



# Selling Your Catch To The Public

**C**OMMERCIAL FISHERMEN CAN SELL THEIR OWN SEAFOOD ONE OF TWO WAYS: to a wholesale/retail dealer (such as a dock or processor), or directly to Louisiana consumers with a Fresh Products License. If you plan on selling your catch combined with the catch of other commercial fishermen, you will need additional licenses.

## LICENSES AND PERMITS

### Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF)

<https://la-web.s3licensing.com/> (renewals only)

225-765-2887 and 225-765-2898

#### Commercial Fisherman's License

Required for any fisherman selling seafood in any form; cost is \$55 for residents, \$460 for non-residents.

#### Fresh Products License

Only covers the sale of your own catch (excluding oysters) direct to consumers in Louisiana. The fee is \$20 for residents; \$120 for non-residents.

#### Fresh Products License – Spouse

This secondary Fresh Products License allows a spouse to sell the catch while the fisherman continues to fish. Additional cost is \$5.

#### A Wholesale/Retail Dealer License is required:

- if you want to purchase seafood directly from a commercial fisherman for resale (retail or wholesale)
- if you want to purchase seafood from another wholesaler and resell wholesale

**Note:** Additional permits are needed from the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) if you plan to sell oysters, process seafood, or distribute processed and packaged seafood products from other approved vendors. If you are selling your own catch directly from your boat, home, or automobile, you will not need a LDH Mobile Food Vendor's Permit.



### Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry / Weights & Measures 225-925-3780

#### State-inspected Scale

If selling seafood by weight you must have a legal-for-trade scale, which must be inspected and certified annually (cost is \$35 up to 1,000 lbs).

#### Local City/Parish Government

##### Various Permits and Licenses

These include general occupational, health and mobile vendors permits.

## RECORD-KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

Fresh Products License holders need to keep two kinds of records for LDWF:

- Records of Sales to the Consumer: You must keep records in English, of the quantity and species of seafood caught, the date the seafood was caught and that the seafood was sold directly to the consumer (not necessary to record other consumer information). Keep these records for at least three years.
- Reports via Trip Tickets: You must also maintain trip ticket records and submit monthly reports to LDWF. If no trips are taken for a given month, you must still send a monthly submission sheet indicating '0' trips.

## TAXES

Most parishes require that each fisherman selling his catch register with the parish to collect and file sales taxes; check with your city/parish government for more details. You can file parish sales taxes online at: <http://parishe-file.revenue.louisiana.gov>

If you are a shrimper, you are required to pay a shrimp excise tax to LDWF; assessed at the rate of 15 cents per barrel of 210 pounds or 210 pounds equivalence.



Let consumers know your seafood is fresh, local and Certified Louisiana Wild Seafood; enroll in the program today at <http://louisianacertifiedseafood.com>



This publication is a cooperative effort of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Louisiana Sea Grant College at LSU through the Louisiana Fisheries Forward program, which aims to advance Louisiana's seafood industry. This is one of many fact sheets available free of charge at our website [www.lafisheriesforward.org](http://www.lafisheriesforward.org). // Authors: L Davis, LA Sea Grant Law & Policy Program

