

What is it and why?

What is the aquaculture certificate?

The aquaculture certificate is issued by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to identify aquaculture producers and aquaculture products.

Who needs the aquaculture certificate?



All persons engaging in aquaculture are

required to obtain the certificate. The certificate number is required to be on all aquaculture products from harvest to point of sale.

What will I get from my aquaculture certificate?

Certification identifies your products as an agricultural commodity and entitles you to the same benefits bestowed upon agriculture. The certificate exempts you from certain requirements of wild-harvested species, offers tax advantages and replaces a number of environmental permitting requirements for aquaculture facilities.

Adam H. Putnam Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services
Division of Aquaculture



Bureau of Aquaculture Development
Aquaculture Certification Program

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*Applications are available by calling
850/488-5471*

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Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services
Division of Aquaculture

Common Questions and Answers

Aquaculture Certification



Florida Department of Agriculture &
Consumer Services
Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner

Obtaining the Certification

How do I get an aquaculture certificate?

Contact the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - Division of Aquaculture (see address on back) to obtain application materials.

What's on the application?

The certificate application has five requirements, 1. your name, address and phone number, 2. a legal property description, 3. a description of the production facilities, 4. a listing of the products to be produced and 5. your signature certifying that the statements in the application are true.

What criteria are used to determine if my business will be certified as aquaculture?

You must be a *bona fide* producer of aquaculture products in Florida in order to receive the certificate. Your responses on the application will assist us in determining if your business is appropriate for the certification. Note that farmers must comply with Best Management Practices developed for the aquaculture industry or appropriate interim measures.

What will it cost?

The fee for aquaculture certification is \$100 annually.

Other Requirements

I said on my application that I would abide by Best Management Practices (BMPs), what are they?

BMPs are developed with each segment of the industry in mind and are defined as the methods a farmer uses for construction and operation of a facility which result in minimal environmental impacts.

I have a few aquaria in my garage to raise tropical fish. Do I need the certification?

Yes, if you sell the fish you raise. No, if you are a hobbyist.

I am subleasing submerged bottom for clam farming. Do I need the certificate?

Yes, each year, along with the application, turn in an "Aquaculture Certification Authorized User Acknowledgment" form. This form is available from us and must be signed by you and the leaseholder and notarized.

It's December, and I'm applying for the certification, will it be valid through December of next year?

No, the aquaculture certificate is valid from July 1 until June 30, no matter when you apply.

Replacement & Duplicate Certificates

Do my business partner and I need to send two applications for our clam farm? We have two leases.

No, you should apply for one certificate. If you each have a lease, you will each get a card with the same certificate number, in each individual's name. The bill of sale for your clams should be made out in the appropriate person's name (the bearer of the certificate).

Can my employees each get duplicate cards with my certification number?

No, there will be one certificate issued per aquaculturist.

I have 2 submerged bottom leases for clam culture. Do I need 2 certificates? What if I have a fish farm housed at two different locations?

Each shellfish farmer needs only one certificate, which will list all the lease sites. For inland aquaculture facilities, the certification is issued for each separate site.

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