



Aquaculture Administrative Fees and Deadlines

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

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) is the lead regulatory agency for aquaculture in the state of Florida. This fact sheet is an overview of the regulatory process and administrative deadlines for the Aquaculture Certification and Best Management Practices (BMP) program, the Processing Plant Compliance and Inspection program, and the Submerged Land Leasing program and provides program contact information. Please note that the commercial and recreational harvest of **wild** fish and wildlife is regulated by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

AQUACULTURE CERTIFICATION AND BMP PROGRAM

The Aquaculture Certificate of Registration is required when producing aquatic species for commercial sale and entitles holders to the same benefits bestowed on other agricultural producers, including tax benefits. Please visit the Division's [Aquaculture Certificate of Registration webpage](#) for more information, on the processes and benefits. To apply, visit the [Aquaculture Portal](#). Program requirements, specific timelines and relevant contact information can be found below:

Activity	Cost	Due Date
Aquaculture Certificate of Registration Application	\$100	On a rolling basis
Renewal of Aquaculture Certificate of Registration Application ¹	\$100	June 30 of each year
Shellfish Harvester Education Training ²	N/A	June 30 of each year
Site Inspections ³	N/A	Conducted by Division staff throughout the year

¹Renewal packets are mailed approximately 60 days prior to the expiration date to all active Aquaculture Certificate of Registration holders. The registrant must submit a completed renewal application and associated fee by June 30 via mail or online. Renewals are due annually, and are valid from July 1, or date of issuance, through June 30 each fiscal year. Late Notices are issued in July. Certificates are set inactive 30 days after the issuance of a Late Notice if proper documentation and required items are not received by FDACS.

²Annually, all shellfish producers must include a current copy of the Shellfish Harvester Education Training Certificate for each person listed on the application. The training can be found online at: <https://myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/commercial/shellfish/>. Training is reset on April 1 for the new fiscal year.

³Site Inspections are conducted by Division inspectors a minimum of once a year to ensure compliance with [BMPs](#).

◀ Certificate Program Contacts ▶

- ◆ Aquaculture Certificate of Registration Applications, Fees, Certificate Changes, Administrative - Ruth.Willenbrink@FDACS.gov
- ◆ Application Review, Site Visit Reviews, Program Questions - Serina.Rocco@FDACS.gov
- ◆ Site Inspections, General Aquaculture, Restricted Species - Sarah.Grosmaire@FDACS.gov

PROCESSING PLANT COMPLIANCE AND INSPECTION PROGRAM

All shellfish processing facilities are regulated through the Division of Aquaculture's Processing Plant Compliance and Inspection Program (PPCIP). The chart on the right notes required documentation and timelines for completion. No fees are required for shellfish processing applications, renewals or inspections.

For more information, refer to the Division's [Aquaculture Shellfish Processing: Rules and Regulations](#) and [Shellfish Processing Facility Certification Application](#) publications, reach out to the contacts below, or email Aqua_PPCIP@FDACS.gov.

Activity	Due Date
Shellfish Processing Application	On a rolling basis
Renewal of Shellfish Processing Certification	June 30 of each year
Inspections	Conducted quarterly by Division staff

◀ Shellfish Processing Program Contacts ▶

- ◆ Applications, Administrative, Program Questions, Interstate Certified Shellfish Shippers List (ICSSL) Updates, Healthspace Updates - Jill.Canfield@FDACS.gov
- ◆ Applications, Administrative, ICSSL Updates, Healthspace Updates, Inspections, Application Questions, Program Questions - Jesse.Fields@FDACS.gov



AQUACULTURE SUBMERGED LAND LEASING PROGRAM

There are 26 Aquaculture Use Zones (AUZs) in 10 coastal counties and numerous individual parcels in state waters. The Division of Aquaculture facilitates the application, review and approval process for leasing sovereignty submerged lands for the culture of native marine organisms. For additional information about the leasing program, to view parcel availability maps and download an application form, visit the [Aquaculture Submerged Land Leasing](#) webpage or refer to the following Division publications: [Shellfish Aquaculture: Lease Management](#) and [Shellfish Aquaculture: Leasing Process](#). Applicants may select an existing available parcel or nominate a new site for leasing. The necessary requirements, costs and deadlines are listed below:

Activity	Cost	Due Date
Lease Application Fee ¹	\$200	On a rolling basis
Lease Transfer Fee	\$50	Submitted with the Lease Transfer Agreement
Annual Lease Rental Fee	<i>Bottom Lease:</i> \$16.73 per acre or fraction thereof + \$10 surcharge per acre or fraction	January 1 of each year
	<i>Water Column Lease:</i> \$33.46 per acre or fraction thereof + \$10 surcharge per acre or fraction	
Audits ²	N/A	March 1 of each year
Lease Renewal ³	N/A	10 years from date of lease execution
Onsite Lease Inspections ⁴	N/A	Conducted by Division staff throughout the year

¹Must also possess and maintain or submit an application for a valid [Aquaculture Certificate of Registration](#) throughout lease term.

²Effective cultivation requirements include planting a minimum of 70,000 oysters/acre/year and/or planting a minimum of 100,000 clams/acre/year. Fillable shellfish audit forms are available [online](#).

³Lease cannot be subleased, reassigned or transferred during the first five years from the initial lease execution date.

⁴Onsite Lease Inspections are conducted by Division inspectors to ensure compliance with the [BMPs](#) and lease terms.

Cancellations are based upon, but not limited to, non-adherence to the requirements of the lease agreement, i.e., non-payment of rental fees, failure to effectively cultivate the lease, failure to maintain a current Aquaculture Certificate of Registration or failure to comply with [marker](#) and [gear](#) requirements.

◀ Leasing Program Contacts ▶

- ◆ Lease Fees, Audits, Execution of Leases, Cancellations and Transfers - Tara.Estep@FDACS.gov
- ◆ Lease Marker Photographs, Lease Gear Photographs and Inspection Paperwork - Candy.Mixon@FDACS.gov
- ◆ Lease Application Review, New Site Nominations, Lease Inspections and Resource Assessments - Carrie.Jones@FDACS.gov

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FOLLOWING, PLEASE CONTACT FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

Saltwater Products License (SPL)	(850) 487-3122
Shellfish Recreational Harvest	(850) 488-4676
Freshwater Fish Dealer License	(850) 488-3641

