endorsement on box 15 of the Singapore CITES import permit from ICA during the verification.



(5) Surrender original foreign CITES export/re-export permit and endorsed copy of Singapore CITES import permit to NParks within 14 working days after import

MORE INFORMATION.....

(Step 1) Foreign CITES export/re-export permit

CITES export/re-export permit	<input type="checkbox"/> Check CITES website (https://cites.org/eng/parties/country-profiles/national-authorities) for contact details of CITES authority of the exporting/re-exporting country for application and issuance of a CITES export/re-export permit. <input type="checkbox"/> Check with the exporting/re-exporting country on their requirements before you import your Dragonfish.
Dragonfish's requirement	<input type="checkbox"/> Captive-bred in a CITES-registered operation. For a list of CITES-registered farms, check www.cites.org under Resource>CITES Registers>Register of captive-breeding operations <input type="checkbox"/> Implanted with a microchip for identification which must correspond to the microchip number on the foreign CITES export/re-export permit.

(Step 2) Singapore CITES import permit

Application	Apply online on GoBusiness website: https://www.gobusiness.gov.sg/licences (attach a softcopy of the foreign CITES export/re-export permit in your application)
Type of service	Normal <i>*Express service is not applicable for CITES import permit applications.</i>
Duration of processing & issuance	Generally within 7 working days from submission of complete application and supporting document (Any incomplete or incorrect submission may delay the processing time or may render your application to be rejected)
Permit fee	S\$60
Status of application	Check online via GoBusiness for status of your application.
Payment	<input type="checkbox"/> Online payment via GoBusiness by credit/debit card. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment is required to be made in order to submit the application.

Printing of permit	You may print the permit on your own and is required to be printed on single-side, plain A4 white paper (normal 70 or 80gsm) in non-colour.
Permit validity	180 days, no further extension
Usage of permit	Each CITES import permit can only be used once for only one Dragonfish (due to traveller's allowance)

(Step 3a) Import via road

- ☐ If you are bringing in 2 Dragonfish in the same vehicle, 2 separate foreign CITES export/re-export permit and 2 corresponding Singapore CITES import permits issued to 2 travellers in the car must be produced.

(Step 3b) Import via air

- ☐ To observe the liquid restrictions and check in the Dragonfish. To check with the airlines for any additional requirements or restrictions.
- ☐ To be packed in accordance with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) regulations to ensure welfare of the fish

(Step 4) Clearance

- ☐ Your Dragonfish may be subject to import inspection by NParks/AVS. NParks/AVS will inform you in advance and arrange for inspection of the Dragonfish. Please ensure both the foreign CITES export/re-export permit and Singapore CITES import permit are valid. If the CITES permits have expired, the shipment will be detained or rejected.

(Step 5) After import

- ☐ You are required to return the original foreign CITES export/re-export permit and a copy of the endorsed Singapore CITES import permit to NParks within 14 working days after import at the Drop-off Box at Level 1, Raffles Building, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road, Singapore 259569.

You may wish to know

- ❖ You may bring in other types of non-CITES ornamental fish (including marine invertebrates) together with your Dragonfish without an ornamental fish import permit. All fishes must be within the personal allowance for each of their categories and the total quantity of the fish must not exceed 5kg. For more information on the traveller's allowance, please visit our website: [Ornamental fish](#).
- ❖ Other CITES species of fish (eg. hard corals, coral rocks, seahorses, giant clams) can also be imported without an ornamental fish import permit. However, they must be accompanied by CITES export/re-export permits and CITES import permit, and must be within the personal allowance. The import procedure is the same as the Dragonfish.
- ❖ If you wish to import quantities that exceed the personal allowances for Dragonfish and other ornamental fish or via cargo, an ornamental fish import permit is required to be issued by AVS. As ornamental fish permits are only issued to AVS-licensed ornamental fish importers, you may wish to contact a licensed ornamental fish importer for assistance in the import of your fish consignments. A list of licensed ornamental importers is available at <http://www.agri-biz.com> and <http://www.safea.org/>.

Not sure? Need advice?

If you need clarifications or assistance on the import/re-export procedure, feel free to contact NParks

Contact	https://www.nparks.gov.sg/contact-us
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