

Florida Shellfish Aquaculture

RULES OF THE ROAD



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Shellfish Aquaculture Extension Program

Cedar Key, Florida

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of a large pile of clams. The clams have dark, concentric ridges on their shells, with some showing lighter, reddish-brown hues. They are piled together, creating a textured, organic background.

OUTLINE

- Background / State Legislation
- Aquaculture Certification
- Best Management Practices
- Aquaculture Leasing Program
- Other Requirements

Background



- New shellfish aquaculture leases in Cedar Key toured by Rep. Bert Harris, House of Representatives Ag committee and staff, 1994
- The House Agriculture Committee reviews aquaculture regulations in summer session, 1995
- Town hall meetings held, one in Cedar Key, 1995
- Florida Aquaculture Association began hosting receptions during legislative session, 1991

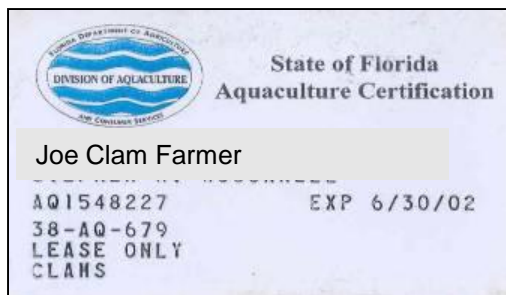
Important legislation passed

- Aquaculture declared to be agriculture (1996)
- Shellfish aquaculture declared to be in public interest (1996)
- Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) named lead agency (1998)
- All regulatory responsibilities transferred to new Division of Aquaculture created within DACS (1999)

Florida Aquaculture Policy Act (Chapter 597, Florida Statutes)

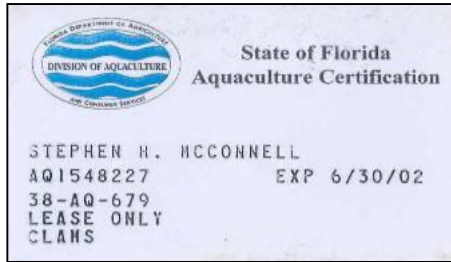


Aquaculture Certification



- Aquaculturists, their farms, and products recognized as an agricultural commodity through certificate of registration (1996)
 - Entitles aquatic growers same benefits as agriculture producers
 - Exempts cultured species from resource management rules
 - Replaces duplicative permitting requirements for farm facilities

Forms and more info can be found at the
DACS Division of Aquaculture website:
[https://www.freshfromflorida.com/
Business-Services/Aquaculture/
Aquaculture-Certificate-of-Registration](https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Business-Services/Aquaculture/Aquaculture-Certificate-of-Registration)



Aquaculture Certification, “AQ” Card

- Time period:_____
- Annual fee:_____
- Can someone other than leaseholder get one?_____
- What is an authorized user agreement?_____

Aquaculture Certification

- Shellfish Harvester Educational Training Requirements
 - Shellfish leaseholders, authorized users, lease workers or shellfish harvesters are required to obtain approved training on processing, handling, and transportation practices prior to certification or recertification.
 - No aquaculture certificate will be issued without proof of training.
 - One person must have a copy of training certificate on boat.
 - Training must be completed every year.



Best Management Practices

AQUACULTURE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES MANUAL

November 2016



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Aquaculture
Holland Building, Suite 217
600 South Calhoun Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
www.FreshFromFlorida.com

FDACS-0004 Rev. 11/0016 Aquaculture Best Management Practices Manual, Incorporated into Rule SL-3004, F.A.C.

- BMPs developed for certified aquatic facilities(1998)
 - All certified aquaculturists must abide
 - BMPs are developed for each segment of the aquaculture industry
 - BMPs consist of general and specific instructions that address construction, operation and management of an aquaculture facility which results in minimal environmental impacts
 - BMPs do not supersede applicable federal or local authorities
 - Site visits / inspections by DACS staff of certified facility to ensure compliance

Visit the Division's website:
<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Aquaculture> for
more info on BMPs.

