

Florida Aquaculture

Florida's temperate and semitropical climates, extensive coastline, and numerous water sources help support a multi-million dollar commercial aquaculture industry. While most of the industry's value is associated with a vast array of freshwater ornamental fish, the variety of marine organisms being cultivated continues to grow adding to the diversity and value of aquaculture products the state has to offer.

Quick Facts

- Florida's farm-gate value of commercial aquaculture industry totaled **\$75 million dollars** in 2005.*
- Florida's aquaculture sales rank **seventh** in the nation.
- Florida ranks **first** in the number of species cultured in the nation.
- Florida ranks **third** in the number of farms in aquaculture production.
- **95%** of the U.S. market for ornamental fish is grown in Florida.
- Florida ranks **second** in the nation in hard clam production.
- Over 50% of Florida aquaculture operations are **less than 3 acres** in size.
- Florida has **359** operations with appreciable sales in 2005.
- Over **3,000 acres** of water were dedicated towards aquaculture production in 2005.

**Sales dropped from \$95.5 million dollars in 2003 in part to severe losses from the 2004 and 2005 hurricane season.*

What are Florida aquaculture products used for?

- Food production
- Sport fish stock enhancement
- Aquatic landscaping
- Wetland vegetation restoration
- Research
- Industrial use
- Aquarium trade

What are some products produced by the Florida aquaculture industry?

- Clams
- Oysters
- Shrimp
- Catfish
- Hybrid Striped Bass
- Tilapia
- Red Drum
- Snook
- Pompano
- Largemouth Bass
- Sturgeon
- Carp
- Ornamental fish
- Baitfish
- Alligators
- Live rock
- Native wetland vegetation
- Aquatic garden plants
- Algae



Farm-Gate Value of Florida's Aquaculture Sales in 2005*

Item	Net Sales
Ornamental Fish	\$33,232,000
Aquatic Plants	\$17,560,000
Clams ¹ & Oysters	\$10,694,000
Alligators	\$4,070,000
Other Food Fish ²	\$1,731,000
Catfish	\$1,434,000
Tilapia	\$477,000
Live Rock	\$341,000
All Sport fish	\$191,000
All Other Aquaculture ³	\$5,245,000

1-includes seed clams

2-Hybrid Striped Bass, Largemouth Bass, Carp, and Sturgeon

3-Includes baitfish, crustaceans, and other aquatics

* Source: United States Department of Agriculture

Where are most aquaculture operations located in Florida?

Although operations are found statewide, a heavy concentration of production sites are located in the west central and southeastern portion of the state (*Tampa and Miami regions*).

Who regulates the aquaculture industry in Florida?

The Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (FDACS) Division of Aquaculture oversees the management and regulations pertaining to the aquaculture industry.

Does the aquaculture industry follow Best Management Practices (BMPs)?

Yes. All producers must register with the FDACS and follow Best Management Practices established by the industry or face penalties for non-compliance.

Where can I learn more about Florida aquaculture?

- Florida Division of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences- Division of Aquaculture
- Mote Marine Laboratory Department of Aquaculture Research and Development
- Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute's Division of Aquaculture
- Florida Sea Grant

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