

How local fishermen and sea farmers can stay safe while selling direct

With the usual supply chains disrupted due to the coronavirus pandemic, more and more fishermen and sea farmers are selling seafood directly to consumers. Here are some examples of best practices that fishermen and sea farmers are implementing to stay safe when interacting with customers. These methods can be easily modified to fit different situations. (Note that fishermen and sea farmers need to follow state and federal requirements for selling legally and for safe handling.)



Most Important

Wear a cloth facemask, as recommended by the CDC. A note on gloves: Gloved hands can still pick up and transmit germs! Avoid touching your face or phone while wearing gloves and continue to wash your hands. Practice careful removal.

Frequently sanitize high-touch surfaces (doorknobs, cooler handles, etc.)

Make a plan for how to keep a 6-ft distance from your customers and **communicate the plan to your customers ahead of time**.



Ordering and Payment

If possible, have people pre-order by email, text, or free services like www.emergencycurbside.com.

Avoid cash. Use apps like Venmo, Paypal, or Cash App and **have customers pre-pay** if you do pre-orders. App set up is easy. You'll need your bank information (routing and account number) and less than 15 minutes.

If you cannot avoid cash/checks, set up a box where people can drop their cash/checks to avoid hand-to-hand interaction and maintain a 6-ft distance.



Pick-up and delivery options

Option 1: Keep people in their cars

Large parking lots are ideal for setting up a drive-thru.

For pre-orders, have people stay in their cars and pop their trunks for you. Customers can identify themselves with their name or order number through the window.

If you cannot do pre-orders, take orders through the window from 6-ft away. People can pay from their car on the spot using one of the apps. Designate someone from your business to monitor the payment apps on the spot.

Option 2: Walk-ups

Practice physical distancing: maintain 6-ft distances between all customers and between you and your customers.

Decide where you want the line to be and mark out 6-ft distances for the first few spots in line with chalk, cones, etc. to ensure customers practice proper physical distancing while waiting in line.

Keep a 6-ft distance between you and customers while taking their order and accepting payment.

Designate an order collection area, such as a table, truck bed, or cooler, where you will place the item(s) for pick up. Ensure this area is 6-ft away from you and 6-ft from the line of customers. Once a customer has ordered, place the item(s) in the collection area. Once you move away, the customer can pick up their order from the collection area.

Option 3: Home deliveries

Require no-contact delivery: leave product on a doorstep or in a cooler provided by the customer. Ask the customer to ensure the cooler is left open for you to avoid contact.

Call or text the customer once you have delivered the product.