BMPs for Shellfish Aquaculture



BMPs for Clam Seed



- Genetic Protection: What stocks can be used?
-
-

- Health Protection: Can you get seed from out-of-state?
-
-

- If so, what documentation is needed?
-
-
-



BMPs for Clam Leases



- What license(s) do you need to sell clams from your lease to a certified wholesaler?
-

- What times can you work on your lease?
-

- All culture materials must be free of what?
-

- When you are through using cover netting, what do you do with it?
-

BMPs for Mechanical Harvesting

- Can you use a mechanical harvester on your lease?
-



- What kind of harvester can be used to harvest bottom-planted clams without a special lease condition?
-

- What kind of harvester will require special lease conditions?
-

Aquaculture Support Docks

- Mooring work skiffs (4 or less), loading and off loading, storing gear, siting of nurseries
- Statutory authority allows DACS to oversee use of state lands for docks
- Chapter 253, F.S. (2005)



- BMPs developed for construction, operation and maintenance of docks ($\leq 2,000$ sq.ft.), Chapter 5L-3, F.A.C.

Leasing Program

- Established in state statute (Chapter 253, F.S.) in 1988
- Provides authority for leasing sovereign submerged lands for purpose of aquaculture
- Administered by FDACS Division of Aquaculture
- Clam grower enters into a lease agreement (contract) with FDACS

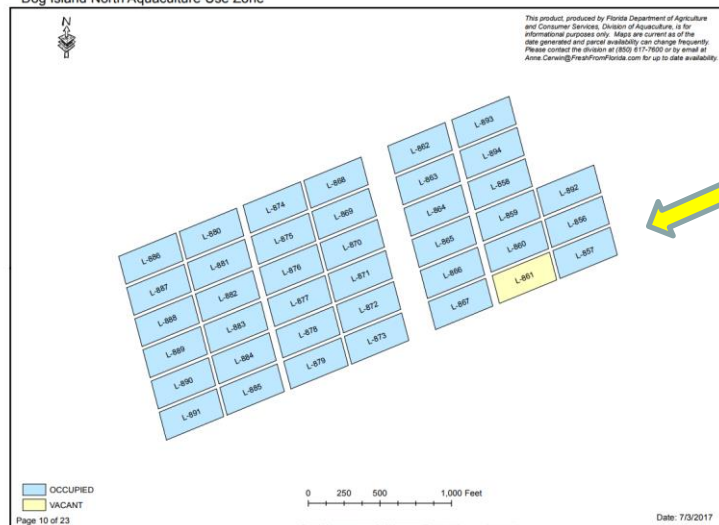


Shellfish Aquaculture Leases

Submerged land leases are lands owned by the State of Florida so growers must obtain permission from the State to farm clams on a lease.

- Submerged land leases are public lands and available to anyone interested in applying.
- **Aquaculture use zones (AUZ)** are areas with predetermined lease sites grouped into a single area often containing dozens of parcels or lease sites.

