

NOAA Coastal Services Center
West Coast Regional Office
1330 Broadway, Suite 1135
Oakland, California

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center (Center) was established in 1994 and is a part of the National Ocean Service (<http://www.csc.noaa.gov>). The Coastal Services Center works with various branches of NOAA and other federal agencies to bring information, services, and technology to the nation's coastal resource managers.

In addition to its main office in Charleston, South Carolina, several regional offices work to achieve the Center's mission to support the environmental, social, and economic wellbeing of the coast by linking people, information, and technology. The West Coast regional office is based in the San Francisco Bay Area and focuses on coastal resource management issues primarily in California, but also in Oregon and Washington State. With such a diverse and extensive coastal area, the West Coast regional office is involved in a wide array of projects and collaborations, spanning from ecosystem-based management at the community level to tri-state ocean governance and climate change on the coast-wide scale.

To review some of the projects that the West Coast regional office is working on, please go to: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/bins/regions/westcoast.html>.

The Sea Grant fellow will be involved in a range of activities and collaborations and will build partnerships with academic institutions, public interest groups, federal, state and local governments, and others. The fellow will have the opportunity to take a project leadership role providing assistance to coastal resource management programs. The position will provide excellent opportunity to develop skill sets for pursuing a career in the coastal resource management field. While the office is focused on West Coast issues, and in particular California, as part of a national program the fellow will have exposure to nation-wide coastal issues and agencies, and will gain insight on how California fits into the national stage.

Based on background and interests, potential project areas the fellow may engage in include:

Climate Change: Scoping and developing decision support tools for coastal managers to consider the impacts of climate change on the coast and to coastal communities. The Center is working to improve the delivery of NOAA and other federal agency data to local and state coastal resource managers to improve adaptation and planning strategies. This includes physical (sea level rise), biological (conservation and resource management planning), and social science (economic impacts) information and their applications.

West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health: Implementing the landmark regional action plan between California, Oregon, and Washington. The Center is a

principle partner assisting with numerous objectives in the action plan, including coastal water quality, habitat protection, ecosystem-based management, ocean monitoring, seafloor mapping, and sustainable coastal communities.

(<http://www.westcoastoceans.gov/>)

Low Impact Development in Coastal Communities: Working with the members of the California Water and Land Use Partnership (CalWALUP) at the local and state level to pursue water quality improvements through strategies such as low impact development. CalWALUP also works to provide improved training and information sharing on techniques and technology. (<http://cawalup.usc.edu>)

West Coast Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) Network: Furthering the collaboration of six communities that are putting ecosystem management principles into practice. The Center is supporting a newfound relationship among six EBM projects that are working together to improve EBM practices and sharing successful approaches and to overcome the common obstacles associated with on-the-ground management at an ecosystem level. (Website development is in progress).

The Sea Grant fellow will have the opportunity to expand these projects and partnerships as well as develop new ones in response to emerging issues and opportunities in the California coastal community. The Center's West Coast office is a small, dynamic group that is co-located with a number of other coastal programs – the California Ocean Science Trust, the State Coastal Conservancy, and the staff for the Ocean Protection Council – that offer the opportunity for partnering and networking.