Restricted Species Aquaculture: Rules and Regulations

Food fish aquaculture is a growing industry in Florida and growers have diversified production to many different species. Restricted (also termed Conditional) species are non-native species that require authorization by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) or the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Division of Aquaculture, to possess for research, public exhibition or commercial use. Commercial production of restricted species requires an Aquaculture Certificate of Registration, compliance with applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs), as well as a Restricted Species Authorization letter issued by the Division of Aquaculture. The division certifies only commercial businesses. Restricted species are not authorized for personal use.

ADDITIONAL BMPs
Restricted species have additional BMPs that must be met, including containment, sales and records. Fee-fishing of restricted species is prohibited. Restricted species cultured outdoors (when permissible) must be held in a water body that has the lowest point of the top edge of its levee, dike, bank or tank at least one foot above the 100-year flood elevation issued by FEMA. There must be effective measures to prevent theft of restricted species, and all holding, transport and culture systems must consist of a solid construction and be designed to prevent escapement of all life stages of the restricted species and deter predator access.

Live sale or transfer of restricted species and their hybrids is limited to those authorized by FDACS or FWC. All records of live restricted species purchases, sales and transfers must be maintained and available for inspection for a period of at least two years.

Australian red claw is the only species of the genus *Cherax* available for culture in Florida. All other species of the genus *Cherax* are prohibited species in Florida.

**BARRAMUNDI**
Barramundi (*Lates calcarifer*) is gathering interest throughout the state due to its aquaculture potential. Barramundi is a restricted species throughout Florida. Barramundi facilities must be indoor and provide a detailed facility plan, including hurricane rated buildings and a timeline must be submitted and approved by the division before any animals may be obtained.

**BONY-TONGUE FISHES**
Some bony-tongued fishes are restricted as well, including arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*), and may only be possessed with appropriate certification or permitting. The silver arowana (*Osteoglossum bicirrhosum*) is not restricted and may be obtained and kept without any special permitting.

For a full list of restricted (conditional) and prohibited species listed in Chapter 68-5, F.A.C., see Appendix page 84 of the Aquaculture Best Management Practices Manual.

**CRAYFISH**
Three species of crayfish are listed as restricted/conditional in Florida: Australian red claw (*Cherax quadricarinatus*), red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*) and white river crayfish (*Procambarus zonangulus*). Commercial culture is limited to tank culture in an enclosed structure.