

Proposal #: 20SER010-013

Project Title: Increasing Resilience for Fishing Communities of the Southeast U.S.: Development of Yellowtail Snapper (*Ocyurus chrysurus*) Pilot-scale Growout Technology

Applicant: University of Miami

Priority Addressed Priority #2 – Science or Technology that Promotes Sustainable U.S. Seafood Production and Harvesting

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Abstract: The proposed project aims to future-proof the valuable yellowtail snapper (*Ocyurus chrysurus*) fishery of the U.S., providing increased business opportunities, added value, long-term sustainability, and decreased risk for fishing communities that depend on this fishery. The project directly addresses both of the NOAA Saltonstall-Kennedy 2020 solicitation priorities: “(1) Promotion, Development, and Marketing; and (2) Science or Technology that Promotes Sustainable U.S. Seafood Production and Harvesting”, with the primary topic being the latter. Direct fisheries impacts will come through the development of a science and technology based pilot project that will lead to the strengthening of existing U.S. fishing communities, and optimization of economic benefits for a fishery through improved practices and sustainable market expansion. The yellowtail snapper fishery represents one of the most valuable hook-and-line fisheries in the Southeast U.S., yet it faces increased threats due to competition with foreign imports, annual catch limit (ACL) allocation issues with the recreational sector, loss of working waterfronts to help sustain the fishery, and vulnerability of the fishery to natural and anthropogenic stressors. The proposed project addresses all of these threats and will provide direct benefits to the fishing communities of the region while connecting all segments of the seafood supply chain.

Summary of Commercial Benefits to the Fishing Community of the Research Results: Benefits to the fishing community will come directly from increased business opportunities, added resilience to working waterfronts, decreased risk from fisheries closures, long-term sustainability, added value to harvested product, improved understanding of the impacts of natural and anthropogenic stressors on the fishery, and hands-on training opportunities in value-added harvest techniques and fish production. The project offers an opportunity to future-proof the U.S. yellowtail snapper fishery, in terms of market expansion, higher ex-vessel pricing, and implementation of techniques and technology to return a greater share of the seafood supply chain profits for this species back to the fishing community.
