

## What are Aquaculture BMPs ?

Aquaculture Best Management Practices are an innovative alternative to prescriptive regulations. They offer flexible and adaptive options for commercial aquaculturists to



achieve the State of Florida's environmental protection goals.

All Aquaculture Certificate of Registration holders must abide by the BMPs or possess all pertinent federal and state licenses or permits.

## 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

1203 Governors Square Blvd, Fifth Floor  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Phone: 850/488-5471  
Fax: 850/410-0893  
[www.FloridaAquaculture.com](http://www.FloridaAquaculture.com)

The *Aquaculture Best Management Practices Manual* is available on the Internet at [www.FloridaAquaculture.com](http://www.FloridaAquaculture.com). Click on "Publications" to locate it for download or call or write the Division of Aquaculture for a copy.

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## Department of Agriculture

### *Common Questions and Answers*

# Aquaculture Best Management Practices



Florida Department of Agriculture &  
Consumer Services  
ADAM H. PUTNAM  
Commissioner

## **Why are there Aquaculture Best Management Practices?**

The Florida Legislature established a program of Aquaculture Best Management Practices (BMPs) as a means of assuring that aquafarms do not negatively impact the environment.

This innovative approach to environmental management also eliminated cumbersome, duplicative and confusing environmental permitting and licensing, thereby allowing aquafarmers to concentrate their finances and time on producing a marketable product.

## **How are Aquaculture Best Management Practices developed?**

BMPs are created in concert with the University of Florida, each major segment of Florida aquaculture (tropical fish, aquatic plants, molluscs, reptiles, crustaceans, and food, bait and game fish), and the environmental and wildlife resource management agencies.

## **What are Aquaculture Best Management Practices?**

The Aquaculture BMPs consist of general and specific instructions and guidance that address construction, operation, management, species selection and product sales for commercial aquaculture facilities. Farm owners and managers adopt BMPs that are appropriate for the size, production system design, location and species that make up their farm.

## **Where can I get help to implement appropriate Aquaculture Best Management Practices?**

Assistance is available from several sources. Contact the Division of Aquaculture for an on-site review of existing operations or a pre-construction review of the farm site and construction plans. Producers may also visit University of Florida operated aquaculture education, demonstration and research facilities that are in compliance with BMPs and feature BMP educational signs and materials. To locate these facilities, call the Division at 850-488-4033 or visit this UF web site <http://fishweb.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

## **What are Aquaculture Best Management Practices doing for Florida?**

Aquaculturists following BMPs meet Florida's environmental standards for protecting and maintaining offsite water quality and wildlife habitat. These practices represent a mutually beneficial relationship between commercial aquaculture production and natural resource protection. These BMPs are developed specifically for Florida aquaculture and must be applied by all certified aquaculture operations.

## **What about federal, local and other state regulations?**

Unless authorized in Florida Statutes, the BMPs do not supersede applicable federal, local authorities (county or municipal) or specific state regulations that manage wild species. Aquaculturists need to be aware of pertinent regulations that affect surface water quality, navigability, wetland dredge and fill, endangered or invasive species, collection of wild broodstock, solid and hazardous waste disposal, worker safety and other issues. If in doubt, contact the Division of Aquaculture.