



COMMERCIAL HARVEST AND SALE OF FISHES

Licensing Scenarios for Commercial Harvesters

Do you want to...

- 1) *Harvest and sell **whole fish** from your harvester boat or at dock and directly to a licensed seafood processor or dealer?*
 - a) A commercial harvester needs a harvester license such as: Unlimited Finfish Harvester, Unlimited Tidal Fish, Northern Snakehead Bowfishing, Invasive Catfish Finfish Trotline.
 - b) Find the application for a commercial harvester license online at dnr.maryland.gov.
 - c) Find a licensed seafood processor; blue catfish and/or snakeheads are processed by: BSA Seafood LLC (410-375-7378); J.J. McDonnell & Co., Inc. (410-799-4000); Reliant Fish Company (410-799-7555); and Tilghman Island Seafood (410-790-1138).
 - d) Please contact Matthew Scales with the Department of Agriculture (<mailto:matthew.scales1@maryland.gov>) for more information on fish processors.

- 2) *Harvest and sell **whole fish** directly from your boat or dock and to a customer or entity who does not have a Seafood Dealer's License?*
 - a) A commercial harvester needs a harvester license, and to pay for the \$50 Seafood Dealer License and the \$50 Seafood Marketing Surcharge. You may also need other agency permits or license, such as a "peddler's license" or a roadside sales license on a road maintained by Maryland State Highway Administration. Please contact the county for additional information.
 - b) The whole fish may not be vacuum packaged, frozen, or fileted.
 - c) Fish may be fileted as a service at the request of a retail customer (final consumer). However, this must only be done immediately **after** the sale of the whole fish and on the boat or dock only; note that this service should not be advertised publicly such as on social media, television, radio, or with signs.

- 3) *Harvest and sell **processed (including fileted or cut) fish** directly to a customer or entity?*
 - a) A commercial harvester needs their harvester license *and* to pay for the \$50 Seafood Dealer License and the \$50 Seafood Marketing Surcharge; possibly pay for a county permit/license; and obtain a license from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH).
 - b) A MDH, [Local County Health Department](#) retail food license is required to filet, package, and label fish for advertised retail sales (or donation), including at a temporary event or farmer's market. All preparation must take place at the licensed food service facility. For temporary events, fish must be fileted on-site.
 - c) A [MDH Center for Food Processing](#) license is required to offer or sell filets as a wholesale entity, which would offer or sell fish to restaurants, seafood markets, or distributors. Currently, blue catfish is sold by grocery stores such as Wegmans, Whole Foods, Giant, Mom's Organic, and Graul's Market. Contact Rachel Leahy (Rachel.Leahy@maryland.gov) with MDH for more information.