



Penaeid Shrimp Aquaculture: Rules and Regulations

600 South Calhoun Street, Suite 217
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300
Tallahassee Office: (850) 617-7600
Bartow Office: (863) 578-1870
Email: Aquaculture_Certificate@FDACS.gov
Website: www.FDACS.gov

Multiple species of penaeid shrimp are cultured in Florida, such as white shrimp (*Litopenaeus setiferus*), pink shrimp (*Farfantepenaeus duorarum*) and Pacific whiteleg shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*). In 2023, farm gate sales for shrimp totaled \$21.8 million, representing approximately 12% of aquaculture products grown in Florida for human consumption ([USDA NASS 2023](#)).



Penaeid Shrimp Broodstock

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Division of Aquaculture regulates the commercial production of all aquaculture commodities in Florida. As penaeid shrimp aquaculture technology is in a process of continual evaluation and improvement, the following rules and regulations are intended to help producers set high standards and maintain environmental compatibility.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

If you are interested in culturing penaeid shrimp for commercial use, you must apply for an [Aquaculture Certificate of Registration](#) and comply with [Aquaculture Best Management Practices](#) (BMPs). A facility plan must be submitted and approved prior to the issuance of an Aquaculture Certificate of Registration.

If you plan to process and sell your products for human consumption, you must obtain a Food Establishment Permit from FDACS. More information can be found at [Retail Food Establishment Permit](#).

CONTAINMENT

All holding, transport, and culture systems must be designed, operated and maintained to ensure the following conditions are met:

- Prevent the escape of all life stages of cultured aquatic species.
- Prevent native species or other wildlife from entering the aquaculture production systems and interacting with domesticated animals.

Also, details of any escape of cultured penaeid shrimp from a certified facility into waters of the State **must be reported to FDACS within 24 hours**.

EFFLUENT TREATMENT

Off site discharge to surface waters of the state must follow these treatment practices:

- Discharge of effluents from marine shrimp production facilities must comply with the [BMPs](#) stated in Section IV, subsection E, Water Resources, Effluent Treatment.
- Penaeid shrimp production facilities must place screens with mesh sizes sufficient to prevent escape of all life stages of cultured shrimp at all discharge control points.

- Saline water shall not be discharged to freshwater environments.
- All production water must be contained, chlorinated and otherwise sanitized prior to discharge in the event of an outbreak of any notifiable or reportable pathogen as determined by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Veterinary Services (USDA APHIS VS), or the State Veterinarian.



Shrimp Pond Aerator

HELPFUL LINKS:

[Crustaceans](#)

[Aquaculture Best Management Practices](#)

[University of Florida Institute for Agricultural Science's Aquaculture](#)



SHIPPING AND RECEIVING

All live penaeid shrimp, regardless of life stage, received by a certified Florida aquaculture facility must be accompanied by diagnostic results from an accredited laboratory and a signed Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) from a licensed and accredited veterinarian.

OCVIs and diagnostic results must be provided to FDACS, Division of Aquaculture via email at Aquaculture_Health@FDACS.gov for approval prior to shipment of organisms. Native shrimp obtained for broodstock must be isolated from the remaining stocks in the hatchery until their status is verified.



Harvest-size Penaeid Shrimp

DISEASE NOTIFICATION

Certified aquaculturists and/or their aquatic animal health professional will notify the FDACS Division of Animal Industry, State Veterinarian's Office, at (850) 410-0900, or after hours at 1-800-342-5869, or by email at RAD@FDACS.gov in the event of a suspected or confirmed finding of any notifiable or reportable pathogen as determined by WOA, USDA APHIS VS, or the State Veterinarian.

Reporting must be done within 24 hours of the suspicion of disease.

OCVI

An OCVI is a legible certificate made on an official form from the animal's state of origin, issued and signed by veterinarians licensed and accredited in the animal's state of origin for the purpose of certifying the test requirements and health status of specific animals for movement. **An OCVI is valid for 30 days following issuance by the veterinarian.**

For intrastate shipments, the Florida OCVI form can be ordered from the FDACS, [Division of Animal Industry](#), State Veterinarian's Office by contacting the Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at (321) 697-1400 or via email at DiagLab@FDACS.gov.



Post-larval Penaeid Shrimp

SALES

The sale of live, nonnative penaeid shrimp for use as bait is prohibited. The sale of live, nonnative penaeid shrimp must be accompanied with a written statement informing the purchaser that selling or using live, nonnative penaeid shrimp as bait is prohibited and the release of nonnative species is prohibited by [Rule 68-5.003, F.A.C.](#)

DIAGNOSTIC RESULTS

Diagnostic results must identify the type of test performed, test results, and the dates of such testing for any notifiable or reportable pathogen for penaeid shrimp as determined by WOA (founded as OIE), USDA APHIS VS, or the State Veterinarian. **Results are valid for 30 days following issuance.**

For more information about notifiable diseases visit:

[USDA APHIS](#)

[WOAH](#)

HEALTH RECORDS

Health records, such as OCVIs, diagnostic results or USDA import ([VS17-129](#)) or health ([APHIS 7001](#)) permits, for all aquatic organisms imported from outside of Florida must be retained for **at least two years** by certified aquaculturists and these records must be available for inspection by the FDACS, Division of Aquaculture upon request.

Health records shall include:

- Aquaculture Certificate of Registration Number;
- Name and Address of consignor;
- Name and Address of consignee;
- Date of Shipment;
- Date of Entry/Receipt;
- Species;
- Total number of aquatic animals by species;
- Recent diagnostic test results performed to the group of aquatic organisms;
- Copies of approvals received from FDACS for shrimp received at the facility.

