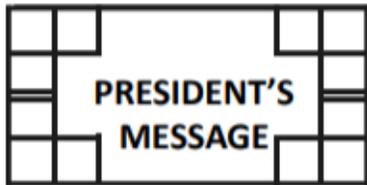




FLORIDA *Aquaculture* ASSOCIATION

Representing the Florida aquaculture industry since 1983.

Summer 2021 Newsletter



Hurricane Elsa has reminded us that hurricane season is upon us. Although impactful to Florida, fortunately Elsa was a relatively minor storm. Given the challenging and hectic nature of our business, it is easy to push hurricane preparedness to the bottom of the pile. However, when it comes to hurricanes, waiting to the last minute rarely succeeds. Now is the time to check your facilities and equipment, review your Emergency Preparedness Plan and update accordingly.

Summer is also the time of year when the FAA starts the nominating process for Directors. Director seats are for a 3-year term and the FAA has three Director-at-Large seats that will be available for election or re-election. These 3 seats are held by Directors Michaels, Mogollon and Davis. In addition, every third year, the Directors who serve as commodity representatives are up for election or re-election. Current Directors serving as commodity representatives are Register (Alligators), McLane (Aquatic Plants), Cardenas (Food & Bait Fish), Sturmer (Shellfish), Drury (Aquaculture Equipment Suppliers & Services) and Rawlins (Tropical Fish). All six of these Commodity Representative seats will be up for election or re-election this year.

The first step in election process is finding a volunteer Nominating Committee chairperson who, in turn, will form a Nominating Committee. Director Jane Davis has agreed to be this Chairperson. All potential candidates will be vetted by the Nominating Committee for possible inclusion on the autumn ballot.

Our bylaws also allow for independent nominations from our membership. I encourage any member who has a passion for this industry and has a desire to contribute to our Association to contact Director Davis.

The deadline for independent nominations endorsed with the names of not less than ten (10) active members of the Association is August 31, 2021.

Nominees to the Board will be elected by vote of the Active Membership this autumn, with the results announced at our Annual Meeting which will be held in Cedar Key on October 28th, 2021. If you have an interest in serving on our Board of Directors as a Director-at-Large or as a Commodity Representative or if you have any questions regarding this nominating/voting process, I encourage you to contact Director Davis; (407) 864-0585 or the FAA office; (813) 438-FLAA.

I am pleased to announce, that after many years of effort, your FAA was successful in getting SB 1018 passed. Florida Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides floridanus*) are now legal to grow and sell as food fish in Florida. Getting this bill passed was certainly a team effort. Our thanks go out to everyone involved including our Board of Directors, Jim Spratt (FAA lobbyist), Senator Jim Boyd (sponsor of SB 1018_2021), Representatives Dana Trabulsy and Toby Overdorf (co-sponsors of companion bill HB 669_2021), the FDACS Division of Agriculture, and letters of support from Mote Marine Laboratory, and lastly, but not least, letters of support from various Florida restauranters who are eager to see Florida Largemouth Bass on their menus.

The passage of this bill represents a unique opportunity for Florida fish farmers. Florida farmers can leverage their strategic national advantage of a year-round growing climate coupled with the availability of the faster growing Florida Largemouth Bass strain to supply both the Florida food fish marketplace as well as to compete for a share of a \$27+ million dollar national market (2018 statistics). For more information and details on this new opportunity, please contact the FAA home office and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS); Division of Aquaculture.

As always, I encourage you to frequently visit the FAA website; www.flaa.org for the latest information on Federal and State announcements relevant to our industry. We strive to post all relevant information and update these posts often.

Wishing all a safe and successful 2021,

Jim Michaels
President



FLORIDA
Aquaculture
ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2974

Riverview, FL 33568

813-438-FLAA

tiffany@flaa.org

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT- Jim Michaels, Sarasota, (941)302-3075

