

# FLORIDA AQUACULTURE

ISSUE NO. 70      JUNE 2009

## FLORIDA BUDGET AQUACULTURE FRIENDLY

Under fiscal constraints unfamiliar to State government, the Florida Legislature reduced the State's 2009-10 fiscal year operating budget for the third time in as many years and raised various fees. Despite a downturn in general revenue and increased costs to state government as a whole the Division of Aquaculture's budget was treated better than most state operations.

Senator Carey Baker of Eustis, Chairman of the Senate General Government Appropriations Committee, and Representative Ralph Poppell of Titusville, Chairman of the House Natural Resources Appropriations

Committee, funded the Division above expectations.

After considering a 20 percent cut in operations, both Senator Baker and Representative Poppell found a way not to have to cut the Division that deep. The Division did lose all of its general revenue funds for Aquaculture Review Council projects, oyster relay, Other Personal Services (i.e., temporary employees that receive no benefits), and most of its funding for replacement equipment purchases. On the brighter side, the University of Florida's Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory was fully funded.

Governor Crist signed the budget on May 27, 2009 without vetoing any budget line items within the Division's budget. With these reductions, the Division is looking for ways to provide services by improving operations or finding other revenue sources. Please see page 3 for an article that suggests ideas to improve public outreach and communications while working within the current budget constraints.

For additional information, please contact Sherman Wilhelm, [wilhels@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:wilhels@doacs.state.fl.us) or 850-488-4033.

## PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON: JUNE 1-NOV 30

Each year, an average of 11 tropical storms develop over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico. Many of these remain over the ocean and never impact the U.S. coastline. Six storms may become hurricanes.

In an average three-year period, roughly five hurricanes strike the US coastline, killing approximately

50 to 100 people anywhere from Texas to Maine. Of these, two are typically "major" or "intense" hurricanes.

Prepare your family, home, and farm for a hurricane by developing emergency plans, maintaining a disaster supply kit, and securing your home or farm.

Visit <http://www.florida-disaster.org/> or [\[www.nhc.noaa.gov/\]\(http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/\) for more information. Aquaculturists interested in learning how to become hurricane-ready, can view a video at <http://www.floridaaquaculture.com/pub.htm> or request a free copy by contacting Paul Zajicek, \[zajicep@doacs.state.fl.us\]\(mailto:zajicep@doacs.state.fl.us\) or calling 850-488-4033.](http://</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

AG LAW FOCUSES ON AQUACULTURE 2

OIE EXPANDS LIST OF REPORTABLE DISEASES 2

THE *HOGLET* AT WORK IN CEDAR KEY 3

EXPLORING NEW WAYS TO CONNECT 3

USDA DROPS SNAIL PERMIT 4

### Please Note

The toll-free telephone number for the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement is:

800-342-5869



Visit <http://www.fl-seafood.com> and

**Discover Florida  
Aquaculture!**

## OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT FOCUSED ON AQUACULTURE

“22,861 PATROL MILES, 141 HOURS ON THE WATER, 163 FOOD SAFETY INSPECTIONS, 581 COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS, 33 BOATING SAFETY CHECKS”

The Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement supports the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service’s regulatory and law enforcement programs and engages in cooperative partnerships with many federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

The Office works to safeguard the agricultural industry from the introduction of devastating diseases and pests, to secure the state’s borders, and to enforce criminal and civil violations occurring within state forests, criminal acts against consumers, and those crimes involving agriculture, horticulture, and aquaculture.

One full-time investigator is assigned to aquaculture farm theft, lease trespassing, and regulatory issues such as illegal movement of products. This person is responsible for land patrol to ensure product quality and rule compliance, as well as water patrol of aquaculture and shellfish leases. Leases are located in the Big Bend area, Cedar Key area, Lee-Collier County area, and the East Coast.

During fiscal year 2007-08, the investigator traveled to each area at least once a month for land and water patrol. Despite two special events and the state of emergency relating to fires, a total of 1,294 hours was devoted

specifically to the program, which resulted in a total of 22,861 patrol miles statewide, and 141 hours devoted to water patrol. During fiscal year 2007-08, 163 food safety inspections, 581 compliance inspections, and 33 boating safety checks were conducted. Seventeen investigations relating to aquaculture issues were initiated. The investigator also participates in special investigations with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Contact the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement by using a toll-free telephone number: 800-342-5869.

## REPORTABLE AQUATIC ANIMAL DISEASE LIST EXPANDED

The State Veterinarian reports specific aquatic animal diseases to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Recently the disease list has been expanded to include all the Office of International Epizootic’s (OIE) reportable aquaculture diseases.

