



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
FISHING AND BOATING SERVICES

LEGAL SALE OF FARM-RAISED SHELLFISH IN MARYLAND

Per Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 08.02.23.04E(5), a Shellfish Aquaculture Harvester Permittee or Registrant may only sell their catch at a buy station as defined in COMAR 08.02.08.02. Under the provisions of this regulation, the Shellfish Aquaculture Harvester Permittee or Registrant must utilize one of the three options listed below.

OPTION 1 – Harvester sale to a dealer

A shellfish aquaculture harvester can sell to a seafood dealer with a Department of Natural Resources Seafood Dealer's License **AND** a Maryland Department of Health Shellfish Certification. It is the harvester's responsibility to ensure that the dealer has both licenses.

OPTION 2 – Harvester sale of **ONLY** their catch

A shellfish aquaculture harvester who would like to sell **ONLY** their catch **to the ultimate consumer and not for resale** must obtain a Shellfish Certification from the Maryland Department of Health. This option allows the harvester to sell their catch to the consumer and does not require the Department of Natural Resources Seafood Dealer's License.

OPTION 3 – Harvester sale of their catch & buy/sell shellfish from other harvesters

A shellfish aquaculture harvester who would like to buy and sell shellfish from other harvesters in addition to their own catch has to obtain a Department of Natural Resources Seafood Dealer's License **AND** a Shellfish Certification from the Maryland Department of Health.

Why are two licenses required to deal in shellfish?

The Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, working cooperatively with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and member States, established the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance to provide guidance on the safe and sanitary control of the growing, harvesting, processing and shipping of molluscan shellfish for human consumption. Every state that is a member of Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference and a participant in the National Shellfish Sanitation Program has agreed to enforce the rules established in the Model Ordinance. These rules require all harvesters to be appropriately licensed by their respective states. In Maryland, these rules are incorporated into the Maryland Department of Health and Department of Natural Resources regulations and will be enforced by the Natural Resources Police for the safety of the shellfish industry and public health.

To obtain a **Department of Natural Resources Seafood Dealers License**, visit your Regional Service Center. To locate the closest Regional Service Center visit:
dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/service_centers.aspx

For more information or to apply for a **Maryland Department of Health Shellfish Certification**, please contact the Maryland Department of Health Center for Food Processing:
Kim Coulbourne – (410) 767-8409 or kim.coulbourne@maryland.gov