VICE PRESIDENT- Geno Evans, Ponce Inlet,
(386)547-5066

SECRETARY- Allen Register, Palmdale, (863)675-0623

TREASURER- Jane Davis, Pierson, (407)864-0585

PAST PRES.- Marty Tanner, Plant City, (813)757-0289

Directors at Large

Dan Conner, Gibsonton, (813)362-2806

Jane Davis, Pierson, (407)864-0585

Geno Evans, Ponce Inlet, (386)547-5066

Reggie Markham, Cedar Key, (352)697-0412

Paul Wills, Ft. Pierce, (772)242-2454

Heath Davis, Cedar Key, (352)262-9449

Michael Mogollon, Weston, (863)599-0603

Ryan Schelb, Riverview, (813)334-8736

Commodity Representatives

Alligators- Allen Register, Palmdale, (863)675-0623

Aquatic Plants- Brandon McLane, Davie, (954)472-5120

Food Fish- Joe Cardenas, Ft. Pierce, (561)866-7092

Shellfish- Leslie Sturmer, Cedar Key, (352)543-5057

Suppliers- Thomas Drury, Maitland, (407)893-1185

Tropical Fish- David Rawlins, Lithia, (813)737-3418

Lobbyist- Jim Spratt, Tallahassee, (850)228-1296

Executive Director- Tiffany Conner (813)438-3522

Upcoming Events

Aquaculture America

August 11th-14th in San Antonio, Texas

FTFFA Annual Membership Meeting

Sept. 25th at the Plant City Elks Club

More details will be published in the FTFFA
newsletter

FAA Annual Membership Meeting

Oct. 28th at 10:00 AM in Cedar Key

What's on your bumper?

Thousands of dollars have been raised from the sale of the Aquaculture license plate to benefit aquaculture education, research, and development programs. Don't forget- the FAA receives funding from the Florida Aquaculture license plate to carry out important educational programs.

The FAA newsletter is funded with a grant through the HBOI Foundation.

We are grateful for their continued support for the FAA.



Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation

Florida Aquaculture Legislative Updates from FAA Lobbyist Jim Spratt

The Florida Legislature adjourned at roughly 2:30pm on Friday April 30th, thus concluding what can only be described as a totally unique and extraordinary 60 days. Although session was different since, the capitol was largely off limits due to safety protocols designed to stop the spread of the novel Corona Virus. At the end of the day, the final numbers and budget reflect an ordinary session.

For example, there were north of 3,000 bills filed during the 2021 session and ultimately only 275 bills were passed by both chambers. The attrition of bills is normal and serves as a great reminder that the process is really designed to keep bills from passing. Globally, the Legislature deliver on big policy issues which are part of a larger national discussion including: Anti-rioting legislation; elections reform; transgender individuals; and social media platform reforms.

As for the state budget, what a difference a few months makes! Leading up to the 2021 Session, lawmakers warned of tough budget times. Honestly, a year ago, no one could predict how our economy would function as we all dealt with impacts from a global pandemic. In fact, the initial budgets proposed by both the Senate and the House were based on roughly a \$3 billion shortfall in the state's revenue collections. However, revenue estimates ultimately outperformed predictions and in March, the estimates were highlighted at \$2 billion above original projections. In addition, the state received roughly \$10 billion in Federal Corona Virus relief funds. The result being they passed of a \$101 Billion state budget.

The 2021 Session was full of victories for the Aquaculture Industry as well as the business community at large.

HB 007/ SB 072 by Rep. Lawrence McClure/ Sen. Jeffery Brandes COVID Liability Protection:

A key priority issue for the Governor, President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House and the Florida business community, this legislation provides Florida businesses with critical protections from frivolous lawsuits relating to COVID -19. Working in partnership with other business groups and participation with the Associated Industries of Florida RESET Taskforce, many of the recommendations for common sense practical measures were included into the law. Specifically, the legislation creates a limited cause of action for COVID-19 related claims with: heightened culpability standards, a defendant must prove a business acted with gross negligence or intentional conduct; a heightened evidentiary standard, clear and convincing evidence is required to establish liability rather than a preponderance of evidence; and the bill creates a shortened statute of limitations of COVID related claims. Signed into law by Governor DeSantis.

SB 088/ HB 1601 by Sen. Jason Brodeur/ Rep. Jayer Williamson Farming Operations

A top priority for the association in 2021, this legislation modernizes and strengthens Florida's Right to Farm Act. Unquestionably, this legislation reflects the Legislature's intent to protect food, fiber and foliage producers in Florida and, given the continued population growth of the state, telegraphs the importance of protecting one of Florida's leading industries. The bill includes provisions which minimize the potential for lawsuits by putting guardrails on who can bring a suit and discourages frivolous lawsuits by allowing the farmer to collect attorney's fees if they prevail in a court case; limits damages by limiting the amount of compensatory damages to the value of the property harmed and would only allow for punitive damages in specific situations; modernizes the Right to Farm Act by extending protections to agritourism activities and expanding the roadside stand provision to include all "Farm Products" as defined in 823.14 FS. Signed into law by Governor DeSantis.

