



Small-town \$18m organic shrimp farm opens doors in August

Florida land-based shrimp will hit market by the end of the year.

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Florida Organic Aquaculture [made the global seafood news in November last year](#) when it announced to build a organic shrimp farm in the 5,400 person Florida town of Fellsmere with the help of "several Chinese investors."

The plan is to grow organic Pacific white shrimp – without antibiotics or chemicals – in a series of large tanks in enclosed greenhouse structures, filtering the water with oysters and ultimately recirculating it back into the shrimp tanks.

Today, the company's in-house hatchery is already up and running, while completion of the 2.2 million pound capacity farm is only a couple of months away.

"We want to harvest the first shrimp by the end of this year," John Billian, vice president of business development at Florida Organic Aquaculture, told **IntraFish**.

The whole project will cost about \$18 million (€14.1 million), of which \$16 million (€12.5 million) come from foreign investors from China, South Africa and South America.

Billian believes the investment will pay off, claiming "great interest" for its products. "Consumers not only want organic but also fresh shrimp," he said.

The company also aims to score with jumbo-sizes, which are highly in demand, Billian believes. "You'll have a hard time finding U-12 white shrimp at the moment," he said.

While the introduction of **US organic standards has still not seen any major progress** – the company will look at overseas organic certifications, including German organic stamp Naturland.

At the beginning, the company aims to focus its supply on Florida, but room for expansion is there, as well as investor interest, Billian said. "With this land-based re-circulation system we could set up plants almost anywhere."

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