

AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS



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ADOPTED

BROADBAND

SUPPORT increased efforts to promote access to broadband and provide resources to support accessibility, speed and affordability of broadband in Florida.

SUPPORT improving service mapping accurately by requiring more granular data from service providers, allowing crowd sourced data to be used to inform the map, and creating an appeal process to challenge demonstrable inaccuracies.

AQUACULTURE

SUPPORT state regulatory relief designed to encourage increased commercial production and harvest of aquacultured bivalve shellfish (e.g., clams, oysters) in state waters through review of submerged land leasing requirements and revision of restrictive or outdated regulatory policies.

SUPPORTS encouraging the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and/or Farm Service Agency to evaluate the reestablishment of a viable crop insurance program for shellfish aquaculture producers, specifically designed to cover crop and market losses due to mortality or extended harvest moratoriums and disrupted ability to sell product after environmental perturbations (hurricanes and harmful algal blooms).

SUPPORTS encouraging FDEP to evaluate the potential for regulatory reform which considers the use of live clams to enhance the success of seagrass impact mitigation requirements.

SUPPORTS encouraging FDEP to evaluate implementation of a nutrient credit program to incentivize production of commercial shellfish aquaculture.

SUPPORTS encouraging FDEP, FWC and other relevant state agencies to advance additional grant opportunities for the scientific research required to promulgate regulatory standards for deployment of bivalve shellfish for large scale water quality improvement and nearshore habitat creation.

ADDED TO GUIDING PRINCIPLES

FOOD INSECURITY

SUPPORT increased state funding and policies that reduce food insecurity among Floridians, in order to: 1) increase the health and productivity of those currently without consistent access to healthy food, 2) consequently reduce the demand for public health and human services, 3) improve the financial security of those in need, and 4) accelerate the recovery and increase the resiliency of Florida's economy in the aftermath of the COVID 19 pandemic.