

Position ID

E17-21

Position Title

Marine Biologist

Office Name

Office of Science and Technology, NOAA

Portfolio Summary

The Office of Science and Technology spearheads and coordinates National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) scientific activities at the national level and strives to improve the quality and integrity of scientific outputs generated regionally and nationally. It is the primary interface between NMFS science centers (field offices), other NMFS and NOAA offices, as well as domestic and international scientific organizations. The Protected Species Science Branch (PSSB) in the Office of Science and Technology, is a nascent program gradually expanding its role in supporting and conducting research and development activities and strategic research planning related to protected species science. Protected species here refers to all Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed marine species such as marine mammals, sea turtles (in water), corals and other invertebrates, and protected fish. The fellow will have an excellent opportunity to be close to the science, participate in field work, lead or support different meetings, workshops, and symposia. There is considerable flexibility for the fellow to initiate and develop new initiatives or projects that help to advance protected species science. Fellow is encouraged to apply for grants, publish papers, or collaborate with researchers on topics that overlap with the branch's activities. The fellow could be involved in all or some of the following core projects: climate, coral, marine mammal, and sea turtle science.

1. Climate Science

Task 1: Develop climate vulnerability assessment species narratives

Description: Working in concert with PSSB/ST, Science Center, and Regional Office staff, collect and organize protected species life history data for use in vulnerability assessment pilot and full implementations.

Deliverable: Species narratives

Task 2: Assist in climate vulnerability assessment results analysis

Description: Using a variety of data analysis tools, examine and interpret data generated from the climate vulnerability assessment implementation.

Deliverable: Graphical and textual summaries of results

Task 3: Support pilot or full climate vulnerability assessment implementation workshop

Description: Take notes and assist with facilitation at either a pilot (sea turtles) or full (marine mammals) climate vulnerability assessment implementation workshop.

2. Coral Science

Developing a webinar/short-course on coral restoration: Caribbean coral reef ecosystems have reached a critical juncture in their evolutionary history, wherein they are or soon will be dependent on human assistance for their long-term survival. In mid-November, NOAA held a workshop to advance the science and practice of coral restoration. The workshop covered research on genetic stress tolerance in corals

and how to use that research to enhance restoration, scaling up nursery and outplanting operations, optimizing coral restoration site selection, and monitoring for ecosystem recovery. In order to document and promote promising ideas and points of consensus in coral research and restoration that were achieved at the workshop, NOAA will be developing a short-course for those not able to attend in person. The intended audience is Caribbean and Pacific restoration practitioners and coral scientists. The fellow with significant collaboration from the host and others will help take 3 days of presentations and notes from break-out sessions and group discussions - and convert the material into an on-line webinar and short-course that can be presented in person along with NOAA's coral restoration experts.

Coral genetics review: Help synthesize literature (both published and underway) on quickly evolving areas of coral research (e.g. genetic mechanisms of stress tolerance and resistance, physiological and ecological tradeoffs of stress-resistance traits, acclimatization, and disease). This will involve networking with a range of relevant researchers to incorporate their perspectives and emerging results. Help develop or run a workshop of science experts to prioritize most promising biological mechanisms for conveying enhancement of coral resilience and evaluate physiological and ecological risks of applying this strategy to in-water ecosystems. Potential deliverables: on-line webinar / short-course curriculum on coral restoration, science review, and coral genetic intervention workshop report

3. Marine Mammal Science

Help organize and lead a mini-symposium in Nov 2017 to highlight scientific accomplishments in developing novel analytical tools to assess human impacts on select protected species populations, estimate abundance, and assess spatial patterns.

Provide programmatic support on a variety of projects dealing with database development and applications, internal funding allocations, and stock assessments, data management and applications.

4. Sea Turtle Science

Administer a 2-year internal funding allocation to support sea turtle research. Potentially, organize a workshop to develop strategic research priorities for sea turtle research in NMFS.

Expertise Desired

Masters or PhD degree holders or doctoral candidates in the marine sciences. Expertise in marine ecology, quantitative skills, field experience, and program management is desired. Fellow must be able to work independently, as well as in a team setting.

Travel within DC (days per month)

2-5

Travel outside DC (days per month)

3-7

Accepts Foreign Nationals

Yes

Position ID

E17-22

Position Title

MPA Partnership Coordinator

Office Name

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries | National Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center, NOAA

Portfolio Summary

International MPA cooperation (sister sites, engagement in UN programs, etc), US MPA collaboration (stakeholder engagement, community of practice, information and tools)

Expertise Desired

Background in marine science and/or policy, excellent writing and oral communication skills, interest in working as part of a team, flexibility, ability to work without direct supervision, graphic design skills and GIS a plus.

Travel within DC (days per month)

0-2

Travel outside DC (days per month)

0-1

Accepts Foreign Nationals

Yes