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Commissioner of
Agriculture

Florida Department of
Agriculture and
Consumer Services

Florida Aquaculture

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Division of Aquaculture

Highlights:

- Florida's Shellfish Program Hits Homerun
- Pilot Red Tide Program clears clams 10 out of 15 times
- A general-use pesticide, Dylox 80, should make farmer's life easier
- Seafood consumption and trade deficit set records
- ARC identifies 20 industry challenges in new FL Aqua. Plan

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Florida's Shellfish Program Meets NSSP Guidelines

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has released their fiscal year 2003 (September 2002 to October 2003) evaluation of Florida's shellfish sanitation program. FDA examines four elements of the Department's program: Growing Area Classification, Processing and Shipping, Control of Harvest, and Laboratory. Overall, FDA found that these elements met the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Model Ordinance requirements. The Ordinance describes the principles and requirements for the sanitary control of shellfish harvesting areas, harvesting, processing, and distribution.

FDA commented in-depth on each element. They found no major deficiencies for the Growing Area Classification element.

FDA found that the Processing and Shipping element met ad-

ministrative requirements. They did recommend a reevaluation of administrative enforcement procedures and actions with regard to warning letters and repeat shellfish processing plant violations.

The Department's Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Division of Law Enforcement share patrolling duties. FWC patrols the water and DACS enforces the land violations. The Control of Harvest element met the Model Ordinance requirements. No deficiencies were noted. FDA directed the agency to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with FWC to clarify responsibilities.

FDA evaluated the Shellfish Laboratory in Apalachicola and the Food Safety Laboratory in Tallahassee. Both laboratories are in compliance.

FDA evaluates Florida's shellfish sanitation program on an annual basis. State compliance with the NSSP insures product acceptance by other states and general acceptance of the product by the public.

For additional information contact David Heil at 850-488-4033.



Red Tide Pilot Program Reviewed by FDA

During 2002, Southwest Florida hard clam farmers suggested an alternative management option for shellfish harvesting areas closed due to red tide. Harvested clams are held in quarantine until meat tests are completed to prove product safety. So far the pilot program has been implemented 15 times. On ten occasions clams were released to market. Five times

harvested clams were returned to the aquaculture leases. Currently, six certified shellfish processors are participating with harvest occurring in the Gasparilla Sound and Pine Island Sound Shellfish Harvesting Areas.

As a component of their annual evaluation FDA has made specific recommendations to help

strengthen the program. The Division is reviewing the recommendations, pilot program data, and the program procedures. Once that review is completed, rule making will commence to amend Florida's shellfish public health regulations.

For additional information, contact David Heil at 850-488-4033.

Getting the Jump on Red Tide via the Internet by Tim Orsi, NOAA



The increasing frequency of red tide has spurred the development of a timely and effective Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) monitoring and forecasting system. Addressing this issue in the Gulf of Mexico and western Florida is the Harmful Algal Blooms Observing System (HABSOS), a collaborative project between the Environmental Protection Agency, NOAA's National Coastal Data Development Center, and over 30 other

federal, state, academic and industry organizations. Recently, the Mexican Gulf states have joined HABSOS resulting in a true international effort to monitor HAB dynamics without regard to political boundaries.

The purpose of HABSOS is to provide an Internet-based information and communication system for collecting, processing and disseminating information in the form of HAB alerts, forecasts of HAB movement, and predictions of time and

location of potential HAB-containing water masses to state and local resource managers. Our goals are to: 1) better understand the common dynamics and consequences of red tide, and 2) assist state event response and management decision-making. This assistance includes first alert, event validation, shellfish and beach closure decisions, and public notification and interaction.

For additional information, contact Tim Orsi at 228-688-3908 or

Dylox 80 is a general use pesticide. Producers will not need a restricted use pesticide applicator's license.

Dylox 80 Available for Ornamental Fish and Aquatic Plants

The University of Florida's Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory has successfully achieved a special use label for Dylox 80 to control precocious zooplankton and amphipods. Dylox 80 is a formulation of Trichlorfon produced by Bayer.

Using funds from the USDA Cooperative State Research and Extension

Education Service, Deborah Pouder and Craig Watson conducted the research and completed the necessary paperwork for a Special Local Need label for use in commercial ornamental fish and aquatic plant production systems. A copy of this label must be in the applicator's possession when using the product.

Dylox 80 is a general use pesticide, so producers will not need a restricted-use pesticide applicator's license to purchase or use it. However, "commercial" producers are defined as having a current FDACS Aquaculture Certificate. The product may be used at 0.25 mg/l in both ponds and tanks. No discharge of treated water is allowed within 48 hours of

Second Graders Get a Lesson in Aquaculture

The Division has created an aquaculture education package for second graders. Funded in part by Florida Ag in the Classroom, Inc., the goal is to introduce students to aquaculture through a variety of learning activities. The package includes a teacher guide, student activities and web pages. The main theme areas are:

- What is agriculture?

