



## New Look for Newsletter

We hope you will enjoy the new look and increased content, pictures and text, that the Division is offering through our revamped newsletter. During its first year of publication we produced an edition of *Florida Aquaculture* every two months. The contents will continue to be devoted to timely information of interest and importance to Florida aquafarmers and shellfish processors. We very much welcome comments and suggestions, please do not hesitate to let us know what you think by calling 850/488-4033 or e-mailing zajicep@doacs.state.fl.us.

## Invasive Species Strictly Regulated

The economic and environmental costs of finding, eradicating or living with nuisance non-native species are growing in the United States. Scientific and public alarm has triggered re-examination of invasive species policies and programs at the federal level.

The State of Florida has identified in rule and statute certain non-native species that are prohibited or require strict management (Rule 68A-23.008 Florida Administrative Code and Chapter 370.081 Florida Statutes). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has developed a list of prohibited species, the Injurious Wildlife Provisions, as part of the Lacey Act. Florida aquaculturists cannot possess or culture prohibited species identified in these regulations.



*Chinese mitten crab*

Other non-native species have been identified by the State of Florida as being restricted. These species can be possessed,

cultured and sold by aquafarms that build and manage their farms to prevent the escape of these species and are checked by the Division of Aquaculture environmental specialists and receive a restricted species letter from the Division.



*Asian swamp eel*

Aquaculturists that are considering the culture of a new non-native species should contact the Division of Aquaculture. An analysis of the species life history and invasive tendencies will be conducted in concert with the Florida Fish and



*Piranha*

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Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

The federal and state lists of restricted and prohibited species are revised on a fre-



Green sunfish

quent basis. For current information you may call Kal Knickerbocker or Paul Zajicek (850/488-4033) or visit the web sites for the FWC (<http://www.state.fl.us/gfc/>) and USFWS (<http://invasives.fws.gov/>).

## Aquaculture BMP Seminars Announced

Division personnel, Scott Nelson or Neil Aymond, have begun presenting in-depth aquaculture Best Management Practices training seminars. All aspects of the aquaculture BMPs will be covered and any and all questions are welcomed. Aquafarmers and other interested parties are invited to the seminars that will be held on the following dates, times and locations. Contact Scott or Neil (850/488-4033) for information regarding location directions.



### Seminar Schedule

December 12	9:00A	Palatka, Putnam County Extension Service Office
January 9	9:00A	Punta Gorda, Charlotte Harbor Environ. Center
February 6	9:00A	Walnut Hill, Walnut Hill Community Center
February 13	9:00A	Ft. Pierce, UF Indian River Research & Educ. Cntr.
March 6	9:00A	Sebastian, City of Sebastian, Council Chambers
March 13	9:00A	Ruskin, Tropical Aquaculture Lab
March 28	4:30P	Homestead, Dade County Extension Office

## Oyster Relaying for 2000 Completed

The Cedar Key Oysterman's Association, Franklin County Seafood Worker's Association, Suwannee Oyster Association and Wakulla Commercial Fisherman's Association cooperated with the Division to transplant or relay 195,727 bushels of oysters during 2000. Undersized and marketable oysters are moved from closed to open waters for harvest at a later date as wholesome, marketable product. Oyster resource development has been an annual state agency activity since 1981 and provides economic benefits to oystermen and their families living in many coastal communities.



Oyster relay crew in Cedar Key

## Bulgarians Visit Tallahassee



The Bulgarian Delegation and Division Staff

A delegation of Bulgarian fishing and aquaculture industry representatives led by Dr. Jesse Lutabingwa of Florida A&M University visited with state agencies to learn about fishery and aquaculture policy and regulation.

Division personnel presented an overview of Flor-

ida's aquaculture industry, environmental regulations, development of the aquaculture Best Management Practices and pertinent BMPs related to environmental protection. The Bulgarians were most impressed by Florida's alligator and ornamental fish products and production practices.

## Shellfish Processing Fee and Fine Proposed

The 2000 Florida Legislature has passed and the Governor has signed legislation granting the Division of Aquaculture statutory authority to collect a fee-based license or certification for facilities that process oysters, clams, mussels, and whole scallops. The Division is presently drafting the proposed rule language.

Chapter 5L-1, Florida Administrative Code, is being revised to include these additional responsibilities. Copies of the draft rule will be mailed to currently certified shellfish plants shortly. Four public workshops have been organized to answer questions and accept comments.

**December 12**, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM  
Apalachicola National Estuarine and Research Reserve  
261 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Apalachicola, Florida

**December 14**, 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Cedar Key Field Laboratory  
11350 Southwest 153<sup>rd</sup> Court  
Cedar Key, Florida

**December 19**, 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
Charles E. Caniff Visitors Center  
Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center  
10941 Burnt Store Road  
Punta Gorda, Florida

**December 20**, 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
Brevard County Public Library  
2121 South Hopkins Avenue  
Titusville, Florida

For copies of the rule or additional information, please call Bobby Bickley, (850) 410-0840.



*Division personnel collect an ice sample*

## Alligator Harbor Aquaculture Use Area Proposed

In early August, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners requested that the Department identify sovereign submerged lands in Alligator Harbor that would be suitable for hard clam aquaculture. The Division had been completing a preliminary assessment of Franklin and Wakulla County coastal waters following a request by Congressman Allen Boyd. As a result of natural resource surveys and clam growth tests, the Division identified a potential 75-acre tract along the northern shoreline of Alligator Harbor.

*Aquaculture Use  
Workshop:  
December 11,  
Apalachicola*

A workshop is scheduled in Apalachicola on December 11, 2000 to receive public comments regarding the proposed aquaculture use area. The Department will use public comments in

formulating recommendations for the proposed site. If the Department develops a positive recommendation, it will pre-



*Rectangle denotes proposed aquaculture use area.*

sent the recommendation to the Governor and Cabinet for consideration. Final action requires approval of the Governor and Cabinet before individual lease parcels can be authorized. For additional information contact Mark Berrigan at 850/488-4033.

# US EPA Aquaculture Effluent Guidelines & Standards Process

Contributed by Debra Sloan, North Carolina Department of Agriculture

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**“How” did Aquaculture get here?** In 1989, two environmental groups, the National Resources Defense Council, Inc. and Public Citizens, Inc., sued EPA for not enforcing the Clean Water Act. The outcome was a Consent Decree issued in 1992. Under the Consent Decree, twelve industries were selected for evaluation and investigation. On December 31, 1999, EPA requested that the court allow Aquaculture to be designated in place of Industrial Container Cleaning.

**“Why” is the Aquaculture Industry targeted?** EPA’s purpose for developing new aquaculture effluent guidelines and standards is to enforce Section 304 (m) of the Clean Water Act. Section 308 of the Act focuses specifically on the collection of effluent characteristic information.

EPA believes that aquaculture effluents are an important environmental issue. States periodically assess water quality and the 1998 lists of impaired waters were used to make this decision. In addition, comments from different states described aquaculture water quality problems. The Consent Decree and EPA’s environmental concerns yielded six categories for the proposed aquaculture effluent guidelines and standard: control nutrients, total suspended solids, human and non-human pathogens, antibiotics, pesticides, and biological impairments due to the introduction of non-native species.

**“Where” is the Process going?** Almost one year later EPA is continuing to gather data, publications and information from aquaculture representatives (industry associations, state and federal agencies and universities) to decide the need for effluent guidelines. The industry has been represented through an Aquaculture Effluent Task Force co-chaired by the US Department of Agriculture and Department of Commerce since EPA’s announcement of Proposed Rule Making in January 2000.

EPA would like to survey 500 aquaculture operations to deter-

mine two things – the facility impact to the receiving waters and the economic capabilities of the aquaculture enterprise. EPA released a Federal Register Notice on September 14, 2000; this Notice included a draft Survey to assess the technologies used by aqua-farmers to control effluent discharge and the financial ability of individual operations to “absorb” additional costs for effluent control technologies.

**“What” challenges does the Aquaculture Industry face?**

The challenge for the aquaculture industry is to provide EPA with enough data, both effluent and economic, to determine “where” aquaculture is in relation to environmental impact and “what” individual operations can afford for effluent control and monitoring.

The second industry challenge is to demonstrate to EPA, the environmentalists, and the public that this agricultural industry is an environmentally friendly industry. The aquaculture industry sees itself as an environmental steward; now it must prove that it is.

The challenge of EPA is to determine the “economic achievability” of any proposed guidelines and standards developed for US aquaculture. The charge of the aquaculture industry is to be an active stakeholder and to work with EPA to determine the scope and need for aquaculture effluent guidelines and standards.

**“How” can the Aquaculture Industry be proactive and participate in this regulatory process?** Become involved, even if it is just on a state level; after all, it is your state, as the ultimate entity, which manages the state water resource.

This article was edited from *Trout Talk*, a newsletter of the US Trout Farmers Association. Karen Metcalf is serving on a sub-committee of the Aquaculture Effluent Task Force. Call Karen at 850/488-4033 for information.

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