

## LICENSING

All of the following licenses may be purchased at the MS-DMR License and Registration Office. For more information, visit the MS-DMR at 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530 or phone at (228) 374-5000.

| LICENSE TYPE                                       | RESIDENT FEE |
|--|--------------|
| <b>SHRIMP</b>                                      |              |
| Mississippi Captain's License                      | \$10.00      |
| Recreational 16' net or less                       | \$15.00      |
| Under 30' ft. Boat                                 | \$60.00      |
| 30' to 45 ft. Boat                                 | \$85.00      |
| Over 45 ft. Boat                                   | \$110.00     |
| Non-resident Shrimp (vessel 30' or less)           | \$110.00     |
| Non-resident Shrimp (vessel 30' - 45')             | \$160.00     |
| Non-resident Shrimp (vessel 45' or more)           | \$210.00     |
| Non-resident Shrimp Recreational (net 16' or less) | \$30.00      |
| Non-resident Shrimp Recreational (Louisiana)       | \$100.00     |
| Shrimp Louisiana Resident (one trawl)              | \$700.00     |
| Shrimp Louisiana Resident (two trawl)              | \$800.00     |
| <b>CRAB</b>  |              |
| Commercial Crab Trawl                              | \$75.00      |
| Commercial Crab Trap                               | \$75.00      |
| Recreational Crab Trap                             | \$5.00       |
| <b>FISH</b>  |              |
| Recreational (Hook & Link)                         | \$5.85       |
| Gill/Trammel Net                                   | \$100.00     |
| Charter Boat                                       | \$200.00     |
| Resident/Commercial Hook & Line Vessel             | \$100.00     |
| Resident/Commercial Hook & Line Fishermen          | \$100.00     |
| Menhaden Boat/Net                                  | \$150.00     |
| <b>OYSTER</b>                                      |              |
| Recreational                                       | \$10.00      |
| Tonging  | \$60.00      |
| Dredging   | \$110.00     |
| <b>LIVE BAIT</b>                                   |              |
| Live-bait Dealer                                   | \$50.00      |
| Live-bait Boat                                     | \$110.00     |
| <b>BUSINESS LICENSE</b>                            |              |
| Interstate Commerce                                | \$20.00      |
| Seafood Dealer                                     | \$100.00     |
| Seafood Processor                                  | \$200.00     |
| Menhaden Processor                                 | \$500.00     |
| Seafood Transport Permit                           | \$100.00     |

### MS DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES (MS-DMR)

1141 Bayview Avenue / Biloxi, MS 39530  
 Phone: (228) 374-5000 / Fax: (228) 374-5220  
 Website: [www.dmr.state.ms.us](http://www.dmr.state.ms.us)

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MS-DMR) is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the State. The Seafood Technology Bureau is responsible for seafood plant inspections and certifications. The License and Registration Office is responsible for selling licenses. It is required that all fishermen obtain a saltwater fish, shrimp or oyster license from the License and Registration Office.

### MS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (MDH)

Food Safety Division Main Line  
 Phone: (601) 576-7689  
 Website: [www.msdh.state.ms.us](http://www.msdh.state.ms.us)

The Mississippi Food Code follows the national standards for food safety issued by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA). In particular, only establishments that charge for food preparation and/or served are subject to regulation by the state. Restaurants and caterers can obtain a food facility permit through the permit and inspection process by contacting the local Environmental Health Department, completing an application and passing an inspection by the Departments' Health Inspectors.

### MS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE (MDAC)

121 North Jefferson Street / Jackson, MS 39201  
 P.O. Box 1609 / Jackson, MS 39215  
 Phone: (601) 359-1100 / Fax: (601) 354-6290  
 Website: [www.mdac.state.ms.us](http://www.mdac.state.ms.us)

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce (MDAC) is responsible for agricultural related business in the State of Mississippi. The Regulation of Professional Services states that "Persons receiving fees for performing work related to entomology, plant pathology, horticulture, tree surgery, weed control, pest-management consultant services and professional soil classification are required to be licensed to protect the citizens of this state from fraudulent practices." The Mississippi Catfish Marketing Law of 1975 "Provides for the proper labeling of catfish administered by the Consumer Protection Division."

