

2016



Louisiana Crawfish Commercial Rules and Regulations

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries



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FYI: LDWF is responsible for monitoring and managing wild crawfish; the information in this brochure applies to the harvest and sale of wild crawfish.

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other agencies are responsible for farm-raised crawfish. However, farmers who plan to resell their crawfish must have the appropriate licenses from LDWF and other agencies.

Harvesters

THIS PUBLICATION IS NOT AN OFFICIAL COPY OF THE LAWS AND SHOULD NOT BE RELIED UPON AS SUCH. THIS PUBLICATION SUMMARIZES EXISTING LAWS. AS LAWS MAY CHANGE FOLLOWING THE PRINTING OF THIS PUBLICATION, THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION HEREIN IS NOT GUARANTEED. IT IS THE OBLIGATION AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE READER TO BE AWARE OF CURRENT LAWS, INCLUDING LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTES TITLE 56, OFFICIAL REGULATIONS OF THE LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION, LOCAL AND PARISH ORDINANCES, AND FEDERAL LAWS. VISIT WWW.WLF.LOUISIANA.GOV/FISHING/COMMERCIAL-FISHING FOR DETAILS.

Licenses and Fees

To commercially harvest wild crawfish in Louisiana's waters, you must have the following licenses issued by LDWF:

- A **Commercial Fisherman's License*** (\$55 resident, \$460 nonresident)
- **Crawfish Trap Gear License*** (for any legal number of traps; \$25 resident, \$100 nonresident)

*If you are a Louisiana resident, age 70 or older, you may instead purchase a **Senior Commercial License** (includes gear) for \$20.

To sell crawfish you have caught to anyone other than a Louisiana licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer or transport your catch out-of-state, you must have a **Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer's License** (\$250 resident, \$1,105 nonresident).

To sell crawfish you have caught directly to consumers within the state, you must have a **Fresh Products License** (\$20 resident, \$120 nonresident). Your spouse may purchase a **Fresh Products-Spouse License** for \$5 to sell directly to consumers.

To apply for LDWF-issued licenses, contact **225-765-2898** or visit LDWF's Headquarters at **2000 Quail Drive in Baton Rouge**. Renew your licenses online at www.la.wildlifelicense.com.

Legal Gear and Gear Requirements

You may use approved crawfish traps to harvest wild crawfish in Louisiana's waters. Trap mesh must be a hexagon of 3/4-inch by 11/16-inch or larger, measured from wire to wire, not including any

coating on the wire. The openings of trap flues and throats must not exceed 2 inches. These requirements allow small crawfish to escape the trap—small crawfish have little market value and are important to the population for breeding.

Seasons and Size/Possession Limits

There are no limits on season, size, or possession for commercial crawfish harvests. Harvest controls are not necessary as crawfish populations are productive, resilient, and influenced by environmental conditions, rather than fishing.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Refuges

Commercial fishing is permitted in:

- Fort Polk (see fishing regulations posted at specific lakes)
- Grassy Lake*, except in Smith Bay, Red River Bay, and Grassy Lake on Saturday and Sunday and during waterfowl season
- Pomme de Terre*, except on weekends and during duck season
- Richard K. Yancey, except during regular waterfowl season in Grand Bay, Silver Lake, and Lower Sunk Lake
- Spring Bayou* (Monday through Friday and after 2 pm during waterfowl season).

*You must have a permit to fish Grassy Lake, Pomme de Terre, and Spring Bayou WMAs. Permits are available from Spring Bayou Headquarters or the Opelousas Field Office at **337.948.0255**.

Commercial fishing is prohibited in Ouachita WMA.

Industry Support

Louisiana Wild Seafood Certification Program (LWSCP)



Through LWSCP, LDWF aims to build a brand that guarantees the origin of Louisiana wild-caught seafood. Through strict chain of custody requirements, the program guarantees that all seafood products bearing the Certified Louisiana

Seafood label were caught in Louisiana or Gulf waters by a licensed Louisiana fisherman, landed at a Louisiana dock, and processed and packaged by a Louisiana-based company. The program provides education for participants on best seafood handling and sanitation practices to ensure the utmost safety and quality. When a buyer sees this label, they can be confident they're buying authentic Louisiana wild-caught seafood, a premium product known for freshness, consistent quality, and sustainability, and that they're supporting our local fishing communities.

