

MAINE SHELLFISH DIRECT SALES

CLAMS AND MUSSELS AS LOCAL FOOD

This document is intended to promote access to safe, nutritious, and tasty clams, mussels, and other shellfish to support livelihoods and provide local food to communities in Maine. As always, shellfish need to be properly handled to minimize public health risks. If you have any questions about these steps, contact Maine Marine Patrol. To find your local Marine Patrol Officer, go to the ME DMR web page [here](#).



Direct to Consumer Sales

With a commercial license, a harvester can sell their product from their home direct to consumers without needing additional licenses. Customers must pick up. Harvesters cannot deliver. Town shellfish committees and Maine's shellfish co-management program can help harvesters connect with direct to consumer sales and related efforts.



Retail Seafood License

If harvesters want to deliver product or sell somewhere other than their residence, they can get a Retail Seafood License (\$100) through DMR. Harvesters can then sell to certified dealers/wholesale license holders, purchase product back, and then sell from a vehicle or other site. Processed shellfish may require additional licenses. For retail sales, tags must be retained in chronological order for 90 days in case of recalls.



Direct to Restaurants, Retail, & Seafood Markets

If restaurants, retail shops, grocery stores, and other seafood markets have an Enhanced Retail Seafood License, then harvesters can sell direct to them. All DMR fisheries licensing information and application forms are available [here](#).



Become a Certified Shellfish Dealer

This requires a facility and shellfish must go through inspections and sanitation procedures to ensure safety as determined by the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP), more info [here](#).

Resources & Links

This document is adapted from Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) guidelines to support wild shellfish harvesters during the COVID-19 pandemic and created by the Maine Shellfish Learning Network. Click [here](#) for the original bulletin.

- [Maine Fishermen Guide to Direct Sales](#) by Gulf of Maine Research Institute
- [Maine Seafood Map](#) by UMaine Cooperative Extension
- [LocalCatch](#)
- [Maine Seafood Connection](#) Facebook page
- [COVID-19 Resources](#) by Maine Coastal Fishermen's Association

Interested in helping with direct sales efforts? Please reach out: downeast, Mike Thalhauser (mthalhauser@coastalfisheries.org); mid-coast, Monique Coombs (monique@mainecoastfishermen.org); southern Maine, Kyle Foley (kfoley@gmri.org).