

# Florida Aquaculture

## 2005 Hurricane Aquaculture Grant Program Announced

Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, or Wilma caused severe and widespread damage in 36 Florida counties. The Secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) used the authority under Section 32 of the Agriculture Adjustment Act of August 24, 1935 to provide a \$3,662,500 grant for Florida aqua-farmers to reestablish purchasing power. Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Charles H. Bronson has asked the Division of Aquaculture to administer a 2005 Aquaculture Grant Program that consists of these funds and to satisfy USDA conditions.

The effected counties are: Bay, Brevard, Broward, Calhoun, Charlotte, Collier, Dixie, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Glades, Gulf,

Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Holmes, Indian River, Jackson, Jefferson, Lee, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, St. Lucie, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton and Washington.

USDA has specified that to qualify for damage reimbursement effected aquaculturists must: 1) be an aquaculture facility located in an eligible county, 2) have possessed an Aquaculture Certificate of Registration effective the date of the 2005 hurricanes Dennis, Katrina or Wilma received disaster declarations, and 3) have not received and will not receive assistance covered by other disaster programs for the same aquaculture losses.

USDA has also specified that the amount of assistance provided to a producer cannot exceed the amount of aquaculture losses suffered by a producer as a result of the 2005 hurricanes, and the total amount of assistance from this Program for each certified aquaculture facility shall not exceed \$80,000.

2005 hurricane damage claims, with verifiable supporting documentation, will be accepted for the following categories: production stock replacement, physical property repair & replacement, clean-up debris removal expenses, and other documented aquaculture related expenses.



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## Applying for the 2005 Hurricane Aquaculture Grant Program

Aquaculturists effected by the 2005 hurricanes and possessing an Aquaculture Certificate of Registration at that time will receive via certified U.S.P.S., return receipt requested mail, a grant application with instructions.

**The completed application, including verifiable supporting documentation, must be notarized and returned to the Division of Aquaculture office by 5:00 PM EDST on October 6, 2006.**

All applications will be reviewed for completeness, including supporting documentation, and to determine eligibility.

The Division will then determine the total amount of all applications. If the total claimed by farmers

exceeds the total USDA grant amount, the Division will calculate a prorated share for each eligible applicant.

Contact Kal Knickerbocker at 850-488-4033 or [knickek@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:knickek@doacs.state.fl.us) for additional information or if your mailing address has changed since the 2005 hurricane season.

## FDA issues chemical grade formaldehyde notice

U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine (FDA-CVM) has received reports that chemical grade formaldehyde is being used as a parasiticide drug for cultured fish. The use of the chemical grade formaldehyde is not approved by CVM. Using a formaldehyde compound other than the approved product can be unsafe for fish and the effectiveness of an unapproved compound is questionable. CVM would like to remind aquaculturists to read veterinary drug labels carefully and follow label directions to help avoid causing illegal residues in their products.

There are three drug sponsors with approved new animal drug applications for formaldehyde including: Western Chemical (Parasite-S), Argent Chemical Laboratories, Inc. (Paracide-F), and Natchez Animal Supply Company (Formalin-F).

Parasite-S and Formalin-F are approved for the control of: external protozoa (*Chilodonella*, *Costia*, *Epistylis*, *Ichthyophthirius*, *Scyphidia*, and *Trichodina* spp.) and the monogenetic trematodes (*Cleidodiscus*, *Dactylogyrus*, and *Gyrodactylus* spp.) on all finfish, fungi of the family Saprolegniaceae on all finfish eggs, and protozoan parasites (*Bodo*, *Epistylis*, and *Zoothamnium* spp.) on penaeid shrimp.

Paracide-F is approved for the control of: external protozoa and monogenetic trematodes (as above) on salmon, trout, catfish, largemouth bass, and bluegill, and fungi (as above) on salmon, trout, and esocid eggs. Paracide-F is not currently approved for use on penaeid shrimp.

The sponsors of the above drugs have approved applications filed with the FDA and have demonstrated that their products are safe and effective for the approved

uses. Approved formaldehyde products are manufactured to strict good manufacturing practices (GMP) standard that ensures their quality, purity and strength. The specifications ensuring these attributes are tightly controlled. The standards by which approved formaldehyde and chemical grade formaldehyde is manufactured are different. Aquaculture producers are producing food for human consumption and should be mindful of these considerations. They should not use the chemical grade formaldehyde in place of these approved products.

Any questions about the use of formaldehyde in aquaculture may be directed to Fran Pell, Consumer Safety Officer, FDA/Center for Veterinary Medicine, Division of Compliance, 240-276-9211, e-mail [frances.pell@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:frances.pell@fda.hhs.gov).

## Fresh from Florida seafood & aquaculture van on the road

The Division of Marketing, Bureau of Seafood and Aquaculture Marketing, debuted their newly repainted van as a traveling advertisement promoting *Fresh from Florida* products during July 4th at the Clamerica Celebration on Cedar Key.

