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Aquaculture_Web@FDACS.gov

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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

Florida Aquaculture

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Aquaculture

Department COVID-19 Resources

The Department is working to connect Florida producers with consumers and businesses to purchase Florida products with a new platform called **Florida Farm to You**. Consumers can view available products near them on an interactive map and producers can add their products and available quantities. Transportation services are also listed. Submit or find products and services by going to: www.FDACS.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Florida-Farm-To-You. Questions should be directed to FLFarmToYou@FDACS.gov.

Additional resources from the Department for consumer safety and protection, businesses and farmers can be found online at www.FDACS.gov/covid19.



COVID-19 Aquaculture Impact Survey

The Virginia Tech Agricultural Research and Extension Center and Ohio State University Extension conducted a survey from March 23rd to April 10th to understand effects of COVID-19 on aquaculture, aquaponics and related industries. **Sales losses reported in the survey ranged from less than \$1,000 to \$5 million.** All results from the survey can be found here: www.AREC.vaes.vt.edu/arec/virginia-seafood/research/Impacts_of_COVID19.html.

Dr. Carole Engle, of Engle-Stone Aquatic\$ LLC, used the survey results to further estimate impacts for the National Aquaculture Association. Dr. Engle estimated the following first quarter impacts to the U.S. aquaculture industry:

- Total sales lost directly from companies: \$452 million to \$592 million
- Impacts on economic output: \$797 million to \$947 million
- Impacts on economic value added: \$834 million to \$1.1 billion
- Direct employment losses: 10,000 to 12,000 jobs
- Other employment impacts: 15,000 to 20,000 jobs

Dr. Engle noted that the inability to sell fish and shellfish in Quarter 1 will have longer term effects on farms — as farmers are either not able to stock next year's crop or, if they do, will likely have reduced growth, greater mortalities and other production problems that result from having to hold large inventories of market-sized product.

National Agriculture Classification Survey

The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is gearing up for the 2022 *Census of Agriculture* and 2023 *Census of Aquaculture* by updating their list of farms and ranches. The National Agricultural Classification Survey is a nationwide effort to identify potential agricultural operations in the U.S. **The results of this survey will help provide the best possible coverage for the 2022 *Census of Agriculture* and 2023 *Census of Aquaculture*.** It is critical that aquaculturists in Florida are included, in order to receive a Census and be represented accurately. By the Division's estimate, **only 36% of farmers responded to USDA surveys in 2005, 2012 and 2018.** This grossly underestimates the value and diversity of the industry

and is a huge disservice to producers. **The data collected by USDA influences decisions, such as available research funding and federal money available after disasters like Hurricane Michael and COVID-19.** Now is your opportunity! Go to www.agcounts.USDA.gov/static/get-counted.html to register your operation in order to be included. **All information is kept confidential by law.** Questions can be directed to Tony Dorn

at Tony.Dorn@USDA.gov or (202) 690-3223. Learn more at www.NASS.USDA.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/NACS/index.php#about.



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FTFFA COOP STORE



7002 E Broadway Ave.
Tampa, FL 33619
Phone: 813-620-2094



E-mail: ftffacoop@gmail.com
www.FTFFACoop.com

FTFFA Co-Op Store Moves to New Location

The Florida Tropical Fish Farms Association (FTFFA), which owns and operates the FTFFA Co-Op Store, has moved into a new building they purchased in December 2019. The Co-Op Store is now serving farmers and others from a 10,000 sq. ft. building located at [7002 East Broadway Ave., Tampa, FL 33619](#).

The FTFFA Co-Op Store sells a wide range of fish farm equipment and supplies to aquatic producers, wholesalers and retailers such as fish feed, medications, farm equipment and other items used in the production and care of aquarium fish. The new store phone number is (813) 620-2094 and website is FTFFAcoop.com. Online ordering and delivery are available.

Retail Sales of Farmed Shellfish

During this difficult time, alternative direct to consumer sales may be an option for sustaining revenue for your shellfish farm, however, it is critical that appropriate rules be followed. **All farmed shellfish must be received and processed by a certified shellfish processing facility.** Once processed and re-tagged with a processor tag (listing the Aquaculture Certificate of Registration and processing facility numbers), aquaculturists can buy back their shellfish and sell directly to retail establishments, such as seafood markets and restaurants, and to individual consumers. If selling product out-of-state, you should contact appropriate agencies in those states to verify any licensing and rule requirements. **If you plan to sell farmed shellfish in Florida by setting up a tent, road-side stand, catering business, food truck, farmers market booth or other similar outlet, additional licenses/permits are required.**

Please find contacts and additional information in our publication here: bit.ly/FDACS-Aquaculture-ShellfishRetailSales. Contact the Division if you have any questions regarding retail sale of farmed shellfish.

