

AQUACULTURE LICENSE

WHAT IT IS:

The Aquaculture License is now **required** in order to **harvest and sell cultured organisms removed from an aquaculture lease or LPA license site**. The new law providing for the Aquaculture License is Title 12 of the Maine Revised Statutes, section 6810-B. It took effect on November 1, 2017.

WHO MUST GET THE AQUACULTURE LICENSE?

- **Aquaculture leaseholders** and Limited-Purpose Aquaculture (**LPA**) **licenseholders** are required to obtain the Aquaculture License, **regardless of which species they grow**.

WHAT DOES THE AQUACULTURE LICENSE AUTHORIZE?

- The Aquaculture License authorizes the holder and his/her “authorized representatives” to “remove, possess, transport within the state limits or sell cultured organisms” **grown on the holder’s lease or LPA sites**.
- Aquaculturists growing shellfish are still subject to the restrictions that **aquacultured shellfish may be sold only as follows**:
 - To wholesale seafood dealers.
 - At retail from the home of the aquaculture license holder.
 - At retail on the aquaculture **lease** site.
 - Sales of aquacultured shellfish are **not** permitted on **LPA license** sites.

CULTURED vs. WILD PRODUCT – Different Licenses Apply

Aquaculturists who **also** engage in **wild harvest and sale of any marine organism** will still need to purchase the appropriate **commercial harvesting license** to cover those activities.

- The **commercial harvester’s license** now applies only to the harvest and sale of **wild** marine organisms.
- The **Aquaculture License** only pertains to organisms that you have **cultured** on your aquaculture lease or LPA license site.
- If you harvest and sell only aquacultured product, you need only the Aquaculture License.

- If you harvest and sell **both** wild product **and** product grown on an aquaculture lease or LPA license site, you will need **both** licenses.
- **The requirements for shellfish tagging, etc., all remain the same for both wild and aquacultured shellfish.**

EMPLOYEES or AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES:

“Authorized Representatives” of an Aquaculture License holder, including employees, who do not themselves hold Aquaculture Licenses can work on the holder’s lease or LPA sites and sell the aquaculture product from the holder’s sites under the holder’s Aquaculture License.

WHERE TO GET YOUR AQUACULTURE LICENSE:

Visit the DMR Aquaculture page for a link to the Aquaculture License application: <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/forms/index.html> under “Aquaculture License (to harvest & sell all aquacultured product)”

The Aquaculture License is also available on the DMR website under “Commercial Fishing.” Here is the link, or call the Licensing Division at (207) 624-6550 if you have questions about applying for licenses:

<http://www.maine.gov/dmr/commercial-fishing/licenses/documents/2018/shellfish-worm-greencrab-aquaculture.pdf>

Fill out the form and **check the aquaculture license box in part B.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the Aquaculture License, e-mail DMRAquaculture@maine.gov or call (207) 624-6567.