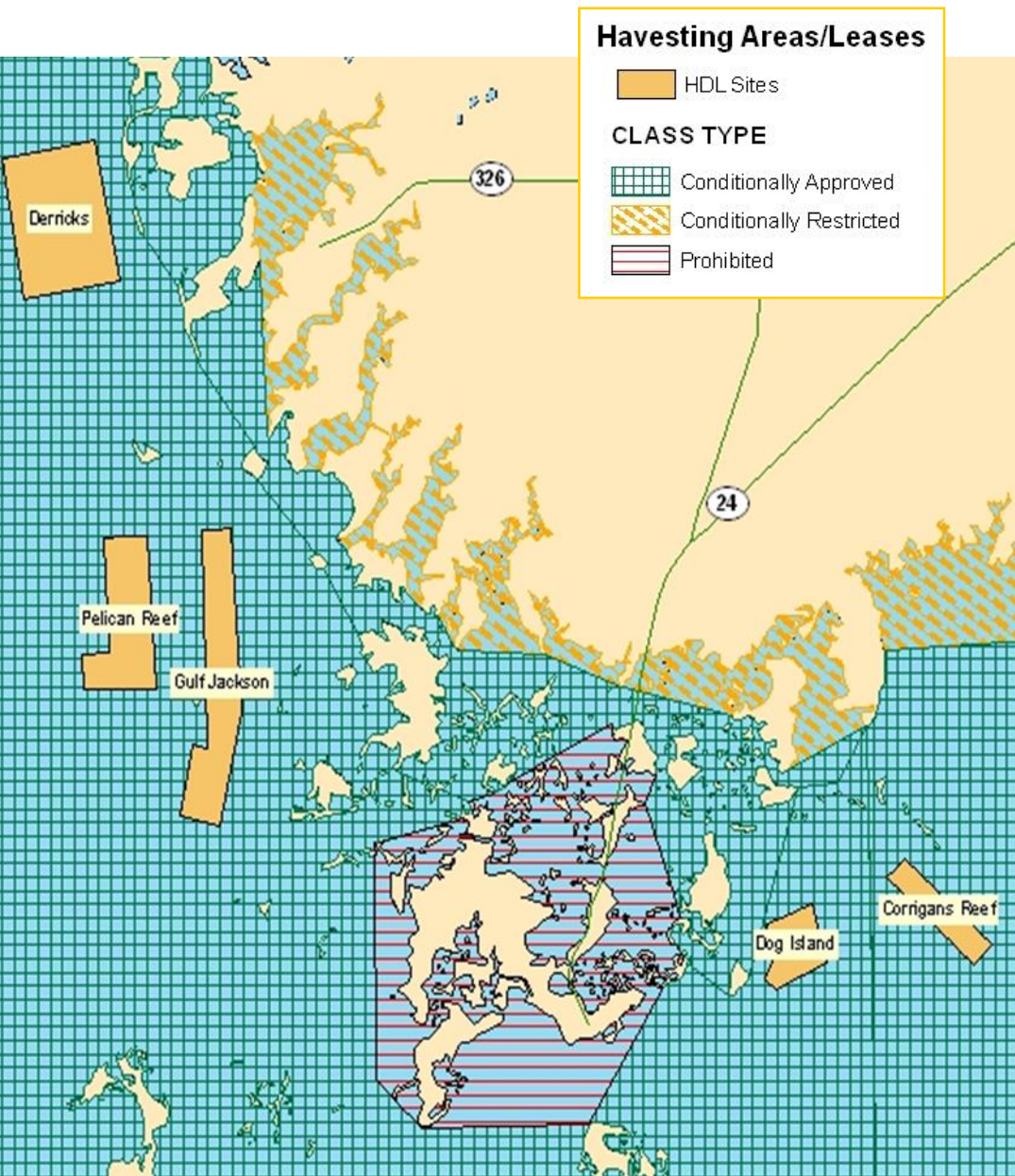
Dog Island North Aquaculture Use Zone



Florida Aquaculture Use Zones



Siting Shellfish Leases



Cedar Key Aquaculture Use Zones

- Potential sites must undergo resource survey
- Located on nonproductive “bare” bottom substrate
- Waters must be approved for shellfish harvesting
- Can not impede navigation or conflict with other uses
- Meet conditions of the shellfish being cultured
 - Salinity
 - Substrate

Clam Lease Requirements



- What is the term of the lease (how many years)?
-

- Are leases renewable?
-

- Can leases be transferred or subleased?
-

- What are the annual clam lease rental fees?
-

Clam Lease Conditions



- Are clam leases limited to bottom use only?

- Can you relay (move) wild shellfish stocks to a lease?

- What is the minimum clam cultivation requirement?

