



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

June 01, 2022

DMS NOTICE  
WM - 22 – 02  
Discard: Retain

**TO:** WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

**SUBJECT:** Weighmaster Considerations for Fish Sellers

The Division of Measurement Standards (Division) has received inquiries regarding weighmaster requirements for fishermen who sell directly to the end-consumer from their boat or on the dock. These persons are not required to be licensed weighmasters. However, after their catch, they (and all other fishermen) must submit Landing Receipts or E-Tix to the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Also, all commercial scales used by fishermen must be registered and sealed by the county office of weights and measures.

When a fisherman is required to be a licensed weighmaster, the Landing Receipts or E-Tix may substitute for a weighmaster certificate according to Business and Professions Code (BPC) Section 12713 (b).

The Division has received clarification from the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) on their rules regarding exemptions:

- Fish and Game Code Division 6, Part 3, Chapter 1, Article 7.5, section 8043.2 (b) does not require commercial fisherman licensed pursuant to Section 8033.5 (Fish Retail Licensees) who sell directly to the end-consumer (person who will eat the fish) to be licensed as a weighmaster. While persons with a Fish Retail License are required to document their catch on the E-Tix system, this would not be considered a weighmaster transaction by the DFW or the Division.
- Commercial fishermen are not required to be licensed weighmasters if they send their catch under a Fish Transportation Receipt to a Fish Receiver who is a licensed weighmaster, who then weighs the catch and creates an E-Tix or Landing Receipt.
- A Fish Receiver, who is a licensed weighmaster, is allowed to use the weight from the fisherman's Fish Transportation Receipt to create an E-Tix or Landing Receipt, so long as the fisherman is a deputy on their weighmaster license and either the scale location is on the Fish Receiver's weighmaster license or their license includes them as a non-fixed location.





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If you have questions, please contact the Weighmaster Enforcement Program at [dms@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:dms@cdfa.ca.gov) or 916.229.3000.

Sincerely,

Kristin J. Macey  
Director

Cc: Hyrum Eastman, County/State Liaison, CDFA