Shellfish Harvester Education Training Course

The Shellfish Harvester Education Training Course is an annual requirement for holders of an Aquaculture Certificate of Registration, Apalachicola Bay Oyster Harvester's License and Saltwater Products License (SPL) with a shellfish endorsement. **No SPL license with a shellfish endorsement or Aquaculture Certificate of Registration (listing shellfish) will be issued without proof of annual training.**

The Shellfish Harvester Education Training can be taken online for the 2020-2021 certificate year at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's website: <https://learningmyfwc.remote-learner.net/>.

Individuals needing assistance or additional information should contact the Division's Apalachicola office at (850) 653-8317.

Aquaculture Certificate of Registration Renewals due June 30

All Aquaculture Certificates of Registration will expire on June 30. Renewal packages, including a preprinted application and notice of \$100 fee, were mailed on April 30th. Applications should be reviewed for correct information, updated as necessary, then signed and dated for return. **Any applicant working with shellfish must complete the Shellfish Harvester Education Training** for 2020-2021, available starting April 1st, and submit a printed copy of their completion certificate along with the application.

Applications and fees must be returned to the Department by June 30 to avoid a lapse in certification. They may be submitted via mail to: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) at P.O. Box 6710 Tallahassee, FL 32314-6710 with a check or money order made payable to FDACS. Renewal applicants may submit their application, Shellfish Harvester Education Training certificate (if applicable) and payment online at www.FDACS.gov/Pay-Register-Online.

Online renewals must include a signed application as well as a Shellfish Harvester Education Training Certificate (if applicable) for all persons listed on the application and/or Authorized User Agreement forms (if applicable) as **one single attachment**.



COVID-19 Economic Assistance Programs For Aquaculture

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is currently offering two economic assistance programs applicable to certified aquaculture farms. Additional funding was appropriated from Congress to both of these programs on April 27th. Sole proprietorship businesses (farms with only a single employee/owner) are eligible for both programs, and either IRS Form 1040 Schedule F or Schedule C can be used for applications. The Paycheck Protection Program is offered through any existing SBA 7(a) lender and participating federally-insured banks, credit unions and Farm Credit System institutions. Consult with your local lender as to whether it is participating in the program. To contact your local SBA office, visit www.SBA.gov/local-assistance.

	Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)	Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)
Administrator	U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)	Participating SBA-Approved Financial Institutions
Amount of Loan	- EIDL Emergency Advance up to \$10,000 - EIDL Loan up to \$2 million	- Lesser of \$10 million or 2.5 times average monthly payroll costs incurred during the past 12 months. - Calculations for seasonal and new business can vary
Interest Rate	For-Profit Business 3.75%; Non-Profit 2.75%	1%
Term/ Maturity	Up to 30 years	2 years, with maximum of 10 years
Payment Deferral	Up to 12 months (deferment interest accrues)	6 to 12 months (deferment interest accrues)
Prepayment	Prepayment is eligible	Prepayment is eligible
Eligibility	- Aquaculture businesses in Florida, including sole proprietors - Independent contractors - Must have been in business on Jan 31, 2020 - Private nonprofit organizations - Small agricultural cooperatives - Tribal small business concerns - Less than 500 employees	- Aquaculture businesses in Florida, including sole proprietors - Independent contractors and self-employed individuals - Must have been in operation on Feb 15, 2020 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations 501 (c)(19) veterans organizations - Tribal small business concerns - Less than 500 employees
Usage	Economic injury because of COVID-19; Can be used for fixed debts, payroll and related benefits, accounts payable and other expenses that cannot be paid	Intended to retain workers and maintain payroll; Can be used for payroll and related benefits, mortgage interest, rents and utilities
Collateral	If available, collateral will be taken on loans greater than \$25,000	No collateral from business or its owners
Loan forgiveness	EIDL Emergency Advance (up to \$10,000) does not have to be repaid.	Forgiven if used within 8 weeks for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities, with at least 75% of the loan amount used for payroll . Reduced by any amount received in an EIDL Advance. Reduced if number of full-time employees declines, or if salaries and wages decrease.
Guarantees	Waives requirement of personal guarantees on loans less than \$200,000	None required
Can I Apply Now?	Application process and loans are available now: https://covid19relief.SBA.gov/#/	Participating lenders are accepting applications. Contact your regional financial institutions. You can find a lender here: www.SBA.gov/paycheckprotection/find
For More Information	For more information about the EIDL Loan see: www.SBA.gov/page/disaster-loan-applications For more information about the EIDL Emergency Advance see: www.SBA.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/economic-injury-disaster-loan-emergency-advance	For more information about PPP see: www.SBA.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program Download a loan forgiveness application here: www.SBA.gov/document/sba-form-paycheck-protection-program-loan-forgiveness-application

Note: This table is for informational purposes only. These programs are subject to change and all information should be verified with the appropriate entity before applying for assistance. The Department does not accept applications for or administer these programs and makes no guarantees about any loan program eligibility, loan forgiveness or availability of funds.