

Requirements for **Selling Crawfish and Freshwater Shrimp** in Mississippi

Requires all of the following:

1. **Freshwater Commercial Fishing License** – Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) only for these species taken from public waters in Mississippi. See below.
2. **Food Permit** – Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) See page 2.
3. **Certified Scales** – needed if you are going to sell by the pound. Contact the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) – See page 2.

May require:

1. **Business license or Privilege license** – Needed to operate a business in a county or city. Check with the local government where you intend to do business to determine if you need a business license or privilege license

If individuals are harvesting crawfish and freshwater shrimp taken from the public waters of Mississippi and selling them, they need to purchase a freshwater commercial fishing license sold by the MDWFP.

If individuals are selling crawfish and freshwater shrimp taken from crawfish or shrimp farms or private waters in any state or taken from public waters outside of Mississippi in other states, they only need a Food Permit issued by the MSDH.

If you are going to buy crawfish to serve in a restaurant or food facility, it **MUST** be from an MDAC inspected supplier. You cannot buy it from someone who catches it in a field or ditch even if the food facility owner catches the crawfish.

Requirements for **Selling Seafood** (Shrimp, Crabs, Oysters, Marine Fish) in Mississippi

Requires all of the following:

1. **Seafood Dealer/Processor License** – Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR)
2. **Fresh Product Permit** – Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) See page 2.
3. **Food Permit** – Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH). See page 2.
4. **Certified Scales** – needed if you are going to sell by the pound. Contact the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC). See page 2.

May require:

1. **Business license or Privilege license** to operate a business in a county or city. Check with the local government where you intend to do business to determine if you need a business license or privilege license

Requirements for **Selling Seafood** (Shrimp, Crabs, Oysters, Marine Fish) in Mississippi

Mississippi Seafood Dealer/Processor License -- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR)

To sell seafood in Mississippi (regardless if it is imported or caught in Mississippi), an individual will need a Mississippi Seafood Dealer/Processor License sold by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR). Since 2003, grocery stores are not exempt from this license requirement. Restaurants are exempt unless they have a separate market that sells fresh seafood. This license applies to anybody who buys and sells seafood within the state of Mississippi. If you are a commercial fisherman, you can sell your product with your harvester's license. However, if you buy the harvest of another commercial fisherman to sell to consumers, you are required to purchase a Seafood Dealer's License.

All seafood dealer license holders should be enrolled in the Trip Ticket Program (TTP) of MDMR. These individuals, companies and corporations are required to complete and submit the Trip Tickets forms provided by the MDMR. Seafood Dealers/Processors who buy product directly from commercial fishermen are required to submit monthly reports under the program. Seafood Dealers/Processors may exempt themselves from the TTP by signing a MDMR form stating that they only purchase solely from licensed seafood dealers and processors.

Call the MDMR Licensing Bureau at 228-523-4093 to learn about how you can purchase a Mississippi Seafood Dealer/Processor License. You must purchase your first Mississippi Seafood Dealer/Processor License in person and show two photo identifications at the MDMR office located at 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, MS 39530.

Fresh Product Permit -- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR)

This permit allows commercial fishermen to sell their catch directly to the public or restaurants but they must be enrolled under the TTP. This permit is free of charge. Fresh product permit holders must always have their permits in their possession when doing business. Commercial fishermen permit holders must submit a completed trip ticket report monthly to the MDMR.

Food Permit (Retail Sales) - Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH)

A Food Permit is required for retail sales of shrimp, oysters, marine fish, seafood, freshwater fish, crawfish, or any **cooked** food sold directly to end consumers from a stationary facility, or from a mobile unit. The permit cost for selling prepared foods varies from \$40.00 to \$264.50 per year.

Permits issued to roadside units selling **raw** shrimp or crawfish are often referred to as a seafood peddler's permit or a roadside truck permit for roadside vendors. The permit cost for **raw** shrimp or crawfish sales to the end consumer is currently \$40.00 per year.

The MSDH needs to know what you intend to do and will advise you how to purchase the appropriate permit. The MSDH can be contacted at 601-576-7689 or by Email at food@msdh.ms.gov for information regarding retail food sales.

Non-profit organizations are not required to have this permit but they must provide documentation of their non-profit status.

Certified Scales -- Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC)

To sell products by weight you will need to use certified scales to ensure that your weights are accurate. The MDAC certifies scales for free. Scales must have a model number and an NTEP number on them. Contact: Brent Bowman at 601-359-1149 to have your scale inspected and certified.

