Florida Agriculture Literacy Day
May 2, 2017

Partnership between FDACS and Florida Agriculture in the Classroom

Began in 2007

Reaches between 50,000 and 70,000 students per year

faitc.org/aglitday
Drive through Florida: Aquaculture and Seafood

Features 6 aquaculture species
And 7 wild-caught seafood species
Aquaculture
Let’s travel through Florida and along its coasts. We will visit aquatic farmers called “aquaculturists.” They work in a specialized area of agriculture called “aquaculture.” These farmers grow aquatic species in water instead of soil.

They have special spots in oceans, ponds and tanks where they raise fish, shellfish, reptiles, and plants.

**DRIVE THROUGH FLORIDA AQUACULTURE**

1. **Alligators**  
   (Page 4-5)

2. **Aquarium Fish and Plants**  
   (Page 6-7)

3. **Hard Clams**  
   (Page 8)

4. **Oysters**  
   (Page 9)

5. **Sturgeon**  
   (Page 10)

6. **Tilapia**  
   (Page 11)
Alligators are a little scary but what do you expect from a dinosaur’s cousin? There are more than 20 alligator farms in Florida that raise these reptiles for their hides and meat. Purses, boots, wallets and belts can be made from alligator hides.

At one time, alligators almost became extinct. They are a protected species now, which means they can only be hunted or farmed with a special permit. We now have lots of alligators on farms and in the wild.

Some people think alligator meat tastes like chicken or veal.

Alligators enjoy Florida’s sunshine, and eat almost anything including insects, fish, turtles and birds.

Alligator farmers can breed their gators or collect wild alligator eggs from nests found in swamps and marshes. The gator farmer hatches the eggs and grows the hatchlings up to three to four feet in length before harvesting.
Many marine species are also farmed for aquaria. These saltwater species include corals, clownfish, live rock, gobies, seahorses and more.

Corals can be cut into smaller pieces to grow a new colony. This creates more coral for aquaria without collecting it from the oceans.

Nemo in "Finding Nemo" was a clownfish. Since the movie came out, lots of people have added clownfish to their saltwater aquaria.

Live rock is not alive but is full of tiny marine life that live on and inside it. Live rock helps clean and filter aquarium water.

How are farmers able to grow so many fish and plants? Florida has lots of warm weather and good quality ground water. Farmers know how to breed fish and plants to be hardy and healthy. And they know how to keep water in ponds and tanks very clean.

Some tropical fish species raised in Florida include mollies, swordtails, gouramis, angelfish, tetras and barbs. There are more types of plants than you can ever imagine. We do not eat these fish or plants. They are raised so we can enjoy their beauty.
**HARD CLAMS**

Florida clam farmers use bags to grow clams on the ocean floor. The bags protect small clams from predators. Farmers let clams grow for about one year before they are harvested.

Clam farming keeps bays and oceans cleaner and cleaner. As clams feed and grow, they clean the water by filtering it in and out of their shells.

They use nutrients in the water to grow their shells. So, not only are clams great to eat, they are also very helpful for the environment.

**CLAM FARMER**

Hard clams are called middle necks and little necks. But I've never seen a clam's neck, have you? A hard clam has two hinged hard shells to protect its tasty soft muscle.

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**OYSTERS**

Oysters have a soft body protected by an outer shell, but an oyster's shell is very rough and can cause painful cuts if you aren't careful where you walk.

Oysters live in shallow bay areas where the ocean tide meets river streams. If oysters do not get the right mixture of fresh and salt water, they cannot survive.

Oysters are grown in cages to protect them from predators. In addition to farming, some fishermen use small boats and long tongs to gather wild oysters. Oysters are important because they help keep the water clean by filtering it.

**OYSTER BED**

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**FUN FACTS**

**CLAMS**

- CLAMS CAN BE EATEN STEAMED, FRIED, GRILLED, BAKED OR IN CLAM CHOWDER.
- CLAMS WERE A MAJOR FOOD SOURCE FOR THE NATIVE INDIGENOUS TRIBES OF FLORIDA.
- OVER 125 MILLION FLORIDA CLAMS ARE HARVESTED EACH YEAR.

**PEARLS**

- PEARLS ARE FORMED WHEN AN INTRUDER GETS INSIDE AN OYSTER'S SHELL, AND THE OYSTER COATS IT WITH Nacre.
**Sturgeon**

Sturgeon are raised for their eggs, which are caviar and their high-quality meat. In the wild, they can grow very large (about eight feet) and live up to 50 years. Sturgeon are often referred to as living fossils because they have survived virtually unchanged for more than 100 million years.

