



Restricted Species Aquaculture: Rules and Regulations

600 South Calhoun Street, Suite 217
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300
Tallahassee Office: (850) 617-7600
Bartow Office: (863) 578-1870
Email: Aquaculture_Web@FDACS.gov
Website: www.FDACS.gov

Food fish aquaculture is a growing industry in Florida and farmers have diversified production to many different species. "Restricted species" are animals defined by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) as conditional non-native species, defined in [Rule 68-5.004, F.A.C.](#), and require authorization by FWC or the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Division of Aquaculture, to possess for research, public exhibition or commercial use. Commercial production of restricted species requires an [Aquaculture Certificate of Registration](#), compliance with applicable [Best Management Practices \(BMPs\)](#), as well as a **Restricted Species Authorization letter** issued by the Division for commercial aquaculture businesses only. **Restricted species are not authorized for personal use.**

ADDITIONAL BMPs

Restricted species have additional [BMPs](#) that must be met, including containment, sales, records and documentation. Restricted species cultured outdoors (when permissible) must be held in a water body that has the lowest point of the top edge of its levee, dike, bank or tank at least one foot above the 100-year flood elevation issued by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). There must be effective measures to prevent theft of restricted species, and all holding, transport and culture systems must consist of a solid construction and be designed to prevent escapement of all life stages of the restricted species and deter predator access.

Live sale or transfer of restricted species and their hybrids is limited to those authorized by FDACS or FWC. All records of live restricted species purchases, sales and transfers must be maintained and available for inspection for a period of at least two years.



Blue Tilapia

TILAPIA

A popular finfish is tilapia. Blue tilapia, *Oreochromis aureus*, Nile tilapia, *O. niloticus*, and hybrids of the two species may be possessed, transported and cultured without a special permit in four [FWC designated regions](#): North Central, Northeast, South and Southwest. Mozambique, *O. mossambicus*, Wami tilapia, *O. urolepis*, and hybrids of the two species are designated by FWC as conditional species, requiring a valid [Aquaculture Certificate of Registration](#) and a Restricted Species Authorization letter.

CRAYFISH

Three species of crayfish are listed as restricted/conditional in Florida: Australian red claw (*Cherax quadricarinatus*), red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*) and white river crayfish (*Procambarus zonangulus*). Commercial culture is limited to tanks in an enclosed structure.

Australian red claw is the only species of the genus *Cherax* available for culture in Florida. All other species of the genus *Cherax* are prohibited species in Florida.

BARRAMUNDI

Barramundi (*Lates calcarifer*) is gathering interest throughout the state due to its aquaculture potential. Barramundi is a restricted species throughout Florida. Barramundi must be held in indoor facilities and have a detailed facility plan, including hurricane rated buildings and a timeline must be submitted and approved by the division before any animals may be obtained.



Red Claw Crayfish

BONY-TONGUE FISHES

Some bony-tongued fishes are restricted as well, including Arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*), and may only be possessed with appropriate certification or permitting. The silver arowana (*Osteoglossum bicirrhosum*) is not restricted and may be obtained and kept without any special permitting.

For a full list of restricted (conditional) and prohibited species see [Chapter 68-5, F.A.C.](#)

