



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Florida - Rural Business & Cooperative Service

Local & Regional Food Systems

RBEG Funds, Strategic Partners Help Keep Aquaculture Afloat

Outline Of Need:

Main boat ramp for clam-based aquaculture industry, vital to the economic stability of the City of Cedar Key, was in need of major repairs.

How Rural Development Helped:

Rural Development worked with the City of Cedar Key, the Cedar Key Redevelopment Agency, and the Cedar Key Aquaculture Association, Inc. to provide a \$164,100 RBEG. to construct a concrete boat launch at the Anchor Hole Boat Ramp.

The Results:

The RBEG funds were used to construct the Anchor Hole Boat Ramp allowing 36 small clam businesses to safely and efficiently launch their boats and offload their clam harvest under most tide conditions. These 36 businesses result in approximately 422 clam industry related jobs for the City of Cedar Key. The Cedar Key clam industry produces approximately 75 percent of all clams harvested in Florida.

“With the construction of this boat ramp, current



Cedar Key's new Anchor Hold Boat Ramp provides the local aquaculture industry access to launch boats in the Gulf of Mexico for clam planting and harvesting.

and future clam farmers will be able to access their crops and get them to market in a timely manner,” said USDA Rural Development State Director Richard A. Machek. “Rural Development is proud to be a partner in this important project.”

The RBEG program provides grants for rural projects that finance and facilitate development of small and emerging rural businesses and helps fund business incubators, and help fund employment related adult education programs. To assist with business development. RBEGs may fund a broad array of activities.

Fast Facts

Program: Rural Business Program

Investment: \$164,100 RBEG

Partners: City of Cedar Key, Cedar Key Redevelopment Agency, and the Cedar Key Aquaculture Association, Inc.

Congressional District: FL-05

Demographics:

City of Cedar Key, Levy County

Rural Population—790

Impact:

- 36 Rural businesses assisted.
- 422 Industry related jobs saved.

