

School of Forest Resources and Conservation
Program in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory
1408 24th Street SE
Ruskin, FL 33570
Phone: 813-671-5230 Ext. 115
Email: mdimaggi@ufl.edu

MS Graduate Research Assistantship - Marine Ornamental Aquaculture

Start: August 16, 2016 (Fall semester)

Program: Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

Deadline: April 8, 2016 or as soon as a suitable candidate is identified

We are currently seeking applicants for a two year, MS research assistantship investigating production methods for marine ornamental fish species in Florida.

Description: It is estimated that over 11 million marine fish, representing 1,800 unique species, are sold in the ornamental pet trade annually; with the preponderance of specimens resulting from wild capture. Culture of species which spawn small pelagic eggs and have underdeveloped larval stages has been largely unsuccessful due to bottlenecks mainly associated with captive spawning and larval nutrition. This project aims to develop protocols for the captive production of three commercially valuable marine ornamental species; the Melanurus wrasse [*Halichoeres melanurus*], Yellow wrasse [*H. chrysus*], and Radiant wrasse [*H. iridis*]. The proposed investigations will be executed through the collaborative efforts of researchers at the University of Florida's Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory and the Rising Tide Conservation Initiative. The successful applicant will investigate critical gaps in knowledge regarding captive reproduction, larval culture, and production techniques for these valuable wrasse species.

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 degree will be awarded through the Program in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences in the School of Forest Resources and Conservation (<http://sfrc.ufl.edu>).

Qualifications:

- B.S. degree in biology, zoology, marine sciences, aquaculture or related discipline, GRE scores of >150 Verbal and >150 Quantitative
- Demonstrated research experience and familiarity with marine aquaculture is highly desirable
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills

Salary/Benefits: \$18,000 annually, 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. Matthew DiMaggio, (mdimaggi@ufl.edu) by the **April 8, 2016** deadline.

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

Final candidates will be contacted and required to submit formal applications to the University of Florida graduate school by April 30, 2016. For further admission information please contact Ms. Amy Abernethy (aabner@ufl.edu), academic coordinator for graduate programs.