Announcement FY 2021-22

Florida Aquaculture Review Council
Call for Statements of Interest

The Aquaculture Review Council, an advisory council to the Commissioner of Agriculture, is pleased to announce a call for Statements of Interest to perform applied aquaculture research and economic development projects during the State of Florida 2021-22 fiscal year (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022).

The Council is focused on stimulating the growth and development of aquaculture in Florida. As the solicitation for statements is intended to create a partnership between the public sector (universities, non-profits, State and Federal agencies) and the commercial aquaculture industry, projects must address applied research and economic development priorities and transfer all results directly to Florida aquaculturists. This package contains all necessary information and instructions for preparing a Statement of Interest.

**Submission**

Statements must address research and economic development priorities identified in the Research and Development Priorities section of this document. Each project must also be approved by an appropriate Council member prior to submission. **Applicants must submit their Statement of Interest to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Aquaculture, no later than 5:00 p.m. local time on Friday, December 13, 2019.** Late or incomplete submissions WILL NOT be accepted.

Statements will be evaluated by the Council at an upcoming meeting. Selected investigators will be invited to submit a full proposal during May 2020 and may be asked to attend a Council meeting to present and discuss their proposed project. Funding for projects selected by the Council is contingent upon a legislative appropriation. If funds become available, the start date for projects will be July 1, 2021.

**Statements of Interest from prior years will not be considered unless resubmitted.**

Statements may be submitted via hand delivery, courier, mail, fax, or as an email attachment to the email below in a portable document format (.pdf). **Completed Statements must be sent to:**

Dr. Marcy Cockrell  
Division of Aquaculture  
600 South Calhoun Street, Suite 217  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300  
Telephone: (850) 617-7600  
Fax: (850) 617-7601  
Email: Marcy.Cockrell@FDACS.gov
Research and Development Priorities

Statements of Interest are requested to conduct short-term projects that address the following applied research and economic development priorities identified by the Aquaculture Review Council.

Contact the appropriate Council member (see page 5) with any questions concerning these research topics and to verify the suitability of a project topic for submission. Each project must be approved by an appropriate Council member prior to submission. Suitability of projects should be discussed and confirmed with the appropriate Council member at least one week prior to the submission deadline.

Industry At-Large:

- Create an outreach campaign to promote the environmental benefits provided by Florida’s aquaculture industry to community stakeholders, consumers and conservation organizations
- Identify ways to consider the benefits of aquaculture production when analyzing risk of invasion and potential environmental harm
- Develop or enhance regular biosecurity training for growers and hatcheries, in both English and Spanish

Food Fish:

- Develop a genetic selection program for commercially important food fish species
- Develop and evaluate new husbandry technologies for food fish species which increase productivity or reduce operating costs
- Evaluate new or alternative feed ingredients and dietary formulations to reduce feed costs and increase growth and reproduction of commercially important species

Ornamental Fish:

- Evaluate protocols to replace or reduce the use of live feeds during larval culture of commercially valuable ornamental fish species
- Conduct research to support 24 (C), Special Local Need Labeling of Dylox 420L, including safety concerns, for the non-food aquaculture and aquatic plant industry
- Conduct research to support use of methyl testosterone for ornamental fish

Aquatic Plants:

- Determine techniques for optimal growth and propagation of commercially important aquatic plant species: Java fern (*Microsorum pteropus*) and aquatic mosses (e.g., in the genus *Taxiphyllum, Versiculartia, Leptodictyum, Pellia, Riccardia, Plagiomnium, Fissidens, Riccia, Fontinalis*, and *Monosolenium*)
- Investigate methods to control aquatic plant predators (i.e., *Physella spp.*, *Marisa spp.*, Lepidoptera, Amphipoda)
Alligators:
- Develop a protocol to nest, incubate and hatch alligators to increase hatch rates and reduce or eliminate umbilical scarring
- Develop a protocol for rearing alligators to increase growth rates and reduce scarring from bites (density levels, frequency of feeding, water level and optimum grow out house temperature)

Shellfish:
- Investigate water quality parameters (biological and chemical) that affect survival of bivalve seed in the hatchery and nursery environment
- Develop methods for improving genetics of commercially farmed bivalves which improve production characteristics (e.g., tolerance to high temperature, low dissolved oxygen and salinity variation) in real-world farm conditions
- Create a tetraploid oyster broodstock line that can be provided to Florida hatcheries
- Development of technologies to address red tide issues in commercial bivalve farming, such as enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and/or liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS)

Eligibility
- Applicants can be private sector or state, local or federal government organizations.
- Investigators outside the State of Florida are eligible, but the project **MUST** be directly applicable to the priorities listed in this announcement and out-of-state applicants are strongly encouraged to include an in-state Florida partner.
- **Only projects addressing the Research and Development Priorities listed above with quantifiable, measurable objectives will be considered.**
- Projects should include a project-to-farming community technology transfer activity (e.g., workshop or hands-on demonstration) to ensure project results are directly communicated to Florida’s aquaculture industry.