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# HOW TO START A SEAFOOD BUSINESS



Seafood Technology Bureau  
 Mississippi Department of Marine Resources  
 1141 Bayview Avenue  
 Biloxi, MS 39530  
 (228) 374-5000  
[www.dmr.state.ms.us](http://www.dmr.state.ms.us)



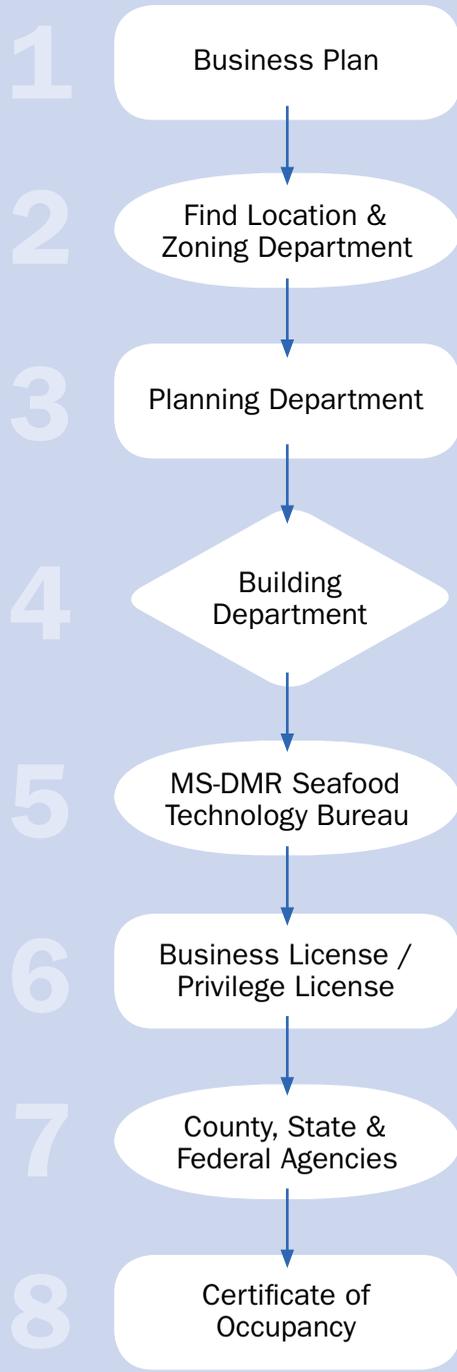
## INTRODUCTION

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Mississippi's coastal communities experienced devastation. One of the areas greatly affected by the storm was the Mississippi Seafood Industry. The destruction of the coastal seafood industry crippled the processing capacity of the Gulf Coast. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, there were a total number of 70 processors and 139 seafood dealers in the six Mississippi coastal counties. More than half of these facilities were destroyed by the storm, damaging many families' livelihood. As of February 2006, a total of six processors were actually processing seafood out of 39 recertified dealers. The total damages of all sectors of the seafood industry exceeded five hundred million dollars.

### NOTE: Seafood Dealers and Processors

When purchasing seafood from a retailer or wholesaler, it is advisable to verify that the retailer or wholesaler has a *current Mississippi Seafood Dealer or Processor's License*.

# BASIC FLOW CHART



## BASIC OUTLINE FOR STARTING A SEAFOOD BUSINESS

### STEP #1: Writing a Business Plan

A business plan is a written explanation of your proposed business. It is a detailed report of all plans to begin your business. There are several reasons why one should develop a written business plan. Financial Institutions usually require a business plan to exam the proposed business and make a decision on offering funding to the applicant. Some cities require presentation of a business plan before granting a building permit, zoning permit or certificate of occupancy. Also, writing a business plan will help to develop your ideas into a working company as well as help discover any complications or important parts of the business you may have not considered. Lastly, your business plan will serve as an outline while you are building so you can stay focused on your initial goals. It is the key to opening doors of opportunity and offering success to your business.

### STEP #2: Finding a Location

The Zoning Department will be able to give details on which areas of a city are for commercial use. You will want to find a location suitable for the type of business you will have. If the location is not zoned properly, you will either need to find a new location or petition the city for new zoning.

### STEP #3: Planning Department

The Planning Department approves proposed plans for future activities and developments. In many cases, the Planning Department is made up of elected citizens who make up a board that make recommendations on zoning issues as needed. There may not be a separate office for Planning in which case it will be combined with the Zoning and/or Building Department.

### STEP #4: Building Department

The Building Department establishes and enforces building codes that are assigned by the local government for the structural safety of buildings. Before you begin work on your new facility either remodeling or new construction, you must get a city building permit from the Building Department.

### STEP #5: MS-DMR Seafood Technology Bureau

Those who would like to set up a facility for seafood retail or processing are encouraged to call or visit the MS-DMR Seafood Technology Bureau for technical and regulatory assistance before beginning the building process. The staff will offer technical assistance throughout the process. This will help avoid any unnecessary set backs for receiving a seafood license or becoming a certified seafood dealer or processor.

