



Aquaculture Docks

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Introduction

Aquaculture-dependent docks are docks used exclusively for aquaculture purposes or private single-family residential docks with dual aquaculture and recreational use by the adjacent upland resident.



Docks larger than 2,000 square feet, or moor more than 4 aquaculture vessels may require an [Aquaculture Submerged Lands Lease](#). Docks which cannot meet or follow all applicable BMPs must obtain an [Environmental Resource Permit](#) from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Aquaculture dock design and construction must minimize environmental and aesthetic impacts. Discharge pipes must be situated to prevent damage to the surrounding habitat from scouring or creating currents which increase sedimentation, scouring and/or turbidity.



Aquaculture docks used for docking aquaculture vessels must be located in waters deep enough to avoid bottom scouring by vessel operation or by the propeller. They must also be located to ensure boat access routes avoid damage to submerged aquatic vegetation or other aquatic resources in the surrounding areas.

The process to build or modify an existing dock located over sovereignty submerged lands for aquacultural purposes is outlined in [Rule 18-21.020, Florida Administrative Code](#). The restrictions in this rule are echoed in Chapter V: Construction, in the [Aquaculture Best Management Practices \(BMPs\)](#).

Design and Construction

To qualify for a Letter of Consent, docks must be less than or equal to 2,000 square feet total surface area, moor 4 or fewer aquaculture vessels, must be associated with a certified aquaculture facility or activity and must comply with all applicable BMPs.

No Shellfish Processing Allowed on Aquaculture Docks

An aquaculture dock cannot be used as a site for shellfish processing including washing, tumbling, or sorting activities unless certified as a shellfish processing facility. Visit the [Shellfish Processing Facility Certificate](#) webpage for more information on becoming a certified shellfish processing facility.

Applying for a Letter of Consent

If the aquaculture dock is less than 2,000 square feet located over sovereignty submerged lands, you must submit a Letter of Consent [application](#). This application requires information concerning the dock location, aquaculture activities that will be conducted and proposed production techniques and equipment. Include a detailed site plan, a schematic with dimensions of the dock, and a warranty deed to prove riparian ownership. If you do not possess riparian rights, provide a rental or lease agreement and warranty deed from the riparian owner.

Additional Building Permits

A Letter of Consent does not supersede other applicable federal or local authorities, such as permitting requirements of the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#) or local county building code enforcement offices. Please contact your local building code and permitting office for requirements.

