

FLORIDA AQUACULTURE

Greatest Diversity in the Nation



OVERVIEW

With over **1,000 certified aquaculture farms** producing an estimated **1,500 varieties** of aquatic animals, Florida's aquaculture industry produces the greatest variety of aquatic species of any state in the nation. Aquaculture products are used for food for people and other animals, at-home and public aquaria, wild population conservation, recreational fishing and even clothing, just to name a few!

COMMON AQUACULTURE SYSTEMS

SHELLFISH FARMS - Shellfish farms are an example of minimally controlled, or **extensive**, aquaculture because farmers have little control over the growth and survival of their product once it is in the open ocean. Clams are grown on the bottom in mesh bags, while oysters are grown at the surface in floating cages. Common shellfish farm species include clams and oysters.



TANKS - Tanks are an example of highly controlled, or **intensive**, aquaculture because farmers carefully regulate conditions like density, water quality and feeding. Tanks can produce a lot of fish in a highly efficient manner. Common tank species include tilapia, sturgeon, marine ornamentals, and shrimp.

PONDS - Ponds are a mix of **intensive** and **extensive** aquaculture. While the farmer has little control over the effects of weather, farmers can still control feeding and water quality. In Florida, tropical fish farms often have dozens of small ponds which produce colorful freshwater fish for pet stores. Common pond species include guppies, angelfish, turtles, grass carp, catfish and bluegill.



COMMON AQUACULTURE SPECIES



followfreshfromflorida.com

www.FDACS.gov/Education/Aquaculture-Educator-Resources