School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences
Program in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory
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PhD Assistantship in Finfish and Ornamental Aquaculture

Start: January 11, 2027 (Spring semester)
Program: Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences
Deadline: September 11, 2026. Review begins immediately and continues until a suitable candidate is identified.

Description: Florida supports a diverse aquaculture industry that includes freshwater and marine ornamental fishes, food fish, shellfish, and species produced for conservation and stock enhancement. The state is the national leader in ornamental fish production, with Florida growers reporting a farm-gate value of approximately $172 million in 2021. However, producers face continued challenges associated with overseas competition, changing market demand, environmental stressors, regulatory requirements, and the need to diversify culture species and improve production efficiency. The successful applicant will investigate critical knowledge gaps in the physiology and production of freshwater and marine ornamental and food fish species. Potential projects may address captive reproduction, larval rearing and grow-out, responses to environmental stressors, and/or the development of predictive indicators of larval quality. Research will combine controlled aquaculture experiments with physiological and molecular techniques to develop species-specific production protocols and support commercial aquaculture, conservation, and fisheries management.

Location: This position will be located at the University of Florida's Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory (http://tal.ifas.ufl.edu), a fully equipped research and extension center located in Ruskin, Florida. The facility includes 5 greenhouses, 50 earthen ponds, a climate-controlled hatchery, and a full-service disease diagnostic laboratory. The terminal degree will be awarded through the Program in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences in the School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences (https://ffgs.ifas.ufl.edu).

Qualifications:

- M.S. degree in aquaculture or related discipline,
- Demonstrated research experience and peer-reviewed publication history
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, familiarity with biochemical assays and molecular techniques is desirable but not required
- Preferred existing residency in the state of Florida

Salary/Benefits: Annual stipend plus tuition remission and GatorGradCare health insurance.

Application: Interested applicants should submit the following documents as a **single pdf or word file** via email to Dr. Casey Murray (casey.murray@ufl.edu) by the **September 11, 2026** deadline.

- Cover letter summarizing interest in the position, qualifications and experience, as well as research and career aspirations
- Curriculum Vitae
- Unofficial academic transcripts
- Names and contact information of three professional references

Final candidates will be contacted and required to submit formal applications to the UF Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Department by November 1st.