Joanne McNeely, Bureau Chief, remarked, "How many cars do you pass everyday — now the Bureau's van will promote our wonderful Florida products while driving around the state. Keep a look out for the 'Fresh From Florida Seafood & Aquaculture's van.'"

The Bureau of Seafood and Aquaculture Marketing provides point-of-sale promotional materials, consumer and buyer product education, sponsors an annual Florida Pavilion at the Boston Seafood Show, distributes product trade leads, and provides many other unique marketing services, information, and products.

Contact Ms. McNeely at 850-488-0163, [mcneelj@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:mcneelj@doacs.state.fl.us), or visit <http://www.fl-seafood.com> for additional information.



## Florida ocean and coastal economic data available

The National Ocean Economics Program (NOEP) provides a full range of current economic and socio-economic information on changes and trends along the U.S. coast. The program is supported by federal, state, university, and private grants and contracts. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection funded NOEP to analyze the economic importance of Florida ocean and coastal resources. Interesting findings released in a June 2006 preliminary report include:

- During 1990 to 2003 Florida's shoreline county and coastal economy grew at a faster rate than California, the Gulf States, or the nation: 31% in employment and 48% in wages.
- In 2003, Florida's ocean-derived economic activity (\$13.1 billion) ranked second behind California (\$25.6 billion) and just ahead of New York (\$12.9 billion).
- In 2004, Florida's shoreline county population ranked third in the nation (13.3 million) and thirteenth for density per square mile (444). Florida's total population was 17.4 million.
- 77% of Florida's population live in coastal counties: 46% on the Atlantic and 31% on the Gulf.
- In 2003, Florida's coastal counties contributed \$402 billion to Florida's economy and more than 70% of all employment, population, and housing on 56% of the land area.
- In 2003, Miami-Dade, Hillsborough, and Broward counties contributed 36% of the state's economic activity

and 30% of the population on 3.1% of the land area.

- In 2000, more than 22 million people or 1 in 10 Americans visited Florida's coasts.
- Florida ranks number one among the nation's destinations for Americans to swim, fish, dive and otherwise enjoy the state's many beaches, coastal wetlands, and shores.
- In 2000, over 56 million recreational fishing days (person per day) and 47 million boating days were enjoyed.
- In 2001, beachgoers enjoyed 177 million beach days and 161 million swimming days.

For a report entitled, *Facts and Figures: Florida's Ocean and Coastal Economies* and an in-depth analysis entitled, *Florida's Ocean and Coastal Economies* visit: <http://noep.csumb.edu/>.

## Educational kiosk installed in Charlotte County

Charlotte County's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department recently completed the installation of Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve and shellfish aquaculture public education panels at the Ainger Creek boat ramp located between Englewood and Grove City at the mouth of Rock Creek. The shelter was constructed by Dave Mathewson, George Hart, and Frank Beldowski.

The panels describe: Florida estuarine ecological values, shellfish aquaculture economic importance and

environmental sustainability, and advises boaters to respect shellfish farming leases, working farmers, and their equipment.

Similar panels have been installed at Alligator Harbor, Franklin County, and John Jorgensens Landing, Broward County. A fourth installation is planned for Pine Island, Lee County.

Funding for this project was provided, in part, by the Florida Coastal Management Program, Florida Department of Environmental Protec-



tion, by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

## Complete the 2006 Aquaculture Drug Survey

The National Association of State Aquaculture Coordinators is assisting Roz Schnick, National Coordinator for Aquaculture New Animal Drug Applications, with a survey to determine aquatic animal drug needs. Farmers are encouraged to complete an Internet-based survey.

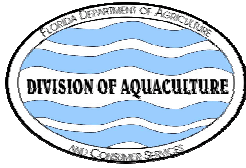
The survey can be finished in a few minutes because a farmer only needs to fill out the part that applies to the species being cultured.

This is an opportunity to indicate farmers' unmet label claim needs for aquaculture drugs recently approved, or about to be approved, for certain species and certain diseases.

Drugs may only be used in compliance with U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved labeling or under a licensed veterinarian prescription.

Please go to the following webpage to complete the survey - <http://www.agr.state.nc.us/aquacult/NASAC.html>

**Charles H. Bronson**  
**Commissioner of Agriculture**



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**Benefiting commercial aquaculture,  
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DACS-P-00082

## USDA website provides state animal health regulations

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), maintains a web page that consists of links to state animal health regulations, a list of state veterinarians, and a link to international animal export regulations.

Producers or wholesalers that ship live animals interstate or for export will find this information very useful. State regulations change rapidly and unpredictably and a single point-of-contact to determine current regulations has been unavailable until USDA assumed the responsibility of providing this service.

The web page address is:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/sregs/>.

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE AND  
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