



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

2 Main St, Warehouse 27
Garden City, GA 31408

February 27, 2019

Background: By law, most wildlife imports and exports must enter or leave the United States through a designated port, where they are inspected and cleared by Service wildlife inspectors. The system of designated ports (which funnels wildlife shipments through a limited number of locations) and related declaration, inspection, and clearance requirements help the Service ensure that wildlife trade complies with U.S. laws and treaties that protect species worldwide. The Service has offered limited inspection services in Savannah, Georgia since the early 2000s, but businesses and individuals requesting inspection at this port were required to pay additional inspection fees including wildlife inspector travel, transportation, and per diem expenses. Savannah, Georgia, became a “staffed Non-designated Port under a Port Exception Permit” for wildlife trade on February 8, 2019. Service wildlife inspectors will process all types of wildlife imports and exports at this location, with a valid Port Exception Permit. Staffing this port will improve service and reduce costs for businesses and individuals shipping wildlife.

Action: Effective immediately, businesses or individuals may import or export wildlife and wildlife products through the port of Savannah with the required port exception permit. Licensed importers and exporters will typically pay a \$145 inspection fee and applicable overtime costs per shipment (declaration) as required for all staffed non-designated ports. Importers and exporters who do not require a license will also pay the \$145 inspection fee for routine (non-living, non-protected, noncommercial) shipments. Premium fees for live and protected species will also apply. Importers and exporters of live or perishable shipments must provide notice of their shipments to the wildlife inspection office and receive confirmation at least 48 hours in advance to ensure inspection staff is available. Declaration requirements will not change with the new port status.

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