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Division of Aquaculture

- The core responsibilities of the Division of Aquaculture are described in Chapter 597, Florida Aquaculture Policy Act, Florida Statutes, and include:
- Developing and enforcing environmental and food safety regulations governing commercial aquaculture production and shellfish (clams, oysters and mussels) harvesting and processing, respectively.
 - Certifying and inspecting shellfish processing plants and classifying and monitoring shellfish harvest areas in accordance with National Shellfish Sanitation Program.
 - Leasing coastal state submerged land for aquacultural purposes.
 - Certifying and inspecting upland commercial aquaculture facilities for compliance with the Aquaculture Best Management Practices Rule.
 - Providing practical and technical assistance concerning regulations, production, financial assistance, or educational programs.

For the open or closed status of Shellfish Harvesting Areas, call:

Apalachicola Shellfish Center	(850) 653-8317
Cedar Key Office	(352) 543-5181
Melbourne Office	(321) 984-4890
Panama City Office	(850) 236-2200
Port Charlotte Office	(941) 613-0954
Tallahassee Office	(850) 617-7600

For Aquaculture Certificate of Registration, Aquaculture Best Management Practices, call:

Bartow Office	(863) 578-1870
Tallahassee Office	(850) 617-7600

For the leasing of submerged state lands and shellfish processing certification information, call:

Tallahassee Office	(850) 617-7600
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Florida Aquaculture

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Aquaculture

USDA Census of Aquaculture Released

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) 2018 Census of Aquaculture was released in December. Highlights from the report include:

- \$1.5 billion total nationwide farmgate sales in 2018 (from 2,932 farms). This is an increase of \$144 million, or 11%, from 2013.
- Food fish and mollusks were the largest product categories, with catfish and oysters as the top commodities for both sales and number of farms.
- Florida ranked 9th overall in total farmgate sales. Florida farms reported \$71.6 million in sales in 2018 from 325 farms. This is a decrease of \$6.3 million, or 8%, from 2013.
- The overall response rate for the 2018 Census of Aquaculture was 84%.

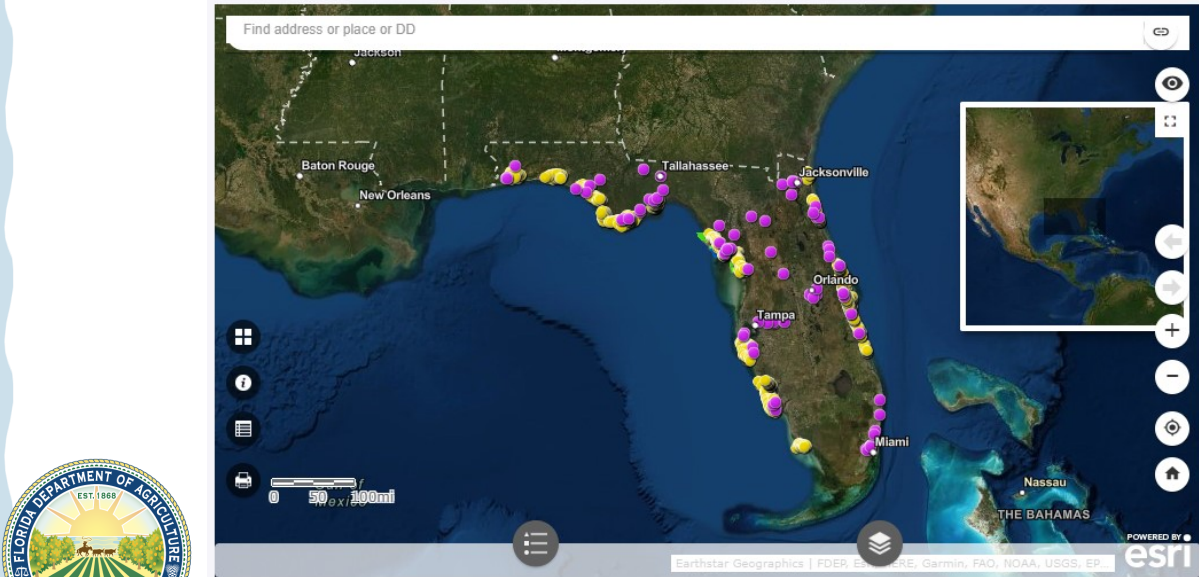
More highlights from the Census can be found online at bit.ly/USDA-AquaCensus-2018-Highlights. For more information or to view the full report, visit bit.ly/USDA-AquaCensus-2018-Guide.