SB 1018/ HB 669 by Sen. Jim Boyd/ Rep. Dana Trubusly Largemouth Bass

A key priority for the aquaculture industry, this legislation allows the sale of Largemouth Bass as food fish. The industry wishes to thank Sen. Boyd and Rep. Trubusly for their hard work on this important issue and for the legislature interest in expanding markets for Florida Aquaculture producers. During the session, we learned there is a huge disconnect and general misunderstanding between the public and the industry. Moving forward, a lesson learned is the industry must seize opportunities to highlight the diverse products we grow in the "farm" setting and continue to distinguish farm production from recreational fishing. Signed into law by Governor DeSantis!

Legislative Report from Lobbyist Jim Spratt

SB 1634/ HB 1399 by Sen. Jason Brodeur/ Rep. Andrew Learned Public Records Exemption for Aquaculture Producers

Another priority for the Florida Aquaculture Industry, this legislation reestablishes the public records exemption for the aquaculture and shellfish industry. This exemption would apply to planting, harvest and other proprietary data relating to an individual business operations. This legislation was largely a clean up from a mistake made when the program was transferred to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Signed into law by Governor DeSantis.

SB 1876/ HB 421 by Sen. Ben Albriton/ Rep. Kaylee Tuck Burdens on Real Property

This legislation contains a number of improvements to the Bert j. Harris Private Property Rights Act. These updated include: uniformly applies the time frame to respond to a Bert Harris claim down from 150 days to 90 days for all types of property; allows the property owner to elect to forego a jury trial for damages and move directly to a bench trial; adds language which reinforces that a settlement between a landowner and government entity are in the public interest; and provides that if a property owner prevails in a Harris Act Claim then the property owner is entitled to having the government entity pay the attorney's fees. The amended bill also clarifies that real property includes subsurface (oil, gas and mineral) rights. Signed into law by Governor DeSantis.

SB 896/ HB 539 by Sen. Jason Brodeur/ Rep. Cord Byrd Renewable Energy

This legislation creates a nexus between solar facilities and agricultural lands prospectively. In summary, this legislation states that a solar facility is a compatible use on all agricultural land use categories contained in a local government comp plan. This legislation allows a local government to adopt ordinances relating to the set back or buffers for said solar facilities however, the requirements must be similar to the setbacks and buffers established for agricultural facilities.

SB 1128/ HB 919 by Sen. Travis Hutson/ Rep. Josie Tomkow Preemption Over Restrictions of Utility Services

This legislation is in response to local governments who, by ordinance or other actions, have prohibited customers from having access too specific types on power sources. Most specifically, natural gas access and utilization has been the focus on several local government actions nationally. Here in Florida, several municipal governments have considered actions to prohibit new connections to natural gas or other "non-renewable" sources. This legislation would prohibit a local government from taking such action to restrict or prohibit access to these sources of energy. Signed into law by Governor DeSantis.

SB 776/ HB 783 by Sen. George Gainer/ Rep. Jenna Persons-Mulicka Racketeering of Aquatic and Wild Animal Life

This legislation causes a great deal of uncomfot among regulated industries including Florida's Aquaculture Industry. As passed by the Legislature, the bill gives the Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) the authority to charge an individual under R.I.C.O laws. The bill went through a couple of changes throughout the committee process with the most noticeable change being the removal of the phrase "taking" from the activities. Nevertheless, a potential R.I.C.O charge can be brought for violation of any part of chapter 379 Florida Statutes or violation of chapter 68 F.A.C.

It is important to note, the House bill sponsor clarified during debate on the legislation the application of R.I.C.O would only apply in cases where there is a pattern of criminal activity. Thus, there can be some comfort in knowing that a mere violation of rules doesn't directly lead to R.I.C.O charges. Signed into law by Governor DeSantis.

SB 7062/ HB 1309 by Sen. Jason Brodeur/ Rep. Bobby Payne Ratification of Rules by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

This legislation combines two separate ratifications of the Department of Environmental Protections rules. The first, which was a directive in the 2020 Clean Waterways Act is ratification of the Biosolids rule. The updated rule is contains restrictions and safeguards on where and how Biosolids can be land applied. The rule is consistent with the recommendations provided by the Biosolids Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The second ratification contained in this legislation are the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) rules. Roughly 10 years ago, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection was charged with developing rules for a geographic region of the state, including Lake, Polk, Orange and Osceola Counties, where groundwater demand was going to significantly exceed water availability. Signed into law by Governor DeSantis.

