

20211018er

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2 An act relating to largemouth bass; amending s.  
3 597.004, F.S.; requiring the Department of Agriculture  
4 and Consumer Services, in consultation with specified  
5 entities, to adopt a rule requiring certain facilities  
6 to maintain stock acquisition documentation or records  
7 of genetic testing related to Florida largemouth bass;  
8 authorizing the sale of Florida largemouth bass as  
9 food fish under certain circumstances; providing an  
10 effective date.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and paragraph  
15 (a) of subsection (5) of section 597.004, Florida Statutes, are  
16 amended to read:

17 597.004 Aquaculture certificate of registration.—

18 (2) RULES.—

19 (a) The department, in consultation with the Department of  
20 Environmental Protection, the water management districts,  
21 environmental groups, and representatives from the affected  
22 farming groups, shall adopt rules to:

23 1. Specify the requirement of best management practices to  
24 be implemented by holders of aquaculture certificates of  
25 registration.

26 2. Establish procedures for holders of aquaculture  
27 certificates of registration to submit the notice of intent to  
28 comply with best management practices.

29 3. Establish schedules for implementation of best

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30 management practices, and of interim measures that can be taken  
31 prior to adoption of best management practices. Interim measures  
32 may include the continuation of regulatory requirements in  
33 effect on June 30, 1998.

34 4. Establish a system to assure the implementation of best  
35 management practices, including recordkeeping requirements.

36 5. Require any facility that cultures *Micropterus salmoides*  
37 *floridanus* to maintain stock acquisition documentation or  
38 records of genetic testing.

39 (5) SALE OF AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS.—

40 (a) Aquaculture products, except shellfish, snook, and any  
41 fish of the genus *Micropterus*, excluding *Micropterus salmoides*  
42 *floridanus*, and prohibited and restricted freshwater and marine  
43 species identified by rules of the Fish and Wildlife  
44 Conservation Commission, may be sold by an aquaculture producer  
45 certified pursuant to this section or by a dealer licensed  
46 pursuant to part VII of chapter 379 without restriction so long  
47 as the product origin can be identified.

48 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.