



Round Table Session: **Addressing Summer Mortalities of Cultured Hard Clams in Cedar Key**

Shellfish growers across Florida have experienced chronic losses of adult clams reaching harvest size for many years during the summer months. More recently, clam growers in Cedar Key have reported below average survivals or total losses during the prolonged hot summers. This session brings together researchers to begin to address these mortality events.

Friday, April 19, 2024, 10:00am-12:30pm
UF/IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station
552 1st Street, Cedar Key, FL

AGENDA:

- Profile of Cedar Key clam aquaculture Industry – Leslie Sturmer
- Results of growers' survey on crop losses, possible contributing factors, and research and monitoring efforts needed – Cedar Key Aquaculture Association
- Water quality conditions for Cedar Key – Natalie Anderson
- Summary of current and past monitoring and applied research projects conducted in Cedar Key – Leslie Sturmer
- Brief summaries of research programs and potential application to understanding factors involved in clam mortalities – Session participants

DISCUSSION:

- Identification of resources available or necessary to address summer mortalities and what would be needed to implement preliminary studies during summer 2024.
- Funding (\$50,000) through Florida Sea Grant will be used to support services in processing/analyzing samples, purchasing supplies and/or equipment. UF staff and growers will be available to assist in sampling or monitoring activities.