National Working Waterfront and Waterway Symposium

Aquaculture
Florida Aquaculture 2013 Farm Gate Sales

619 farms representing $95.6 million in sales. USDA report

- Ornamental Fish-$42.9 million
- Hard Clams--------$15.7 million
- Crustaceans--------$10.2 million
- Alligators------------$ 7.4 million
- Aquatic Plants------$ 7.2 million
- Food Fish----------$ 4.9 million
- Others-------------$ 7.3 million
• Florida Sovereign Submerged Lands – Navigable Water (1845)

• 1197 Miles of Coastline

• Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund

• Governor and the Cabinet

• Regulated by Florida DEP (Aquaculture Excluded)
Background

State agency regulatory responsibilities

- Originally regulatory oversight complex, many agencies involved
  - DEP (DNR), DER
- Monumental state laws, supported by local efforts, passed in 1996-8 fostering aquaculture
  - Aquaculture IS agriculture
  - Shellfish aquaculture in public interest
- All regulatory responsibility transferred to Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (1998)
  - Certificate of registration
  - BMPs in lieu of traditional permitting process
- Division of Aquaculture created within DACS in 1999
Legislation and Regulations

- Best management practices developed for certified aquatic facilities (1998)
  - Consist of general and specific instructions that address construction, operation and management of facilities
  - Site visits / inspections of certified facility to ensure compliance
- BMPs initially comprised of
  - Lease special provisions
  - Public health provisions
    - FL Comprehensive Control Code
    - National Shellfish Sanitation Program

Visit the Division of Aquaculture’s website: [http://www.freshfromflorida.com](http://www.freshfromflorida.com) for more info on these programs
Aquaculture Docks

34 Docks
7 Counties
- Aquaculture-dependent docks are used exclusively for aquaculture purposes

- To qualify under these provisions, docks must
  - ≤ 2,000 ft² total surface area over wetlands and other surface waters
  - Moor 4 or fewer vessels
  - Associated with a certified aquaculture facility or activity. Hatchery or Nursery subject to regular inspection

- BMPs Minimize adverse environmental impact.
- Does not eliminate local codes/permits.
– Site in waters deep enough to avoid bottom scouring by vessels or by prop dredging
– Locate in areas with no resources when available
  • For example, corals, submerged vegetation, mangroves, oyster bars, bird nesting, historical sites
– Additional criteria must be met if located in areas with resources

Aquaculture Docks BMPs
– Locate to ensure boat access routes avoid injury to SAVs
– Do not impede flow of water or create a navigational hazard
– Do not include processing facilities, boat repair facilities or fueling facilities
– Limit trimming of vegetation for access walkway
• **Sufficient Upland Interest** - Provide evidence of title to the subject riparian upland property in the form of a recorded deed, title insurance or legal opinion of title which includes ownership or control of the riparian rights. Evidence submitted must demonstrate that the applicant has sufficient title interest in the riparian upland property to the subject shoreline to control the riparian interests.

• **NOTE:** This requirement is often not met by Quitclaim deeds, private agreements, easements or anything that grants access but does not convey adequate interest or control in the shoreline of the upland property.

• Only the owner of the shoreline, as stated on the deed, can be the applicant.
Florida Population Forecast -2060
Thank You