USDA Federal Order to
Prevent Entry of Tilapia Lake Virus

On November 12th, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced a federal order to prevent the entry or introduction of Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) into the U.S. Under the federal order, imported shipments of all live fish, fertilized eggs and gametes from TiLV-susceptible species will require a USDA import permit, official health certificate and veterinary inspection. **The order took effect on December 12th.** All species of commercially important tilapia are susceptible to TiLV. The federal order can be viewed online at bit.ly/USDA-TiLV-Order. For more information contact USDA APHIS, VS Live Animal Imports at VS.Live.Animals.Import.Permits@aphis.usda.gov or by phone at: (301) 851-3300, Option 2.

Interactive Shellfish Harvesting Area and Lease Map

The Division has a new interactive online map for shellfish harvesting areas and lease parcels. The map displays location information for all shellfish harvesting areas, shellfish processing facilities and water quality sampling stations and location and availability information for aquaculture leases. You can view the map from the Division homepage or by going to bit.ly/FDACS-Aqua-SHACLeaseMap.



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Inspector's Corner: Shellfish Aquaculture Tags and Backflow Prevention Devices

BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICES

Backflow prevention devices prevent water from flowing opposite of the normal flow direction. **Back pressure** is created when the downstream pressure exceeds the supply pressure, causing water flow to reverse direction (like a spray nozzle on a hose preventing water flow). **Back siphonage** is created when there is negative pressure or a vacuum in the supply line, caused when water supply stops (like a water main break or when several lines are turned on at the same time).

Which backflow prevention device should you use?

The correct device depends on whether the water pressure is supplied continuously or not. When a hose has a nozzle attached, the pressure is constant.

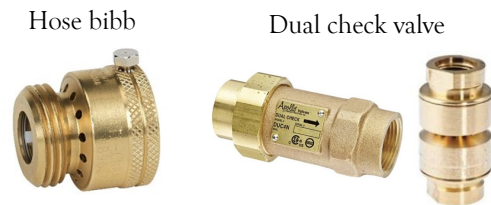
Dual check valves (or double check valves) with an intermediate atmospheric vent are effective for back pressure and back siphonage and are the correct device to use on a water hose using a spray nozzle under constant pressure.

SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE TAGS

Bulk tagging is allowed for aquaculturists operating with a valid Aquaculture Certificate of Registration as long as the lot of shellfish are harvested from the same shellfish harvesting area on the same day. All aquacultured shellfish must be tagged while on the water during harvest and before leaving the harvesting area. Tags must contain the following information (see the example tag below).

- Harvest date, time, shellfish type and quantity
- Leaseholder or authorized user's AQ number (even if an employee of the farm is harvesting or delivering the product)
- Shellfish Harvesting Area number
- Lease (00-AQ-000) or Parcel (X-000) number where the product was harvested
- Certification number of dealer who is receiving the product
- Time and type of refrigeration (if applicable)
- The following statement: "All shellfish containers in this lot have the same date and area of harvest."

A **hose bibb** (or atmospheric vacuum breaker) is only effective for back siphonage and **should not** be used for water hoses using a spray nozzle. Using a hose bibb in this way is not in compliance with the NSSP requirements for the safety of water used for processing shellfish (found in the Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish).



For both devices, the only required maintenance is replacement once every five years. A tag should always be hanging from the device identifying installation date, expiration date or both. Additional information may be found at the FDA website: [bit.ly/FDA-Backflow-Prevention](https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety/modernization/food-safety-modernization-reports/food-safety-modernization-reports-2016).

Wild harvesters are not allowed to use a bulk tag. Saltwater products license numbers (SPL #) can NOT be used on tags for aquaculture product.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Kim Norgren at Kimberly.Norgren@FDACS.gov or (850) 617-7600.

