



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMISSIONER NICOLE "NIKKI" FRIED

MEMORANDUM

TO: State and Local Government Agency Boat Ramp Authorities

FROM: Portia Sapp, Director
Division of Aquaculture

DATE: March 25, 2020

SUBJECT: Boat Ramp Access for Commercial Aquaculture Farmers

Shellfish farmers conducting commercial agriculture who present a current Aquaculture Certificate of Registration are essential workers and should be authorized to use boat ramp facilities that are otherwise closed to the general public.

Shellfish farmers possessing a valid Aquaculture Certificate of Registration issued by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services pursuant to Chapter 597, Florida Statutes, are commercial agriculture businesses. As stated in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Memorandum entitled *Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers during COVID-19 Response*, animal agriculture businesses are considered *Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers* and have a special responsibility to continue operations during the COVID-19 emergency. Shellfish farmers require use of public boat ramp infrastructure to access their farm sites to continue operations.

Please contact the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Aquaculture at (850) 617-7600 if you need further information.

Portia Sapp
Director, Division of Aquaculture
Florida Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services