

CHARLES H. BRONSON  
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

# FLORIDA AQUACULTURE

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## APALACHICOLA BOAT RAMP DEDICATED



Commissioner Charles H. Bronson joined Apalachicola seafood producers and processors, County Commissioners, Representative Will Kendrick, and Florida Seafood Queen Sara Ward to dedicate a new boat ramp located at Two Mile.

Commissioner Bronson commented, "I am pleased

that the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services could assist by providing funds for the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners to construct the new boat ramp. Many of the 1,139 oyster fishermen and 20 oyster processing facilities licensed by the Department will directly benefit from this facility."

Construction of the new boat ramp began in early August in time to be completed before the opening of the winter oyster harvesting season on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Apalachicola Bay produces over 90% of Florida's oysters.

## FLORIDA AQUACULTURE PLAN 2008-09 AVAILABLE

The Aquaculture Review Council revised the *Florida Aquaculture Plan* as required by the Florida Aquaculture Policy Act.

The *Plan* ensures effective communication between the Governor, Legislature, public, producers, and agencies about the status and needs of Florida aquaculture. The *Plan* describes aquacultural priorities and identifies mechanisms for

increasing production. Funds designated by the Legislature for aquaculture research and development must be used to address the projects and activities designated in the *Plan*.

Aquaculture Review Council Chair Brad McLane provided the *Plan* to the Commissioner of Agriculture and chairs of the Florida Senate and House Agriculture Committees.

Mr. McLane noted, "We are very appreciative of Florida's history of investing public funds to support Florida aquaculture. Public investment has been and is critical to our continued success."

The Plan can be read or downloaded from <http://www.FloridaAquaculture.com/pub.htm>.



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## WINTER WEATHER PREDICTION: COLD!

Severe freezes are three times more likely to occur in Florida this winter because of Neutral conditions in the Pacific.

After a winter and spring with central and eastern Pacific Ocean temperatures along the equator colder than normal, a condition known as La Niña, the Pacific has now returned to near normal. Near normal sea surface temperatures in

this area of the Pacific are known as Neutral conditions.

Neutral conditions are likely to continue through the remainder of 2008 and possibly into 2009.

The Florida Climate Center provides a simple "rule of thumb" to predict the severity of approaching cold fronts.

If the high pressure center dips south of Dallas, Texas,

there is a good chance Florida will experience freezing temperatures. If the high remains north of Dallas, Florida is probably safe.

Remember this is a rule of thumb and you should monitor the official National Weather Service forecasts or visit AgroClimate: A Service of the Southeast Climate Consortium on the Web at: <http://agroclimate.org/>.

## OPERATION CLEANSWEEP: STATEWIDE PESTICIDE PICKUP

Operation Cleansweep is a mobile pesticide collection program that provides a safe way to dispose of cancelled, suspended, or unusable pesticides at no-cost. Pesticide dealers can participate for a fee.

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is collecting names, addresses

and pesticide quantities and types from participants and verifying this information. When a sufficient quantity of product is identified for an area, a contractor will visit each location for pickup.

Visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/cleansweep-pesticides/> and download a

Contact Information Sheet. Fax or email the information sheet to [cleansweep@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:cleansweep@doacs.state.fl.us). The deadline for requesting pickup is December 15, 2008.

For additional information or to receive a Contact Information Sheet call, toll-free, 877-851-5285.

## FLORIDA AQUATIC NURSERIES, INC. WINS THREE AWARDS

The McLane family celebrated winning the International Water Lily & Water Gardening Society's 2008 Water Lilies Competition with First and Second place in the hybridized tropical water lily category.

The farm also won First Place with People's Choice Award from the Sarah P. Duke Garden at Duke University where the competition was held.



Owned and operated by a third generation aquatic plant farming family, Florida

Aquatic Nurseries, Inc. was hard hit by the 2004-05 hurricanes but has recovered through the combined efforts of the family and their loyal employees.

Full-color images of these beautiful flowers can be viewed on-line at: <http://www.iwgs.org/>.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
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CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES

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### Turtles Wanted!



Increasing Asian demand for live freshwater turtles and a pending rule change by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission that limits wild harvest may make freshwater turtles grown on Florida farms a bit more valuable.

Florida aquaculturists that possess an Aquaculture Certificate of Registration can sell freshwater turtles cultured on their farm. Florida has 34 turtle farms that are certified by the Division and they maybe interested in buying freshwater turtles for additional grow-out. The turtles must be accompanied by a bill of sale, bill of lading, or receipt that includes the seller's Aquaculture Certificate of Registration number (AQ#).

Contact Portia Sapp, [gotwalp@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:gotwalp@doacs.state.fl.us) or 863-519-8459, or Paul Zajicek, [zajicep@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:zajicep@doacs.state.fl.us) or 850-488-4033, for a list of turtle farms and additional information.

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