**NOTE:** Any resident or non-resident, individual or company buying or selling seafood commercially within the State of Mississippi must have a seafood dealer's license from the MS-DMR. It is also a requirement that all seafood dealers and processing companies have at least one employee attend the Seafood HACCP and Sanitation courses before receiving certification to operate a seafood business.

### STEP #6: Business License/Privilege License

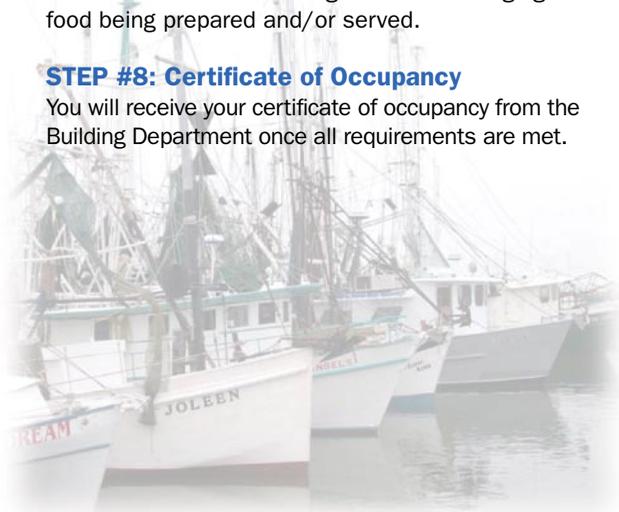
If your business is located inside the city limits, you must purchase a city business license also known as a privilege license from the city tax collector's office.

### STEP #7: State and Federal Agencies

There are several state and federal agencies which may require licensing for different type of businesses. For instance, the MS-DMR Seafood Technology Bureau certifies seafood dealers and processors. The MS-DMR License and Registration Office sell licenses for other types of marine activities. The MS Department of Health, Environmental Division deals with roadside vending and those charging for food being prepared and/or served.

### STEP #8: Certificate of Occupancy

You will receive your certificate of occupancy from the Building Department once all requirements are met.



## SEAFOOD TECHNOLOGY BUREAU Certification Codes

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Crab Processor (CP)</b>                        | Buy and sell as well as process crab as in cook and pick or pasteurize crab or crab products.  |
| <b>Post Harvest Processor (PHP)</b>               | Buy and sell as well as process raw oysters. Processing of shellfish for the purpose of added safety, quality and extended shelf life by using Individual Quick Freezing (IQF), Pressure Treating or Pasteurizing.   |
| <b>Intrastate Oyster Repacker (RPI)</b>           | Moves / delivers within Mississippi only. A person other than the original certified shucker-packer who repacks shucked shellfish into other containers and may ship this product. They shall not shuck shellfish.   |
| <b>Oyster Reshipper (RS)</b>                      | A person who purchases shucked shellfish or shellstock from other certified dealers and sells the product without repacking or relabeling to other certified dealers, wholesalers, or retailers.   |
| <b>Intrastate Oyster Reshipper (RSI)</b>          | Moves / delivers within Mississippi only. A person who purchases shucked shellfish or shellstock from other certified dealers and sells the product without repacking or relabeling to other certified shippers, wholesalers, or retailers.                              |
| <b>Shrimp Processor (S)</b>                       | Buy and sell as well as process shrimp as in de-vein, de-head or bread and cook shrimp.  |
| <b>Oyster Shucker-Packer (SP)</b>                 | A person who shucks and packs shellfish. A shucker-packer may act as a shellstock shipper or reshipper or may repack shellfish originating from other certified dealers.   |
| <b>Intrastate Oyster Shucker-Packer (SPI)</b>     | Moves / delivers within Mississippi only. A person who shucks and packs shellfish. A Shucker-packer may act as a Shellstock shipper or reshipper or may repack shellfish originating from other certified dealers.   |
| <b>Oyster Shellstock Shipper (SS)</b>             | A dealer who grows, harvests, buys, or repacks and sells shellstock (shellfish in the shell). They are not authorized to shuck shellfish or to repack shucked shellfish. A shellstock shipper may also ship shucked shellfish.   |
| <b>Intrastate Oyster Shellstock Shipper (SSI)</b> | Moves / delivers within Mississippi only. A dealer who grows, harvests, buys, or repacks and sells shellstock (Shellfish in the shell). They are not authorized to shuck shellfish or to repack shucked shellfish. A shellstock shipper may also ship shucked shellfish. |