

SELLING YOUR CATCH DIRECTLY TO THE PUBLIC

General Guidelines

In order to sell your catch directly to Louisiana consumers, you need a Commercial Fisherman's License and a Fresh Products License from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). A secondary Fresh Products License allows a fisherman to continue to fish while his or her spouse sells the catch.

The Fresh Products License only covers the sale of your own catch and does not cover sales of another fisherman's catch. If you plan on selling your catch combined with the catch of other commercial fishermen, you will need additional licenses. The Fresh Products License does not allow you to sell to consumers located outside of Louisiana.

If you plan to sell your catch to anyone other than a consumer, such as any person buying, acquiring or handling fish for sale or resale, including someone who will serve the seafood in a restaurant, you must have additional licenses.

If you are selling your own catch directly from your boat, home, or automobile, you will not need a Mobile Food Vendor's Permit from the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH). However, you may need a Permit to Operate issued by DHH:

- ❖ If you plan on processing (cleaning, shucking, picking, peeling, or packing) your own or someone else's catch, even on your own property, you will need a Permit to Operate. In order to get a Permit to Operate, the location must be inspected and approved by a Louisiana State Health Officer. DHH will not grant a permit for processing in a home or on a boat.
- ❖ Even though LDWF allows a commercial fisherman to sell peeled and de-headed shrimp and/or gutted, filleted, and de-headed fish, this activity requires a Permit to Operate under DHH.

In order to sell from a mobile location such as a vehicle, the Fresh Products License holder must also be in compliance with parish and municipal mobile vendor regulations. DHH regulations are state regulations distinct from the mobile vendor regulations that may be mandated by your parish or municipality. Please check with your local parish for mobile vendor permit requirements. Contact the Department of Health and Hospitals at 225/342-7773 for details.

Additionally, most parishes require that each fisherman selling his catch register with the parish to collect and file sales taxes. Call the Louisiana Department of Revenue-Sales Tax Division at 225/219-7356, as well as your parish, for details.

Licensing/Permitting Agencies and Costs

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries – 225/922-1341 – www.wlf.louisiana.gov

- Fresh Products License - \$20.00 (residents)
 - \$120.00 (non-residents)
 - \$5.00 (spouse)

Louisiana Department of Agriculture – 225/922-1341 – www.ldaf.state.la.us/consumers/weights-measures-fees/

At least once a year, your scale must be inspected by the Department of Agriculture. This is to ensure that it is accurate and suitable for commercial use. The cost of having your scale certified varies by the amount of weight it can measure.

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| • Category 1 | 0 to 1,000 lbs. | \$35.00 |
| • Category 2 | 1,000 to 10,000 lbs. | \$80.00 |

- Category 3 More than 10,000 lbs. \$185.00

Record Keeping

Fresh Products License holders need to keep two kinds of records: records of sales to the consumer and reports required by LDWF.

Records of Sales to the Consumer: You must keep records in English, of the quantity and species of seafood acquired and the date the seafood was acquired. The record must include the Fresh Products License holder's full name and license number. The record also needs to indicate that the seafood was sold directly to the consumer. You must keep these records for at least three years.

Reports to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries: You must also submit monthly reports to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. These monthly reports must include all information required on the commercial receipt form and all of your trip tickets from that month.

The Fresh Products License holder must indicate in their records that the seafood was sold directly to the consumer. The consumer's name or other personal information does not need to be recorded.

Parish and Municipal Requirements

Many Louisiana parishes and municipalities have additional requirements – such as occupational licenses, vendor permits, bonds, local health permits, and other regulations – in order to legally sell seafood direct to the public. For information specific to your community contact:

- **Abbeville, Vermillion Parish** – 337/893-8550 – www.cityofabbeville.net
- **Cameron Parish** – 337/775-5718 – www.parishofcameron.net
- **Jefferson Parish** – 504/736-6100 – www.jeffparish.net
- **Lafourche Parish** – 985/446-8427 – www.lafourchegov.org
- **New Iberia, Iberia Parish** – 337/369-2300 – www.cityofnewiberia.com/site.php
- **New Orleans, Orleans Parish** – 504/658-4900 – <http://new.nola.gov/home/>
- **Plaquemines Parish** – 504/297-5675 – www.plaqueminesparish.com
- **St. Bernard Parish** – 504/278-4307 – www.sbp.net
- **St. Mary Parish** – 337/828-4100 – www.stmaryparishla.gov
- **St. Tammany Parish** – 985/898-2574 – www.stpgov.org
- **Terrebonne Parish** – 985/873-6519 – www.tpcg.org

State and local regulations concerning direct seafood sales to consumers are subject to change. It is incumbent on the vendor to ensure he or she is in compliance with all rules.

*** The information provided by Louisiana Sea Grant is intended for informational purposes only and represents our interpretation of the relevant laws and regulations, using information gathered via traditional legal research methods. Organizations requesting legal information, including information on permitting or licensing, should always seek independent, professional legal advice or the advice of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries prior to taking action. ***