

Department of Commerce/NOAA
Small Business Innovation Research Program
PHASE 2 PROJECT SUMMARY

NAME OF FIRM		
Snapperfarm, Inc.		
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PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (NAME AND TITLE)		
Brian O'Hanlon, Vice-President of Operations		
TITLE OF PROJECT		
Refining Culture Technology for Growing Spiny Lobsters, <i>Panulirus argus</i> , from Pueruli to Market in Puerto Rico		
SOLICITATION SUBTOPIC NO.	SOLICITATION SUBTOPIC TITLE	
8.4.1SG	Aquaculture: Developing and Improving Species Culture	
TECHNICAL ABSTRACT (LIMIT TO 200 WORDS)		
<p>Spiny lobster, <i>Panulirus argus</i>, aquaculture on a global scale is a small fraction of the total annual wild harvest. The ability to advance the culture of spiny lobsters will reduce the stress on the natural stock while providing a highly desired product. The culture cycle is dependent on the collection of lobster pueruli from the wild, due to the difficulty in rearing the larvae through the year long cycle. Snapperfarm, Inc. moored its first two offshore fish submerged sea cages in the Puerto Rico in 2002. These cages quickly became large settlement collectors for spiny lobster pueruli, which were drifting to nearshore for settlement. The collection of pueruli from offshore sea cages represents a novel technique, which differs from the traditional methods - small floating collectors and plankton nets. Building on the results in Phase 1, Snapperfarm will address in Phase 2 the bottlenecks to commercial culture of spiny lobster. The objectives and approaches include refining pueruli collection techniques, developing feed for juveniles, using growout cages to raise lobsters to market, and finding value-added markets for cultured lobsters. As these refinements are realized, Snapperfarm, Inc. can expand their research lobster culture program to a successful and profitable business (Phase 3).</p>		
KEYWORDS:		
Spiny Lobster, <i>Panulirus argus</i> , Offshore Aquaculture, Growout Cages, Feed Development		
POTENTIAL COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS OF THE RESEARCH		
<p>Snapperfarm, Inc. intends to refine spiny lobster culture technology during Phase 2 so that cultured lobsters are regularly available on the market. This technology will encourage other user groups to pursue spiny lobster culture in the Caribbean and Florida as a viable and economic business.</p>		