- **Sturgeon Caviar**
- **Tank-Raised Sturgeon**

**Tilapia**

- **Map of Florida with locations of St. Johns, Volusia, and Brevard Counties.**
- **Text:** Let’s travel south to Hendry County to see Tilapia Farms. Dade County also has lots of Tilapia Farms.

Tilapia is raised as food to eat. It is the most abundant food fish farmed throughout the state, but they are native to Africa. This fast-growing fish eats a vegetarian diet. Tilapia can grow in ponds, raceways, floating cages and tanks. When they are about six months old, they are ready to be harvested.

- **Tilapia Tank**
- **Image:** Close-up of a Tilapia.

**Fun Facts**

- **Sturgeon can weigh up to 1200 pounds.**
- **Redfish are called “Red Drum” because they make a drum-like sound.**

**Other Food Fish**

- **Bait Fish:** Include pinfish, goggle-eyes, and shiners. Some people call pinfish “grouper candy.” Cobia like to eat them also. Goggle-eyes are priced as bait because their amber color attracts many species. These fish are commonly found at bait and tackle stores and retail shops.

- **Pinfish**
- **Goggle-Eye**

**Hybrid Striped Bass, Catfish, Redfish, Cobia, and Pompano are also raised for food.”**
Wild-Caught Seafood
Drive Through Florida

Seafood

7 Shrimp (Page 14-15)
8 Mullet (Page 16-17)
9 Grouping (Page 18)
10 Snapper (Page 19)
11 Blue Crab (Page 20)
12 Stone Crab (Page 21)
13 Spiny Lobster (Page 22-23)

Hi kids, Let’s go fishing!

Now, join my friend Bobby Boot on Florida’s beautiful bays and oceans. You can watch Sherman who make a living by catching sea life that grow and live in these waters.
**Shrimp** is a word for being tiny or small. Florida shrimpers catch more than 10 million pounds of shrimp each year. That's a lot! It's the most popular seafood in the United States.

Shrimp are tasty crustaceans. In Florida, there are several different types of shrimp. They include pink, white, brown, and royal red varieties. What about rock shrimp? They don't play the electric guitar! They get their name from their extra hard shell.

How do fishermen catch shrimp? They have specially designed boats with two long poles on both sides called "outriggers." Special shrimp nets hang from the outriggers into the ocean. As the boat moves along, the fishermen pull the nets up to catch the shrimp, allowing other marine life to escape.

Shrimp can also be raised in ponds or tanks for bait or as food for people. Native shrimp, such as white shrimp are best suited as bait. Aquaculture farmers must make sure there are enough minerals and oxygen in the water for the shrimp to thrive.
MULLET

Mullet are fish that live in oceans, rivers or bays. They have excellent eyesight and swim fast in large groups called “schools.” Mullet are hard to catch with a hook and line so fishermen use cast nets to bring them in.

These fish like to jump but nobody knows exactly why. Maybe it is to warn the other fish that fishermen are coming. Many people think mullet are delicious to eat and worth the hard work to catch them. They can be eaten fried, broiled or smoked.
Grouper is a yummy fish which is why people like to eat it. You can try grouper in a sandwich, a salad or just by itself. Fishermen catch millions of pounds of grouper each year with bait on a fishing hook. They use fish, shrimp and crab for bait.

There are over 400 types of grouper. Two of the most popular are red grouper and gag grouper. They both can live in the Gulf of Mexico or the Atlantic Ocean, but red grouper like deeper water of up to 1,000 feet. Should we dive in and look for some?

Florida fishermen catch lots of red snapper and yellowtail snapper. Red snappers have bright rosy-red skin and lips. Many of them live in waters near Florida’s Panhandle.

Do you see the racing stripe on the yellowtail snapper? It runs from nose to tail and looks cool.

Yellowtails like to live near the southern tip of Florida. Just like grouper, snapper are delicious, which is why fishermen must be careful not to overfish them. They can use hook and line gear, traps or spears but they cannot use nets. That would catch too many fish at one time. We don’t want to run out!
STONE CRAB

We’re travelling north again because blue county has lots of blue crab!

