

FLORIDA AQUACULTURE

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HARD CLAM IMPACT ESTIMATED AT \$50M

BY CHUCK ADAMS, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Preliminary economic survey findings are that during 2007 approximately 185 million cultured hard clams were purchased by Florida wholesale dealers, producing grower revenues of \$19 million and a total economic impact of \$50 million.

The growing and marketing of farm-raised hard clams to wholesale dealers, restaurants, food service buyers, retail seafood shops, and direct to consumers in and outside of Florida created a total impact that includes \$30.1 million in value added revenue, \$25.1 million in labor income, \$3.7 million in property income

(rents, royalties, interest, dividends, and corporate profits), \$1.3 million in indirect business taxes, and 563 jobs (full and part-time).

A 2000 economic study estimated the overall impact of hard clam culture to the Florida economy was approximately \$34 million during 1999. This impact was generated by the sale of 143 million market ready clams, representing \$16 million in grower sales.

The 2007 study, requested by the Statewide Clam Industry Task Force, surveyed Florida wholesale shellfish dealers who handled Florida cultured hard clams. Infor-

mation was gathered on the total number of clams purchased and sold, sources of clams, destination of clams sold, buyer type, and price received.

Of 52 wholesale dealer's contacted, 42 responded yielding an 80% response rate. These firms represented the majority of the cultured hard clams produced by Florida growers.

A final report will soon be available from the University of Florida. The report will contain more detail than presented in this brief summary. For more information, contact Chuck Adams at cmadams@ufl.edu.

FFA OFFICERS TOUR DIVISION OF AQUACULTURE



Future Farmers of America officers visited the Division of Aquaculture's Apalachicola Shellfish Laboratory and Alligator Harbor to learn about the Division's

responsibilities that include shellfish harvesting, aquaculture leasing, water classification, and aquaculture Best Management Practice programs.

FFA officers from left to right are: Will Leonard, Blountstown; Jordan Fairfield, Sebring; Adrienne Boyette, Live Oak; Carly Barnes, Marianna; Marshal Sewell, Plant City; Andy Mason, Lake Gibson; Chanse Huggins, Plant City; David Swartzfager, Wildwood; and Darica Land, DACS.

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FWC'S RICHLOAM WORKING ON CRUCIAL AQUACULTURE DRUGS BY RICK STOUT, RICHLOAM FISH HATCHERY

"RICHLOAM HAS CONDUCTED EIGHT FIELD EFFICACY STUDIES ON WARMWATER SPECIES"

For the past two years the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Richloam Fish Hatchery and Florida Bass Conservation Center have participated in a number of Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) approval programs to assist the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (<http://www.fws.gov/fishes/aadap/>). The AADAP is a multi-partner effort to obtain U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for drugs, chemicals, and therapeutics needed in aquaculture and fisheries management programs.

The INAD program allows hatcheries to utilize therapeutic drugs that are not currently labeled for food fish production. Once a disease outbreak is confirmed, AADAP is notified and a treatment regime is created and sent to AADAP for approval before treatment may begin. This program gener-

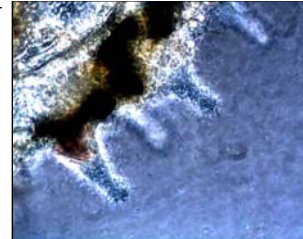
ates supportive data which is used to help gain approval status for a drug. Richloam is currently participating in four INAD's involving drugs to control external columnaris bacterium (*Flavobacterium columnare*) on largemouth bass, channel catfish and bluegill. The drugs evaluated included Perox-Aid (hydrogen peroxide), Halamid (chloramine-T), Reward (Diquat), and Aquaflor (Florfenicol). Richloam also participated in a single INAD for the marking agent SE-MARK (Calcein) as a new chemical to mark bony structures in fish.