Legislative Report from Lobbyist Jim Spratt

Given the complications associated with the Capitol being largely inaccessible during session, arguably, from a policy standpoint 2021 was successful. The one big disappointment is the continued struggle to securing funding for the Aquaculture Review Council (ARC). Clearly, given the broad impacts of the research to the industry, we are going to recreate how we advocate the importance of funding to the industry. The silver lining is we have more legislators who are interested in Florida Aquaculture; growing and diversifying the industry.

To this end, and to the extent there is interest from members, it would be great if members would be willing to have legislators tour their operations and try to continue building relationships with our elected officials.

Thank you for the opportunity to work on your behalf and, as always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me @ (850)228-1296 or jim@magnoliastrategiesllc.com

Jim Spratt

Magnolia Strategies, LLC

Summer Commodity Reports

.Aquatic Plants- Brandon McLane

The first quarter of 2021 is proving to be much different than 2020. Sales have been strong and demand high. There are some instances where demand is higher than supply at the moment. At this point, sales may even be higher than those of pre-COVID days.

Suppliers- Tom Drury

In the supplies and equipment industry, sales are increasing as demand is returning back to normal. A few supplies to keep an eye on are fitting, valves, and some filters. There seems to be a supply issue resulting from COVID-19 complications that is causing an increase in price and/or decrease in supply.

FAA Commodity Representatives

Commodity Representatives serve on the FAA Board to ensure that all aquaculture commodities and sectors are represented. We also recommend reaching out to your commodity representative with questions or concerns. If you are unsure about which commodity you would fall into or if you do not fit into one of the following commodities, please reach out to Tiffany Conner at Tiffany@flaa.org or 813.438.FLAA (3522).

Alligators: Allen Register, 863.675.0623, allen@gatorama.com

Aquatic Plants: Brandon McLane, 954.472.5120, brandon@floridaaquatic.com

Food Fish: Joe Cardenas, 561.866.7092, joe@aquacofarms.com

Shellfish: Leslie Sturmer, 352.543.5057, lnst@ufl.edu

Suppliers: Tom Drury, 844.946.4272, druryt14@gmail.com

Tropical Fish: David Rawlins, 813.737.3418, rawlins@ij.net

FDACS Division of Aquaculture Report



The following information was gathered from the most recent FDACS Division of Aquaculture Newsletter (Issue No. 108.) and information from Charlie Culpepper, Assistant Director.

Further information about any of the following items can be found on the FDACS Division of Aquaculture website:
<https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Aquaculture>

Macroalgae Culture Approved by USACE

We are pleased to announce that the Department's Programmatic General Permit (SAJ-99) issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to conduct marine aquaculture activities in state waters has recently been modified to allow production of native plants and macroalgae (or seaweed) in marine bivalve mariculture gear. Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act requires that any structures placed in U.S. waters receive proper authorization from USACE prior to installation, and SAJ-99 is utilized by the Department to permit all current aquaculture gear and structures. The modification simply allows interested farmers to now start culturing macroalgae in already approved gear, such as floating cages and baskets, suspended longline and bottom cages/racks. Please note that this permit does not cover rooted marine plants, like mangroves or seagrasses. Only free floating macroalgae which does not impact the substrate is allowed under SAJ-99.

If you are interested in farming macroalgae or native plants on your lease using this newly approved method, you must submit an updated production plan to the Division at Denise.Walsh@FDACS.gov. To update your production plan, please fill out and resubmit Parts III and IV of the Application for a State owned Sovereignty Submerged land Lease (<http://forms.freshfromflorida.com/15102.pdf>). You cannot begin culturing new species on your lease until the Division has reviewed and approved your proposed production plans.

Broodstock collections for free-floating marine plants and macroalgae may require an Aquaculture Broodstock Collection, Special Activity License (SAL), issued by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Please contact the FWC SAL program at SAL@MyFWC.com to determine if a SAL is required for your broodstock collections.

Aquaculture Invoice and Transport Container Labeling Requirements

In order to properly identify your aquaculture products and ensure traceability during shipment, transportation and sale, the Aquaculture Best Management Practices rule requires that all aquaculture products be identified with an Aquaculture Certificate of Registration number and the information outlined below. These labeling requirements allow law enforcement to easily identify that your aquaculture products are properly licensed for sale and are not wild animals/plants. Clear package labeling and thorough sales records can also prevent shipment delays and potential search and seizure of containers.

