

SELLING COMMERCIAL FISH IN MANITOBA FACT SHEET

In order to monitor harvest levels, protect the resource and better ensure the quality of the product, commercial fishers are required to abide by regulations that define record keeping requirements, legitimate markets and marketing practices.

Markets

As a Manitoba commercial fisher, under the authority of a valid **commercial fishing license**, you may only sell fish species harvested in crown waters in four ways:

1. **The Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC) and agents** are the primary purchasers of freshwater fish from commercial fishers in Manitoba. The FFMC acts through a network of inspected and licensed fish plants (under contract as agents to purchase and process freshwater fish). The FFMC acts as the single desk purchasing and distribution mechanism for fish purchased in Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Northern Ontario.
2. Licensed commercial fishers may personally, sell fresh or frozen fish caught under the authority of their own commercial license, directly to **individual consumers**. These fish can only be sold for the personal use of the individual consumer and **are not for re-sale**.
3. Licenced commercial fishers may personally sell their fish to **holders of a Special Dealer's License issued by FFMC** (subject to conditions imposed on the Special Dealers Licence). Commercial fishers who have applied for and obtained their own Special Dealers License may sell fish subject to the conditions specified on their Special Dealer's License.

Commercial fishers may only sell fish to restaurants and retail/wholesale outlets that have been licensed by FFMC as Special Dealers or under authority of a fisher's Special Dealer's License that permits these sales.

4. A person authorized in writing by the Director of Fisheries may be designated as a **producer via a "Director's Authorization"** under authority of *The Fisheries Act (Manitoba)*. This authorization is issued to a fisher's family member at their request to have that individual sell fish on behalf of the fisher from their home or fish packing shed.

Receipts

Every fisher who sells fish directly to a consumer, sells fish to a holder of a Special Dealer's License, sells fish under the authority of their own Special Dealer's License or consigns fish for sale to an individual under a Director's Authorization must at the time of sale or consignment issue a fully completed Commercial Fisherman's Trade Record to the purchaser or fisher's representative.

Commercial Fisherman's Trade Records are required to accompany all commercial freshwater fish sales from a commercial fisher to other than FFMC to ensure that the harvest and associated transaction are documented and to protect the resource. Consumers purchasing fish must have the trade record to show lawful possession of freshwater fish species. Commercial fisher's must issue trade records to ensure only legal sales of fish occur and to protect their markets and the fishery resource from illegal harvest and marketing.

Commercial Fisherman's Trade Records must be fully completed showing the following information:

the **date**, the fisher's **name and if applicable, the fisher's number**;
the **originating body of water**;
the **form and quantity** by weight of **each species of fish**;
the **name and address of the purchaser** for fish not sold to a final consumer.

Every fish marketer (including fisher's representatives with Director's Authorization or holders of a FFMC Special Dealer's Licence) must provide the purchaser with an itemized receipt (or combination of package label and receipt), that specifies the name and address of the seller, the date of transaction, the species, form and weight of fish sold to any person to whom he or she sells fish. This allows for verification of the source of fish and protects the purchaser when transporting and possessing fish from being in violation of Manitoba possession limits.

PURCHASING COMMERCIAL FISH IN MANITOBA FACT SHEET

To protect the resource and the quality of the product purchased, consumers should ensure their purchases are acquired through legal sources.

Legal Sources

As a consumer in Manitoba, legitimate sources of raw or processed freshwater fish — such as whitefish, pike or walleye — include:

- **Appropriately licensed and inspected Establishments (i.e. fish agents of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation) or holders of a Special Dealer's License** may sell fish directly to consumers, restaurants, retail or wholesale food establishments within Manitoba. Conditions of the Special Dealers License may restrict certain transactions.
- **Restaurants or retail outlets** that have purchased fish from either the FFMC, authorized wholesalers or Special Dealers.
- **Licensed commercial fishers** can personally sell fresh or frozen fish directly to the end consumer. These fish purchases can only be used for personal use and must be accompanied by a receipt documenting the sale. Commercial fishers are required to provide the purchaser with a fully completed Commercial Fisherman's Trade Record which details the purchase. Individuals should refuse to purchase fish directly from a commercial fisher who is not willing to provide the required trade record. Consumers of fresh fish should check the fish for quality. Fish must be kept in sanitary boxes, properly iced to preserve quality, and covered to prevent wind-borne contamination.

Important

Every commercial fisher who sells fish directly to a consumer must at the time of sale issue a fully completed Commercial Fisherman's Trade Record to the purchaser. Commercial Fisherman's Trade Records are required to accompany all commercial freshwater fish sales to a consumer to ensure that the harvest and associated transactions are documented and to protect the resource. Consumers purchasing fish must have the trade record to show lawful possession of freshwater fish species. Commercial fisher's must issue trade records to ensure only legal sales of fish occur and to protect their markets and the fishery resource from illegal harvest and marketing.

Commercial Fisherman's Trade Records must be fully completed showing the following information:

the **date**, the fisher's **name and if applicable, the fisher's number**;
the **originating body of water**;
the **form and quantity** by weight of **each species of fish**;
the **name and address of the purchaser** for fish not sold to a final consumer.

If a fisher will not issue a trade record the purchaser should not purchase the fish and should report the incident to a Natural Resource Officer or Manitoba Conservation office.

Every fisher's representative (Director's Authorization) or holder of a FFMC Special Dealer's Licence must provide an itemized receipt (or combination of package label and receipt) to the purchaser, that specifies the name and address of the seller, the date of transaction, the species, form and weight of fish sold to any person to whom he or she sells fish. This allows for verification of the source of fish and protects the purchaser by showing lawful authority when transporting and possessing fish.

NOTE:

While in possession of any fish that has been purchased, you are required to retain the trade record or receipt obtained at the time of purchase to prove lawful authority to possess the fish. You are required to produce these records if requested to do so by a Resource Officer.