Blue crabs are a unique kind of seafood. Only the claws are eaten and they are yummy! Fishermen can harvest one of the claws from the stone crab and then the crab will grow another one back; it takes about a year, but it keeps more stone crab in the ocean. Their larger claw is called a “crusher claw.” It does just that - crushes the crayfish's prey. The smaller claw is the pincher claw. Stone crab are caught in wooden traps in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Some fishermen put out up to 100 traps at one time. That’s a lot of traps to check each day.

Fishermen use metal traps to catch them but they only haul in some of their catch. They let the little crabs go so there will be some for next year.

Have you ever grown too big for your pants or shirt? Blue crabs don’t. When their shell gets too small they crawl out of it and within 24 hours a new, bigger shell forms over their soft body. This is called “molting.” When their shell is older and hard, we say they are hard shell crabs. The ones with the new softer shell are called soft shell crabs and you can eat the entire crab, shell and all.

BLUE CRAB

Let’s go back to Pinellas County. This time we are learning about stone crabs.

FISHMEN CATCH OVER 6 MILLION POUNDS OF BLUE CRABS EACH YEAR.

A STRING AND A SHOVEL PIN CAN BE USED TO CHECK BLUE CRABS.

THEY ABSORB LOTS OF WATER TO CRACK THEIR SHELL WHEN IT IS TIME TO MOLT. THIS HAPPENS ABOUT 20 TIMES DURING THEIR LIVES.

ABOUT 98% OF ALL BLUE CRAB COMES FROM FLORIDA.

FISHMEN USE CHICKEN NECKS, PIGS FEET AND FISH HEAD TO BAIT CRAB TRAPS.
Spiny lobster look a little like a monster! They have long antennae, teeth that crush prey, 10 legs and horns over their eyes. But, they are a delicious monster and people love to eat them.

They crawl and hide under rocks on the bottom of the ocean and Gulf in the warm waters of South Florida and the Keys. Fishermen catch them with their hands and in wood or plastic traps.

You can only catch them when they are large enough, during certain times of the year. About six million spiny lobster are harvested every year.
Additional Florida Resources
Agriculture Literacy Day

Drive Through Florida: Fruit

2018 Florida Agriculture in the Classroom Agriculture Literacy Day is set for Tuesday, May 1, 2018.

Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc.
Agriculture Literacy Day Books:

- These Florida Farms (PDF)
- Green Florida Farms (PDF)
- Florida Farms at Work (PDF)
- Healthy Florida Farms (PDF)
- Florida’s Farm History (PDF)
- Florida Farms at School (PDF)
- Drive Through Florida: Livestock and Poultry (PDF)
- Drive Through Florida: Vegetables (PDF)
- Drive through Florida: Aquaculture and Seafood (PDF)
Lower Elementary Activities:
Coloring Page
DRIVE THROUGH FLORIDA: AQUACULTURE AND SEAFOOD
Word Search

Z A A Q U A T I C X
M A R I N E K G L B
U H E B M L M N A Z
F J C V S H R I M P
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Aquatic
Clams
Fish
Marine
Oyster

Pincer
Reptile
Shrimp
Snapper
Tilapia

DRIVE THROUGH FLORIDA: AQUACULTURE AND SEAFOOD
Word Search

Z A A Q U A T I C X
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Lower Elementary: Word Search
DRIVE THROUGH FLORIDA: AQUACULTURE AND SEAFOOD
Aquatic Alphabetizing

Name: ____________________________

Let's go fishing! Reel in the words below in alphabetical order and copy them onto the lines to the right.

- pincer
- corals
- shrimp
- mullet
- caviar
- eggs
- aquatic

Adapted from Louisiana Agriculture in the Classroom “Louisiana Crawfish Activities.”

ANSWER KEY

Name: ____________________________

Let's go fishing! Reel in the words below in alphabetical order and copy them onto the lines to the right.

- pincer
- corals
- shrimp
- mullet
- caviar
- eggs
- aquatic

Adapted from Louisiana Agriculture in the Classroom “Louisiana Crawfish Activities.”

Lower Elementary: Aquatic Alphabetizing
Upper Elementary: Word Search
DRIVE THROUGH FLORIDA: AQUACULTURE AND SEAFOOD
Fun Facts Crossword Puzzle

Name: ______________________

Directions: Use the “Fun Facts” sections in the 2017 Agriculture Literacy Day book to correctly fill in the blanks below.

