

**Position ID**

E17-64

**Position Title**

Science Communication Specialist

**Office Name**

National Sea Grant Office, NOAA

**Portfolio Summary**

The Sea Grant Science Communication Specialist will sit at the center of the complex and important transfer of information that exists between research to policy, research and management, and perhaps most importantly, between research and every day use. Sea Grant is a unique federal-university partnership program. It is not solely a federal program. Rather, it's a network of university-based scientists and outreach specialists located within the coastal communities they assist. Communicating about Sea Grant's work requires an understanding of the connections and information paths between university-based research, community needs, government partnerships, and science-based policy. It requires one to become rooted in what marine and coastal science policy mean "on the ground" to individuals and communities. This fellowship experience will allow the Science Communication Specialist to gain a broad understanding of how these many entities work together for coastal communities while maintaining their important distinctions.

The Science Communication Specialist will use their science-based foundation to gain experience drilling down complex messages into a variety of formats to reach the many audiences of the National Sea Grant Office, including NOAA and executive branch leadership, Congress, federal and non-federal partners, community leaders, and the general public.

During this fellowship, the project subject matter will be as diverse as Sea Grant's work. All projects will involve gathering information, condensing and summarizing information based on audience needs and product goals, developing products to highlight the information, delivering effective communication products, and tracking impact.

Assignments may include interviewing Sea Grant researchers and extension specialists on research to application efforts and then using the interviews for written stories and visual support products; researching and developing infographics to explain Sea Grant efforts related to aquaculture research and industry; and researching and developing story maps on coastal community resilience.

Skills and experiences gained will include:

- Science writing
- Planning and delivering oral briefings to NOAA leadership and Sea Grant partners
- Development of data visualization and digital animation products
- Development of highly visual web content to supplement written content
- Travel to interview Sea Grant professionals and partners
- Operation of basic video and photography equipment to illustrate stories (Go Pro, smart phone, digital SLR)
- Communication planning
- Evaluation of communication efforts

**Expertise Desired**

The Sea Grant Science Communication Specialist Fellow should have the ability to think and work across disciplines and issues. Excellent written and verbal communication and creative problem-solving skills are also valued. The Fellow must be a self-starter with strong interpersonal and organizational abilities and be comfortable interacting with high-level NOAA officials, other federal and state partners, and Sea Grant university-based researchers, extension staff, educators, and communicators. This position does not require any specific topical expertise. The Fellow should have a strong background in any of the following: biological, physical, environmental, meteorological, or social sciences; economics; resource management; or coastal and marine law and policy. Research or applied experience in issues related to fisheries, aquaculture, environmental or natural resource science, or environmental policy and education is desirable. Some understanding of data visualization methods and tools as well as GIS knowledge is preferred. An interest in learning video and photography techniques for science communication and in learning creative software used to develop communication products (i.e. Adobe Creative Cloud products) is desirable.

**Travel within DC (days per month)**

2-8

**Travel outside DC (days per month)**

0-7

**Accepts Foreign Nationals**

Yes