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ADAM H. PUTNAM, COMMISSIONER
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

Florida Aquaculture

Commissioner Putnam sworn in January 4th

Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam was sworn in as the 11th Florida Commissioner of Agriculture on Jan. 4, 2011 in Tallahassee Florida. The Commissioner's swearing-in preceded the Governor on the steps of the Old Capitol Building.

The Commissioner has pledged to focus efforts upon water quality and quantity issues, agriculturally-based renewable energy initiatives, modernizing food safety safeguards, small farm and specialty crops priorities, and natural resource conservation and land management practices. Commissioner Putnam has been a strong voice in both the Florida House of Representatives and the U.S. Congress.

Elected to the state House at the age of 22 in 1996, the Commissioner quickly became the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, where he led on the many issues facing Florida's dynamic agriculture industry including property rights, water and the Everglades.

Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in January 2001 at the age of 26, Commissioner Putnam was one of the youngest members of Congress in history. During the Commissioner's tenure in Congress, he served as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, serving as a Subcommittee Chairman, Rules

Committee, Agriculture Committee and the Financial Services Committee. Additionally, he was

elected by his colleagues to the Chairmanship of the House Republican Conference; the highest elected leadership position any Floridian of either party has ever held.

Throughout his Congressional career, Commissioner Putnam has been recognized as a leader on a variety of issues, most notably agriculture, food safety, childhood nutrition, energy and government efficiency.

As a member of the Farm Bill House-Senate Conference Committee, the Commissioner helped bring major program reform to policies impacting Florida agriculture including specialty crop block grants and a new mandatory specialty crop initiative — both of which Florida will be a top recipient. Commissioner Putnam also led the effort in bringing disaster assistance to impacted agriculture in Florida after the 2004 hurricane season and coordinated the federal response to the outbreak of citrus canker.

Leaders from both sides of

the political aisle have applauded the Commissioner's leadership on reforming food safety laws. In addition

to introducing one of the first major bipartisan food safety reform bills, Commissioner Putnam's legislation was included within the comprehensive food safety legislation passed by Congress.

The Commissioner

was born in the city of Bartow in 1974. There, he graduated from Bartow High School and went on to the University of Florida, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics. After graduating from UF he returned to work in his family's citrus and cattle operation and was elected to the Florida House of Representatives.



Commissioner Putnam listening to Marty Tanner, President of the Florida Aquaculture Association, explaining tropical fish production.

Photo courtesy David Boozer, Florida Tropical Fish Farms Association.

Leslie Palmer named new Division Director

Leslie joined the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in January, 2002. She served as a liaison on federal issues for Florida's Congressional delegation, the Governor's Office, other congressional offices, federal agencies and national associations. In addition to her work with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture, she sat on the Florida Farm Service Agency's State Emer-

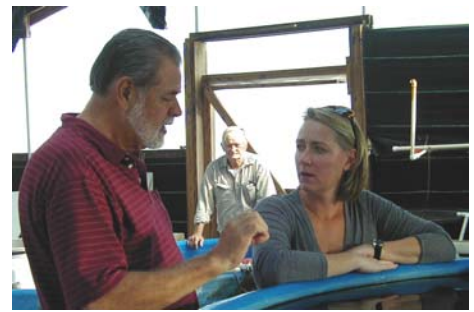
gency Board and coordinated agriculture disaster damage estimates for the Department.

Leslie worked closely with Florida's agricultural industry to secure federal agriculture disaster assistance funding after the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons and assisted industry's efforts in securing specialty crop funding in the 2008 Farm Bill.

Prior to joining the Department, she served as Congressional Liaison for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection from

1999 – 2002, helping to secure Congressional authorization for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

From 1992 to 1996, Leslie worked for the United States Senate, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in Washington, DC. She was appointed to her current position by Commissioner Putnam in December, 2010.



Leslie is pictured talking to Bill Dwight at his farm following the recent severe freeze events. Art Rawlings, President - Florida Tropical Fish Farms Association stands in the background.

EPA announces numeric nutrient criteria Florida's freshwaters

On Nov. 15, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced specific numeric nutrient criteria, nitrogen and phosphorus, for lakes and springs throughout Florida and flowing waters (rivers, streams and canals) everywhere but South Florida. Prior to EPA's court order driven action, Florida used a narrative criteria that stated in "no case shall nutrient concentrations in a body of water be altered so as to cause an imbalance in natural populations of aquatic flora or fauna."

EPA determined numeric nutrient criteria were necessary because "substantial water quality degradation from nitrogen/phosphorus over enrichment remains a significant challenge" and current regulatory efforts were being implemented on a

"time-consuming and resource intensive case-by-case basis." EPA believes that numeric nutrient criteria will assist the state as it continues the development of Basin Management Action Plans (BMAP) and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations.

EPA has provided a 15-month grace period for the state agencies and municipalities to reconfigure their surface water quality protective efforts. They have also created a process termed "Site Specific Alternative Criteria" through which any agency or individual can submit a data package to EPA that will prove a particular water body meets its designated use with nutrient concentrations that are different than the EPA established numbers.

The data package must provide a thorough analysis of how desig-

nated uses are being supported both in the water body and in downstream water bodies at concentrations of total nitrogen, total phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, or nitrate+nitrite that are higher or lower than the EPA numbers.

EPA anticipates that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will use this process to support continued implementation of established BMAPs with TMDLs. It is the EPA's intent "that no TMDL will be rescinded or invalidated" nor will the new standards have the effect of withdrawing any prior EPA approved TMDL.

The EPA's numeric nutrient criteria and supporting data can be read at http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/florida_index.cfm.

