



Seafood Industry Notice for Fish Receivers

Notice 2016-004

Issued: Nov. 2016

If you intend to receive fish directly from a commercial fisher in 2017, please review this Seafood Industry Notice to determine whether you need to be licensed. If so, please complete and submit a Fish Receiver Application form.

Please note that even if you do not require a licence in 2017, there may be reporting requirements that apply to you. Please review “**What about reporting requirements?**” below.

The new *Fish and Seafood Act*, which has a greater emphasis on food safety, replaces the *Fisheries Act* and *Fish Inspection Act*. This new Act, and its regulations will come into force **January 1, 2017** and it is important that you are aware of, and keep current with, new requirements that apply to you.

Highlights of the Fish Receiver licence:

What licence will this replace and who requires it? This licence replaces the provincial Fish Buying Station licence. The licence name has been changed to more accurately reflect the activity and is required for a person who operates:

- A **shore-based facility** used to receive fish *directly* from a commercially licensed fisher or a licensed packing vessel.
- A **vehicle** used to receive fish *directly* from a commercially licensed fisher or a licensed packing vessel.
- A **vessel** used to receive fish *directly* from a commercially licensed fisher or a licensed packing vessel that does not hold a federal commercial fishing or packing licence.

Who does not require this licence?

- Individuals operating a restaurant or retail store that is regulated under the provincial Food Premises Regulation that is receiving fish *directly* from a commercial fisher holding a Fisher Vendor licence.
- Individuals operating a federally registered fish processing facility that is receiving fish *directly* from a commercial fisher.
- Individuals operating a provincially licensed seafood processing facility that is receiving fish *directly* from a commercial fisher.
- Individuals operating a federally licensed commercial fishing or packing vessel that is receiving fish *directly* from a commercial fisher.
- Commercial fishers transporting their own catch.
- Individuals operating a vehicle used to receive fish for their own personal consumption *directly* from a commercial fisher holding a Fisher Vendor licence.

Are there any new requirements? As in the past, operators will have to meet general construction (e.g., materials used are durable, easily cleaned and free from toxic substances) and operational (e.g., activities are conducted in a manner that will prevent fish from becoming unsafe food) standards under the *Fish and Seafood Act*.

What records need to be kept? As in the past, operators must keep written records for each delivery of fish received and each delivery of fish distributed. Such records need to be retained for 3 years.

Records for each delivery of fish received must include at least the following:

- Name, contact information (e.g., mailing address, email address, phone number), and federal licence number of the commercial fisher (if applicable),
- date that fish were received,
- location where fish were received,
- quantity (weight) of each species of fish received (and if processed, manner of processing such as “dressed head-on”, “frozen head-off”, “round”, etc.), and
- amount paid for fish received.

Records for each delivery of fish distributed must include at least the following:

- name and contact information (e.g., mailing address, email address, phone number) of the person you delivered the fish to,
- date that fish were delivered,
- location where fish were delivered,
- quantity (weight) of each species of fish delivered (and if processed, manner of processing such as “dressed head-on”, “frozen head-off”, “round”, etc.), and
- payment received for fish delivered.

What about reporting requirements? The Ministry will continue to collect important economic data (e.g., through the [Annual Fisheries Production Schedule](#)) from this segment of industry.

To stay current on upcoming regulatory changes, please visit the Ministry of Agriculture [website](#).