Aquaculture Leasing Program
Florida’s Aquaculture Industry
• 2018 sales: $71.6 million
• ~1000 Aquaculture Certificates of Registration
• ~800 species in production
Division of Aquaculture Programs

Aquaculture Certificate of Registration and Best Management Practices

Shellfish Harvesting Area Classification

Sovereignty Submerged Land Leasing

Shellfish Processing Facility Certification
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Sets season, size & bag limits

Enforces oyster regulations

Issues shellfish endorsement for commercial harvest
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leases</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total as of 1/31/2020</td>
<td>779</td>
<td>2,817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture (Shellfish)</td>
<td>712</td>
<td>1,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inperpetuity</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>929.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live Rock</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Agreements</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Column</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>356.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Docks</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Just like the SHA map, click each AUZ to bring up that areas lease parcel map.
Aquaculture Lease Maps

https://www.FDACS.gov/Divisions-Offices/Aquaculture
Aquaculture Lease Maps

https://www.FDACS.gov/Divisions-Offices/Aquaculture
Application Received & Reviewed
FDACS

Title Determination for State-owned Submerged Lands
FDEP

~10-12 days Site is state owned w/ no encumbrances

Site Inspection & Resource Assessment Survey
FDACS

~50 days No resources present, or resource exclusion possible; site is suitable for leasing

Public Noticing
Local newspaper/FDACS website

Local, State & Federal Review
FDEP/FGC/Dept of State/USACE/USFWS/Local County Comm

~45 days No objections

Cabinet Authorization
FL Governor & Cabinet

~30 days Approved

Contracted 3rd Party Field Survey**
Applicant

Approved

Finalize Lease Documents & Aquaculture Certificate *
FDACS/Applicant

Package complete

Lease Sent to Administration, Mailed to Applicant & Executed
FDACS

*If a lease application is for an unencumbered parcel in an existing AUZ, the process moves from application to finalizing documents. Intermediate steps are only necessary when a new site is proposed.

** For offshore net pens, this step would entail a high resolution seafloor (surface and sub-surface) and hydrographic Baseline Environmental Survey, conducted by a professional surveyor and paid for by the applicant.
Preferences

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.
Lease Rental Fees

Bottom leases-
$16.73/acre or fraction thereof

Water Column leases-
$33.46/acre or fraction thereof

Plus $10.00/acre or fraction thereof surcharge
Annual Audits

• 70,000 oysters/acre or 100,000 clams/acre

• Audits request basic information including:
  - amount of seed/stock purchased and harvested
  - copies of seed/stock receipts
Best Management Practices

• Only native species can be stocked.
• Prohibited to stock oysters from Atlantic Coast in Florida Gulf Coast waters.
• An Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and diagnostic results must be sent to the Division prior to out of state shellfish entering Florida.
• Oyster seed from out of state source must use Florida broodstock in genetic selection program.
• Out of State Source - Triploid seed derived from a tetraploid crossed with a diploid oyster require the use of broodstock from the Gulf of Mexico.
Lease Agreement Terms and Conditions

• Lease can not be assigned, transferred or subleased for five years.

• The leaseholder’s identification information shall be attached to all culturing structures.
For more information contact:
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