"EPA has provided a 15-month grace period for the state agencies and municipalities to reconfigure their surface water quality protective efforts"

Numeric nutrient criteria in the works for Florida coastal waters

The court-ordered effort by EPA to create numeric nutrient criteria for Florida's freshwaters includes a similar effort for Florida's marine waters. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has formed a science advisory board and summarized water quality data for 30 bays, lagoons, harbors, or coastal

regions. The goal of this effort is for the State of Florida to propose estuary-specific numeric nutrient criteria because there are significant differences between estuaries created by tidal fluxes, freshwater inputs, temperature, dominant plant communities (seagrass vs. mangrove vs. saltmarsh), and the presence of coral or oyster reefs.

Florida DEP intends to submit numeric nutrient criteria in advance of EPA's standards which will occur sometime prior to the court imposed deadline of August 15, 2012.

For additional information visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wqssp/nutrients/estuarine.htm>.

New oyster harvesting and processing rules proposed

Last year, the Division implemented new oyster harvesting and processing regulations to reduce the risk of illness from oyster consumption due to the naturally occurring bacterium *Vibrio vulnificus*.

Those regulations limited oyster harvest times and required faster cool down of harvested oysters during May through October. Effective cooling slows the growth of this bacterium in harvested oysters. All Gulf of Mexico States were re-



quired to implement similar regulations.

In January 2011, the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference concluded that those regulations did not result in sufficient reduction of *Vibrio vulnificus* illnesses.

Therefore, all Gulf States are required to: (1) implement similar time and temperature controls for two additional months (April and November) beginning in 2011; (2) implement addi-

tional record keeping controls to ensure better compliance of regulations; (3) and increase enforcement and compliance activities.

The Division held public workshops describing these proposed new controls and requirements for increased compliance in early February 2011.

For additional information about these rulemaking activities go to http://www.freshfromflorida.com/public_notices/ or call David Heil, 850-488-5471.

New Canadian import regulations in the works

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has changed their Health of Animals Regulations and Reportable Diseases Regulations. These changes require import controls for aquatic animals, which include an import permit issued from CFIA and a zoosanitary certificate issued in the country of origin.

This effort is focused on preventing the introduction, and/or spread within Canada, of certain animal diseases. The Agency has published the regulated lists of aquatic species (finfish, mollusc

and crustaceans) and aquatic animal diseases.

The regulation can be read at: <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2010/2010-12-22/html/sordors296-eng.html>. Notably the regulated list of aquatic species includes the American oyster, hard clam and a number of ornamental fish species including goldfish, koi, barb, and guppy.

Listed finfish, molluscs and crustacean species, including live and dead animals for specific end uses will require aquatic animal import

permits issued by CFIA and zoosanitary certification (i.e., a health certificate issued by a veterinarian and endorsed by the appropriate Competent Animal Health Authority) from all exporting countries including the US. However, the specific conditions of the import permit and language of the health requirements are still being developed by Canada.

For additional information, contact: Dr. Kathleen Hartman at 813-671-5230, ext. 119 or Kathleen.H.Hartman@aphis.usda.gov.

Nominate your farm or a farmer for the Commissioner's Ag-Environmental Leadership award

Commissioner Putnam invites farm or individual nominations for his annual Ag-Environmental Leadership Award.

Since 1994, this program has helped Florida agriculture "tell its story" by highlighting farmer's and rancher's environmental stewardship efforts. Commissioner Putnam commented, "Agriculturists are the original environmentalist. My family and I have always valued



the bond between man and the environment and how we depend upon the environmental quality of Florida's land and water to be productive."

The Ag-Environmental Leadership selection process begins with a nomination that is judged by an independent committee that includes representatives from major agricultural and environmental groups and state agencies.

Past aquaculture award recipients include Ekk-Will Waterlife Resources (1996), Williamson Cattle Company (2003), and Aquatica Tropicals, Inc. (2003).

Go to <http://www.florida-agenvironmental.com/> to download an application form or contact Paul Zajicek, 850-488-5471, for a copy. The deadline to submit is March 1, 2011.

"We depend upon the environmental quality of Florida's land and water to be productive."

Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner
Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services

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Mission

*Regulating and supporting aquaculture
production and growth for economic
development while protecting the
environment.*

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DACS-P-00082

Pest Alert: European Pepper Moth

The European pepper moth, *Duponchelia fovealis*, is a pest of 38 plant families including aquatic plants in greenhouses and was detected in Florida during October.

Description: The eggs are oval, 0.020 to 0.028 inches (0.5 to 0.7 mm) long, whitish-green in color, changing to bright red as they develop. The larvae measure from 0.8 to 1.2 inches (20 to 30 mm) when fully grown, are creamy white to brown with dark spots, and have a dark head capsule. The pupae are light brown and 0.35 to 0.39 inches (9 to 10 mm) in length. The cocoon that encloses the pupa is 0.59 to 0.748 inches (15 to 19 mm) long, oval, and made with silk, frass and soil particles constructed beneath the soil. Adults have wing spans of 0.748 to 0.827 inches (19 to 21 mm), a forewing length 0.35 to 0.43 inches (9 to 11 mm) and are 0.35 to 0.47 inches (9 to 12 mm) long. Dorsally, the forewings are grayish brown with two yellowish-white transverse lines, the outer line with a finger-like projection directed toward the apex of the wing. Males have a long, slender abdomen.



The undulating white line is distinctive to this moth.



Florida Distribution: Alachua, Charlotte, Highlands, Hillsborough, Palm Beach, Polk and Orange counties. It could be spread easily via the transport of infested plants, soil, or other nursery and greenhouse materials. Since the moths are good fliers, they could also extend their range within the state by flight.

More Information: Download the Division of Plant Industry Pest Alert for this moth: http://www.fl-dpi.com/pest_alerts/pdf/duponchelia_fovealis.pdf, or to request a hard copy call Paul Zajicek, 850-488-4033.

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