Richloam is further involved in the drug approval process by conducting pivotal studies. A pivotal study is a strict field efficacy study followed by a written protocol developed

by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To date, Richloam has conducted eight field efficacy studies on warmwater species. Largemouth bass were used in three chloramine-T studies, two hydrogen peroxide studies, and one Florfenicol study. Bluegill were

used in one hydrogen peroxide and one chloramine-T study. After completion, each field trial is rigorously reviewed and only if all criteria are satisfied does the trial gain pivotal status. The pivotal studies are crucial to achieving final approval to label the drug for use on food fish.

For questions concerning drug trials at Richloam please contact Michael Matthews at Michael.Matthews@myfwc.com.



Active columnaris infection on largemouth bass

FLORIDA AQUACULTURE LOOSES DEDICATED CLAM FARMER

Daniel R. Leonard died Sept. 22nd while traveling back from Louisiana. Dan owned and operated Bull Bay Clam Farm in Charlotte Harbor. He obtained the first aquaculture lease in Southwest Florida in 1993 and supervised Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute's shellfish aquaculture training program that yielded many Southwest Florida clam farmers and

benefited fishers effected by the Constitutional Amendment eliminating gill net fishing.

As an active supporter of Florida aquaculture, Dan served in a representative capacity on the Statewide Clam Industry Task Force, Florida Aquaculture Association, Lee-Charlotte County



USDA Farm Services Advisory Committee, and the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference. Dan represented Florida on the American Farm Bureau Aquaculture's Advisory Committee and was the past chairman of the Florida Farm Bureau's Aquaculture Advisory Committee.

FRANKLIN CO. SIXTH GRADER NAMES *OYSTERHOG*

The Division of Aquaculture entered into a contract with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission to restore oyster resources and fisheries directly



Joe Shields presenting Ashley Butler with model *Oysterhog*.

impacted by the 2005 hurricanes along Florida's north-west coast (Santa Rosa, Bay and Franklin counties). To

complete the project the Division needs a new flat-deck barge.

A name the barge essay contest was organized for the sixth graders of Franklin County.

Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner of Agriculture personally read all of the essays and was very impressed with the imaginative

names as well as the interesting and informative essays. It was extremely difficult for him to make a choice; however, Commissioner Bronson chose the name *Oysterhog* submitted by sixth grader, Ashley Butler.

For her efforts, Ashley received a model of the *Oysterhog* with the winning name painted on its side.

FDA LAUNCHES ANIMAL DRUG WEB-ACCESS DATABASE

The FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) has made available a new database of approved animal drugs. The database, called "Animal Drugs @ FDA" is a publicly-accessible web-based application.

Users can search for detailed descriptions of all FDA-approved new animal drugs. Users can conduct simple word searches or more complex searches through the following eight specific search criteria: NADA/ANADA,

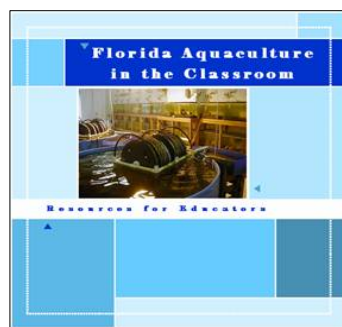
Sponsor, Ingredients, Proprietary, Dose Form, Route, Species, and Indication.

Visit <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/AnimalDrugsAtFDA/> and give it a try.

AQUACULTURE EDUCATION CD AVAILABLE

Recently, the Division of Aquaculture released a new compact disc (CD) entitled *Florida Aquaculture in the Classroom: Resources for Educators*. Copies of the CD were sent to agri-science and Future Farmers of America educators throughout the state, providing an additional resource for agricultural education programs.

The CD, partially funded by Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, includes a variety of informative PowerPoint presentations. Teachers and



students can view a general introduction to aquaculture or presentations on the different food fish, ornamental fish, shellfish, and reptile production techniques. Students can also explore a variety of aqua-

culture career opportunities as well as access a printable guide to aquaculture education in Florida. Teachers are provided ideas on how to incorporate aquaculture into their classrooms, along with the links to lesson plans, curriculum guides and other online resources.

If you have any questions about Florida aquaculture, or if you would like to provide feedback on the *Florida Aquaculture in the Classroom* CD, please contact Kim Norgren at norgrek@doacs.state.fl.us.

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