GIS Content Creator

Office: NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS, NOAA Fisheries) - Northwest Fisheries Science Center
Position Title: GIS Content Creator
Position Location: Options for remote, in-person or hybrid work schedule. For in person or hybrid, the Northwest Fisheries Science Center has offices in Washington (Seattle, Port Orchard, Pasco) and Oregon (Newport, Hammond). If in-person or hybrid, working out of either Seattle or Newport is preferred.
Special Consideration: Must be a US citizen

Program Overview: NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS or NOAA Fisheries) is responsible for the stewardship of the nation's living marine resources and their habitat. Our role in offshore wind energy development (OSW) is focused on minimizing the impacts to living marine resources, their habitats and the ecosystem upon which they depend, and fishing opportunities throughout the planning, siting, and development stages. We do this by: providing scientific information; consultations with BOEM and other federal agencies to meet the requirements of various laws and regulations; providing recommendations during environmental assessments; conducting research and monitoring; and providing information on fisheries operations and the potential socioeconomic impacts of offshore wind projects on fishing communities. The NMFS West Coast Regional Office, and Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers stood up an OSW team to work on these activities and help with internal coordination, priority setting, product development, and external engagement on our program areas of protected species, habitat, fish and fisheries, and ecosystem.

The fellow would work with one of the members of the team from the Northwest Center and the activities would support priorities of the OSW team to enhance access and discovery of NOAA Fisheries West Coast data and science products.

How this position specifically relates to marine and coastal policy: NMFS' OSW work is focused largely on the marine environment, however, there will also be considerations of the nearshore environment because cables will run from offshore areas to land. Additionally, there will be operations to support OSW along the coast and related port expansions.

Summary of the fellow's anticipated day-to-day activities and how these tasks fit within a larger project scope:
In collaboration with staff from NMFS West Coast OSW Team, the fellow will develop a prioritized list of new or updated datasets to inform OSW planning and decision-making. The fellow will take the lead in engaging appropriate NMFS staff and would develop content (e.g., geospatial data layers, metadata, web maps, story maps, etc.) appropriate for discovery via the West Coast Ocean Data Portal (WCODP) and other portals. The goal of this project aligns nicely with the WCODP goal "to increase discovery and connectivity of ocean and coastal data and people to better inform regional resource management, policy development, and ocean planning."

Approximate breakdown of field/office work: All work is expected to be in the office (physically or virtually). However, there may be opportunities for some extracurricular learning activities in the field with some of our staff, depending on location and other logistics. We have a network of interns and fellows that often plan learning activities as well.

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

- BOEM and other federal agencies
- state agencies
- NGOs
- OSW developers
- fishing industry, including the Pacific Fishery Management Council
- tribes

Desired products from the fellow:

- GIS map/feature/tile services published to the NOAA Fisheries GIS Portal or NOAA's GeoPlatform and accessible via the West Coast Ocean Data Portal and other relevant portals.
- Metadata records published to NOAA Fisheries InPort metadata repository.
- ArcGIS Web Map and/or Story Map highlighting NMFS West Coast data and research products that are helping to inform OSW siting and monitoring decisions.
- 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:

- Learn about offshore wind issues on the West Coast and publish content that informs the siting and environmental review processes
- Learn about NMFS West Coast scientific enterprise and how it relates to marine spatial planning decisions
- 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 with a focus in geography, computer science, informatics, or related field
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment where priorities change quickly
- Highly organized and detail-oriented
- Strong writing and communication skills
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision
- Experience using GIS software, specifically ESRI ArcGIS software suite

Skills preferred: (Bulleted list)

- Familiarity with publishing GIS services (e.g., map, feature, tile)
- Familiarity with creating and editing FGDC compliant metadata
- Familiarity with ArcGIS Online and how to discover map services
- Familiarity with ArcGIS Web maps and ArcGIS StoryMaps and how to create them