

CREATING SOLUTIONS FOR WATER-RELATED ISSUES

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Water and natural resources are vital to the ecological health and economic well-being of many Florida communities. Implementing water-related research recommendations is necessary to ensure the conservation of resources. However, without community involvement in the research process, findings are less likely to be integrated. Community advisory committees and communication toolkits can bridge the gap between science and stakeholders, leading to the implementation of sustainable solutions.



What are Community Advisory Committees (CACs)?

CACs are a type of advisory board composed of community members from diverse backgrounds. By providing input throughout a research project, CACs ensure that community perspectives are represented and help facilitate research communication through local networks.



Stakeholder Engagement

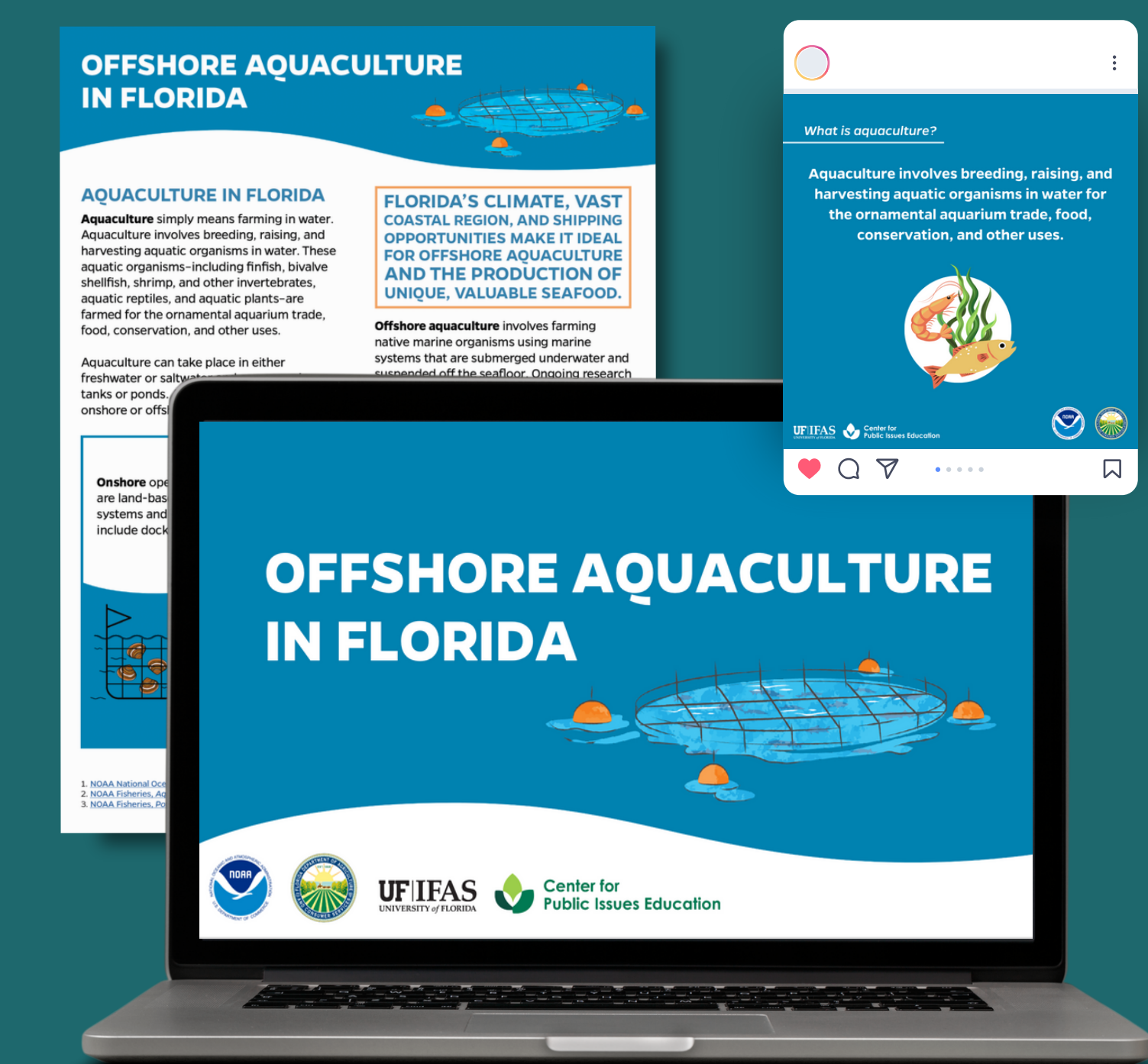
Community members offer unique insights and experiences that can guide water-related research. Engaging stakeholders through CACs builds trust and generates local buy-in.

Partnerships established through CACs often continue beyond the research project, supporting long-term collaborative efforts to conserve and protect natural resources.

Communication toolkits

Visual communication materials make research accessible by translating complex findings into understandable messages. Communication toolkits provide communities with key results and actionable steps to implement recommendations.

CACs ensure that messages are culturally appropriate and will resonate with target audiences. They can also identify local channels and opinion leaders to accelerate the dissemination of findings.



Community-Led Solutions

When addressing issues related to natural resources, recognizing divergent priorities and interests is essential. CACs foster collaboration across sectors, encouraging productive dialogue that leads to practical, long-term solutions. A community-led approach is critical to sustain Florida's natural resources for generations to come.