Seafood

As new agriculture entrepreneurs consider producing and marketing food products and current producers seek new markets, they need to conduct preliminary research to determine if there are rules, regulations, certifications, or licenses required for their product or selected market. This series of publications will help determine the requirements for licensing and for processing and selling various food products based on business size, sales volume, the level of processing, and market. The flowchart will guide Iowa producers and processors to the appropriate state agencies or departments. Agency and department contact information, as well as additional resources, are on the reverse side of this publication.

**Definition of seafood:** finfish, shellfish (mollusks and crustaceans), reptiles (turtles and alligators), amphibians (frogs), invertebrates (jellyfish, sea cucumber and sea urchin), and roe (eggs).

1. **Do you produce farm-raised seafood for human consumption (not for stock)?**
   - **YES**
   - **NO**

   **NO**
   - No license required; however, check with DIA\(^1\) for more information.

   **YES**
   - You will need a IDNR\(^2\) Aquaculture Unit License.

2. **Do you commercially harvest wild seafood from public waters?**
   - **YES**
   - **NO**

   **NO**
   - No license required; however, check with DIA\(^1\) for more information.

   **YES**
   - You will need a IDNR\(^2\) Commercial Fisher/Roe Harvester License

3. **Do you plan to sell it?**
   - **YES**
   - **NO**

   **NO**
   - Will it be sold live?
     - **YES**
     - No processing license required, however Lacey Act\(^3\) laws apply

     **NO**
     - Will it be sold whole on ice?
       - **YES**
       - No processing license required; however, check with DIA\(^1\) for more information

       **NO**
       - Will it be processed or stored?
         - **YES**
         - Processing license required; check with DIA\(^1\) for more information and storage requirements.

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\(^1\) Iowa Department of Inspection and Appeals
\(^2\) Iowa Department of Natural Resources
\(^3\) Lacey Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 3371–3378) is a conservation law that prohibits trade in wildlife, fish, and plants that have been illegally taken, possessed, transported, or sold.
Resources

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS AND APPEALS
515-281-6538
www.dia.iowa.gov

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Application for Aquaculture Unit License
www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/Fishing-Licenses-Laws/License-Applications%20-%202013741172--aquaculture-units

Iowa Commercial Fishing Regulations and Licenses
www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/Fishing-Licenses-Laws/License-Applications%20-%202013741175--commercial-fisher

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND OUTREACH PUBLICATIONS
This and other related publications can be accessed through the ISU Extension Store at https://store.extension.iastate.edu.

Aquaculture: Iowa Fish Processing Frequently Asked Questions
https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/14866

Additional Aquaculture Resources:
https://store.extension.iastate.edu/ProductList?Keyword=aquaculture

This publication is part of a series. Additional copies can be downloaded at https://store.extension.iastate.edu.
Other titles in the series include:
FS0015  Red Meat
FS0016  Poultry
FS0017  Dairy
FS0019  Eggs
FS0020  Low Acid and Fermented Foods
FS0021  Jams, Jellies, and Preserves
FS0022  Fruit and Vegetable Juice
FS0023  Fruits and Vegetables (Cut)
FS0024  Fruits and Vegetables (Whole)
FS0025  Honey and Maple Syrup

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