

Position ID

E17-42

Position Title

Coastal Policy Fellow

Office Name

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Coastal States Organization

Portfolio Summary

This fellowship is unique in that it is a joint fellowship opportunity between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Institute for Water Resources and the Coastal States Organization. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provides vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen our Nation's security, energize the economy, and reduce risks from disasters. Through its Civil Works programs, the Corps provides services and leadership in environmental restoration, flood and coastal storm damage protection, navigation, and recreation. The Institute for Water Resources (IWR) provides forward-thinking analysis and research for USACE to shape federal water resources policy and develop planning methodologies. The Knauss Fellow will be placed at the Coastal States Organization's (CSO) offices near the U.S. Capitol and will work jointly for CSO and IWR. CSO was established in 1970 to represent the Governors of the nation's thirty-five coastal states, commonwealths and territories on legislative and policy issues relating to the sound management of coastal, Great Lakes and ocean resources. The fellow will also have a desk at IWR, which is located in Alexandria, VA.

The Knauss Fellow will work with CSO and IWR under the general supervision of the Corps Coastal Team leader, the CSO Executive Director, and senior staff in supporting integrated coastal policy analyses and development, technical coastal issue analysis and resolution, and Corps participation in collaborative partnerships. This position provides a unique opportunity to learn about the interaction between federal and state activities, as the fellow will serve as a liaison between the Corps and state coastal management programs. The position is ideal for individuals interested in coastal and marine policy, planning and resource management, and the decisions and programs that affect federal, state, and local roles in coastal flood risk management, ecological resource conservation and restoration, and marine navigation and transportation.

The IWR Coastal Program consults on technical coastal issues, assists in coastal policy analysis and problem solving, and develops long-range strategies for the coastal program of Civil Works. The coastal team provides consultation and problem solving services on issues concerning coastal-related water resources management and planning to Corps headquarters and field offices, and federal, state, and local governmental agencies. The IWR/CSO Knauss Fellow can expect to participate in IWR's Coastal Program through the following opportunities. They will contribute to the on-going development of the SAGE (Systems Approach to Geomorphic Engineering) initiative. SAGE is a collaborative initiative between several federal agencies, the academic community, and NGOs with the purpose of helping coastal communities adapt to the impacts of climate change. SAGE addresses a wide array of changing conditions by understanding shoreline transformation in the holistic, regional context of natural systems. For example, SAGE explores hybrid engineering, which links 'soft' ecosystem-based approaches (such as wetlands, marshes, and dunes) with 'hard' infrastructure approaches (including seawalls, revetments, levees and jetties). The fellow will help develop Technical/Engineering Workgroup and/or Policy Workgroup objectives or develop a strategic communications strategy for the SAGE initiative, which includes expanding the partnership. The fellow will develop SAGE communications tools and will make SAGE presentations before appropriate groups, meetings and conferences. A new development of

the SAGE initiative is focused on Conservation Finance and seeking how SAGE projects might attract private equity and alternative financing. The fellow will travel to meetings and conferences in Washington, DC as well as have the opportunity to travel to other appropriate events outside of the DC area. The fellow will also coordinate with state coastal zone management programs to promote awareness of the Silver Jackets program. Silver Jackets is an innovative program that brings together multiple state, federal, and sometimes tribal and local agencies to learn from one another and apply their knowledge to reduce risk and address the state's flood risk management priorities.

CSO is comprised of Governor-appointed delegates from each of the thirty-five state coastal zone management programs. These members are senior officials from environmental, natural resource, or planning agencies. CSO staff support their members by advancing coastal management needs through legislation, funding, and partnership with federal agencies. The fellow can expect to participate in CSO through the following opportunities. They will staff one or more CSO Work Groups, which organize CSO members around specific issues such as Climate Adaptation, Beach and Inlet Management, Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution, and Habitats. The fellow will schedule and facilitate monthly conference calls and develop plans for addressing members' needs and interests. The fellow will also assist CSO staff in organizing CSO's Winter and Fall Meetings, which bring CSO members together in person to discuss administrative objectives, strategic priorities, and hear presentations from partner agencies and organizations. The fellow will attend both the Winter Meeting in Washington, DC and the Fall Meeting in Hawaii. The fellow may also contribute to organizing an international meeting to bring coastal management professionals from around the world together to share best practices. This may include travel opportunities to conduct outreach for the meeting. Other opportunities will be presented to the fellow from the range of topics and priorities that CSO has planned for the duration of the fellow's tenure.

Expertise Desired

- Ability to communicate and develop good working relationships with congressional staff, key non-governmental organizations and government agencies.
- Ability to organize and synthesize large volumes of disparate data and information from a variety of coastal physical, environmental, and engineering disciplines.
- Ability to analyze and effectively articulate and convey technical and policy related information in a narrative, charts, diagrams, and power point presentations.
- Ability to organize, prepare, and conduct small group meetings and to facilitate discussion groups.
- Available to travel in the U.S. and participate in meetings, conferences, symposiums, etc.
- Training and education in engineering, oceanography, geology/geomorphology, biology, environmental science, ecosystem management, or coastal/ocean policy.

Travel within DC (days per month)

Flexible

Travel outside DC (days per month)

Flexible

Accepts Foreign Nationals

No