2020-2021 Oregon Natural Resource Policy Fellowship: Oregon Sea Grant Aquaculture Fellowship
Application Deadline: September 9, 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time

Please note that due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, projects may need to be modified in scope or timing. We will monitor the situation and communicate accordingly.

The Oregon Sea Grant College Program is soliciting applications for the 2020-2021 Oregon Sea Grant Aquaculture Fellowship as part of the Oregon Natural Resource Policy Fellowship Program. This fellowship is intended to give a student first-hand experience in natural resource policy at the state level. In so doing, the student will contribute to policies that will benefit natural resource managers, stakeholders, and user groups. The Natural Resource Policy Fellowship will place one graduate student fellow in the OSG Aquaculture Fellowship Position starting in October or November 2020, depending on the needs of the student and host office. The student chosen for the fellowship will interview with the host office to ensure the best fit for the student and the office.

The Oregon Aquaculture Fellowship supports Sea Grant’s education and workforce development mission, specifically by providing outreach and engagement training to an early career aquaculture practitioner. The primary objectives for the fellow are to assist with and synchronize various aquaculture efforts occurring at the state level, and facilitate integration of these activities with the broader aquaculture community.

Oregon investigators are involved with several recent and ongoing aquaculture projects supported by the National Sea Grant Program. The fellow will work alongside project partners, industry members, and resource managers to assess and support shellfish and seaweed aquaculture along Oregon’s coast, and communicate project findings with stakeholders in Oregon and beyond. This is a one-year opportunity, with the possibility of an additional year of support. The full fellowship position description is included at the end of this document.

Eligible Applicants
Open to graduate students and recent graduates with interest and experience in coastal policy from any U.S. university or college, who have completed their degree after December 2019 OR are a current student within one year of completing their graduate degree. Preference will be given to those who will have completed their degree by the start of the fellowship. Applicants must demonstrate a strong interest and experience in marine/coastal natural resource policy or other related fields, with priority given to applicants with Oregon-specific knowledge.

The Oregon Sea Grant Scholars Program has focused on broadening participation and diversity by restructuring our recruitment and review processes to make them more equitable. Our intent is to be more inclusive of applicants from various cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds with unique lived experiences, skills and interests; including applicants that may have had fewer opportunities in the marine policy field. In line with this initiative, applicants will have the opportunity to demonstrate how their experience with diverse stakeholder groups and communities might apply to this fellowship, and how they think this fellowship will advance their long-term career goals.

Schedule of Dates:
- Submit intent to apply to esseagrant@oregonstate.edu by September 2, 2020 (strongly preferred) – Include “OSG Aquaculture Fellowship” in the subject line.
- Application due: Wednesday September 9, 2020 by 5:00 pm PST
- Interviews at OSU: mid- to late-September
Fellowship Award
The length of assignment is expected to be for one year with the possibility of an additional year of support. The official start date of the fellowship can be flexible to accommodate recipient and host office needs, and can occur between October and November 2020. The fellowship will provide at least $45,000 for the year in monthly stipend payments to cover expenses during your full-time fellowship, which may include fellowship related professional development, educational supplies, health insurance, and travel expenses. All Oregon Sea Grant fellows are required to have health insurance.

How to Apply
Oregon Sea Grant uses eSeaGrant for fellowship application submissions. In order to access this system, please email eseagrant@oregonstate.edu declaring your interest in applying with “OSG Natural Resource Policy Fellowship” in the subject line. Email registration one weeks prior (September 2) to the application deadline is strongly preferred. Stating your interest does not obligate you to apply. Once you submit your interest in this fellowship, an eSeaGrant account will be created for you. All components of your application, including letters of recommendation, will be submitted through this system. This is a fairly new system that may take some time to learn how to navigate, and we are here to provide assistance as needed; however, please do not wait until the last minute to apply. Your completed application must be submitted in eSeaGrant by the deadline to be considered for this opportunity.

