Developing and enforcing environmental and food safety regulations governing commercial aquaculture
Certifying and inspecting shellfish processing plants and classifying and monitoring shellfish harvest
Providing practical and technical assistance concerning regulations, production, financial assistance, or leasing coastal state submerged land for aquacultural purposes.

Tallahassee, Florida 32399
Consumer Services
Florida Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture
Webpage: FDACS.aquaculture @FreshFromFlorida.com
Phone: 850-617-7600

Tallahassee, FL 32399
Division of Aquaculture
Kal Knickerbocker, Director
Division of Aquaculture
600 South Calhoun Street, Suite 217
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1305

Offices:
Tallahassee Office
Bartow Office
Panama City Office
Melbourne Office
Cedar Key Office
Apalachicola Shellfish Center

Education:
UF/IFAS Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory
Dr. Roy Yanong
For More Information you may contact:

Limited

An annual responsibility of the Aquaculture Review Council, as described in the Florida Aquaculture Policy Act (Chapter 597, Florida Statutes), is to evaluate and solicit proposals that have been submitted to the council through a formal solicitation process. The council recommends three projects totaling $508,438, which will enhance aquaculture education, and foster productivity and profitability.

1. Aquaculture in the Classroom — $59,264, UF Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory (TAL), FDACS Division of Aquaculture and UF-Indian River Research and Education Center (IRREC).
2. Addressing Industry-Wide Limitations in Finfish Aquaculture Nutrition Protocols — $74,903, UF-IFAS, UF-BREC.
3. Improving Larval Feeding Performance in Ornamental Fish Species — $57,903, UF Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory. Contact the division for further details about the selected projects.

For More Information you may contact:

OIE TiLV Disease Card:
OIE.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International_Standard_Setting/docs/pdf/A_TiLV_disease_card.pdf

For fiscal year 2019-2020, the council is recommending three projects totaling $508,438, which will enhance aquaculture education, and foster productivity and profitability.

Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) is a pathogen that poses a significant health threat to the global tilapia industry. First identified in Ecuador in 2014, the virus has now expanded throughout tropical nations around the world, with outbreaks recently confirmed in six Mexican states. To date, there are no reported cases of TiLV in the U.S. TiLV causes fingerling mortality rates up to 90% in infected regions and affects both Nile tilapia, O. niloticus, and hybrid tilapia, O. nilius x O. aureus. The disease is transmitted by direct fish to fish contact, with fish transportation and handling stressors being major outbreak risk factors. Signs of TiLV infection include: cloudy, bulging or shrunken eyes, skin lesions, lethargy (slow movement), and fish ceasing to feed.

Florida tilapia farmers should take extra precautions to prevent the introduction of this damaging disease into the U.S. Do not import tilapia from any country known to have TiLV without a health certificate that confirms the stocks are free of TiLV. Know and trust the source of your fry or fingerlings, and educate all farm personnel about this new virus and proper biosecurity measures.

Tilapia Lake Virus Outbreak Confirmed in Mexico

Florida Aquaculture
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Aquaculture

Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) is a pathogen that poses a significant health threat to the global tilapia industry. First identified in Ecuador in 2014, the virus has now expanded throughout tropical nations around the world, with outbreaks recently confirmed in six Mexican states. To date, there are no reported cases of TiLV in the U.S. TiLV causes fingerling mortality rates up to 90% in infected regions and affects both Nile tilapia, O. niloticus, and hybrid tilapia, O. nilius x O. aureus. The disease is transmitted by direct fish to fish contact, with fish transportation and handling stressors being major outbreak risk factors. Signs of TiLV infection include: cloudy, bulging or shrunken eyes, skin lesions, lethargy (slow movement), and fish ceasing to feed.

Florida tilapia farmers should take extra precautions to prevent the introduction of this damaging disease into the U.S.

Do not bring any fish onto your farm without a health certificate. While the disease is confirmed to affect tilapia, it may be carried onto your farm by other species.

Do not import tilapia from any country known to have TiLV without a health certificate that confirms the stocks are free of TiLV.

Know and trust the source of your fry or fingerlings, and educate all farm personnel about this new virus and proper biosecurity measures.

Contact your aquatic animal health expert to have your fish tested for TiLV.

If you experience an unusual mortality event, contact your aquatic animal health expert or the State Veterinarian’s office by phone at (850) 410-0900 or 1 (800) 342-5809, or by email at RAD@FreshFromFlorida.com.

OIE TiLV Disease Card:
OIE.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International_Standard_Setting/docs/pdf/A_TiLV_disease_card.pdf

Special thanks to USDA APHIS and UF Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory for providing information for this article.

For More Information you may contact:

OIE TiLV Disease Card:
OIE.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International_Standard_Setting/docs/pdf/A_TiLV_disease_card.pdf

UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization TiLV Worldwide Alert:
FAO.org/news/story/en/item/888848/icode/

For More Information you may contact:

OIE TiLV Disease Card:

For fiscal year 2019-2020, the council is recommending three projects totaling $508,438, which will enhance aquaculture education, and foster productivity and profitability.

1. Aquaculture in the Classroom — $59,264, UF Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory (TAL), FDACS Division of Aquaculture and UF-Indian River Research and Education Center (IRREC).
2. Addressing Industry-Wide Limitations in Finfish Aquaculture Nutrition Protocols — $74,903, UF-IFAS, UF-BREC.
3. Improving Larval Feeding Performance in Ornamental Fish Species — $57,903, UF Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory. Contact the division for further details about the selected projects.

For More Information you may contact:

OIE TiLV Disease Card:
OIE.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International_Standard_Setting/docs/pdf/A_TiLV_disease_card.pdf

UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization TiLV Worldwide Alert:
FAO.org/news/story/en/item/888848/icode/

Special thanks to USDA APHIS and UF Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory for providing information for this article.

