

## **Position Description for California Ocean Science Trust Sea Grant Fellow**

The California Ocean Science Trust (OST) was established pursuant to the California Ocean Resources Stewardship Act of 2000. The OST is a nonprofit public benefit corporation 501(c) (3) established to encourage coordinated, multi-agency, multi-institution approaches to translating ocean science to management and policy applications. Our mission is to ensure that the best available science is applied to California policies and ocean management to successfully maintain a healthy, resilient, and productive ocean and coast.

A Sea Grant Fellow will gain educational and career experience working closely with the Executive Director on one of the OST's primary programs: Science Services to the State, which provides sound scientific guidance for current and emerging ocean policy issues throughout California. The Fellow may also have opportunities to participate in the development of a new venture leading development of effective monitoring of the State's developing marine protected areas network: the MPA Monitoring Enterprise. Both programs are described in more detail below.

### **Science Services to the State**

The OST provides science services to California state agencies and coordinating bodies such as the [Ocean Protection Council](#) (OPC), and works in conjunction with OPC staff to support the implementation of the California Ocean Protection Act and the OPC strategic plan. The OST serves the state by coordinating expert advice and acting as liaison and bridging institution. The OST is working to improve coordination among scientists, policymakers, and resource managers.

In February 2007, the OPC designated the Executive Director of the California Ocean Science Trust (OST) to act as Science Adviser to the OPC and co-chair of the OPC Science Advisory Team (OPC SAT). The Science Advisor not only provides technical guidance to the OPC, but also serves as the OPC representative for relevant science projects and activities throughout the state, the West Coast, and nationally. Since then the Ocean Science Trust (OST) has provided science services to the OPC reflecting the great need to develop, disseminate, and apply science that is designed to inform and improve policy and management. In February 2008, the OPC adopted the first [OPC Science Advisory Team](#)—25 outstanding scientists who will assist the OPC Science Advisor with providing input for refining state research priorities, translating science into useful products for decision makers, and ensuring that the best available science is applied to OPC decisions.

### **Piloting, Developing, and Incubating New Ventures**

This program focuses on developing and institutionalizing new and innovative approaches for better linking science with policy and management. As its first project, the OST is incubating the **Marine Protected Areas Monitoring Enterprise**. A pioneering public-private partnership is currently designing a network of marine protected areas for California's waters, guided by the Marine Life Protection Act. This MPA network is being established to better conserve marine ecosystems,

protecting species, habitats, and the ecological processes that sustain life in the sea and support a broad variety of human uses. It is critically important that the MPAs be monitored effectively, to measure their performance, provide sound scientific results for management, and identify emerging threats. The MPA Monitoring Enterprise was launched in 2007 to lead a collaboration among the State, scientists, and stakeholders to determine how best to monitor the MPAs.

A Sea Grant fellow will have opportunities to support the functions of OST listed above including direct support to the OPC Science Advisor and OPC SAT. The Fellow may help:

- Develop annual research priorities.
- Coordinate working groups and identify and gather research materials for the OPC SAT; synthesize and edit research findings and technical data and determine relevance of data to study; prepare background papers and technical summaries. Topics may include evaluating California's invasive species program.
- Communicate with OPC staff and other related agencies about scientific research needs, priorities, and funding.
- Prepare communications on scientific findings and research priorities, including presentations, press releases, and fact sheets.
- Conduct background research for OPC information requests
- Coordinate with scientists who receive research funds from the OPC to ensure their research is translated into useful products for managers and policy makers.

The Fellow will be integrally involved in the necessary but challenging process of identifying, distilling, and translating the best available scientific information to guide ocean policy and management decisions. The Fellow will have numerous opportunities to interact with high level scientists, managers, and decision makers through these activities as well as by participating in upcoming meetings and workshops. The Fellow may also provide support on various other OST projects such as coordinating workshops, implementing recommendations from a recent report on linking scientists and water quality regulators, and assessing how ocean observing products and tools can be developed to meet resource manager needs.

The OST's Sea Grant Fellow in 2007-08 participated in many of the OST's projects and attended the OST and OPC quarterly meetings. The 2007-08 fellow assumed the lead for a large project to review the literature on West Coast Coastal Resource Managers needs and wrote a summary report for the NOAA Coastal Services Center. The report is available on the OST website.

Please visit our website for more information about the California Ocean Science Trust, [www.calost.org](http://www.calost.org).