Timeframe
Projects must be completed within the State of Florida fiscal year: July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. An option for applicants that envision a multi-year effort is to propose a Phase I and Phase II project (i.e., a two-year duration project). Applicants must clearly describe and delineate Phase I and Phase II objectives in their Statement of Interest.

Review and approval of funding for Phase I of a project is not a guarantee of approval and funding for Phase II. Phase II projects will be reviewed in the same manner as all other project submittals in the year in which it is submitted.

Funding and Administration
Project funding is subject to the State of Florida’s budget process. Full proposals will be evaluated by the Council and those proposals that are favorably reviewed will be recommended to the Commissioner of Agriculture for inclusion in the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ annual budget request. Investigators and/or their organizations are encouraged to create
legislative support for the package of proposals that are included in the department’s budget request.

Project funds, if appropriated, will be administered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services through a contractual services agreement and will include on-site progress visits. Note: Florida Statute mandates public-private partnerships, when appropriate, and a return of a percentage of any profit or revenue generated by projects for funding future projects (597.003(1)(f), F.S.).

The Council encourages the identification of matching or cost share contributions to complete a project. While not required, applicants that can identify a match or cost share are encouraged to do so and provide a description of that contribution in the budget description.

Statement of Interest Format and Contents
Statements should be no more than three pages in length (excluding the cover page, budget summary and letter(s) of support) written in 11-point Times New Roman font with one-inch margins on letter sized (8.5” x 11”) paper, and should contain the following elements:

- **Project Title and Contact Information (Cover Page)** – Include the name(s) of the investigator(s) or applicant(s), along with the organizational affiliation, address, phone number, fax number and email for the submitting principal investigator(s).
- **Abstract (Cover Page)** – Briefly summarize the project in 200 words or less.
- **Need for the Research** – Explicitly connect the proposed work to the Research and Development Priorities listed on page 2-3 and describe one or more specific objectives. Published literature references are not required in the Statement but will be required for a full proposal.
- **Impact to the Florida Aquaculture Industry** – Describe the impact(s) of the project on Florida’s aquaculture industry and the general public as a whole.
- **Methods** – Succinctly outline activities to accomplish the objective(s) and identify the roles of principal investigators.
- **Project Evaluation** – Identify specific performance measurements and criteria that will be used to monitor and evaluate the relative success or failure of the project objectives. Address the practicality of commercial implementation of the proposed project.
- **Deliverables** – Quarterly progress reports and a final report are required; simply acknowledge that they will be provided. The progress reports must describe progress toward the objectives and include any preliminary results. The final report should include discussion and analysis of results, summary of farmer outreach effort (number of attendees, participant satisfaction analysis, etc.) and recommendations for future work.
- **Work Schedule** – Provide a brief timeline of the tasks associated with project objectives.
- **Budget Summary** – Briefly summarize the estimated total budget, and include categories such as personnel, equipment, materials and supplies, contractual services, match funding (if included) and indirect costs (IDC). Funds provided by the department to support Aquaculture Review Council recommended projects cannot be used for capital outlay, tuition or travel related expenses. IDC is limited to a single 5% charge (10% for the
University of Florida). IDC cannot be charged on top of IDC billed by a subcontractor to the contracted party.

- **Letter(s) of Support** – At least one letter of support from a commercial farm or non-profit aquaculture association is required. Applicants are strongly encouraged to engage supporting entities well ahead of the submission deadline.
### Aquaculture Review Council Members

#### Alligators
Allen Register  
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PO Box 248  
Palmdale, FL 33944-0248  
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#### Food Fish
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#### Aquatic Plants
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#### Aquaculture Industry Member At Large
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#### Commercial Fishing
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#### Shellfish
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#### Tropical Fish
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#### State Agricultural Advisory Council
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If you have questions about the research and development priorities contained in this announcement, please contact the appropriate Council member. If you have questions about Statement of Interest formatting, funding or the submission and evaluation process, please contact Dr. Marcy Cockrell at (850) 617-7600 or Marcy.Cockrell@FDACS.gov.
Florida Aquaculture Project
Statement of Interest – FY 2021-22

Cover Page

Title of Proposed Project:

Principal Investigator(s) (name, title and organization):

Name, Address, Telephone, Fax, and Email of Submitting Organization:

Cooperating Investigators (name, title and organization)

ARC Council Member that Approved the Project:

Project Abstract (200 words or less):

Total Project Cost: ______________

State of Florida Cost: ____________