Seafood Product Labeling

SEAFOOD LABELING IS REGULATED BY Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Seafood processors other than catfish processors need to comply with LDH and FDA requirements. Catfish processors also need to comply with USDA labeling requirements.

Regardless of regulatory agency food labels MUST provide the following information:

- Product name or statement of identity
- LDH permit number
- Net weight
- Ingredient content
- Company name & address
- Nutritional facts label

**PRODUCT NAME OR STATEMENT OF IDENTITY:**
Is a declaration of what your product is.

**LDH PERMIT NUMBER:**
Sample labels should be submitted to Louisiana Department of Health for review prior to operation of facility. Their Commercial Seafood Program will issue permit number.

**NET WEIGHT:**
Is the declaration of the amount of product in the container. Might be in units of weight measure or fluid measure. MUST be in English and metric units. MUST appear on Principal Display Panel.

**INGREDIENT CONTENT:**
All foods with more than one ingredient MUST have an ingredient label.

1. Ingredients MUST be listed in order of their contribution to the weight of the food, from highest to lowest.
2. Sub ingredients MUST be listed
3. Fish and shellfish are allergens and MUST be listed on the label.

**COMPANY NAME & ADDRESS:**
Name and address of the person or legal entity responsible for the product. For copacked items, a qualifying statement might be required. Address MUST include street name and number unless the firm is listed in a local or internet telephone directory. ZIP codes are always required.

**NUTRITIONAL FACTS LABEL:**
This is a standardized declaration of nutrient and constituent proportions, including calories, serving size, servings per container, total fat, trans fat, cholesterol, sodium, total carbohydrates, fiber, and protein. When required, MUST be present in one of the approved formats. MUST appear on PDP or IP. Nutritional facts are not always required.

Nutritional facts label exemptions:

- Firm must have fewer than 10 Full Time Equivalent (FTEs) and sell less than 10,000 units of product per year – automatic
- Firm may have fewer than 100 FTEs and sell less than 100,000 units per year – requires application/approval

For FDA frozen vacuum-packed seafood, label MUST state ‘held frozen and thaw under refrigeration immediately before use.’

**USDA REQUIREMENTS:**
Catfish products labels MUST also comply with USDA requirements, and carry the USDA inspection seal and safe handling instructions.