Requirements for **Selling Freshwater Nongame Gross Fish (or Commercial Fish) and Nonnative Fish in Mississippi**

Requires all of the following:

1. **Freshwater Commercial Fishing License** – Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) only for these species taken from public waters in Mississippi listed below on this page.
2. **Food Permit** – Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH). See page 2.
3. **Certified Scales** – – needed if you are going to sell by the pound. Contact the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC). See page 2.

May require:

1. **Business license or Privilege license** – Needed to operate a business in a county or city. Check with the local government where you intend to do business to determine if you need a business license or privilege license.

Nongame gross fish are defined in Mississippi State Law 49-7-1 which states: “ The following fish are classed as nongame gross fish: in the Herring family (Clupeidae) -- gizzard shad (*Dorosoma cepedianum*), threadfin shad (*Dorosoma petenense*); in the Catfish family (Ictaluridae) -- channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), blue catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*), flathead catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*), yellow bullhead (*Ameiurus natalis*), black bullhead (*Ameiurus melas*), brown bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*); in the Gar family -- spotted gar (*Lepisosteus oculatus*), longnose gar (*Lepisosteus osseus*), shortnose gar (*Lepisosteus platostomus*), alligator gar (*Atractosteus spatula*); in the Eel family (Anguillidae) -- American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*); in the Bowfin family (Amiidae) -- bowfin (*Amia calva*); in the Paddlefish family (Polyodontidae) -- paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*); in the Minnow family (Cyprinidae) common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*); in the Sucker family (Catostomidae) -- river carpsucker (*Carpoides carpio*), quillback (*Carpoides cyprinus*), highfin carpsucker (*Carpoides velifer*), spotted sucker (*Minytrema melanops*), blacktail redhorse (*Moxostoma poecilurum*), smallmouth buffalo (*Ictiobus bubalus*), bigmouth buffalo (*Ictiobus cyprinellus*), black buffalo (*Ictiobus niger*); in the Drum family (Sciaenidae) -- freshwater drum (*Aplodinotus grunniens*).

Nonnative fish are defined in Mississippi State Law 49-7-1 which states: All fish native to foreign countries and all fish native to the United States but not native to Mississippi are classed as nonnative fish. Nonnative species that are harvested and sold are Bighead Carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), Black Carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), Grass Carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), and Silver Carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*).

Other Licenses

Seafood Transport License is required from anyone who fishes outside Mississippi but off loads at a dock in Mississippi or transports that catch outside of Mississippi by truck from a dock in Mississippi.

Seafood Transport thru Mississippi - There is no type of seafood license required to transport seafood purchased in another state thru Mississippi for sale in another state.

Requirements for **Selling Processed Freshwater Nongame Gross Fish (or Commercial Fish) and Nonnative Fish in Mississippi**

Requires all of the following:

1. **Freshwater Commercial Fishing License** – Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) only for these species taken from public waters in Mississippi listed above on this page.
2. **Processor Permit** - Needed if fish are sold to someone that will resell those fish. Issued by the MSDH at a cost of \$264.50
3. **Certified Scales** – – needed if you are going to sell by the pound. Contact the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC). See page 2.

May require:

1. **Business license or Privilege license** – Needed to operate a business in a county or city. Check with the local government where you intend to do business to determine if you need a business license or privilege license.

Fish means fresh or saltwater finfish, crustaceans, other forms of aquatic animal live (including, but not limited to, alligator, frog, aquatic turtle, jellyfish, sea cucumber, and sea urchin and the roe of such animals) other than birds or mammals, and all mollusks, where such animal life is intended for human consumption. (Source: 21 Code of Federal Regulations Part 123 Fish and Fishery Products)

Processing means, with respect to fish or fishery products: Handling, storing, preparing, heading, eviscerating, shucking, freezing, changing into different market forms, manufacturing, preserving, packing, labeling, dockside unloading or holding. (Source: 21 Code of Federal Regulations Part 123 Fish and Fishery Products)

Processor means any person engaged in commercial, custom, or institutional processing of fish or fishery products, either in the United States or in a foreign country. A processing includes any person engaged in the production of foods that are to be used in market or consumer tests. (Source: 21 Code of Federal Regulations Part 123 Fish and Fishery Products)

Processor Permit - Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH)

This permit is required for those who process fish or fishery products, with the exception to seafood sanitation and processing in the three (3) coastal counties.

The MSDH can be contacted at 601-576-7689 or by Email at mfgfood@msdh.ms.gov for information regarding food processing permits.

The MSDH will inspect fish (seafood processors) if they meet the definition of fish and the MSDH will inspect fish processors if they are store/hold un-gutted fish, or if they are processing fish.

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