



FELLOW NEWS

News for and about the NOAA Fellows

The NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship

And why it should matter to you.

It's a challenge faced by nearly every U.S. coastal zone management (CZM) program—how do you tackle a growing list of needs and mandates on a budget that hardly budges?

For many CZM programs, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Management Fellowship provides a welcome solution. Through the power of partnership, this two-year fellowship program enables postgraduate students to receive on-the-job training in coastal management while CZM programs achieve critical project aims.

Recent fellows have completed or are now tackling projects of impressive scope and importance: establishing a process for wind-energy siting in Maine; improving public access to Virginia's coastal zone; aiding adaptation to sea level rise in Delaware; providing online hazard- and storm-resilience tools in Massachusetts; analyzing erosion impacts along Lake Erie in Ohio; and furthering ecosystem-based management in California.

To learn more about applying for a NOAA Coastal Management Fellow, see "Fellowship Proposal Tips" on page 4 or contact Margaret.Allen@noaa.gov.

Fellows Look Ahead: 2010–2012

Our new fellows will tackle critical coastal issues.



Heidi Nutters, from Brown University and nominated by Rhode Island Sea Grant, is matched with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission to promote climate change adaptation planning for San Francisco Bay and the California coast.



Julia Caldwell, from the University of Wisconsin and nominated by Wisconsin Sea Grant, is matched with the Maine Coastal Program to develop a marine spatial planning approach for ocean management in Maine.



Kasey Jacobs, from Yale University and nominated by Connecticut Sea Grant, is matched with the Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program to assess sea level rise and coastal vulnerability as part of a strategy for island-wide climate change adaptation.



Kate Skaggs, from the College of Charleston and nominated by South Carolina Sea Grant, is matched with the Washington Coastal Management Program to provide local governments with the tools and guidance needed to plan for rising sea levels affecting Washington.



Kathy Johnson, from Clemson University and nominated by South Carolina Sea Grant, is matched with the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program to build a decision-support geospatial toolbox, which will enable the Great Lakes region to address comprehensive plan implementation and coastal hazards resilience.

Guardians of the Coast: 2008–2010

We say farewell to five amazing coastal fellows.



Patricia Bowie worked with the New York State Division of Coastal Resources to develop guidelines for post-storm redevelopment. “Tricia’s work on a quantitative measure for coastal storm resilience has benefits within our division and for external applications,” says Barry Pendergrass, a coastal resource specialist and Tricia’s mentor. “She has helped other agencies apply similar principles in evaluating environmental impacts such as climate change and relating this information to community adaptation planning.”



Daniella Hirschfeld aided the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management in making storm-resilient communities a reality in Massachusetts. “With Daniella’s creativity and total dedication, we have made great strides in assisting local officials to address the challenges arising from storms, floods, sea level rise, and climate change,” notes Andrea Cooper, the office’s shoreline and floodplain management coordinator.



Gabrielle Lyons enabled the Delaware Coastal Management Program to better assess marsh response to future sea level rise. “Gabbi’s intense efforts in sample processing, data analysis, and writing of a final report have contributed much to the development of the Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Index, which will help guide state decisions related to sea level rise,” says David Carter, environmental manager.



Matt Nixon at the Maine Coastal Program took a leading role on the state’s Ocean Energy Task Force, and he assisted in the siting process for ocean energy demonstration sites. “Matt’s work was recognized by leaders in Maine as crucial to these efforts, and he is

now a senior planner on Maine’s staff, leading the implementation effort for ocean energy,” notes Kathleen Leyden, his mentor and the director of the program.



Deborah Purce helped the Washington State Department of Ecology develop a public access portion of the Washington Coastal Atlas. “Deborah’s work gathering and displaying information on public access to Washington State’s marine shorelines has been used to assist local governments in shoreline planning, and it will become a much-anticipated new feature on the Washington Coastal Atlas in September,” says Kathy Taylor, atlas manager and the department’s aquatic habitat specialist.

Fellowship Proposal Tips

State project proposals for the 2011–2013 NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship are due Friday, October 22, 2010. Keep the following considerations in mind.

How many project proposals are selected each year?

- ♦ Up to six project proposals are selected.

Which programs are eligible to host a fellow?

- ♦ All U.S. states and territories with federally approved coastal zone management programs are eligible.
- ♦ All programs selected must provide nonfederal matching funds.

What do you look for in a proposal?

- ♦ See the application guide for tips at www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows/projectselection.html.
- ♦ To read previously selected proposals, see www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows/stateprojects.html.