For More Information you may contact:

OIE TiLV Disease Card:

For fiscal year 2019-2020, the council is recommending three projects totaling $508,438, which will enhance aquaculture education, and foster productivity and profitability.

1. Aquaculture in the Classroom — $59,264, UF Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory (TAL), FDACS Division of Aquaculture and UF-Indian River Research and Education Center (IRREC).
2. Addressing Industry-Wide Limitations in Finfish Aquaculture Nutrition Protocols — $74,903, UF-IFAS, UF-BREC.
3. Improving Larval Feeding Performance in Ornamental Fish Species — $57,903, UF Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory. Contact the division for further details about the selected projects.

For More Information you may contact:

OIE TiLV Disease Card:
OIE.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International_Standard_Setting/docs/pdf/A_TiLV_disease_card.pdf

UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization TiLV Worldwide Alert:
FAO.org/news/story/en/item/888848/icode/

For More Information you may contact:

OIE TiLV Disease Card:
OIE.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International_Standard_Setting/docs/pdf/A_TiLV_disease_card.pdf

UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization TiLV Worldwide Alert:
FAO.org/news/story/en/item/888848/icode/

Special thanks to USDA APHIS and UF Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory for providing information for this article.

For More Information you may contact:

OIE TiLV Disease Card:
OIE.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International_Standard_Setting/docs/pdf/A_TiLV_disease_card.pdf

UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization TiLV Worldwide Alert:
FAO.org/news/story/en/item/888848/icode/

Special thanks to USDA APHIS and UF Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory for providing information for this article.
Upcoming Workshops

Shellfish Aquaculture Gear Management
In partnership with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and NOAA's Marine Debris Program, the division is hosting a workshop from 1:30pm on September 12 in Cedar Key. The workshop will discuss shellfish aquaculture gear management techniques and strategies to prevent aquaculture gear loss. Guest speakers from NOAA-KAVI (the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association) will attend the workshop to discuss the importance of debris prevention and public education in the industry. Growers and interested parties are encouraged to attend.

2018 Free Aquaponic Certification
The University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences is hosting a workshop on August 28 at UF/IFAS Extension, 732 N. 9th St., Defuniak Springs, FL 32433. This small-scale aquaponics workshop will provide knowledge on the principles and operation of aquaponic systems including system design options, fish production, plant selection and best management practices. Registration begins on September 1. For additional information, please contact Kit Harshaw at (850) 892-6249 or KHarshaw@FL legislation.gov.

Health Documentation Requirements for Imported Aquaculture Stocks
In Florida, all health records for imported aquacultural organisms must be retained for a minimum of two years by certified aquaculturists. Health records should include:

1) Date of entry/receipt
2) Date of shipment
3) Name and address of consignor
4) Name and address of consignee
5) Aquaculture Certificate of Registration Number (buyer and/or seller)
6) Species
7) Total number and average size of animals
8) Proven results (if applicable)
9) Diagnostic test results
10) Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI)

Note: The number of reported cases of ornamental aquaculture products imported into Florida has increased significantly over the past 10 years. If you are importing ornamental aquaculture products, please contact the division at 850-617-7628 for detailed information on aquatic organism shipment requirements and permit links and contact information.

Division approval must be obtained for ALL shipments of perennial shrimp to a Florida farm and any shellfish or sturgeon imported from out of state. Submit health records, including diagnostic results and an OCVI to Aquaculture_406@FreshFromFlorida.com for approval prior to shipment.

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also report movement and/or international movement of aquatic organisms. Contact those agencies to determine any additional shipping requirements.

See Import and Export Requirements for Aquaculture Products for detailed information on aquatic organism shipment requirements and permit links and contact information. Contact the division if you have any questions regarding shipping requirements for your aquaculture products.

New Division Staff

Kit Harshaw started as an Environmental Specialist II at the division’s Port Charlotte field office in May 2018, and is responsible for water quality monitoring in shellfish harvesting areas along the southwestern coast. Kit graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Science from Florida Gulf Coast University, and has previously worked as a fisheries observer for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Independent Monitoring program. Kit can be reached at (941) 613-0954 or at Kit.Harshaw@FreshFromFlorida.com.

Nicolle Martin started as an Environmental Specialist II at the division’s Tallahassee office in August 2018, and is responsible for inspecting shellfish processing plants. Nicolle graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Science from Jacksonville University, and has previously worked at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission’s mollusk research program in Apalachicola. Nicolle can be reached at (850) 617-7628 or at Nicolle.Martin@FreshFromFlorida.com.

Abby Pylant started as an Environmental Health Aide in the division’s Apalachicola field office in August 2018. Abby graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Science in Ecology in May 2018, and has previously worked on coral reef degradation research at UGA’s Oenberg Laboratory. Abby can be reached at (850) 323-6843 or Abby.Pylant@FreshFromFlorida.com.

Matt McCollough started as an Environmental Specialist II at the division’s Cedar Key field office in August 2018, and is responsible for inspecting shellfish processing plants. Matt received his Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Biology from the University of West Florida, and worked as a North Pacific Groundfish Observer with Alaskan Observers Inc. and NMFS. Matt can be reached at (352) 221-0725 or Matthew.McCollough@FreshFromFlorida.com.

Packaging and Labeling
Matt McCollough worked as a Fisheries Observer for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Independent Monitoring program. Matt can be reached at (352) 221-0725 or Matthew.McCollough@FreshFromFlorida.com.

Florida Aquaculture

Copyright © 2018, Florida State University, All Rights Reserved.

Florida Aquaculture

Copyright © 2018, Florida State University, All Rights Reserved.