



BUILDING CAPACITY at the Research Reserves

"Win-win." It's an overused phrase for sure—but come on, it works, particularly when talking about this fellowship program.

Over the past three decades, the National Estuarine Research Reserve System has created an incredible, science-based approach for addressing coastal issues. Each reserve is connected to its community, allowing staff to better understand local issues and the type of data and information that is most helpful. The longevity of the program means rookie mistakes are a thing of the past; staff understand how to obtain and deliver results that matter.

The Margaret A. Davidson Fellowship provides the extra hands needed to further the mission, and helps reach another goal of the research reserve system—building the next generation of coastal scientists. This is that win-win thing each fellowship delivers for all involved.



"My mentor was an important sounding board for experimental design and field sampling protocols as part of the fellowship program. It was wonderful to have someone outside of my academic program to discuss my science with."

– Anna Lowien (2020-2022 fellow, Great Bay Research Reserve)



"My mentee infused new research and energy that is rippling and swelling across the reserve and the larger coastal community here in New Hampshire. It's a joy to watch her develop and contribute so much, so quickly."

- Christopher Peter (Mentor, Great Bay Research Reserve)



National Estuarine Research Reserves Margaret A. Davidson Fellowship

coast.noaa.gov/nerrs/research/davidson-fellowship.html



Marae Lindquist, North Carolina

North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve

Marae instituted a process for monitoring vulnerable species across North Carolina estuaries, particularly birds and diamondback terrapins. This effort helped pioneer the use of new telemetry equipment. To make this effort transferable, she also developed a two-day workshop to train partner agencies on how to use cellular tracking technologies in this manner.



Jessica Tipton, Puerto Rico

Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

This fellow led the development of nearshore water quality sampling protocols useful for the shallow waters of Puerto Rico. Protocols used by other reserves were adapted, and completely new sampling methods appropriate for the location were developed. Jessica also developed resources for the volunteer monitoring program. The new approach is less expensive, and the new materials will go a long way toward establishing a more permanent volunteer monitoring program.



Taylor Dodrill, Oregon

South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve

Taylor developed harmful algal bloom monitoring protocols to expand the capacity of this research reserve, and she worked closely with several tribal representatives to increase their capacity to maintain a harmful algal bloom monitoring program.





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