Alabama Shellfish Aquaculture Update: Production Year 2023

Alabama’s shellfish aquaculture industry produces oysters (Crassostrea virginica) through off-bottom farming using adjustable long-line and floating cage systems.

**Highlights for 2023**

- Ten commercial oyster aquaculture operations reported harvests in Alabama.
- The farm gate value for Alabama commercial oyster farms was estimated to be $3,200,000 based on personal conversations with farmers regarding wholesale prices.
- The number of farmed single-market oysters harvested based on converting meat pounds was estimated at 5.2 million*.
- One commercial hatchery and two commercial nurseries were operational in Alabama.
- Sixty-one acres were permitted for commercial oyster aquaculture with 45 acres used in production.

*Estimate based on meat pounds reported from the Alabama Department of Marine Resources

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This update is based on data obtained from the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), the Alabama Marine Resources Division, the Auburn University Shellfish Lab, and the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium.

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