

Participation with the RAS-N Project

The Recirculating Aquaculture Salmon Network (RAS-N) project is a NOAA/Sea Grant funded project with participants who have skills, expertise, resources, and knowledge of the Atlantic salmon RAS industry. The project strives to support and advance the US land-based salmon industry, with an overarching theme of 'what helps one, helps all'. Entities that wish to join RAS-N, beyond those defined originally in the grant, can join RAS-N either as a **Supporter** or a **Partner**. **Supporters** and **Partners** differ based on the level of activity and engagement expected from them.

Supporter:

As a Supporter, Entities can follow discussions, keep up with RAS-N activities, and may participate peripherally. On occasion, Supporters might be approached or invited to participate on panels, provide input on areas of expertise, or other singular activities. Note, however, that there is no expectation to participate, nor will they be required to engage with RAS-N beyond receiving updates and information on the Network. As a Supporter, Entities will not be eligible for the same benefits as full Partners, including representation on committees, decision making processes, or in leadership positions.

Partner:

Entities that wish to join RAS-N, beyond those defined originally in the grant, as a Partner are expected to consistently participate in consortium activities. The following are suggested ways in which new partners may contribute to make the consortium a success while equitably matching resources contributed by the original partners.

Expectations for Becoming a Partner in the RAS-N

1. Full participation in RAS-N discussions, workshops, committees, and review of relevant materials as designated. The input of various partner/stakeholder viewpoints is critical to project success.
2. Sharing knowledge, data and information will be part of the process and data sharing is a requirement of the grant. The protection of IP, trade secrets and proprietary information is understood and will be respected.
3. Serve on RAS-N focused working groups.
4. Sponsorship of workshops and other official RAS-N events, such as:
 - a. Resource contributions (e.g., in-kind contributions, materials, etc; undue burdens are not expected).
 - b. Panel and workshop participation based on expertise.

RAS-N Partner Participation Expectations updated February 12, 2021

5. Written contributions for website, road map, extension documents, etc.
6. Future involvement in grant submissions, such as:
 - a. Serve on a committee dedicated to securing new funding.
 - b. Letters of support for RAS-N related funding submissions.
 - c. Collaborative submissions, as is mutually-agreeable with other partners.
7. Help with RAS-N related legislation and policy efforts initiated by RAS-N leadership.
8. Make personnel and/or resources available to RAS-N based on a mutually agreed upon arrangement with RAS-N Lead PI and/or RAS-N Internal Steering Committee, such as:
 - a. Media/communications personnel.
 - b. Managing workshop logistics.
 - c. Technical advising.
 - d. Training activities.
9. Provide internship/externship opportunities related to RAS-N.
10. Demonstration projects. An explanation of what defines demonstration projects will be provided on the (future) website, but they may include:
 - a. With COVID, virtual demonstration may be necessary.
 - b. In-person demonstrations may involve facility tours and/or limited access to partner R&D trials (not data transfer, but perhaps limited walkthroughs for the public).
11. Co-link to RAS-N website as appropriate.

The RAS-N was founded on the premise that 'helping one will help all'. As a group, our intent is to help the US achieve sustainable seafood (salmon) production, which will benefit the nation and local communities. As such, we operate with the following credos in mind.

Basic Expectations for Participation in the RAS-N Committee Meetings and Group Interactions

1. We work from a foundation of transparency and openness in our collaboration.
2. Everyone's voice matters.
3. Listen to understand.
4. Assume positive intent.
5. Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing.
6. A diversity of possible solutions exist for any given challenge.
7. Team members may have proprietary concerns regarding their business ventures and data, but these constraints must be vocalized when they conflict with progress on the project.
8. To establish trust and maintain collaborative interactions, informal group discussions, information sharing, ideas, presentations and other material/aspects of shared work are to stay within the discussants and cannot be shared outside the group without explicit permission from author and/or RAS-N steering committee and grant PI.
9. Authorship discussions of any materials generated in the project will occur early in the life of the grant and be coordinated by the Internal Steering Committee and the RAS-N Sea Grant Extension Coordinator.
10. As a group, we have the opportunity to be transformative and supportive of a national change in seafood production practices as well as consumer attitudes. We must seize this opportunity.
11. Have fun and be creative.