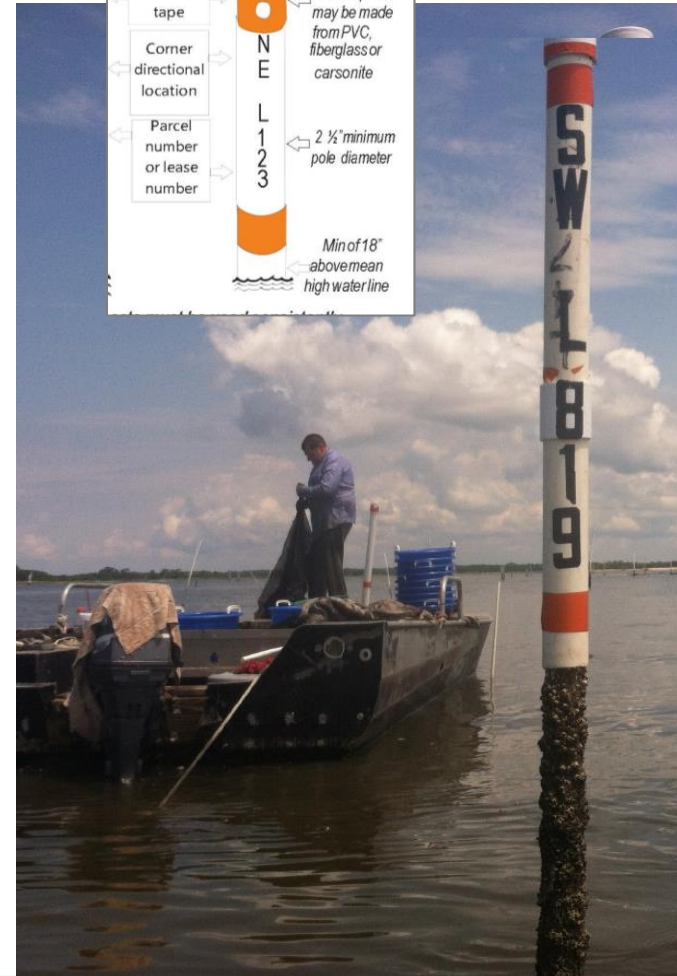
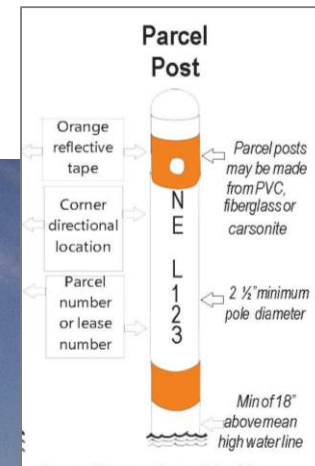
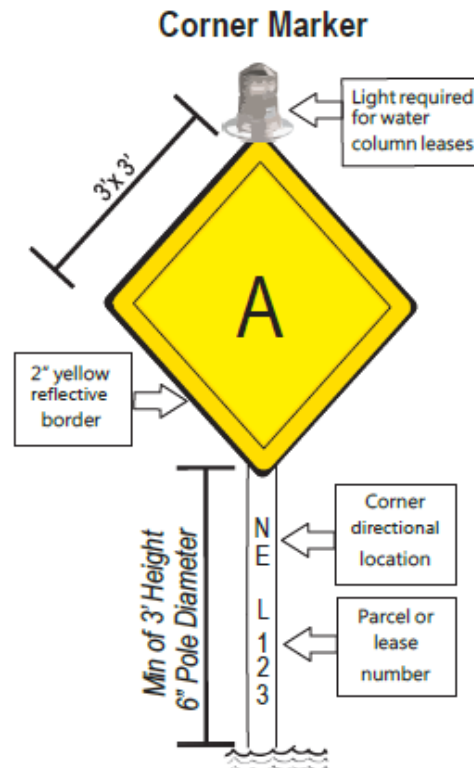
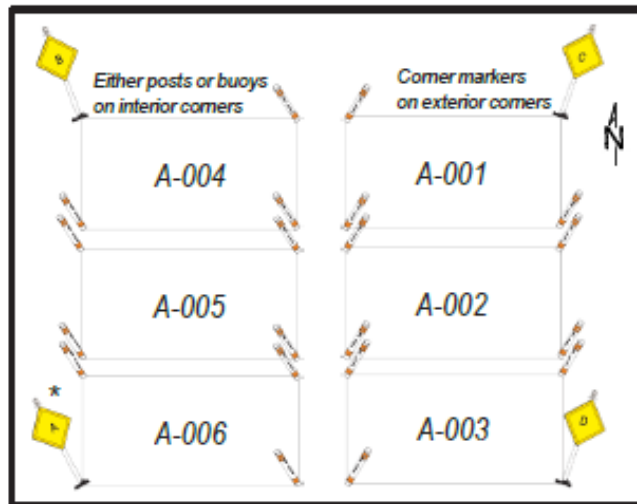
- What information is required on an annual audit to DACS?

- Who is responsible for marking the leases?

Marking Shellfish Aquaculture Leases

Lease holders must mark their leases to ensure navigational safety, provide area ID and deter the general public from entering the culture areas.

