FLORIDA AQUACULTURE

GREATEST DIVERSITY IN THE NATION

OVERVIEW

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

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, ornamentals and shrimp.

PONDS - Ponds are a mix of intensive and extensive aquaculture. While farmers have 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 ornamental and food pond species include guppies, angelfish, turtles, catfish and shrimp.

COMMON AQUACULTURE SPECIES

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