BULK AQUACULTURE TAG
ALL SHELLFISH CONTAINERS IN THIS LOT HAVE THE SAME DATE AND AREA OF HARVEST

AQ # Aquaculture Certificate of Registration # (AQ0000000)

DATE OF HARVEST _____ TIME OF HARVEST _____

Time of Refrigeration, if applicable: Traditional Harvest / Rapid Cool / On-Board Cool

Legal Harvest Area # Shellfish Harvesting Area # (0000)

Lease or Parcel # Lease # (00-AQ-000) or Parcel # (X-000)

Type of Shellfish _____ Quantity of Shellfish _____

Product consigned to certified shellfish processor # _____

THIS TAG IS REQUIRED TO BE ATTACHED UNTIL CONTAINER IS EMPTY OR IS RETAGGED AND THEREAFTER KEPT ON FILE FOR 90 DAYS

ERICA Program Funding Update

The Efficiency and Renewable Improvements in Commercial Aquaculture (ERICA) program in the FDACS Office of Energy provides a 75% cost share reimbursement up to \$30,000 for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements on commercial aquaculture farms. Projects that qualify include HVAC and climate control upgrades, storage refrigeration upgrades, solar heating systems, LED lights and upgrades/retrofits of water pumps, treatment, disinfection and filtration systems.

ERICA has \$452,073 remaining to help offset costs of energy improvements on farms. The program began with just over \$1 million available in funding, has approved \$676,635 to date and has reimbursed 16 applicants. The program will remain open until all funds are used. You can submit more than one application, but only one application is allowed per Federal Tax ID Number (FEIN). For more information or to apply to the ERICA program, visit the FDACS Office of Energy online at bit.ly/FDACS-Energy-ERICA.

Aquaculture Review Council

The Aquaculture Review Council (ARC) held its second quarterly meeting in Tallahassee ahead of the Taste of Florida event on December 10th. There were several guest speakers that gave updates on seafood marketing, the new Florida Energy and Climate Plan and the Efficiency and Renewable Improvements in Commercial Aquaculture (ERICA) program in the FDACS Office of Energy. The Florida Tropical Fish Farms Association (FTFFA) and Florida Aquaculture Association (FAA) also took a moment to pose for a photo with Commissioner Nikki Fried, in front of the tank donated by the FTFFA for the lobby of the Commissioner's Suite in the Capitol building.

The ARC received eight Statements of Interest for the FY 2021-22 funding call, totaling \$650,740 in requests. All projects must address one of the research priorities as determined by the Council. The ARC will discuss the projects for consideration of advancement to full proposals at their next meeting on February 6th in Tampa.



(L to R: Jim Michaels, Pierre LePochat, David Boozer, Commissioner Nikki Fried, John Skidmore, Ryan Schelb)

New York Sea Grant Needs Your Input

New York Sea Grant and the National Aquaculture Association are working on a project to educate culinary instructors about the benefits of purchasing and using U.S. farm-raised seafood products. As part of the project, they are conducting an online survey of U.S. growers. The survey information will help the team better understand the aquaculture industry, promote local products, establish communication between farmers and local restaurants/foodservice groups and keep farmers informed of opportunities to market and promote their products. U.S. seafood (finfish, shellfish and aquatic plants) farmers can complete the survey at bit.ly/2RgiHmE. For questions or more information, please contact Dr. Michael Caramella with New York Sea Grant at (631) 632-8730 or by email at mc2544@cornell.edu.

Reminders for Leaseholders

- Lease rental invoices were mailed November 1, 2019 and payment was due **January 1, 2020**. If you have not received your invoice, please contact Denise Walsh at (850) 617-7600.
- Lease audits were mailed out on January 1, 2020 with a response due by **March 2, 2020**.
- Aquaculture leaseholders are required to complete an Affidavit of Audit that details planting and harvesting activities on each lease. Leaseholders must also submit copies of all seedstock receipts, health certificates and proof of broodstock origin for out of state sourced shellfish for the previous year.
- The audit allows staff to verify whether the leaseholder has satisfied the minimum cultivation requirements.
- **Effective cultivation for clams requires planting a minimum of 100,000 clams per acre per year and oysters require planting a minimum of 70,000 oysters per acre per year.** You can find audit forms online by going to bit.ly/FDACS-Aqua-AuditForms.
- To determine the availability of any lease parcel, visit the Division's parcel availability map online: bit.ly/FDACS-Aqua-SHACLeaseMap.

Marine Debris Dumpster Funding

The Division was awarded funding through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris program to support two shellfish aquaculture debris collection dumpsters in Cedar Key. The support will start February 2020 and run for two years. FDACS staff will document and summarize data on what is collected in the dumpsters over the two-year project. Each dumpster will have a new sign (pictured below) alerting farmers and the public to the project and the importance of responsible aquaculture gear disposal. The project is a collaboration between FDACS, the Cedar Key Aquaculture Association and FWC and is funded by a cooperative agreement with NOAA.

