



Seafood Industry Notice for Fisher Vendors

Notice 2016-003

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If you are a commercial fisher and intend to sell your catch directly to the public, to restaurants or to retail outlets in 2017, please review this Seafood Industry Notice to determine whether you need to be licensed. If so, please complete and submit a Fisher Vendor Application form.

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 Fisher Vendor licence:

Who requires it? This licence is required for commercial fishers who sell their catch:

- to the public (for their personal consumption), directly from the harvest vessel, **or**
- to restaurants or retail stores which are regulated under the provincial Food Premises Regulation.

What has changed? Previously a provincial Fish Buying Station Licence was required for operators of restaurants and retail stores who purchased fish directly from commercial fishers. This will no longer be a requirement under the new Act given that commercial fishers with a Fisher Vendor licence will now be able to sell to restaurants and retail stores.

Are there any new requirements? As in the past, commercial fishers selling from the harvest vessel 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*. Where fish are sold from a location other than the harvesting vessel, such as a roadside sale, other regulations such as the Food Premises Regulation may apply.

What records need to be kept? As in the past, Fisher Vendors need to keep written records for all sales transactions. Such records need to be retained for 3 years.

Records for each sales transaction must include at least the following:

- name and contact information (e.g., mailing address, email address, phone number) of the business that you sold your fish to (this contact information is not necessary for sales to the general public),
- date that fish were sold,
- quantity (weight) of each species of fish sold, (and if processed, manner of processing such as “dressed head-on”, “frozen head-off”, “round”, etc.), and
- payment received for fish sold.

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](#).