



- ❖ **Small Funding Opportunities for US Aquaculture Groups:** The Aquaculture Genome Co-Coordinator of USDA-NIFA National Research Support Project 8 (NRSP8) request proposals for activities that support community research efforts for US Aquaculture species; primarily catfish, oysters, salmon/rainbow trout, shrimps, striped bass and tilapia. Proposals should specifically address the current NRSP8 Objectives which are:

Objective 1: Advance the status of reference genomes for all species, including basic annotation of worldwide genetic variation, by broad sequencing among different lines and breeds of animals;

Objective 2: Develop strategies to identify and exploit genes and allelic variations that contribute to economically relevant phenotypes and traits, in part through improving functional annotation of the genomes of our species.

Objective 3: Facilitate analysis, curation, storage, distribution and application of the enormous datasets now being generated by next-generation sequencing and related "omics" technologies with regard to animal species of agricultural interest.

Investigators should be based at US institutions, proposals should be no more than 1 page in length, and funding requests should not exceed \$10,000. Proposals should identify the relevant research community and outline how funds will be used for research support activities. Such activities may include but are not limited to training, workshops, development of high throughput genotyping platforms, genome sequence assembly and annotation, developing and/or supporting community databases and web sites. Proposals should be sent to Steven Roberts (sr320@uw.edu) by May 31, 2018.

- ❖ **The Aquaculture Genomics Workshop a great success:** The Aquaculture Genomics Workshop that took place at PAG in San Diego on Saturday, January 13, 2018, Town & Country, CA was a great success. Thanks go to Dr. Geoff Waldbieser of USDA-ARS, the conference organizer. Invited speakers included Wes Warren, Washington University of St Louis, "Assembly and Computational Use of Aquatic Genome Models"; Nuala O'Leary, NIH/NCBI, "The National Center for Biotechnology (NCBI) Genome Annotation Resources for Aquaculture Species"; Shawn Narum, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, "Applied Genomics for Conservation of Distinct Stocks and Phenotypic Diversity in Chinook Salmon"; and Adam Phillippy, NIH/NHGRI, "A strategy to assemble high-quality reference genomes for all vertebrate orders". In addition to the invited speakers, 15 speakers reported their research with aquaculture species.

- ❖ **Catherine Purcell will be the organizer for PAG Aquaculture Workshop for 2019:** Dr. Catherine Purcell will be chairing next year's Aquaculture session to be held in January of 2019. If you have any suggestions, please send them to Catherine.
- ❖ **Secretary (Chair-elect) elected for the next two years:** Dr. Tiago Hori (Center for Aquaculture Technologies) and Dr. Louis Plough (University of Maryland – Center for Environmental Science) were elected as Secretary (Chair-elect) for the 2019 workshop, and Secretary (Chair-elect) for the 2020 the workshop, respectively.
- ❖ **USDA NIFA Special Research Grants Program for Aquaculture Research:** The purpose of the Aquaculture Research program is to support the development of an environmentally and economically sustainable aquaculture industry in the U.S. and generate new science-based information and innovation to address industry constraints. Over the long term, results of projects supported by this program may help improve the profitability of the U.S. aquaculture industry, reduce the U.S. trade deficit, increase domestic food security, provide markets for U.S.-produced grain products, increase domestic aquaculture business investment opportunities, and provide more jobs for rural and coastal America. The Aquaculture Research program will fund projects that directly address major constraints to the U.S. aquaculture industry and focus on one or more of the following program priorities: (1) genetics of commercial aquaculture species; (2) critical disease issues impacting aquaculture species; (3) design of environmentally and economically sustainable aquaculture production systems; and (4) economic research for increasing aquaculture profitability. The deadline for application is Thursday, May 17, 2018, Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-SRGP-006544, Estimated Total Program Funding: \$1,200,000.