ACROSS
3. Another name for a spiny lobster.
5. A group of ____________ is called a congregation.
6. Young ____________ are called spats.
8. A _________ is a fish that can weigh up to 1,200 pounds.
9. Over 125 million _________ are harvested each year in Florida.
10. Female _________ carry their bright orange-colored babies on their underbellies.

DOWN
1. Shrimp’s hard shell is called an _________.
2. An ________ can live for more than 50 years and weigh over 1,000 pounds.
3. Shrimp’s hard shell is called an _________.
4. ________ can help reduce stress.
7. ________ are formed when an intruder gets inside an oyster’s shell.
8. There are approximately 105 species of ________ in the world.
9. ________ absorb lots of water to crack their shell when it is time to molt.

Across:
3. BUGS
5. ALLIGATORS
6. OYSTERS
8. STURGEON
9. CLAMS
10. SPINY LOBSTER

Down:
1. EXOSKELETON
2. ALLIGATOR
3. BRACKISH
4. AQUARIUMS
7. PEARLS
8. SNAPPER
9. CRABS
All Elementary: Aquatic Habitats

**Directions:** The following aquatic species live in different habitats: salt, fresh, and brackish waters. Draw an arrow from the species to the aquatic habitat that they live in. Some species can live in more than one type of water.
DRIVE THROUGH FLORIDA: AQUACULTURE AND SEAFOOD
Where in Florida?

Directions: Using the maps in the 2017 Agriculture Literacy Day book complete the following activities and questions:

1. Put a star ⭐ on the counties where alligators, aquarium fish and plants, hard clams, oysters, shrimp, and tilapia are raised.
2. Put a dot ⬤ on the counties where shrimp, mullet, grouper, snapper, blue crab and stone crab are caught.
3. Circle the county on the map that you live in.
4. What seafood is grown or caught closest to your county?
5. Which county has three seafood commodities caught off its shorelines? Why do you think this is?

FLORIDA AQUACULTURE AND SEAFOOD FACTS

- Over 125 million clams are harvested in Florida each year.
- Sturgeon are raised for their eggs to make caviar and their high-quality meat. In the wild, they can grow up to eight feet and live up to 50 years.
- Florida shrimpers catch more than ten million pounds of shrimp each year.
- Florida fishermen hand in over 15 million pounds of oysters a year.
- There are over 400 types of grouper.
- There are approximately 105 species of snapper in the world.
- Florida fishermen catch over 6 million pounds of blue crabs each year.
- About six million spiny lobster are harvested each year in Florida.

All Elementary: Where in Florida?
All Elementary Activities:
Aquaculture and Seafood Map
All Elementary: Fish and Friends Card Game

- **Alligators**
  - Predominant County: Glades
  - Alligator farmers can breed their gators or collect wild alligator eggs from nests.

- **Aquarium Fish**
  - Predominant County: Hillsborough
  - Aquarium fish are raised in outdoor ponds as well as indoor tanks.

- **Hard Clams**
  - Predominant County: Levy
  - Clam farmers set bag to grow clams on the ocean floor.

- **Shrimp**
  - Predominant County: Lee
  - Shrimp boats have two long poles called outriggers. Nets hang from the outriggers and pull up shrimp.

- **Spiny Lobsters**
  - Predominant County: Monroe
  - A stone crab can grow back another claw if it is harvested.

- **Blue Crabs**
  - Predominant County: Dixie
  - Blue crabs grow a new shell when they grow too big for their old ones.

- **Groupers**
  - Predominant County: Pinellas
  - Red groupers live 50 years or more.

- **Mullets**
  - Predominant County: Manatee
  - Mullets are hard to catch with hooks and lines. Fishermen use cast nets to bring them in.

- **Oysters**
  - Predominant County: Franklin
  - Oysters need the right amount of fresh and salt water to survive.

- **Sturgeons**
  - Predominant County: Volusia
  - Sturgeons are called living fossils. They have survived unchanged for more than 100 million years.