How do we get the products we use?

- What is aquaculture?
- What is the difference between aquatic and terrestrial?
- The diversity of species in aquatic production.

The teacher guide, available in print or Internet format, provides six activities to use as well as additional ways to

dive into the topic of aquaculture. Key words, internet resources, and Sunshine State Standards are also included in this document. The web page address for the lesson is www.FloridaAquaculture.com/AquaEd/index.htm Teachers will find links to each activity in the lesson and printable activity sheets. The package



Aquaculture BMP Signs Installed in Gainesville

A set of signs that illustrate aquaculture Best Management Practices have been installed at the University of Florida, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences in Gainesville. The signs describe BMPs appropriate to pond aquaculture, recirculating systems, sturgeon culture, aquatic animal health and other BMPs pertinent to upland aquaculture facilities. Funding was provided through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Water Act.

The Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences maintains dug ponds, recirculating systems, water quality and animal health research laboratories, and a variety of research and education programs to benefit Florida aquaculture. *Fishing for Success*, a fishery and aquatic environmental education program, also operates at the site with monthly fishing events.

A BMP workshop for farmers and all other interested parties will occur on December 9th, Tuesday, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Please plan to attend for a

site tour and aquaculture BMPs Q&A.



Contact Dr. Chuck Cichra, 352-392-9617 extension 249 or Neil Aymond at 850-488-4033 for information and directions.

Florida Aquaculture Plan 2003-2004 Released

The *Florida Aquaculture Plan*, a statutory required document, serves as a state planning document to guide public investment and public policy development. Farming community needs and priorities are identified with potential mechanisms to increase aquacultural production in an environmentally compatible manner.

The *Plan* also serves as a valuable historical document that has evolved as Florida aquacul-

ture has grown and changed.

The 2003-2004 version is the sixth edition of the *Plan* and contains 20 technical, production, economic or market-related challenges that were identified by the Aquaculture Review Council, an advisory group to the Commissioner of Agriculture.

Solving these challenges will assist Floridians in responding to global trade, information exchange, and technology shar-

ing that requires unceasing innovation by Florida farmers to remain competitive.

Copies of the *Plan* are available from the Division of Aquaculture by contacting Ceda Rudd at 850-488-4033 or it can be downloaded as a .pdf document. To locate and download, click on the "Publications" topic at <http://www.FloridaAquaculture.com/>.

**U.S. per capita
seafood
consumption
increased to
15.6 pounds
during 2002.**

NOAA Reports 2002 Seafood Value, Volume, and Consumption

Commercial landings (edible and industrial) by U.S. fishers at U.S. ports were 9.4 billion pounds valued at \$3.1 billion during 2002. Volume and value declined 94.7 million pounds (down 1%) and \$136 million (down 4%) from 2001. Edible fish and shellfish landings were 7.2 billion pounds a decrease of 109 million pounds from 2001.

Total import value of edible and inedible fishery products was \$19.7 billion, an increase of \$1.2 billion over 2001. Im-

ported edible products were 4.4 billion pounds valued at \$10.1 billion, an increase of 325.1 million pounds and \$256.8 million compared to 2001.

Total export value of edible and inedible fishery products was \$11.7 billion, a decrease of \$120.1 million from 2001. Exports consisted of 2.4 billion pounds of edible products valued at \$3.1 billion. Edible exports decreased 166.7 million pounds and \$74.8 million.

U.S. consumption of edible seafood per person was 15.6 pounds, up 0.8 pounds from 2001. Consumers spent \$55.1 billion for fishery products. This total included \$38.4 billion at restaurants, \$16.4 in retail stores and \$283.1 million for industrial fish products.

Visit <http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/fus/current/index.html> for the complete report.



National Oceanic and

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Commissioner of Agriculture

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We're on the Web!
www.FloridaAquaculture.com



HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM
CHARLES H. BRONSON,
COMMISSIONER OF
AGRICULTURE,
AND THE DIVISION OF
AQUACULTURE STAFF

The Division of Aquaculture's responsibilities include certifying all legitimate aquaculturists through an annual registration, implementing on-farm **Aquaculture Best Management Practices** to meet the State of Florida's environmental goals, managing 1.4 million acres of coastal waters for the harvest or culture of wholesome shellfish, implementing the **National Shellfish Sanitation Program** through periodic inspection of shellfish processing plants and product, and managing submerged sovereign land leases for aquacultural purposes.



Additional information about Florida aquaculture or Division programs can be obtained from the following offices.

Apalachicola Shellfish Center:	850-653-8317
Bartow Field Office:	863-519-8459
Cedar Key Field Lab:	352-543-5181
Murdock Field Lab:	941-255-7405
Palm Bay Field Lab:	321-984-4890
Panama City Field Lab:	850-747-5252
Tallahassee Office:	850-488-4033 or 488-5471

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