

#### **2.4.3.3.3 WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES FOR AQUACULTURE USES.**

The Applicant's plan shall address the following water conservation practices for aquaculture use:

1. Reduce offsite discharge by converting flow through systems to recirculation systems; designing new facilities with recirculation systems and design new ponds without discharge outlets; retaining and treating production water on site; utilizing reclaimed water and other alternate water sources; and incorporating water reuse practices in standard operation and management practices to reduce the quantity of water pumped or discharged.
2. Reduce water loss from ponds due to excess seepage by maintaining proper free board levels and using perimeter ditches, and reduce water loss from outdoor containments by the use of shade facilities where practicable.
3. Avoid daytime aeration or other activities which involve spraying water into the air to the greatest extent practicable to minimize water losses from evaporation and the wind. This does not apply to daytime use of water for control of heat stress or cold protection.
4. Conduct routine and ongoing maintenance and repair programs on levees, dikes and banks surrounding ponds, check for leaks from tanks, vats or raceways, and check for proper performance of perimeter ditches, filter strips, detention ponds or other facilities designed for treatment of product water treatment.
5. Conduct a system-wide survey at least once per season that includes monitoring flow rates and system pressures to detect leaks and clogs; routine cleaning system components (valves, filters, meters, etc.); checking controllers or timers for accurate operation; and monitoring flow meters for unusually high or low readings.
6. Utilize other conservation practices as identified by the IFAS's Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences publication "Regulations Pertaining to Non-native Fish in Florida Aquaculture (FA121)," incorporated by reference in paragraph 40D-1.659 (ff).