



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 30, 2025

Contact: **Hannah East, Communications Director**
(601) 359-1179 / cell: (662) 816-3230
HannahE@mdac.ms.gov

Mississippi's New Seafood Labeling Law Takes Effect Tomorrow, July 1

JACKSON, Miss. – Mississippi's Seafood Labeling Law takes effect tomorrow, Tuesday, July 1, 2025, under the direction of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR). Starting July 1, all seafood, including shrimp, and crawfish sold in Mississippi — whether in grocery stores, seafood markets, restaurants or food trucks — must be clearly labeled as either *imported* or *domestic*.

“We at the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce are proud to play a role in this historic effort,” said Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson. “This labeling law both strengthens consumer confidence and supports our hardworking domestic seafood producers and local fishermen, especially those along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.”

Under the new law, all wholesalers, processors, retailers and food service establishments are required to properly label seafood and crawfish as either:

“**Domestic**” – if harvested, raised and processed in the U.S.; or

“**Imported**” – if harvested, raised and/or processed outside the U.S.

“Our goal is to educate before we regulate, which is why we’re providing information and interim signage and wording that can be used in labeling,” said Commissioner Gipson. “Director Spraggins and I have asked our staff to develop sample materials and resources for businesses and vendors, which can now be found on MDAC’s and MDMR’s websites. I want to thank and commend our agencies’ dedicated teams for their excellent and hard work on this. We anticipate that the official signage will be developed, branded and recommended by the Seafood Labeling Task Force over the coming weeks.”

Sample interim signage and wording is attached, along with a Fact Sheet developed by MDMR and MDAC.

Labels must be clearly displayed on menus, packaging, sales displays or any public advertisement where seafood or crawfish is sold or promoted, and signage is permitted to satisfy the law where appropriate, per the attached Fact Sheet. To ensure visibility, the labeling text must be at least as large as the product

name. If domestic and imported products are combined, the product must be labeled as “Imported.” MDMR and MDAC will jointly oversee the new labeling requirements by conducting inspections of businesses statewide to ensure compliance.

MDAC’s Consumer Protection Division will begin conducting seafood labeling inspections in restaurants, as well as grocery stores and other retail establishments where sanitation, price verification, packaging, scale and country of origin labeling checks are already performed. MDAC Consumer Protection inspectors located throughout the state will conduct seafood labeling inspections across Mississippi’s upper 76 counties. MDMR will be the primary agency in the six southernmost counties along the coast, and MDAC will assist as requested.

“For over a decade, our agency has enforced the marketing law for U.S. Farm-Raised Catfish. So, we’re pleased to now broaden our efforts to protect Mississippi consumers by including seafood and crawfish within our inspection protocol. I encourage the public to always look for and purchase Domestic U.S. Seafood at your grocery store and local restaurants,” continued Commissioner Gipson. “We don’t always know the production methods for imported foreign foods, but when you buy ‘Domestic,’ you can trust you’re getting a safe, fresh and healthy product.”

“Mississippi’s new seafood labeling law is a pivotal step toward restoring consumer trust and safeguarding the integrity of our Gulf Coast heritage,” said MDMR Executive Director Joe Spraggins. “By mandating clear domestic or imported labeling for all seafood products, the law empowers consumers to make informed choices, ensuring they receive the quality they expect and deserve. This transparency not only supports local fishermen and businesses but also holds establishments accountable. As we embrace this change, we reaffirm our commitment to honesty, quality and the rich culinary traditions that define Mississippi.”

To support businesses in meeting the new requirements, MDMR and MDAC have created dedicated webpages offering educational resources and guidance, including sample signage, to help seafood and crawfish vendors with the transition. Find more information through MDMR’s site at www.dmr.ms.gov/seafoodlabeling, as well as Frequently Asked Questions through MDAC’s site at <https://agnet.mdac.ms.gov/agManage/uploads/2113.pdf>.

For consumer questions or concerns, contact the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources at 228-374-5000 or seafoodlabeling@dmr.ms.gov, or the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce at 601-359-1100 or seafood@mdac.ms.gov.

###

Fact Sheet and sample signage attached.

