

NOAA West Coast Aquaculture Fellow

Office: NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS, NOAA Fisheries) - Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Position Title: NOAA West Coast Aquaculture Fellow

Position Location: Options for in-person, remote or hybrid. Stationed in Seattle or Lacey, WA (or potentially co-located with Willapa Bay Oyster Growers Association in Long Beach, WA).

Special Consideration: Must be a US citizen

Program Overview: NOAA Fisheries has a multi-faceted role in aquaculture, from supporting science and research to federal policy-making and regulation. Specifically, NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region works closely with a variety of partners to expand opportunities to grow marine products such as fish, shellfish, and algae, and restore native populations of Olympia oysters, white abalone, and bull kelp. Partners include regional tribes; the states of Washington, Oregon, and California; the aquaculture industry; academia; and non-governmental organizations.

How this position specifically relates to marine and coastal policy: The position would work on a variety of aquaculture issues to help implement NOAA's various policies related to supporting sustainable aquaculture. Topics include invasive species control and mitigation, assisting the Oregon Aquaculture Association and state partners prepare to develop a state-wide plan, broadening NOAA's support of tribal aquaculture and supporting Washington coastal ecosystem collaboration.

Summary of the fellow's anticipated day-to-day activities and how these tasks fit within a larger project scope: The Fellow will work with the NOAA Fisheries Or/WA Aquaculture Coordinator to prioritize time working with partners on the scope of activities listed above. This would include policy analysis, literature reviews, attending meetings and traveling and talking with constituents.

Approximate breakdown of field/office work: Approximately 85% office, 15% field

List the communities or stakeholders with which the fellow may engage:

- Oregon Aquaculture Association
- Northwest Aquaculture Association
- Oregon and Washington Sea Grant
- Willapa Bay/Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association
- Pacific Shellfish Growers Association
- The Nature Conservancy
- Coastal tribes of Washington and Oregon
- PEW Charitable Trusts
- Ecotrust

Desired products from the fellow:

- Policy analysis synthesis at the end of the Fellowship regarding the above topics
- A presentation (virtual or in-person) to the WCOA membership on Fellow's project(s)
- At least one blog post about the Fellow's experience

Potential benefits of this position to the fellow:

- A greater understanding of NOAA, and the NOAA Fisheries West Coast Regional office and associated aquaculture program.
- A greater understanding of NOAA's trust responsibilities with tribes, how aquaculture relates to the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, Essential Fish Habitat, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, marine spatial planning and additional Federal authorities.
- Developing professional relationships with NOAA Staff and partner staff that overlap with aquaculture.
- Opportunities for formal and informal training and mentoring.
- Networking with Tribal, Federal, and State governments addressing coastal and ocean issues on the West Coast
- Attendance of WCOA in-person and virtual meetings
- Opportunity to amplify your work regionally, along the West Coast

Skills Required:

- Undergraduate degree
- An interest in the field of conservation/ natural resource management and aquaculture fields.
- Demonstrated capacity to work well and collaborate with others.
- Effective written and verbal communication skills.
- An eagerness to learn.
- Ability and willingness to interact professionally and constructively with people holding different viewpoints.
- Ability and willingness to work both independently and collaboratively as part of a team.
- Ability and willingness to learn about complex scientific and technical issues.
- Ability and willingness to learn about NOAA Fisheries' policies and authorities.
- Ability and willingness to identify issues, communicate effectively, solve problems, and develop practical recommendations.
- Excel, Google systems.

Skills preferred: (Bulleled list)

- Geographic Information Systems proficiency.
- Knowledge of social science methodology and proficiency.