



FELLOW NEWS

News for and about the NOAA Fellows

Interest in Fellowship Hits All-Time High

Programs are encouraged to apply for a fellow.

In 2011, the NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship Program attracted the highest number of postgraduate applicants in its 15-year history. If your state's coastal zone management (CZM) program has never applied for a coastal fellow, now is a great time to begin.

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. The fellowship is administered by the NOAA Coastal Services Center.

Would you like to learn more about applying for a coastal management fellow? See www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows.html or contact Margaret.Allen@noaa.gov.

Fellows Look Ahead: 2011–2013

Our new fellows will tackle critical coastal issues.

This past April, the NOAA Coastal Services Center matched NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship candidates with coastal zone programs in six U.S. states. Recipients of the two-year fellowship will carry out innovative projects addressing climate change, sea level rise, marine spatial planning, coastal vulnerability, and hazards resilience.



Wes Bickford, from the University of Maryland and nominated by Maryland Sea Grant, was matched with the New Jersey Coastal Management Program to develop a stakeholder framework and decision-support tools for coastal and marine spatial planning.



Liz Durfee, from the University of Michigan and nominated by Michigan Sea Grant, was matched with the Michigan Coastal Management Program to develop metrics, tools, and plans to address competing uses in Michigan's working waterfronts.



Zach Hecht-Leavitt, from the University of Michigan and nominated by Michigan Sea Grant, was matched with the New York Department of State Division of Coastal Resources to develop an offshore spatial plan for managing competing uses in a crowded offshore environment.



Sarah Latshaw, from the College of Charleston and nominated by South Carolina Sea Grant, was matched with the South Carolina Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management to identify vulnerabilities and mitigate coastal hazards in South Carolina.



Cinamon Moffett, from the University of Maine and nominated by Maine Sea Grant, was matched with the Oregon Coastal Management Program to address issues of climate change, restoration, and sustainability on the Oregon coast.



Hilary Papendick, from the University of Washington and nominated by Washington Sea Grant, was matched with the California Coastal Commission to improve analysis, coordination, and communication to plan for and adapt to climate change in California.

Guardians of the Coast: 2009-2011

We say farewell to four amazing coastal fellows.



Laurel Kellner worked at the California Coastal Commission, gathering and communicating climate-change-related information used in public workshops and planning documents. “Laurel has been a great asset, especially in working with the commission’s internal climate change task force,” says Michelle Jespersen, federal programs manager. “She helped coordinate our work on climate change policy issues with other state agencies and ‘translated’ that information for use by partners and stakeholders. Laurel’s a great communicator, which made it easy to get the job done!”



Laura Mattison developed a GIS-based inventory of levees and dikes in coastal estuaries for the Oregon Coastal Management Program. The inventory will assist local officials in planning wisely for sea-level rise. “At this point, Laura knows more about dikes in our estuaries than anyone in the state,” says Bob Bailey, manager of the program. “To find information, she walked the estuaries, met with landowners, searched through old newspaper postings, and travelled by canoe. Laura leaves a legacy—the inventory will be the touchstone for many estuary management activities associated with climate change.”



Chelsie Papiez created data tools and techniques enabling the Chesapeake and Coastal Program of Maryland’s Department of Natural Resources to establish conservation criteria that consider climate change impacts. “Chelsie has been absolutely wonderful,” says Zoë Johnson, program manager for climate change policy. “Her landscape modeling and scoring tools will help us identify coastal lands that can enhance our resilience, mitigate impacts of climate change, and improve adaptation. We’ll also

be able to identify restoration opportunities on public, as well as private, lands.”



Leigh Wood worked for the New Jersey Office of Coastal Management to develop companion resources: the Coastal Community Vulnerability Assessment Protocol (CCVAP) and “Getting to Resilience” questionnaire. “Leigh Wood had the exact skill set we needed, not just a science background but also great GIS and planning skills,” says Dorina Frizzera, an environmental scientist. “These resources give local governments the tools they need to learn about local vulnerabilities and to take resilience action steps.” Leigh also piloted these tools through a partnership with New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium and Monmouth University.

Where Are the Fellows Now?

In the 15-year history of the NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship Program, the NOAA Coastal Services Center has matched 84 postgraduate students with coastal zone management programs in 24 U.S. states and territories.

The career paths of fellowship graduates are impressive and diverse, as shown by the chart below.