Media Contacts:

MDMR: Charmaine Schmermund, charmaine.schmermund@dmr.ms.gov, 228-523-4156

MDAC: Hannah East, hannahe@mdac.ms.gov, 601-359-1179

FACT SHEET

Mississippi Seafood Labeling Law (MS Code 69-1-55)

DMR.MS.GOV/SEAFOODLABELING

On July 1, 2025, this new law obligates all wholesalers, processors, retailers and food service establishments in the state of Mississippi to properly label seafood and crawfish as either:

"Domestic"

if harvested, raised, and processed in the U.S.

or

"Imported"

if harvested, raised and/or processed outside the U.S.

THE LABELING TEXT must be in a font size at least equal to the product name to ensure visibility.

LABELS MUST APPEAR on menus, packaging, sales displays or any form of advertisement prominently available to the public where seafood or crawfish is being sold or promoted.

IF SERVING only Domestic or only Imported seafood or crawfish, then clearly visible signage located in a prominent location on the premises stating as such is allowed in lieu of labeling individual items.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING may be used in lieu of the terms Domestic or Imported if it is in a font that is at least the same size as the name of the seafood or crawfish being sold or promoted.

IF MENUS ARE NOT ABLE TO BE ALTERED AT THIS TIME, and/or the origin of the seafood or crawfish frequently fluctuates, items can be labeled appropriately on menu inserts, daily specials menus, chalkboard signs, digital displays or any other form of signage, as long it is placed in a readily noticeable location that is accessible and clearly visible to customers.

ANY GOOD FAITH RELIANCE CLAIM must be supported by the appropriate evidence of the documentation from the supplier. The supplier is required to provide documentation to the wholesaler, processor, retailer or food service establishment indicating the country of origin of the seafood or crawfish.



MORE INFORMATION AND COMPREHENSIVE FAQ:
dmr.ms.gov/seafoodlabeling



QUESTIONS?
seafoodlabeling@dmr.ms.gov or seafood@mdac.ms.gov

We Proudly Serve

DOMESTIC AMERICAN SEAFOOD & CRAWFISH



Joe Spraggins, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
P: 228-374-5000 / E: seafoodlabeling@dmr.ms.gov



Andy Gipson, Agriculture Commissioner
Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce
P: 601-359-1100 / E: seafood@mdac.ms.gov

FOR CONSUMER QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, CONTACT THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES OR THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE.

We Proudly Serve

DOMESTIC AMERICAN SEAFOOD



Joe Spraggins, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
P: 228-374-5000 / E: seafoodlabeling@dmr.ms.gov



Andy Gipson, Agriculture Commissioner
Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce
P: 601-359-1100 / E: seafood@mdac.ms.gov

FOR CONSUMER QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, CONTACT THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES OR THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE.

We Proudly Serve

DOMESTIC AMERICAN CRAWFISH



Joe Spraggins, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
P: 228-374-5000 / E: seafoodlabeling@dmr.ms.gov



Andy Gipson, Agriculture Commissioner
Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce
P: 601-359-1100 / E: seafood@mdac.ms.gov

FOR CONSUMER QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, CONTACT THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES OR THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE.

We Serve

IMPORTED SEAFOOD & CRAWFISH



Joe Spraggins, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
P: 228-374-5000 / E: seafoodlabeling@dmr.ms.gov



Andy Gipson, Agriculture Commissioner
Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce
P: 601-359-1100 / E: seafood@mdac.ms.gov

FOR CONSUMER QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, CONTACT THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES OR THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE.

We Serve

IMPORTED SEAFOOD



Joe Spraggins, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
P: 228-374-5000 / E: seafoodlabeling@dmr.ms.gov



Andy Gipson, Agriculture Commissioner
Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce
P: 601-359-1100 / E: seafood@mdac.ms.gov

FOR CONSUMER QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, CONTACT THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES OR THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE.

We Serve

IMPORTED CRAWFISH



Joe Spraggins, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
P: 228-374-5000 / E: seafoodlabeling@dmr.ms.gov



Andy Gipson, Agriculture Commissioner
Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce
P: 601-359-1100 / E: seafood@mdac.ms.gov

FOR CONSUMER QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, CONTACT THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES OR THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE.