

Florida Aquaculture

APHIS Prohibiting Interstate Sales or Import of *Pomacea* Snails

Effective on April 5, 2006 the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), announced a permit requirement for all marine and freshwater snails imported into the United States or moving interstate. They also began



to inspect aquatic snail shipments and to routinely and consistently inspect shipments of aquarium supplies or aquatic plants that may contain aquatic snails. However, APHIS will not be issuing permits for the importation or interstate movement of species within the genus *Pomacea*, except the spike-topped apple snail (*P. bridgesii*).

Aquatic snail permits for interstate sales will be from state-to-state, good for a

three year period, and will contain specific conditions that shippers should adhere to in all respects. The permit number or permit copy must accompany each shipment.



Channeled Apple Snail

USDA-APHIS stated in their notice that this action is necessary in order to prevent the importation or interstate movement of certain species of aquatic snails which, if released into the environment, can become destructive agricultural pests.

Some of the most damaging of these snails, and most popular among aquarium owners, are the channeled apple snails, or other species of *Pomacea*. Channeled apple snails, as well as other species of *Pomacea*, can pose

a significant threat to U.S. agriculture, especially rice crops.

Any shipment found to contain aquatic snails for which a permit has not been issued will be subject to seizure, quarantine, exportation, return to shipping point of origin, destruction, or other disposal.

For permit information contact Dr. Carmen Soileau, USDA-APHIS, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737, 301-734-5302 or lena.c.soileau@aphis.usda.gov.

For assistance in identifying aquatic snails, call the UF-Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory in Ruskin, 813-671-5230, and contact Dr. Jeff Hill (ext. 118) or Carlos Martinez (ext. 109).

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Erratum

The Florida Aquaculture April issue, Number 48, included two errors in the lead article concerning the clam farming task force. The task force mission statement was proposed by the Cedar Key Aquaculture Association and *ex officio* members are: Mark Berrigan, David Heil, Joanne McNeely and Leslie Sturmer. Please accept our apologies.

The Future has Arrived: Federal Agencies are adopting Electronic, Paperless, Web-based Permitting, Grant Application & Rule Comment

Congress has directed the Federal agencies to rapidly adopt paperless, electronic, web-based permitting, grant application, public comment on proposed rules, and other agency-to-public interactions. USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, is

no exception; however, in the interim paper permits and the U.S. Postal Service or overnight courier services will still be used.

Aquatic snail producers and distributors must become registered with USDA-APHIS to utilize their *ePermit* system.

Registration requires about 10 minutes on-line and a visit to a local USDA Service Center to present a photo identification and complete the final authentication step.

Visit <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/permits/> to register.

Commissioner Bronson Opens Panhandle Inspection Station

Florida has a new layer of defense against invasive pests and diseases, as well as criminal activity and potential acts of terrorism. On April 12, Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson opened the Department's newest inspection station.



"With its many seaports and airports, Florida is especially vulnerable to the introduction of pests and diseases that could devastate our agricultural and livestock indus-

tries," Bronson said. "This station will enhance our ability to prevent the importation of plant and animal pests, thereby making our food supply more secure. I greatly appreciate the support we have received from the Governor, the Legislature and the Florida Department of Transportation on this critical project."

The agricultural inspection station is located on Interstate 10 one mile east of the state line near Pensacola. In addition to K-9 teams,

state-of-the-art gamma ray machines will scan semi-trucks in a matter of seconds, giving officers an immediate view of what is hidden inside.

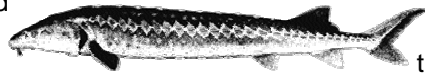
Commissioner Bronson expects nearly one million trucks to pass through the area each year, and has assigned 25 officers on rotating shifts to man the station 24 hours a day. This is the first new inspection station the Department has built since the 1960s. The Department has 23 inspection stations located along the Suwannee and St. Mary Rivers.

CITES finalizes 2006 caviar export quotas

Geneva, Switzerland, 13 April 2006 – The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has finalized the 2006 export quotas for sturgeon. This will enable Iran to export this year up to 44,370 kilograms of caviar from the Persian sturgeon (*Acipenser persicus*).

The CITES Secretariat has not received the required information from the five Caspian Sea States that

would allow it to publish quotas for wild specimens of the other sturgeon species in this shared basin. The deadline for the publication of export quotas for sturgeon products from shared stocks, established by the Conference of the Parties to CITES, has now long passed. The Secretariat will therefore not be publishing any more new quotas for the year 2006. In practice, this means that no imports of wild specimens of these sturgeon stocks should take place in 2006.



In the meantime, at the request of the CITES Standing Committee, the European Union will host a meeting in June devoted to tackling illegal trade in caviar. At this meeting, law enforcement agencies around the world will discuss how to improve their capacities to detect illegal trade in and sales of caviar.

For additional information visit <http://www.cites.org/>.

Building Firewise Communities

Over the past fifty years, more and more Floridians have moved out of cities to build homes and businesses in outlying fringe areas known as the wildland/urban interface. In fact, almost 1/3 of our population now lives in interface areas where structures intermingle with forests and wildlands. On average, Florida experiences the second highest number of wildfires in the nation. During dry



years, Florida experiences severe wildfires---wildfires that destroy homes, disrupt people's lives and impact our economy. Since January 1st, more than 20,000 acres have burned in Florida from over 1,500 wildfires.

Home and farm owners must become partners in fire protection. But

there is also an important role for architects who design homes, builders, insurance agents, elected officials, planners, and educators— everyone who helps shape our communities.

Find out how you and your neighbors can take action now to protect your community and property from wildfire...visit http://www.fl-dof.com/wildfire/fire_mitigation_index.html for valuable fire risk mitigation ideas and strategies.

Become a Member of *Fresh from Florida* Today!

The Florida Agricultural Promotional Campaign (FAPC), better known as **Fresh from Florida**, is a promotion designed to boost the image of Florida agriculture and increase sales by helping consumers and potential buyers easily recognize Florida grown and produced products.



As a member of the Florida seafood or aquaculture industries you are invited to join.

The following are a few of the benefits of joining FAPC:

Fresh from Florida logos to use on your literature and promotional items.

Opportunity to participate in statewide, regional, and national marketing campaigns and trade events.

Receive **sEaNotes**, the email newsletter produced by the Bureau of Seafood and Aquaculture Marketing that addresses current industry events and activities.

A listing on our web site at <http://www.fl-seafood.com/> under the "Where to buy Florida seafood and aquaculture." Companies are listed by county.

Join now and take advantage of the many benefits and services that FAPC membership has to offer. Please download the FAPC membership application from our website: <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/onestop/forms/06205.pdf> and indicate the Florida seafood and aquaculture products you carry.

Please return to the address indicated at the bottom of the application. For more information, phone (850) 488-0163.

EU Export Certificates Required and Available on the Web

On April 20, the Office of Seafood in the FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (FDA-CFSAN) posted to its web site an updated version of a document, titled "*European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Export Certificates for Fishery/Aquaculture Products and Live Molluscan Shellfish.*"

Concerning Fishery/Aquaculture Products, the document notes that " ... European Union (EU) Export Certificates are required for Fishery and Aquaculture products as of April 24, 2006 (note: previous edition certificates should be used

for certificates signed up until April 24, 2006) ..." and for Live Molluscan Shellfish exports, the document also notes that " ... certificates are required for live bivalve molluscs, as well as echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods intended for direct human consumption in the European Community ..."

Visit the FDA-CFSAN web site for downloadable permits for each EU member country. Visit <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/eucert.html>.



"EU certificates are required for live bivalve molluscs, as well as echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods intended for direct human consumption"

Hurricanes Technical Bulletin Available

Florida leads the nation in direct hurricane hits for the period 1851 to 2004. The Gulf and Atlantic coasts, where most of the country's hurricane related fatalities have occurred, are experiencing significant population and economic growth. Commissioner Bronson urges Florida farmers to act now noting "preparation and planning make a huge difference" when disasters strike.

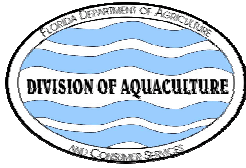
A special *Hurricanes* technical bulletin has been prepared by the Division and

was mailed to coincide with National Hurricane Preparedness Week May 21-27, 2006. *Florida Aquaculture* newsletter subscribers should have received a copy in the mail, a .pdf file is posted to <http://www.florida-aquaculture.com/technicalbulletins.htm> or hard copies can be acquired by calling 850-488-4033.



2004 - 2005 hurricane and tropical storm tracks.

**Charles H. Bronson
Commissioner of Agriculture**



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**Benefiting commercial aquaculture,
Conserving natural resources**

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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:	850-236-2200
Tallahassee Office:	850-488-4033 or 488-5471

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