



NICOLE "NIKKI" FRIED  
COMMISSIONER

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Division of Aquaculture

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL  
IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND**

Section 253.69, Florida Statutes – Rule 18-21.021, F.A.C.

**NOTICE OF OPEN AQUACULTURE LEASE APPLICATION PERIOD**

**Please note that the original dates posted for the preapplication meetings were an error, the correct dates are below.**

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) has been granted authorization to establish the Four Mile Aquaculture Use Zone and to execute 38 submerged land leases for use of the full water column. FDACS will accept lease applications from March 6, 2020 through March 20, 2020. Applications received outside of the application window will be returned. A person may apply as an individual or as business entity but not as both. Only one application per person or per business entity will be accepted.

Preference will be given to

- Applicants that are Franklin County residents.
- Applicants that have attended a pre-application meeting (which will be held in Franklin County to provide an overview of the aquaculture leasing process and requirements).
- Applicants that have not previously held a 10-year renewable submerged land aquaculture lease.
- Applicants that have held a Saltwater Products License (SPL) for at least three of the last five years.
- Applicants that have held an Apalachicola Bay Oyster Harvesting License (ABOHL) for at least three of the last 10 years.

Along with your application, please provide a copy of your drivers license, or other government issued identification which includes your address, or a current utility bill as proof of residency. Copies of your SPL, ABOHL and other supporting materials are required to receive any of the preferences and must be provided before 5PM on March 20, 2020.

After March 20, 2020, FDACS will develop a ranked list of applicants using a random selection number and preferences. The 38 highest ranked applicants will be notified and allowed 15 days to provide the \$200 application fee. Failure to timely submit the application fee will result in disqualification from the process. The next highest ranked applicant will be notified and allowed 15 days to furnish the application fee. Upon receipt of the application fees for all 38 parcels, FDACS will conduct an open meeting where the applicants, in rank order will select lease parcels. Prior to execution of a lease, it will be the applicant's responsibility to provide FDACS with a parcel survey and mark the parcel appropriately.

Pre-application meetings will be held on March 4, 2020 from 5:30-7:30 PM and March 5, 2020 from 3:00-5:00 PM at the Community Center at 1 Bay Avenue, Apalachicola, FL 32320. You must attend the entire meeting and present photo identification to be eligible for the preference for attending the meeting.

All completed applications may be mailed to Florida Division of Aquaculture, Attention: Portia Sapp, 600 South Calhoun Street, Suite 217, Tallahassee, Florida 32399 or sent via email to Portia.Sapp@FDACS.gov. Applications and supporting materials must be received in our office no later than 5 PM on March 20, 2020 to be considered. Please contact the Division at 850-617-7600 or the email address above with any questions or to obtain an application or you can go to our website at <https://forms.freshfromflorida.com/15102.pdf>.