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Photos courtesy of by D. Allen Pattillo.

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).

Do you produce farm-raised seafood for human consumption (not for stock)?

NO

No license required; however, check with DIA¹ for more information.

YES

You will need a IDNR² Aquaculture Unit License.

Do you commercially harvest wild seafood from public waters?

NO

No license required; however, check with DIA¹ for more information.

YES

Do you plan to sell it?

NO

YES

You will need a IDNR² Commercial Fisher/Roe Harvester License

Will it be sold live?

YES

No processing license required, however Lacey Act³ laws apply

Will it be sold whole on ice?

YES

No processing license required; however, check with DIA¹

Will it be processed or stored?

YES

Processing license required; check with DIA¹ for more information and storage requirements.

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-%2013741172--aquaculture-units

Iowa Commercial Fishing Regulations and Licenses

www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/Fishing-Licenses-Laws/License-Applications%20-%2013741175--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