Question	Answer
1. Board Name	ODNR Division of Wildlife
2. Point of Contact	Nathan Moffitt; nathan.moffitt@dnr.ohio.gov; 614-265-6836
3. Describe the board's primary purpose, goals and objectives, and licenses issued.	The ODNR Division of Wildlife is charged with the protection, rehabilitation and conservation of Ohio's diverse, abundant wildlife populations, and also operating the state's 150 wildlife areas. They issue multiple types of occupational certifications and licenses to help support their mission, such as the aquaculture certification. "Aquaculture" means a form of agriculture that involves the propagation and rearing of aquatic species in controlled environments under private control, including, but not limited to, for the purpose of sale for consumption as food. A permit may be issued upon application to any person who satisfies the Chief that the person owns or leases an aquaculture production facility. Each permit shall be in such form as the chief prescribes. The permits shall be classified as either class A or class B. Class A permits shall be required for all class A aquaculture species that are designated by rule as a class A aquaculture species. Class B permits shall be issued on a case-by-case basis.
4. Describe the board's annual workload. How many staff are employed?	The ODNR Division of Wildlife has 497 employees: 395 full-time and 102 part-time. One full-time and one part-time position are dedicated to issuing licenses and certifications, while many additional employees are tasked with some occupational licensing responsibilities (enforcement, inspections, administration, processing, etc.). The Division annually issues approximately 5664 individual occupational licenses annually.
5. How many new licenses does the board issue annually? How many renewed licenses are issued annually? How much does a new license cost? How much does a renewal cost?	177 (2019-2023 average) aquaculture permits are issued annually. Aquaculture permits may be either class A or class B. The average number of permits issued annually for each class during this period was 172 and 5, respectively. 78 (2019-2023 average) are renewed annually. Licensees must apply annually pursuant to section 1533.632 of the Revised Code and section 1501:31-39-01(A)(3) of the Administrative Code. The average number of renewal permits issued for each class during this period was 74 and 4, respectively. Class A licenses cost $50 initially, and $50 annually for renewal. Class B Licenses cost $100 initially, and $100 annually for renewal. Since the application and fee are the same, some renewals are submitted as a new application.
6. In the past 5 years, has there been any consideration to lower the licensure cost?	The agency has not considered lowering the licensure cost. The $50 fee for a class A aquaculture permit is prescribed in 1533.632 of the Revised Code unless otherwise provided by the chief. The fee for a class B aquaculture permit may be set by the chief at a level between $100 and $500. This fee is currently set at the lowest level provided by the authorizing statute, $100. The fee accounts for the additional costs to the agency for the inspection of aquaculture facilities and escapement prevention used to raise class B

	aquaculture species. In addition, aquaculture permit holders may receive a permit issued under section 1533.301 (fish transportation) and 1533.40 (bait dealer) of the Revised Code without payment of the fees, which are $65 and 40$, respectively. The current fees have been in place since before 2003.
7. How much revenue is procured from the licensure fees? What does this revenue fund?	Aquaculture license fees annually contribute approximately $9,100 to the Division of Wildlife. These fees are used to administer the program, including licensing, enforcement, and inspections. The annual fee for a class B aquaculture permit is $100.00. The fee accounts for the additional costs to the Division for the inspection of aquaculture facilities used to raise a given class B aquaculture species pursuant to 1533.632 of the Revised Code.
8. Are there any federal regulations, or regulations required to be met outside of the existing licensure requirements that have to be complied with? Does federal law require the board to be renewed in some form?	There is no federal law that requires the state to regulate aquaculture production facilities in Ohio.
9. Does the board issue an examination prior to licensure? Does the board issue continuing education courses? If so, how often is continuing education necessary? If the examination or continuing education requirements are done outside the board then what determines the selection of an outside organization to host it?	There are no education, training, experience, examination or continuing education requirements for an aquaculture license.
10. How many other states regulate the occupation or occupations under the board's jurisdiction? Is a license required to engage in that occupation or those occupations in other states?	Every U.S. state regulates the taking and possession of wildlife. In addition, the following neighboring states license aquaculture: Indiana (aquaculture permit), Michigan (aquaculture registration permit_ Pennsylvania (aquaculture registration for artificial propagation) West Virginia (private pond fish propagation license), and Kentucky (fisheries commercial propagation permit).
11. Has the operation of the board inhibited economic growth, reduced efficiency, or increased the cost of government?	No. The number of licenses issued each year has remained consistent since 2019.
12. Are there any licenses that are no longer issued by the	No.

board?	
13. Is there anything that the board would like to see changed or implemented in regards to occupational licensing within the scope of this legislative review?	No.
14. Has the board recommended statutory changes to the general assembly that would benefit the public as opposed to the persons regulated by the board, if any, and have those recommendations and other policies been adopted and implemented?	No.
15. Is the preservation of the board and the board's licenses necessary to protect the public's health, safety, or welfare?	The state has a vested interest in the regulation of wild animals, including fish and amphibians, for the purpose of protecting wild populations from illegal harvest, ensuring fish and amphibian health, and minimizing impacts to native wildlife by the local production of non-native species. Unregulated possession, importation, and distribution of aquatic species in Ohio would pose a significant risk for the introduction of invasive species and diseases that would impact Ohio's native wildlife and their habitats. This regulation is aimed at ensuring the protection and preservation of the native wildlife and natural resources of this state.
16. Could the public be protected or served in an alternate or less restrictive manner? If applicable, please identify any licenses or functions of the board that could be eliminated or consolidated.	The current restrictions are necessary to protect Ohio's native wildlife and their habitats. The unregulated possession, importation, and distribution of aquatic species in Ohio would pose a significant risk for the introduction of invasive species and diseases. The introduction of injurious aquatic invasive species into the Lake Erie watershed has the potential to create a significant economic impact. Bait dealer permits are an allied occupational community with aquaculture. Some functions are already consolidated, since a free bait dealer permit may be issued with the purchase of an aquaculture license. The regulations between these licenses, including record-keeping provisions, are aligned to provide consistency to the regulated communities.
17. Any additional notes or comments the board believes the committee should be aware of?	The limited adverse regulatory impacts are offset by the long-term benefits of defining species available for aquaculture production and sale, prescribing the levels of escapement prevention, and requiring record-keeping. These measures limit the pathways for the introduction of injurious aquatic invasive species (IAIS) and disease. Record-keeping requirements allow the agency to track the movement of IAIS and aquatic species that may have been exposed to certain diseases. Further, the regulation establishes a level playing field for all industry participants and provides a viable source of organisms raised in captivity.