All containers holding aquaculture products must be identified by tags or labels which are securely attached and clearly display the following information:

- Source location (your farm name)
- Your Aquaculture Certificate of Registration number (AQ#)
- Species identification and quantity
- Date of harvest

Similarly, all aquaculture receipts, bills of sale, bills of lading, or other such manifests must contain at least the following information:

- Date of sale
- Name and address of seller
- Seller's Aquaculture Certificate of Registration number

- Seller's Aquaculture Certificate of Registration number
- Name and address of the purchaser
- Purchaser's Aquaculture Certificate of Registration number (if a Florida Certified Aquaculture Facility)
- Quantity and species identification of aquaculture product being sold

An example aquaculture product invoice/receipt, which includes all proper documentation, is provided on the back page.

Example Aquaculture Product Receipt

Invoice Number:
Date:

Seller:
AQ#:
Address:
City, State Zip

Buyer:
AQ#: *if another FL aquaculturist*
Address:
City, State Zip

Quantity	Species	Size/Weight per Unit	Unit Price	Cost
Total Quantity			Subtotal	\$0.00
			Tax	\$0.00
			S&H	\$0.00
			Total	\$0.00

If selling nonnative penaeid shrimp, include the following statement:
Selling or using live, nonnative penaeid shrimp as bait is prohibited and the release of nonnative species is prohibited by Rule 68-5.001, F.A.C.

Note that all facilities must maintain records of all live purchases and sales of sturgeon, marine shrimp, marine bivalves, live rock/marine life and restricted/conditional species as listed in Rule 68-5.002, F.A.C. If you are selling a restricted species, also attach a copy of the buyer's Restricted Species Authorization, Conditional Species Permit or other licenses allowing possession. *

FDACS Division of Aqua. Report

FL Largemouth Bass Approved for Food Fish Culture- SB 1018

Florida Largemouth Bass can now be grown and sold as a food fish throughout the state. Genetic testing results confirming that stocks are pure Florida Largemouth Bass must accompany all stocks and be maintained by the farmer for two years. If you would like to learn more about food production of FL Largemouth Bass or add the species to your Certificate of Registration, please contact the BMP program at (850) 617-7600 or by email at Serina.Rocco@FDACS.gov.

Expanded Public Record Exemptions for Aquaculture- SB 1634

The following individual business records collected and held by the Department are now exempt from the public disclosure requirements of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I 21 of the State Constitution:

- Shellfish receiving and production records generated by shellfish processing facilities.
- Audit records and supporting documents required for aquaculture submerged land leases.
- Aquaculture production records and receipts generated by aquaculture facilities.

With the exemption, the department can protect industry private business information while maintaining compliance with federal partners and documenting the compliance of aquaculture producers with statutory requirements. For more information about what these new exemptions mean for your specific facility, please contact the division.

Restoration Management Agreements Now Available

In response to increasing interest in shellfish restoration activities, the Division has updated language in Chapter 18-21, F.A.C. to allow Aquaculture Management Agreements to be issued to qualified entities for restoration aquaculture. Sections 18-21.020 and 18-21.021 of the rule outline the aquaculture leasing process in state waters for commercial leases and non-profit management agreements, which historically have been for research and education purposes. The new rule language expands the use of management agreements to include restoration as well.

Restoration management can now be used to plant and cultivate marine aquaculture species using gear approved within the Division's U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Programmatic General Permit (SAJ-99). This permit is currently limited to live rock, clam and oyster gear such as bottom bags, cover netting, bottom baskets, floating cages and suspended oyster longline. The application, siting and approval process for a restoration management agreement follows the same procedures already in place. If you would like to apply for a restoration management agreement, please contact the Division.

The bullets below outline key provision for this new management agreement option:

- Qualified entities are limited to state agencies, local governments, educational institutions, research institutions or restoration organizations
- Restoration management agreements can be located in unclassified or prohibited shellfish harvesting areas.
- harvested products cannot be sold or used for any purpose other than further restoration activities.
- Bottom leases are exempt from lease marking requirements. U.S. Coast Guard marking requirements apply to water column leases.

