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Workforce Ready: Building Florida's Shellfish Aquaculture Workforce Pipeline

Project Description

This project addresses a **critical workforce gap** in Florida's shellfish aquaculture industry by preparing full- and part-time employees with the practical skills needed to contribute immediately on shellfish farms.

Rationale:



\$29.4M Economic Impact*



434 Jobs Supported Jobs*



Workforce Gap: Top Growth Barrier*

Availability of a skilled workforce is explicitly recognized as a critical barrier for successful business operations & industry expansion.*

*[UF/IFAS](#)

*[NOAA](#)

*[FDACS](#)

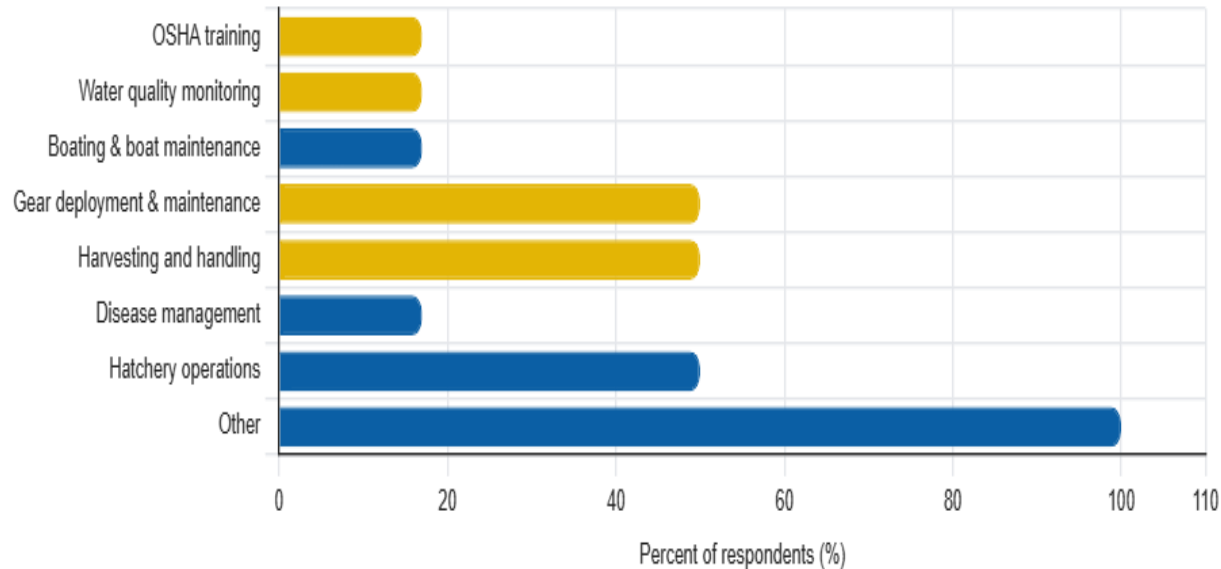
*[Aquaculture Review Council](#)

*[MAFAC Report-NOAA](#)

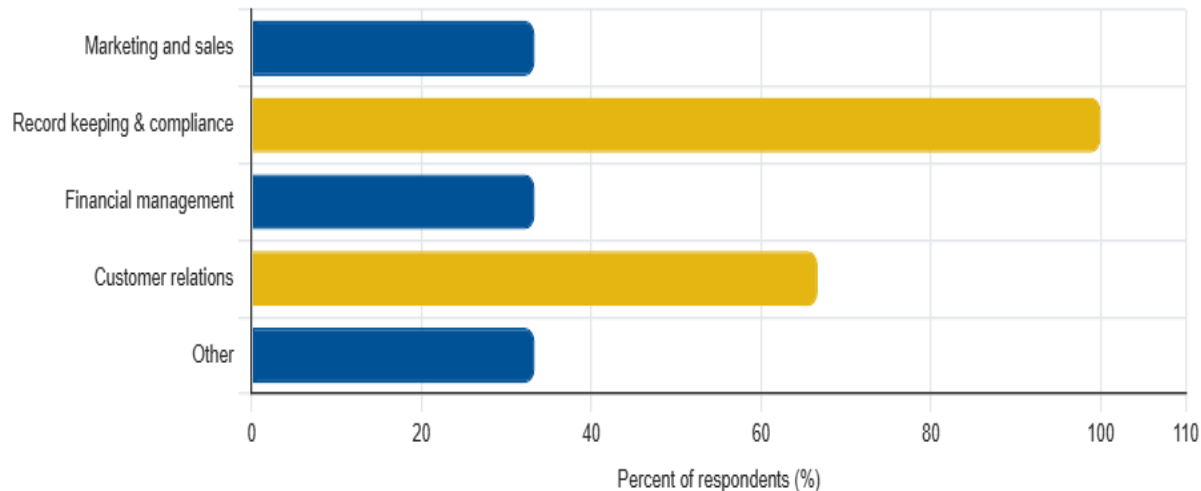
The logo for TSC, consisting of the letters 'TSC' in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a blue background.

Capstone Results

Technical Skills Most Important to Farmers



Business & Management Skills Most Important to Farmers



6 Priority Skills Identified for Workforce Training Program Design:

1. Gear deployment & maintenance
2. Harvesting & handling
3. OSHA safety training
4. Water quality Monitoring (basics)
5. Record keeping & compliance
6. Customer relations

Program design will offer a **6-month** hybrid workforce certificate that blends virtual instruction with hands-on field training, delivered through paid, on-farm employment with participating shellfish operations.

Future Recommendations - Timeline

Program Pilot Rollout



Timeline to Complete*



*Note: While shown sequentially, activities will overlap between now and September.

