

NOAA Coastal Services Center
West Coast Regional Office
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Oakland, California 94612

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 well-being 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/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 coastal issues and agencies nationwide 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, developing, and delivering decision support tools for coastal managers to consider adaptation measures for 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 inform climate change adaptation and planning processes. This includes physical (sea level rise and inundation), biological (shifting habitats and changing coastal resources), and social science (changing economies) information as well as their applications. The Center is presently considering its strategic focus on climate change to update and enhance existing decision support

tools and training. We are also supporting climate change adaptation workshops by providing facilitation and content expertise. If interested, the fellow will have the opportunity to lead, guide, or participate in these efforts.

- ***West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health:*** Implementing the landmark regional action plan between California, Oregon, and Washington. (<http://www.westcoastoceans.gov/>)

The Center is a principle partner assisting with numerous objectives in the action plan, including climate change, coastal community planning, habitat conservation, ecosystem-based management approaches, ocean monitoring, seafloor mapping, and sustainable coastal communities. The fellow will have opportunities to participate in the coordination of a high profile effort and focus on accomplishing targeted actions on a priority area of interest to them while learning the policy process on a regional and national scale. In particular, the fellow will have the opportunity to work with the states and federal partners on furthering the action related to documenting, describing and mapping the marine communities to ensure effective habitat protection.

- ***West Coast Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) Network:*** Furthering the collaboration of six communities that are putting ecosystem management principles into practice. (<http://www.westcoastebm.org>)

The Center is supporting a relationship among six EBM projects that are working together to improve EBM practices and sharing successful approaches to overcome the common obstacles associated with on-the-ground management at an ecosystem level. Four of the EBM projects are in California. The fellow will have the opportunity to work closely with the various EBM initiatives and the Network Coordinator as well as the EBM Tools Trainer (to be hired in fall 2009) to apply technical tools (i.e. mapping, decision support, modeling) to ecosystem management questions (e.g. cumulative impacts, economic valuation, ecosystem tradeoffs, habitat priority planning, etc.).

The Sea Grant fellow may actively support or expand these projects and partnerships as well as develop new projects and collaborations in response to emerging issues and opportunities, such as marine spatial planning, in the California and West Coast community. The Center's West Coast office is a small, dynamic (and fun!) group co-located with a number of other coastal programs – the California Ocean Science Trust, the State Coastal Conservancy, the Ocean Protection Council, the West Coast EBM Network Coordinator – that provide natural opportunities for partnering and networking.