



RECIPE SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, April 17, 2026, by 11:59 p.m.

Chefs competing in the 2026 Mississippi Seafood Cook-off will be determined from the detailed and complete recipe each chef plans to prepare for the Mississippi Seafood Cook-off. Each recipe will be anonymously evaluated by a panel of judges consisting of previous competitors in both the Mississippi Seafood Cook-off and the Great American Seafood Cook-off.

Recipes must be submitted to publicaffairs@dmr.ms.gov by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2026. Any recipes submitted past the deadline will not be considered. Finalists will be announced no later than April 21, 2026.

Recipe must include dish title, recipe ingredients and preparation instructions. If selected, the recipe submitted must be the recipe that the contestant will prepare as one of the chefs to compete in the Mississippi Seafood Cook-off. The recipe must highlight Mississippi Gulf-fresh seafood. Please refer to the 2026 Mississippi Seafood Cook-off Rules for additional dish and competition details.

Applicants must submit all of the following by April 17, 2026: application, recipe, chef's biography, high-resolution photograph of chef and chef's restaurant logo. These will be used for promotion of the 2026 Mississippi Seafood Cook-off. As stated in the 2026 Mississippi Seafood Cook-off Rules, all dish photos become property of the Mississippi Seafood Cook-Off competition and recipes will be used for the sole purpose of promoting domestic seafood to the consumer. Photos and recipes will be used on MSSeafood.com, in press releases, on social media and for other promotional purposes. Credit will be given to the chefs and their restaurants.

The selection of chefs competing in the Mississippi Seafood Cook-off is anonymous. Judges are unaware of the chef and/or restaurant associated with any recipe that is reviewed throughout the entire selection process. When recipes are formally submitted for competition consideration, Mississippi Seafood Marketing will remove any identifiable qualifiers (name, restaurant affiliation, etc.) prior to these entries being provided to judges. Each judge will provide scores based on similar judging criteria that is used when scoring the dish at the Mississippi Seafood Cook-Off (use of Mississippi Gulf-fresh seafood, creativity, composition, harmony of ingredients, etc.). Selections will then be tallied by representatives of the Mississippi Seafood Marketing program. Once reviewed, the chefs are finalized.

The eight selected chefs will compete in the Mississippi Seafood Cook-off to be held Thursday, May 7, at 5 p.m. at Jones Park in Gulfport, Miss.