By branding and showcasing Louisiana seafood, LWSCP helps suppliers increase the value of their seafood and remain competitive in the marketplace. LWSCP participants benefit from free marketing support, such as:

- Market portal linking Certified Louisiana Seafood suppliers with buyers
- Promotions through the program website, social media, and events including seafood festivals and industry conventions
- Point-of-sale materials such as decals, brochures, and apparel
- Access to program partners including the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, Audubon GULF, NOAA Fisheries, Louisiana Sea Grant, and other partners who purchase and promote Certified Louisiana Seafood.

Licensed Louisiana commercial fishermen are automatically eligible for the program; licensed Louisiana Fresh Products dealers and Wholesale/Retail Seafood dealers must obtain a permit to participate. They must also comply with all state and federal permitting and reporting requirements. Find out more or sign up to participate at www.LouisianaCertifiedSeafood.com.

Seafood Technology Equipment Program (STEP)

STEP provides LWSCP participants with funding to improve their equipment to increase the quality and value of their seafood, critical elements of the premium Louisiana seafood brand. Since 2012, STEP has provided more than \$1.7 million to members of Louisiana's seafood industry, including grants for docks and processors to upgrade equipment to meet Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals requirements. LDWF staff are improving the funding process, assessing future needs of the industry, and will be developing funding initiatives to meet those needs. For more information, call **225.765.3980** or **1.855.262.1764 (toll-free)**.

Louisiana Fisheries Forward (LFF)

LFF is a voluntary education and training program for members of Louisiana's seafood community. Created by LDWF and Louisiana Sea Grant, LFF delivers training videos and fact sheets on a number of topics such as how to be a commercial fisherman and seafood business finance and management as well as hands-on workshops, training days, and demonstrations to showcase new technology and best practices. LFF's goal is to help improve the economic success of Louisiana's commercial fishing industry. Learn more at lafisheriesforward.org.

Buyers and Sellers

Licenses and Permits

To purchase and resell wild crawfish in Louisiana, you must have one of the following LDWF-issued licenses:		
If you:	You must have a:	Notes:
Buy wild crawfish in Louisiana from commercial fishermen for sale or resale	Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer License	\$250 resident, \$1,105 nonresident. There are no restrictions on whom these licenseholders may sell seafood products to.
Buy wild crawfish in Louisiana from commercial fishermen for sale or resale from a vehicle	Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer Vehicle License	\$250 resident, \$1,105 nonresident. There are no restrictions on whom these licenseholders may sell seafood products to.
Buy wild crawfish from a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer for sale to consumers for personal or household use	Retail Seafood Dealer License	\$105 resident, \$405 nonresident
Buy wild crawfish from a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer for sale to consumers for personal or household use from a vehicle	Retail Seafood Dealer Vehicle License	\$105 resident, \$405 nonresident
Are a restaurant or retail grocer picking up wild crawfish from a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer to sell fully cooked for immediate consumption to consumers	Retail Seafood Dealer License and applicable transport license (<i>see page 6</i>)	\$105 resident, \$405 nonresident
Are a commercial fisherman selling wild crawfish to anyone who doesn't have a Louisiana Wholesale/Retail Dealer License (besides consumers) or transporting your catch out of state	Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer License	\$250 resident, \$1,105 nonresident
Are a commercial fisherman selling wild crawfish directly to consumers within the state	Fresh Products License	\$20 resident, \$120 nonresident. A \$5 Resident Fresh Products-Spouse License is also available for a commercial fisherman's spouse to sell directly to consumers.

