

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES DIVISION OF AQUACULTURE

Aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms in water. The Division of Aquaculture regulates all aspects of Florida's aquaculture industry. The industry includes over 1,500 species or varieties of fish, aquatic plants, shellfish, crustaceans, aquatic reptiles and invertebrates. Aquaculture products have many uses, such as food for people and other animals, at-home and public aquaria, wild population conservation, recreational fishing and even clothing or accessories.

Mission: To promote the sustainable development of the aquaculture industry while safeguarding public health and conserving Florida's natural resources.

Shellfish Harvesting Area Classification Program

This program collects water and shellfish samples from shellfish harvesting areas for analysis at our labs in Apalachicola and Kissimmee. This monitoring helps ensure harvested shellfish are safe for human consumption, while also allowing for the most efficient utilization of shellfish resources.



Submerged Land Leasing Program

This program manages the leasing of state sovereign submerged lands for aquaculture use. The leasing program oversees the completion of contracts, surveys, payments, invoices, audits and inspections.



Certification and Best Management Practices (BMP) Program

This program regulates aquaculture facilities in Florida. Staff conduct regular inspections to ensure facilities are complying with Aquaculture Best Management Practices (BMPs).



Processing Plant Compliance and Inspection Program

This program is responsible for regulating and inspecting certified shellfish processing facilities throughout the state of Florida, to safeguard public health.



Education and Development Project

The goal is to inform people about aquaculture and the important role it plays in food systems, ecosystems and local economies. Staff promote Florida's aquaculture industry to all ages, from children to adults.

