



Key Requirements for Wholesale Seafood Sales

A wholesale/retail seafood dealer is any entity (person or business) that buys, acquires or handles any species of seafood in Louisiana for sale or resale. A wholesale/retail dealer is **the only licensee who can legally purchase seafood from a licensed commercial fisherman and resell it.**

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF)

<https://louisianaoutdoors.com/commercial-license>
(renewals only) 225-765-2887 & 225-765-2898

Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer License

You either need a license for sales from a fixed business location or for sales from a vehicle—or multiple licenses if selling from more than one location.

Seafood Transport License

You must also have this license to legally transport the product to your place of business.

Wholesale Out-of-State Crab Shipping License

If selling crabs outside of Louisiana—whether hard or soft shell, cooked or live—this license is required.

Note: Certain species of fish require an additional state permit to catch commercially, like shark and spotted sea trout. You may only buy that species of fish from those commercial fishermen who have the required permit. In addition, wholesale/retail seafood dealers may need certain federal permits to buy federally regulated species; contact NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office for details.

Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)

<http://eatsafe.louisiana.gov>

State Health Department Permit to Operate

If you plan on processing (cleaning, shucking, picking, peeling, or packing) at all, you will need a special permit to operate, must register with the FDA, and complete a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plan.

Mobile Vendor's Permit

If you sell seafood out of a vehicle, you must have the vehicle inspected by your local sanitarian.

Wholesale Seafood Distributor Permit

This permit is required if you are distributing processed and packaged products from other approved processors or dealers.

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.

Local City/Parish Government

Various permits and licenses;

including general occupational, and mobile vendors permit (in addition to DHH requirement).



RECORD-KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

Business Records LDWF requires that records of seafood purchases and sales must be kept for three years, in English. When seafood is bought, you must record the quantity and species, the date purchased, and the name and license number of the fisherman or dealer from whom the purchase was made. Similarly, when seafood is sold, you must keep a record showing the quantity and species, the date, and the name and license number of the person to whom the seafood was sold (or that it was sold to a 'consumer').

Trip Tickets Wholesale/retail seafood dealers purchasing seafood directly from commercial fishermen are required to document each transaction on LDWF-issued trip tickets. On or before the 10th of each month, you must send in all the previous month's trip tickets and a submission sheet. For more information, contact LDWF at 225-765-2449 or triptickets@wlf.la.gov.



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