Expanded Diagnostic Testing at Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory

The Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab. (BADDL) provides farmers animal disease diagnostic services. The lab was recently approved by the USDA to diagnose the following aquatic diseases:

- Koi herpesvirus disease
- Spring viremia of carp
- *Perkinsus marinus* for shellfish



About the Course: This free online course consists of four sessions developed in collaboration with the University of Florida/IFAS Extension, Auburn University Shellfish Lab, and Mississippi-Alabama-Louisiana Sea Grant Programs. The targeted audience is beginning growers and those interested in the prospects of off-bottom oyster culture in the Gulf of Mexico.

Course Format: Each session consists of short video presentations and resource materials for additional information. A discussion section at the end of each session allows participants in the course to interact with each other and ask questions of the session instructors.

Session 1 - Getting Started: Available now. This session provides information on oyster seed purchasing, site and other start-up considerations including gear selection and installation, planting strategies, start-up costs, risk factors, and business plan development.

Session 2 - Meet the Gear Suppliers: Available now. Manufacturers and suppliers of off-bottom culture gear are featured in this session. Learn about the various gear types available to grow oysters.

Session 3 - Growing a Crop of Oysters: Available in August. This session focuses on farm management with topics on biofouling control, stocking densities, common mistakes, and predators, pests and diseases. Additional topics include land-based nursery options, financial planning, and storm preparation.

Session 4 - Harvesting a Crop of Oysters: Available in October. Harvesting and processing regulations for product safety are introduced in this session, along with marketing and product branding strategies.

Course Start / Finish Dates: The course is self-paced. You decide when to start and when to finish. After enrolling, you have unlimited access to this course for as long as you like across any and all devices you own.

Enroll today at <https://oyster-culture.teachable.com>. For more information, contact Leslie Sturmer at Lnst@ufl.edu.



FAA Annual Membership Meeting and Tour

Now that we are all able to meet face-to-face again, we will be holding an in-person FAA Annual Membership Meeting for the first time since 2019. This meeting is open to any and all FAA members, supporters, and those interested in the aquaculture industry. While we are holding the meeting in-person, we will also be offering virtual attendance to those that are not able to attend in-person.

For individuals who have received their full COVID-19 vaccine, face coverings are not required. For those that have not, face coverings are recommended.

Date: October 28th, 2021

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (optional Dutch-style lunch at Tony's and NCBS facility tour to follow)

Location: Nature Coast Biological Station (552 1st St. Cedar Key, FL 32625)

Please RSVP no later than Oct. 15th. Seats are limited! Electronic RSVP form [HERE](#)

FAA General Membership Meeting RSVP

Please return to the FAA by 10/15. Seats for in-person meeting are limited so please RSVP as soon as possible.

You can also RSVP online [HERE](#)

Full name and organization: _____

Please choose 1 option. () In-person attendance () Virtual attendance (mtg. link will be sent 48 hrs. before meeting)

Will you have any guests attending with you? If so, please provide their names.

Will you be attending our lunch at Tony's? (Meal is not being provided by the FAA. Each individual is responsible for their own lunch)

() Yes () No

Will you be attending the NCBS tour following lunch?

() Yes () No

Please return this RSVP for to the FAA (tiffany@flaa.org or P.O. Box 2974 Riverview, FL 33568) by Oct. 15th. You can also RSVP online [HERE](#)

NATIONAL Aquaculture ASSOCIATION



News from the NAA

Opportunity to comment in support of FDA Drug Indexing

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine, is seeking comments from the public to support the Indexing provision of the Minor Use, Minor Species Act of 2004 (MUMS). To read the Federal Register notice and to comment click [here](#). The deadline for comments is September 22, 2021.

Indexing is only available to minor species as defined by FDA as species other than cattle, horses, swine, chickens, turkeys, dogs, cats and aquatic animals or to major species afflicted with uncommon diseases or conditions (minor use). Indexing is the process of adding an unapproved drug for a minor species to FDA's index of legally marketed unapproved new animal drugs for minor species (the Index). Indexed therapeutants may include anesthetics, spawning aids, parasiticides, compounds to enhance secondary sexual characteristics, or sex reversal agents for monosex stocks. Indexing is only available for non-food animals or non-food life stages of food animals. Although indexing still requires being able to demonstrate drug efficacy, human health safety and environmental safety, the FDA review and approval process for indexing is much quicker and easier. However, after 14 years of MUMS, there are only 13 indexed products.

The NAA, in concert with the Aquatic Drug Approval Coalition, strongly encourages all affected parties to comment.

For background information, please click on this [link](#) to read an excellent article that appeared in the September 2019 issue of *World Aquaculture* entitled *The Failure of MUMS and Aquaculture Indexing* by Craig Watson, Director, University of Florida, Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory.

