

Transmittal No. I-01
Date: May 30, 2001

INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM

TO: All Local Health Departments
Attn.: Health Officer/Director of Environmental Health/Chief Sanitarian

FROM: Food Service Sanitation Section
Food and Dairy Division

SUBJECT: Fish as Wild Game in the Food Law

Background

Several inquiries have arisen about fish obtained from their natural state, particularly whether they falls under the definition of “wild game” in the new food law.

The Food Law of 2000, Public Act 92 of 2000, paragraph 1111(p) defines “wild game” as “animals from their natural state and not cultivated, domesticated, or tamed.” Section 6143 specifies under what circumstances and criteria wild game may be served for public consumption.

Discussion

For purposes of the Food Law of 2000, “wild game” includes fish species obtained from their natural state and not cultivated, domesticated, or tamed. Conference with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Enforcement Division, confirms they are in agreement that “wild game” fish species may be served as specified in the Food Law of 2000, section 6143. (DNR officials note that it is still **unlawful** under natural resources law to buy or sell either sport caught fish or game taken from the wild.)

If a charitable, religious, fraternal, or other non-profit organization wants to prepare and serve wild game (fish or other animal) at its meetings or dinner, the organization must meet all applicable requirements set forth in Food Law of 2000, section 6143, to be approved by your department. The fish must also meet the food safety standards set forth in Food Law of 2000.

Summary

A non-profit organization may include fish as a part of a section 6143 wild game dinner.

NDF:VP:khg
cc: MDA Food Program Staff