



FACT SHEET

Aquaculture Programs at NIFA

- Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) 8.7
- Special Research Grants Program- Aquaculture
- Regional Aquaculture Centers (RAC) Program

****Aquaculture applicants should note that projects involving aquatic animals and plants are able to** submit for funding and should consider submitting to many program areas within the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) and Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) programs.**

SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) 8.7

PHASE I APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must qualify as a Small Business Concern (SBC) through registration with the Small Business Association (SBA).
- An SBIR awardee, combined with its affiliates, must not have more than 500 employees.
- The research and development for Phase I applications must be performed in the United States.
- Applications cannot exceed \$175,000 or 181,500 with Technical and Business Assistance (TABAs).
- The project duration is 8-months. A no-cost extension of up to an additional 12 months is available.

PROGRAM AREA PURPOSE AND PRIORITIES FOR SBIR 8.7 PHASE I

1. Involves a high degree of technical risk with significant commercial impact and/or societal benefit.
2. The Phase I applications should concentrate on research that will significantly contribute to providing the scientific or technical feasibility of the approach or concept, describe the potential market for the innovation, and provide a prerequisite to further USDA SBIR support in Phase II.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR SBIR 8.7 AQUACULTURE

- Reproductive Efficiency, Genetic Improvement, Integrated Aquatic Animal Health Management, Improved Production Systems and Management Strategies, Algal Production Systems.

OTHER INFORMATION

For more information on SBIR Phase I and II please review the SBIR fact sheets.

[Link to the 2021 SBIR Phase I RFA](#)

[Link to the 2021 SBIR Phase II RFA](#)

For more information on SBIR please visit [SBIR.gov](https://www.sbir.gov).

SPECIAL RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM- AQUACULTURE

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- Applied research projects that must include U.S. aquaculture industry involvement.
- Maximum award amount is \$300,000 for a maximum duration of 2 years.

NIFA invests in and advances agricultural research, education, and extension and seeks to make transformative discoveries that solve societal challenges.



PROGRAM AREA PURPOSE AND PRIORITIES FOR SPECIAL RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

- 1) Directly address major constraints to the United States aquaculture industry.
- 2) Focus on one or more of the following program area priorities:
 - Genetics of commercial aquaculture species; Critical disease issues impacting commercial aquaculture species; Design of environmentally and economically sustainable commercial aquaculture production systems; Economic research for increasing commercial aquaculture profitability.

OTHER INFORMATION

[Link to the Special Research Grants Program- Aquaculture RFA](#)

REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS (RAC) PROGRAM

REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTER PROGRAM MISSION

The RACs support aquaculture research, extension, and demonstration projects to enhance the viability, profitability, and environmental compatibility of the US aquaculture industry.

PROGRAM AREA PURPOSE AND PRIORITIES

- The RAC program supports the Northeastern RAC at the University of Maryland, The Northcentral RAC at Iowa State University, The Southern RAC at Mississippi State University, The Western RAC at the University of Washington, and the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture housed jointly at the University of Hawaii and the Oceanic Institute of Hawaii Pacific University.
- The RACs are part of a national effort to coordinate research, extension, and demonstration projects to address critical needs of the aquaculture industry.

IMPORTANT FACTS

- The total amount of funds for FY 2021 is approximately \$4.6 million dollars.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- Only renewal applications are to be submitted in response to the RFA.

AQUACULTURE PROGRAM PRIORITY CONTACTS

Dr. Tim Sullivan, (816) 527-5434 or timothy.sullivan@usda.gov

OTHER INFORMATION

Below are links to the website for the Regional Aquaculture Centers:

[Northeastern Regional Aquaculture Center \(NRAC\)](#)

[North Central Regional Aquaculture Center \(NCRAC\)](#)

[Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture \(CTSA\)](#)

[Southern Regional Aquaculture Center \(SRAC\)](#)

[Western Regional Aquaculture Center \(WRAC\)](#)

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