Respond to the 2021 COVID-19 Impact Survey

The National Aquaculture Association requests that you participate in the 2021 COVID-19 impact survey. The financial impact analyses produced during 2020 by the survey team were critical to expanding the USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) to include US aquaculture and the information was shared with Congress, state governments and other federal agencies.

The purpose of this survey is to quantify the effects of the pandemic on commercial aquaculture, aquaponics and suppliers during the first half of 2021 (January - June). Please provide your responses based on the period of time between January 1st 2021 and June 30th 2021.

Survey link: https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_02iOi5vowseMKmq

No personally identifiable information (name, address, e-mail, telephone number, IP address, etc.) will be collected. All data from this survey will remain anonymous.

This survey is being supported by funding from the National Sea Grant Office and the National Marine Fisheries Service. There are no benefits or rewards for participating in this study. Results from this study may be used to communicate the effects of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on commercial aquaculture, aquaponics or suppliers to State and Federal agencies, in an effort to secure relief. Results from this study may also be published in the future.

NATIONAL Aquaculture ASSOCIATION



News from the NAA

Aquaculture is Agriculture: USDA's Role is supporting US Aquaculture

Given the US Department of Agriculture's extensive portfolio of programs supporting aquaculture, the Office of the Chief Scientist, agencies in the USDA's Research, Education, and Economics mission area, and the USDA Working Group on Aquaculture sought to provide the domestic aquaculture industry an opportunity to communicate on how USDA can best serve this farming community.

In November 2020 USDA agency representatives, as part of an *Aquaculture is Agriculture Colloquium*, held six virtual "Deep Dive" listening sessions (in addition to an APHIS-WS special webinar for shellfish farmers) to engage stakeholders. The *Colloquium* provided context for both stakeholders and USDA leadership on how to strengthen domestic aquaculture. USDA leaders and scientists heard directly from aquaculture stakeholders—farmers, scientists, and supporting industries—on prioritized industry research needs, critical needs for resource investments, and how accountability for these investments could be evaluated.

On December 11, 2020, USDA hosted a "***Aquaculture is Agriculture: USDA's Role in Supporting the Farmers of Fish, Shellfish, and Aquatic Plants***" webinar including plenary presentations from USDA leadership and industry representatives and report-outs from listening session hosts on feedback provided to USDA.

NAA Chairing AA21 Regulatory Session

The National Aquaculture Association (NAA) has organized "Is the Next Regulation, the Best Regulation?" during Aquaculture America 2021 to answer the question: What can we, as highly regulated farmers, do about aquaculture regulations?

The NAA encourages you to attend Aquaculture America 2021 to participate in a session focused on how to effectively anticipate, oppose, respond to, and manage federal regulations. Topics include: Federal Aquaculture Regulations, Setting the Scene: What Farm Data Reveal About Paths Forward, Comparative Analysis of U.S. Aquaculture Management to the FAO Certification Guidelines: An Assessment, Engaging with Regulatory Agencies, Developing Successful Permitting Strategies- A Legal Perspective, NOAA and NEPA: Light at the End of the Tunnel?, Permitting Offshore Aquaculture in Federal Waters- Persistence Prevails?, The Role of Extension- What Can and Should be the Role?, Quantifying Regulatory Costs- An Overview of the Florida Ornamental Industry, Update on Drug Indexing, Why Trade Associations Matter, Legislative Success in Florida- 10+ years to Sell Largemouth Bass to Seafood Markets; 14+ years to Aquaculture is Agriculture, Programmatic Permitting Pitfalls: A Hard Lesson for Washington State's Shellfish Industry.

The session is planned for August 13th from 8:30 AM to 4:15 PM in Salon D during AA2021.

AA2021
will be an
In-person Event!
Please get vaccinated
so we can have a
free-flowing meeting!



Fixin' to Farm More Seafood

AQUACULTURE AMERICA 2021

AUGUST 11 - 14, 2021

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FAA Board of Directors Elections

Each year, there are certain board positions that are up for election or reelection per FAA bylaws. This year there are a total of nine seats that are up for election or reelection, six of which are our commodity representatives. Our six commodity groups include alligators, aquatic plants, food fish, shellfish, suppliers and equipment, and tropical fish. All seats that are up for election or reelection serve three year terms.