- **Tilapias**
  - Predominant County: Glades
  - Tilapias can live and grow in raceways, floating cages, and tanks.
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

For Kids, Students, Teachers

Brochures and Print Resources

- Florida Agriculture Facts Posters - Set of 21 | 9.74 MB |
- Discover Florida Aquaculture Booklet | 1.08 MB |
- Drive Through Florida: Livestock and Poultry | 8.28 MB |
- Drive Through Florida: Vegetables | 9.53 MB |
- Florida Agriculture Map | 205.09 KB |
- Florida Ag Trivia Flash Cards | 2.92 MB |
- Florida Seafood Coloring and Activity Book | 4.21 MB |
- Florida Seafood Fun Facts and Activities Brochure | 3.17 MB |
- Florida Wildflower Coloring Book | 412.68 KB |
- Fresh From Florida Activity Book | 11.53 MB |
- Fresh From Florida Activity Book (Spanish) | 31.58 MB |
- Fuel Up And Get Fit Brochure | 1.85 MB |
- Green Florida Farms Book | 4.45 MB |
- Green Florida Farms Coloring Book | 4.45 MB |
- These Florida Farms Book | 8.43 MB |
- These Florida Farms Coloring Book | 4.00 MB |
Florida ranks among the top 12 U.S. states for fresh seafood production. Florida fishermen catch more than 84 percent of the nation’s supply of grouper, pompano, mullet, stone crab, pink shrimp, spiny lobsters and Spanish mackerel.

Seafood is sustainable when the population of that species of fish is managed in a way that provides for today’s needs without damaging the ability of the species to reproduce and be available for future generations. If you buy fish managed under a U.S. fishery management plan, you can be assured it meets 10 national standards. Florida fishermen are required to follow federal and state laws when harvesting seafood.

In the grid below, the blue shaded areas reflect the typical peak months of availability for many popular Florida seafood products. Availability can be affected by weather and other conditions as well as quota limits. For more information about each product, select the product name in the left column.

### Florida Seafood Peak Months of Availability

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Videos on:
- Florida clam farming
- Florida alligator farming
- Florida aquaculture overview
- The Sebastian inlet area
Additional State, Regional or National Resources
NOAA
National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration
noaa.gov/
Commercial fisheries statistics/
Commercial landings

National Marine Fisheries Service
• Provides information on commercial landing by states or groups of states
COMMERCIAL FISHERIES STATISTICS

The NOAA Fisheries, Fisheries Statistics Division has automated data summary programs that anyone can use to rapidly and easily summarize U.S. commercial fisheries landings.

Annual Commercial Landing Statistics

To summarize landings for an individual species use (click on) the Species Locator to look up and enter the name in the SPECIES field. We recommend you look-up and use the NOAA Fisheries common names because the query depends on matching the name in the SPECIES field with the species name in a master coding table. If there isn’t an exact match the executed query will say that there were “no matching records.” To summarize landings of all species, enter the phrase ALL SPECIES COMBINED or ALL SPECIES INDIVIDUALLY in the SPECIES field. The first option gives you total combined landings while the second option indicates total landings for each individual species.

Gray Snapper (Lutjanus griseus)
Photo Credit: Mahloch and Rover, ©Copyright

SPECIES: 

YEAR RANGE:
FROM: [Year] (Earliest Year)
TO: [Year] (Latest Year)

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA
STATE AREA: South Carolina

OUTPUT FORM:
TABLE

Choose the year(s) to begin and end your data summary. If you want data for a single year, enter that year (e.g., 1992) in both the FROM and TO boxes. A word of caution, landings for the most recent year indicated are preliminary and sometimes are highly incomplete.

The summarized data can be viewed in a tabular format by choosing the “Table” option from the OUTPUT FORM; this tabular data with sample text can be printed by choosing the “File Print” option from the top menu bar. Choose the “ASCII File” option if you want to create a file of these data which can be copied and pasted into many applications.
NMFS Landings Query Results

You Asked For the Following:

- Year: From 2016 To: 2016
- Species: shrimp
- State: South Carolina

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Pounds</th>
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<td>1,200.3</td>
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Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP)

www.accsp.org/

• Who We Are
• Program Partners

<table>
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<tr>
<th>COUNCILS &amp; COMMISSIONS</th>
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<tr>
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<th>FEDERAL AGENCIES</th>
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Conserving and managing fishery resources by relying on sound science, promoting public participation, and balancing competing interests.
### STATE AGENCIES

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USDA Census of Aquaculture

www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/Census_of_Aquaculture/
USDA Census of Aquaculture

www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/Census_of_Aquaculture/

provides aquaculture farm data by states

Greatest number of farms by species:
  Louisiana: Crab
  Florida: Ornamental Fish
  Mississippi: Catfish
  Massachusetts: Eastern Oysters
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*For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text.*
Florida Agriculture Literacy Day
May 1, 2018
faitc.org/aglitday
Questions or Comments
Arlette.Roberge@freshfromflorida.com