

## **Advocacy Comments on the Interim Rule Listing Salamanders Under the Lacey Act**

On January 13, 2015, the Fish and Wildlife Service (the Service) listed 201 species of salamanders as injurious under the Lacey Act. The Interim Rule was a response to the chytrid fungus which has been found in salamanders outside of the United States. The chytrid fungus has not been found in the U.S.

- The Interim Rule would prohibit both importation to the U.S. and interstate transportation within the States of the 201 listed species of salamanders.
- Small businesses have indicated that they support a ban on importation but that the ban on interstate transportation is unnecessary given that the fungus is not in the U.S.
- A recent District Court opinion calls into question the authority of the Service to prohibit the interstate transportation of species listed under the Lacey Act.
- Advocacy suggests that the Service allow interstate transportation of the listed species.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or Kia Dennis at [kia.dennis@sba.gov](mailto:kia.dennis@sba.gov) or 202-205-6936.