

FWP Pond Permitting Cost Estimates

Pond stocking permits are issued by each region and administered between the regions and HQ. Commercial permits (i.e., facilities that sell live fish) are administered from HQ. This table estimates average annual cost for FWP to administer private pond stocking and commercial permits. Legislature initiated 10-year pond stocking permits in 2005 (\$10 for a new pond permit and \$10 to renew every 10 years), so private pond permit load is substantially higher every 10th year (e.g., permit load is expected to be much higher than average in 2026). Number of new or renewed pond permits statewide ranges from 81 to 486 annually.

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Commercial	Avg/Region
Avg new / yr	12	13	35	17	11	3	5	1	12
Avg renew / yr	20	21	35	33	16	10	2	9	18
Avg total permits / yr	32	34	70	50	27	13	7	9	30
Avg time / inspection (hrs)	1	3.5	1	2	2	1.5	2	6	2
Avg travel / inspection (hrs)	2	2	2.5	3	2	1.5	1.5	2	2
Avg time / renewal inspection (hrs)	1	1.5	1.25	1.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	8	2
Avg admin time / application (hrs)	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Admin Salary / hr.	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$27.00
Biologist Salary / hr.	\$37.00	\$37.00	\$37.00	\$37.00	\$37.00	\$37.00	\$37.00	\$37.00	\$37.00

Pond Permits	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	HQ	Avg	Total	Next 10 years	Next 10 years
FWP - New App Costs	\$2,097	\$2,184	\$6,099	\$2,967	\$1,923	\$531	\$879	\$4,135	\$2,602	\$20,815	\$208,192.90	\$238,669.80
FWP - Renewal Costs	\$1,417	\$1,487	\$2,473	\$2,332	\$1,135	\$713	\$178	\$37,220	\$5,869	\$46,955	\$469,585.60	\$538,327.30
FWP – Cost to Administer	\$3,514	\$3,672	\$8,572	\$5,299	\$3,059	\$1,244	\$1,057	\$41,355	\$8,472	\$67,772	\$677,772.00	\$776,930.60
Permit Revenue	\$320	\$335	\$700	\$500	\$270	\$130	\$74	\$90	\$302	\$2,419	\$24,190.00	\$27,731.12

w/o inflation w/ inflation

Total cost / year to administer pond permits = \$67,772 and total annual revenue from permitting fees = \$2,419.
 Estimate \$1,700/ permit to cover costs to administer program (\$67,772 / 240 permits per year = \$1,694.30).

Few private pond stocking permits are outright denied each year (average 0 – 3 denials statewide). Typical denied applications are due to proximity to public waters (e.g., high risk of pond flooding), high risk of fish escapement, or species inappropriate for the basin (e.g., stocking non-native species in a basin with high native fish conservation value). Most pond owners are cooperative to incorporate measures to make a pond permissible.

Many permit applications are modified to be permitted. Typical modifications include type of fish stocked, fish screening, or other mechanisms to reduce escapement risk. Number of modified applications generally ranges from 5 – 25 per year statewide.