



Shellfish Direct Sales Eligibility

5/28/2020

The Rhode Island Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Environmental Management (DEM) have evaluated options to allow for direct sales of shellfish to consumers in order to alleviate some of the challenges associated with selling shellfish during the COVID-19 pandemic. The information provided here applies to both wild harvest shellfish and cultured shellfish in Rhode Island. To participate, specific eligibility requirements must be met in order to remain compliant with the Food and Drug Administration’s National Shellfish Sanitation Program’s Guide for Control of Molluscan Shellfish, as well as the Rhode Island Food Code.

DEM-licensed shellfish harvesters (with a multipurpose license, commercial fishing/principle effort license with quahog or shellfish endorsement, shellfish over 65 license, or a student shellfish license) and growers (with an aquaculture license) may only sell to approved shellfish dealers (DEM dealers license allowing shellfish – i.e., shellfish dealer license or multipurpose dealer license) that also hold a shellfish business license through the DOH (Figure 1). Growers who are not licensed as dealers may sell to a dealer, as long as the DEM and DOH-licensed dealer has an approved land-based facility. Partnerships and/or cooperatives are encouraged to meet this requirement. Any growers or harvesters with a DEM dealers license and a DOH shellfish business license can participate in any DOH-sanctioned farmers market approved for food sales, or at already DOH-approved facilities (e.g., retail outlets). However, any aquaculture farmer or shellfish harvester conducting retail sales at a farmer’s market (or any DOH-approved, land-based facility) must also have a DOH market license and a DOH food retail peddlers license. Information on acquiring a DOH Food Retail Peddlers license is available at the following link: <https://health.ri.gov/applications/FoodRetailPeddler.pdf>



Figure 1. Schematic of shellfish sales to consumers

Questions should be directed to the contacts below:

Topic	Contact
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