

# Aquaculture Docks

## **Division of Aquaculture**

600 South Calhoun Street, Suite 217  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Tallahassee Office: 850-617-7600

Bartow Office: 863-578-1870

Email: [Aquaculture\\_Web@FreshFromFlorida.com](mailto:Aquaculture_Web@FreshFromFlorida.com)

Website: [FreshFromFlorida.com](http://FreshFromFlorida.com)

Docks or docking space can be hard to find and very costly to rent or build. The state of Florida has recognized the need for docks and docking space by commercial aquaculturists. The process to build or modify an existing dock located over sovereignty submerged lands for aquacultural purposes is outlined in Chapter 18-21.020, Florida Administrative Code. The restrictions in this rule are echoed in Chapter X, Shellfish Culture, Aquaculture Best Management Practices (BMP).

## **Aquaculture Dock**

Aquaculture docks, as defined in rule and BMPs, are limited to activities associated with hatcheries or nurseries and their intake and discharge pipes, the loading and offloading of aquacultural products, and mooring of four or fewer aquaculture related vessels. Construction includes a footprint up to 2,000 square feet, roofs or shade cloth to protect culture systems from sunlight and other adverse weather conditions, and chainlink or similar lattice-like fencing material to prevent depredation and public access. However, enclosures or solid walls of any kind are prohibited.

Aquaculture dock design and construction must have minimal adverse impacts on fish and wildlife habitat. The BMPs include requirements to reduce environmental impacts. Pipe situated to prevent damage to the surrounding habitat by scouring or creating currents which increase sedimentation, scouring, and/or turbidity.

Aquaculture docks used for docking aquacultural vessels must be located in waters deep enough to avoid bottom scouring by vessel operation or by the prop. They must also be located to ensure boat access routes avoid damage to submerged aquatic vegetation or other aquatic resources in the surrounding areas.

## **No Shellfish Processing Allowed on Aquaculture Docks**

An aquaculture dock cannot be used as a site for shellfish processing including washing, tumbling, or sorting activities. For information about becoming a certified shellfish processing facility, please contact the Division of Aquaculture.

## **Applying for an Aquaculture Dock**

To apply for an Aquaculture Dock Letter of Consent, contact the Division of Aquaculture. The application requires information concerning the dock location, aquaculture activities that will be conducted and proposed production techniques and equipment. A detailed site plan, a schematic with dimensions of the dock, and a warranty deed to prove riparian ownership or a rental or lease agreement and warranty deed from the riparian owner are required to complete the application. To apply for an Aquaculture Dock Letter of Consent, contact the Division of Aquaculture. The application can be found at:

[Forms.FreshFromFlorida.com/15138.pdf](http://Forms.FreshFromFlorida.com/15138.pdf)

## **Building Permit**

An Aquaculture Dock Letter of Consent does not supersede other applicable federal or local authorities, such as a building permit issued by municipal or county building code enforcement offices. Please contact your local building code and permitting office for requirements.