Labeling

No product labeled "crawfish" may be sold in Louisiana unless it consists of, or is derived from, the red swamp crawfish (*Procambarus clarkii*), the white river crawfish (*Procambarus zonangulus*), or Louisiana pond-raised crawfish.

No owner or manager of a restaurant that sells imported crawfish shall misrepresent to the public, either verbally, on a menu, or on signs displayed on the premises, that the crawfish is domestic.

Did you know?

With more than 1,000 crawfish fishermen and 1,300 crawfish farmers, Louisiana leads the nation in crawfish production, supplying up to 120 million pounds per year. Louisiana's crawfish industry contributes more than \$300 million to the state's economy annually.

Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements

Dealers and retailers must keep records of the following for three years:

- The quantity and species of crawfish you purchase, the date of purchase, the full name and license and/or permit number of the commercial fisherman, wholesale/retail dealer, or out-of-state seller from whom you purchase the crawfish
- The quantity and species of crawfish you sell and the name and license number of the person to whom you sell it
- Quantity and species of crawfish and the date you sell it to consumers



Dealers and retailers purchasing from commercial fishermen or anyone other than a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer or fresh products licenseholder must report these transactions every month on LDWF-issued trip tickets, documenting information about the purchase, including what it is, where and how it was caught, sizes, quantities, etc. Commercial fishermen who sell their catch directly to consumers (fresh products licenseholders) must also complete and submit trip tickets. For details, call **225.765.2371**.

Shipping Requirements

You must mark all vehicles used to transport seafood with the name and address of your company. You must also plainly mark all shipments containing seafood and attach records, tags, or certificates showing your name and the receiver's name, an itemized statement of the number of pounds of seafood, and the names of each kind or species of seafood in the shipment.

To operate any commercial transport vehicle and load, unload, or transport seafood, you must have one of the following LDWF-issued licenses:		
If you:	You must have a:	Notes:
Are a commercial fisherman transporting your catch to a wholesale/retail dealer	Commercial Fisherman's License	\$55 resident, \$460 nonresident
Are a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer delivering seafood	Seafood Transport License	\$30 for residents and nonresidents
Are a licensed retail seafood dealer picking up seafood from a wholesale/retail dealer and transporting it to your place of business	Seafood Transport License	\$30 for residents and nonresidents
Are transporting a licensed commercial fisherman's catch to a wholesale/retail dealer for sale	Seafood Transport License	\$30 for residents and nonresidents
Are a wholesale/retail seafood dealer	Seafood Transport License purchased with the dealer license	\$30 for residents and nonresidents
Ship seafood out of state	Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer License OR Transport License purchased in connection with the dealer license	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dealer License: \$250 resident; \$1,105 nonresident • Transport License: \$30 for residents and nonresidents

Louisiana Crawfish Facts

15.7
million

pounds of crawfish
are landed in
Louisiana in an
average year.

About 10%

of Louisiana's total
crawfish production
comes from the wild.

Nearly
\$11
million

Average annual dockside
value of Louisiana's
crawfish harvest.

Most wild-caught
Louisiana crawfish
is harvested from
the rivers, bayous,
swamps, and lakes of
the Atchafalaya and
Vermilion-Teche
Basins.

Get Involved!

To manage Louisiana's crawfish fishery, LDWF and the Commission rely on scientific data and landings records as well as public input. Our decisions directly impact you, so it's important that we have your input as we define management goals and strategies. We encourage you to participate in the management process to ensure that we consider your interests and that you understand the regulatory process and resulting management actions.

The Commission's monthly meetings and our open regulatory process provide opportunities for public input.

Text and Email Alerts

Sign up to receive text and/or email notifications about season openings and closings, regulatory changes, and task force and Commission meetings at www.wlf.louisiana.gov/signup.

Compliance and Enforcement

Through events, outreach materials, and resources, LDWF works hard to make sure fishermen understand relevant rules and regulations. LDWF's Law Enforcement Division is responsible for ensuring compliance with these rules and regulations through regular patrols and investigations.



Drop us a line

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70808
225.765.2800
www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/commercial-crawfish