These diseases are: epizootic hematopoietic necrosis, viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), spring viremia of carp (SVC), epizootic ulcerative syndrome, koi herpesvirus disease (KHV), infectious salmon anemia (ISA), red sea bream iridoviral disease, gyrodactylosis (*Gyrodactylus salaris*), infectious hematopoi-

etic necrosis (IHN), infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*, infection with *Marteilia refringens*, abalone viral mortality, infection with *Xenohalotus californiensis*, infection with *Perkinsus marinus*, infection with *Perkinsus olseni*, infection with *Bonamia ostreae*, white spot disease, crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*), tetrahedral baculovirosis (*Baculovirus penaei*), spherical baculovirosis (*Penaeus monodon*-type baculovirus), white tail disease, infectious myonecrosis, taura syndrome, infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis (IHHN), and yellowhead disease.

Prior to reporting these diseases, the State Veterinarian must determine whether they meet certain case definitions or have been found positive at the Department’s laboratory or any other laboratory testing for such diseases.

For additional information and/or to report these diseases, contact Thomas Holt, DVM, State Veterinarian/Director, Division of Animal Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, telephone (850) 410-0900, fax (850) 410-0915, e-mail [holt@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:holt@doacs.state.fl.us).

THE NEED TO FIGHT ANIMAL DISEASES AT A GLOBAL LEVEL LED TO THE CREATION OF THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL EPIZOOTICS IN 1924. IT HAS 174 MEMBER COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES.

**THE HOGLET REBORN AND AT WORK IN CEDAR KEY BY JOE SHIELDS**

Many of Florida's productive coastal estuaries and shellfish growing areas have been damaged by hurricanes and drought. As a result, there have been serious economic consequences for commercial fishing communities.

Oyster reef are restored by placing "cultch" (clean shell or rock) in locations where oyster larvae will settle and thrive to establish new oyster reefs. Reefs that are restored or created using this technique may become productive in 12 to 18 months.

Since 1913, the Division of Aquaculture, and its predecessor agencies, have been restoring or constructing oyster reefs which are compatible with estuarine systems, promote

oyster production, support self-sustaining reef communities, and perform ecological services which contribute to fisheries habitat, ecosystem stability, nutrient cycling, and improved water quality.

In February 2008, Division staff initiated a project to plant clam shell cultch near Cedar Key. The first and longest stage of the project was to refurbish a 30-foot deck barge, affectionately known as the *Hoglet*. Personnel re-braced, re-skinned, re-welded, and re-painted the entire vessel and added controls, a 200hp out-board motor and water cannon.

The second stage involved moving the 15-ton *Hoglet* from the Apalachicola Field

Office to the city boat basin. The third stage was a 30 hour tow behind the Division's



push boat, *Shellfish Mariner*, through the Gulf of Mexico.

The final stage is clam shell planting. Activities began in April with the planting of 40 cubic yards of cultch. Reef



construction will continue throughout the summer and fall.

For more information contact Joe Shields, shieldj@doacs.state.fl.us or 850-653-8317, or Mark Berrigan, berrigm@doacs.state.fl.us or 850-488-4033.

**EXPLORING NEW WAYS TO CONNECT**

Florida's budget challenges are affecting every aspect of state and local government. Attached to this page is a postage-paid post card. We are seeking your input and comments on this newsletter and the feasibility of producing and distributing, via email, an electronic newsletter. Other Divisions in the Department use electronic

newsletters and notices. Do you read them?

We would also greatly appreciate your comments relative to a variety of web-based services that connect people and ideas. Federal, state and local governments are beginning to use Facebook, MySpace.com or Twitter. Will they work for you?

Please take a few minutes to check the boxes, add your comments, and mail the postage-paid card.

For more information or to send us your thoughts that will not fit on a postcard, contact Paul Zajicek, zajicep@doacs.state.fl.us or 850-488-4033.

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## INTERSTATE PERMIT FOR *POMACEA BRIDGESI* DROPPED

Businesses or individuals that possess a U.S. Department of Agriculture permit to ship the apple snail *Pomacea bridgesi* (*diffusa*) may be receiving an electronic notification to renew their permit (i.e., USDA PPQ Permit 526). The renewal notifications are being automatically generated by USDA's ePermit System and can be ignored for permit holders that are shipping the species interstate.

USDA is no longer requiring an interstate permit for this species; however, the permit requirement remains in-place for the importation of the species and all other

members of the Ampullariidae family (other apple snails).



There are no state or federal permit requirements for businesses or individuals that possess or sell members of the Ampullariidae family within the State of Florida.

For additional information contact, Dr. Carmen Soileau, [lena.c.soileau@usda.aphis.gov](mailto:lena.c.soileau@usda.aphis.gov), or Paul Zajicek, [zajicep@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:zajicep@doacs.state.fl.us), 850-488-4033. A technical bulletin entitled, *Apple Snails*, can be read or downloaded from <http://www.floridaaquaculture.com/publications/Apple%20Snails.pdf>.

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