



Marine
Management
Organisation

How to sell your CATCH DIRECT

I AM A COMMERCIALY REGISTERED AND LICENSED FISHING VESSEL. CAN I SELL MY CATCH?

Yes, fish caught from a licenced fishing vessel can be sold.

I AM A RECREATIONAL FISHER; CAN I SELL MY CATCH?

No. It is an offence to fish commercially (i.e. to sell your catch) without a valid fishing vessel licence. It is also an offence for a person to purchase fish from an unlicensed or unregistered fishing vessel.

CAN I SELL MY CATCH DIRECTLY TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC?

Yes. As a commercial fisher you can sell your catch directly to the public. Members of the public do not need to be registered with the MMO under the Registration of Buyers and Sellers (RBS) rules, unless they are purchasing more than 30kg of first sale fish per day or they are buying it for anything other than their own personal consumption.

You can sell to each member of the public up to a maximum of 30kg of first sale fish, per person, per day before that person needs to be registered.

IF I SELL DIRECTLY TO THE PUBLIC, WHAT PAPERWORK DO I NEED TO COMPLETE?

You must complete and submit either a catch record, paper logbook or electronic logbook. We need to be able to track what is being removed from the fishery so that we can manage stocks sustainably to make sure the industry remains viable in the long term.

This will also allow you to create a track record of fishing for the species you sell. If you're transporting your catch, you may need to carry a transport document.

Contact your local council for advice on Environmental Health regulations including free registration as a food business, before you sell to the public. [Click Here](#) for more information.

A BUSINESS/INDIVIDUAL I WANT TO SELL TO HAS APPLIED TO BECOME A REGISTERED BUYER. WHEN CAN I START SELLING FISH TO THEM?

In normal circumstances a buyer would need confirmation that they are officially RBS registered, prior to purchasing fisheries products. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, MMO will support sales to non-registered buyers, provided we have received an application from them for registration and a landing declaration or catch record has been submitted. The buyer must provide a sales note to the MMO for each purchase of fish.

CAN I SELL MY CATCH TO SHOPS OR RESTAURANTS?

Yes, if they are RBS registered. Businesses can register as a buyer online free of charge.

Registered buyers are legally required to submit a sales note to the MMO detailing any purchases of first sale fish. Fishers should take care not to knowingly sell their catch to businesses who are not registered as buyers.

CAN I GIVE MY CATCH TO SOMEONE ELSE TO SELL (EG FAMILY MEMBER OR EMPLOYEE)?

No, only the fisher who caught the catch is allowed to sell direct to the public. If you are giving your catch to someone else to sell then they would need to be registered as a buyer and submit a sales note for this catch to the MMO.

WHAT PAPERWORK DO I NEED IF I AM TRANSPORTING MY CATCH TO SELL IT?

Any vehicle transporting first sale fisheries products needs to carry a transport document. For full details on exemptions please see our website.

SOMEONE ELSE WILL BE TRANSPORTING MY CATCH FOR ME. DO THEY NEED A TRANSPORT DOCUMENT?

Yes, if they are transporting the catch prior to first sale, they will need to carry a transport document. You can find the most up to date guidance on our website.

IF I'M SELLING TO THE PUBLIC, WHAT RECORD WILL THERE BE OF MY CATCHES?

For an under 10 metre vessel, catches must be recorded using the Catch Recording Service – using either the mobile app, website, or call centre.

For a 10-12 metre vessel, catches must be recorded using your paper logbook as usual.

For an over 12 metre vessel, catches must be recorded using your electronic logbook as usual.

IF I SELL TO THE PUBLIC, CAN I SUBMIT INVOICES TO THE MMO FOR TRACK RECORD PURPOSES?

Yes, you may choose to submit paperwork detailing what you have sold however there is no obligation for you to do so.

We would advise that you keep records of any public sales in order to be able to report your activities to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for taxation purposes.

CAN I DONATE MY FISH TO CHARITY?

Yes. We would encourage charities interested in receiving fresh fish donated to them directly from commercial fishing vessels to register under the RBS registration provisions detailed above and to provide us with a sales note showing how much fish they have received.

Fishers wanting to donate to charity must contact their local MMO office and we will help charities to become registered and provide the relevant data.