

Position ID

E17-62

Position Title

Aquaculture Program Fellow

Office Name

Office of Aquaculture, NOAA

Portfolio Summary

The Sea Grant Fellow will work with National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Office of Aquaculture (OAQ) but will also interact frequently with our regional and science center staff, as well as the other two headquarters offices that comprise NOAA's Aquaculture Program (see below). The Fellow may work with on a variety of projects including:

- Work with NOAA scientists to better translate and communicate their research information to lay audiences
- Develop innovative outreach products, e.g., web sites, videos
- Develop a historical perspective and analysis of NOAA research grants to industry, academia and other partners to follow and evaluate their long term results and effectiveness at helping to achieve NOAA objectives.

If the fellow has specific skills or interest in other relevant areas (e.g., socio-economics, legal/regulatory) we can work with him/her to develop suitable projects.

Background

Currently, over 90% of the seafood Americans consume is imported and half of that is farmed. That imbalance has led to an annual seafood trade deficit of \$14 billion. A robust domestic aquaculture industry - as a complement to wild harvest fisheries – will help to support U.S. jobs, maintain working waterfronts, provide a domestic alternative to increased dependence on imported seafood, and maintain healthy oceans. Aquaculture is also used as a tool to restore or enhance wild stocks, endangered species, and habitats (e.g., salmon hatcheries and oyster reef restoration).

Our mission is to provide science, services, and policies to support the significant expansion and sustainability of U.S. marine aquaculture. We work with other federal and state agencies to make the aquaculture regulatory process more efficient within the context of the agency's stewardship missions. We support research on innovative aquaculture practices such as developing more sustainable aquaculture feeds, spatial planning, and developing ways to predict and avoid environmental effects. We also have a strong outreach focus to inform the public about marine aquaculture topics.

About the Program

The NOAA Aquaculture Program leads NOAA's efforts to support development of sustainable marine aquaculture. The Program includes activities in three NOAA line offices - National Marine Fisheries Service, National Ocean Service, and Oceanic & Atmospheric Research - each with distinct and complementary roles.

NMFS Office of Aquaculture

NMFS focuses on addressing the regulatory, technical, and scientific barriers to domestic marine aquaculture development. The headquarters office and regional aquaculture coordinators address regulatory bottlenecks by implementing permitting efficiencies around the nation. NMFS also comprises

the majority of NOAA's in-house aquaculture research, with activities at Science Centers in Milford, CT; Manchester, WA; and La Jolla, CA. Research and development efforts focus on developing science-based tools for management to assess and minimize potential environmental impacts and developing new culture techniques and technologies.

Oceanic & Atmospheric Research (OAR) Sea Grant Program

OAR's Sea Grant Program integrates aquaculture research, extension and education through the national office and 33 state Sea Grant programs across the U.S. coasts and Great Lakes. Sea Grant manages NOAA's primary extramural grant competition for aquaculture industry development. These grants support research and extension activities at universities, industry, and environmental organizations. Sea Grant extension agents live and work in coastal communities, providing science-based information to local governments and citizen groups, and transferring technologies to industry.

National Ocean Service (NOS) National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS)

NOS's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) supports coastal managers and the aquaculture industry by developing coastal planning and management tools and services, including assessing potential environmental impacts of aquaculture. These efforts provide the scientific intelligence required for proper siting of marine aquaculture while maintaining healthy and resilient marine ecosystems.

Expertise Desired

Mandatory Skills

We are looking for someone who can hit the ground running in an energetic and challenging work environment. The fellow must have excellent communication skills including the ability to successfully translate technical and policy information for a non-technical audience. The fellow must be organized, detail-oriented, have a propensity for critical thinking and analysis, and a willingness to learn new skills. An interest in networking within and outside the agency is a must, along with basic computer skills, and some knowledge of social media tools.

Desired Skills

Ideally, we'd like someone who has a background in marine resources science, policy and/or communication skills. In previous professional or academic experiences, the fellow should have demonstrated an ability to undertake and complete tasks on schedule with a minimum of oversight, and take the initiative to solve problems.

Travel within DC (days per month)

2-4

Travel outside DC (days per month)

2-4. These tend to come in clusters, e.g. a week at a time a few times a year.

Accepts Foreign Nationals

Yes