



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
FISHING AND BOATING SERVICES

LEGAL SALE OF FARM-RAISED SHELLFISH IN MARYLAND

A shellfish dealer has to be licensed by both the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of Health in order to buy and/or sell shellfish for human consumption.

- A shellfish aquaculture harvester who does not have BOTH of these licenses can ONLY sell to a seafood dealer with a Department of Natural Resources Seafood Dealer's License and a Maryland Department of Health Shellfish Certification.
- If a shellfish aquaculture harvester does not want to sell his/her catch to a dealer licensed by both the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Department of Health, then the harvester must obtain a Shellfish Certification from the Maryland Department of Health. This certification allows the harvester to sell ONLY his/her own catch.
- If a shellfish aquaculture harvester would like to buy and sell shellfish from other harvesters in addition to his own catch, then the harvester has to obtain a Department of Natural Resources Seafood Dealer's License and a Shellfish Certification from the Maryland Department of Health.

Why two licenses? 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