Aquaculture Use Zone marker layout example



Shellfish Aquaculture Leases

True or false?



You will get in trouble if you are not a lease holder and you are caught in possession of cultured clams or harvesting clams from a specific lease site.



TRUE - It is against the law for anyone other than the lease holder to harvest cultured clams from lease areas.

Public Health Requirements

WHY?

- Molluscan shellfish are filter feeders
- Pump large volumes of water
- Take in bacteria, viruses, and other contaminants during feeding
- Impurities concentrate in tissues
- Shellfish eaten partially cooked or raw
- Shellfish harvested from polluted waters if consumed are a

HEALTH HAZARD



Clams have two siphons—seawater is pumped through the incurrent siphon by the gills providing food and oxygen. Cleared water is ejected from the excurrent siphon.

Public Health Requirements

WHAT?

- Waters classified for shellfish harvesting (37 SHAs)
- Management plans for shellfish harvesting areas
- Harvesting rules, e.g., time-temperature, shading of product, tagging, etc.
- No direct sales, only sell to a certified shellfish wholesaler
- Facility, refrigerated storage, HACCP, tagging, record-keeping and other wholesaler requirements
- Seed size restrictions if nursed in closed waters (16 mm SL for clams)



How?

- Comprehensive Shellfish Control Code, Rule 5L-1, FAC
- Best Management Practices, Rule 5L-3, FAC
- Special lease provisions, Statute 253, FS and Rule 18-21, FAC

THESE RULES WILL BE REVIEWED IN ANOTHER SESSION

Boat Requirements for Clamming

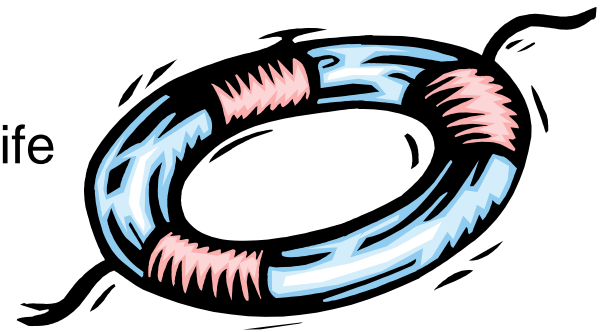
(Excerpted from Comprehensive Shellfish Control Code, Chapter 5L-1)

- Constructed, operated and maintained to protect clams from contamination
- Fuel tanks can not come into contact with clams
- False bottoms and bulkheads to prevent clams from coming in contact with bilge water
- No dogs or other animals allowed on boat at any time
- Type III marine sanitation device, portable toilet, or other sewage disposal receptacle that will not spill
- Effective shading to protect clams from exposure to sun, birds, and other adverse conditions



U.S. Coast Guard Requirements for Commercial Fishing Vessels (16-26')

- Boat must be registered commercial and comply with U.S. Coast Guard commercial fishing industry vessels
 - Personal Flotation Devices – Type I, II, III, V
 - One PFD per person on vessel
 - 62 square inches of reflective tape (31 inches² front & back)
 - Approved PFD light attached to front shoulder area
 - Vessel name or FL number
 - Throwable Flotation Device
 - 1 cushion or a orange 24 inch ring life buoy with 60 feet of line
 - Vessel name or FL number



U.S. Coast Guard Requirements for Commercial Fishing Vessels (16-26')

- Boat must be registered commercial and comply with U.S. Coast Guard commercial fishing industry vessels
 - Distress Signals
 - Day: one flag or smoke signals or 3 approved flares for both day and night
 - Fire Extinguishers
 - Outboard engine and portable gas tanks: not required
 - 1 B-1 type
 - Sound producing device
- Marine Safety Office Inspections
 - No charge, receive decal
 - Check with local USCG Marine Safety Officer or USCG Auxiliary



S.A.L.T.

SHARKS AQUACULTURE LIFE TRAINING

Visit: [FDACS Division of Aquaculture](#)

*Hosts: Portia Sapp, Assistant Division Director
and Charlie Culpepper, Administrator*

Website: [https://www.freshfromflorida.com/
Divisions-Offices/Aquaculture](https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Aquaculture)