If you are interested in becoming an independent nomination, we encourage any and all to do so as it is great to have fresh perspective and more support from the industry. We ask that those who are seeking nomination to submit their letter of interest along with a minimum of ten endorsements from current, active FAA members no later than August 31st. All nominations and endorsements can be sent to Tiffany Conner at Tiffany@flaa.org or P.O. Box 2974 Riverview, FL 33568. No late nominations or endorsements will be accepted.

Election results will be presented at the annual membership meeting on October 28th, 2021. If you have any questions please reach out to Tiffany Conner or the nominating committee chair, Jane Davis at 407-864-0585.

Florida Aquaculture Education

Although the '19-'20 school year was cut a bit short for most due to COVID-19 many schools did not let that slow them down. During the '20-'21 school year there were over 30 students and teachers that earned their Florida Aquaculture Technicians Industry Certification! This industry certification allows students to learn about all aspects of Florida aquaculture while earning the basic skills necessary to be successful in the aquaculture industry. Moving forward we will be working to state colleges and industry to expand the reach and depth of our industry certification program.

FDACS Division of Aquaculture has partnered with UF/ IFAS and the Tropical Aquaculture Lab. to host a training workshop for aquaculture teachers throughout the state of Florida. This three- day workshop allows teachers to get a first-hand look at various aspects of the aquaculture industry from industry leaders, extension agents, association members, and other aquaculture stakeholders. Twenty of the teachers will be awarded recirculating aquaponics systems through a grant that the Division was awarded. These systems will be set-up at the schools to allow for a more hands-on experience for the students in the aquaculture programs. This workshop is being held at the Tropical Aquaculture Lab. in Ruskin on July 21st-23rd. We look forward to full report on the success of the workshop later on.



Florida Aquaculture Association

The mission of the Florida Aquaculture Association is to provide a unified voice for the Florida aquaculture industry that ensures its sustainability, protects its profitability, and encourages its development in an environmentally responsible manner.

What we do for Florida aquaculture:

- **Keep industry guidelines up-to-date**
 - FAA's advice is sought for updating the FL Aquaculture Best Management Practices Manual and provides updates for the FL Aquaculture Plan
- **Work with lobbyists and legislatures to support aquaculture**
 - Funding for research and extension services, tax exemptions, and federal insurances are all faught for by FAA lobbyists
- **Provide support for the future of aquaculture**
 - Partner with aquaculture educators throughout the state to provide them with the resources necessary to properly educate students about the aquaculture industry in Florida and help them prepare for the FL Aquaculture Technician Certification.



Benefits of Membership:

- Networking opportunities with other aquaculture professionals
- Access to the 'Members Only' forum on the FAA website
- Fresh and current news about Florida aquaculture
- Direct information from the NAA, FDACS Division of Aquaculture, and other aquaculture organizations.

Pictured: FL Ag Commissioner Nikki Fried and FAA Board Member, Barry Hurt discussing FL Aqua at the Fresh From Florida Ag Breakfast at the FL State Fair



FAA Member Events:

- Taste of Florida Agriculture Reception in Tallahassee
- Fresh from Florida Agriculture Breakfast at the Florida State Fair
- FAA Annual General Membership Meeting

Membership Application

Please send the application and dues to P.O. Box 2974 Riverview, FL 33578

Check must be made payable to the Florida Aquaculture Association.

You can also join online at www.flaa.org/join-now

Name: _____

Company/ Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How would you prefer to receive your quarterly newsletter?

Printed Email Both

Active Membership (\$150): Only persons, companies, or organizations actively cultivating aquaculture products within the State of Florida are eligible to become active members. **FDACS AQ#:** _____

Commodity Group (Check all that apply): Alligators Aquatic Plants Shellfish Food Fish Tropical Fish Other: _____

Associate Membership (\$100): Any individual or entity engaged in providing equipment, supplies, materials, or services used in Florida's aquaculture industry or any individual with an interest in Florida's aquaculture and who shares the objectives of the FAA. Check all that apply: Consultant Education Extension Manufacturer Research Service Supplier

Affiliate (\$50): Any person, firm, or organization interested in Florida Aquaculture.

Sudents (\$20): Any individual currently enrolled in an accredited educational institute.



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Phone: 813-438-FLAA

Email: tiffany@flaa.org

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The FAA provides multiple ways for businesses and organizations to advertise their products and services to our members. This location on our newsletter as well as other locations within the newsletter and on the FLAA.org website are available for advertising.

Please contact Tiffany Conner (tiffany@flaa.org or 813.438.FLAA) for more information.