Application Requirements
Incomplete and late applications and applications that do not follow the formatting guidelines will not be considered. A complete application will include the following four (4) elements:

1. A current résumé or curriculum vitae (CV). The résumé/CV must be in 12 point font with 1” margins, must not exceed two (2) pages in length, and must include the following:
   - name and contact information (including address, phone number, and email);
   - education history, including current or final GPA;
   - work and volunteer history;
   - any publications;
   - if applicable: any funding support, either current or pending, and any previous awards; and,
   - any other résumé /CV information you wish the reviewers to consider.

2. A personal narrative statement. This statement should be your original, written work. Any background materials should be referenced and cited appropriately. The “References Cited” do not count towards the page limit. Please contact us with any questions. The statement must be in 12 point font with 1” margins, use 1.5 line spacing, must not exceed three (3) pages in length, and should describe the following:
   - Your interest in and experience with coastal/marine natural resource policy, aquaculture, or other related fields, particularly Oregon-specific knowledge
   - How the fellowship will advance you towards your future career goals
   - Your experience interacting with diverse communities or stakeholder groups and how this experience will help you succeed as a fellow
• How you would address the purposes and duties of the Fellowship (refer to specific skills provided on the last page of this RFA).

3. Clear, scanned copies of up-to-date transcripts for all graduate and undergraduate coursework. At the application stage, unofficial copies are acceptable. If you are selected for this fellowship, official transcripts will be required at that time. If possible, please redact your birthdate, social security number, and/or student ID number, if included on your transcript. Please do not have these sent separately, but include the copies of your transcripts with your application.

Two letters of recommendation (one must be from the student’s major professor or advisor). The second letter of recommendation can come from anyone of your choosing familiar with your abilities. The applicant will request letters of recommendation directly through the eSeaGrant system, and the letter writer will upload their digital letter of recommendation onto eSeaGrant. Make sure your recommendation writers have sufficient time to get the letter to us by or before the application deadline; letters of recommendation must arrive by the application deadline for the application to be considered.

Oregon Sea Grant strongly discourages any contact between applicants and potential host offices before the interview process.

Selection Process
A selection team, usually comprised of Oregon Sea Grant staff, a member of the Oregon Sea Grant Advisory Council and another party (such as faculty or agency staff), evaluates each candidate’s submitted written material based on these criteria: academic ability; communications skills; diversity and relevance of academic background to the available fellowship opportunity; additional qualifying experience (e.g., relevant work experience); support of recommendation letter writers; benefit of the fellowship to applicant’s long term goals; experience interacting with diverse stakeholder groups or communities; and interest in and experience with Oregon marine/coastal natural resource policy or another Oregon-specific related field.

Top candidates will be interviewed in mid- to late-September. Interviews will be conducted by members of the selection team and by the Oregon Sea Grant director. The selected candidate(s) will interview with the host offices late September. The one-year long fellowship is scheduled to begin between October and November 2020, depending on the arrangement between the student and the host office.

Find out more about past Oregon Sea Grant Natural Resource Policy Fellows here: [https://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/fellowships/sea-grant-scholars](https://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/fellowships/sea-grant-scholars)

Additional Information
Any questions related to this fellowship can be directed to the following:

Sarah Kolesar  
Research and Scholars Program Leader  
sarah.kolesar@oregonstate.edu

Stephanie Ichien  
Research and Scholars Program Coordinator  
Stephanie.ichien@oregonstate.edu
Oregon Sea Grant Aquaculture Fellowship Position Description 2020

Office: Oregon Sea Grant

Position Location: Corvallis / Newport / Tillamook, Oregon (Exact location TBD)*

*Given current working conditions under COVID-19 restrictions, this position will primarily operate virtually to start.

Program Overview:
The Oregon Aquaculture Fellowship supports Sea Grant’s education and workforce development mission, specifically by providing outreach and engagement training to an early career aquaculture practitioner. The primary objectives for the fellow are to assist with and synchronize various aquaculture efforts occurring at the state level, and facilitate integration of these activities with the broader aquaculture community.

Oregon investigators are involved with several recent and ongoing aquaculture projects supported by the National Sea Grant Program. The fellow will work alongside project partners, industry members, and resource managers to assess and support shellfish and seaweed aquaculture along Oregon’s coast, and communicate project findings with stakeholders in Oregon and beyond. This is a one-year opportunity, with the possibility of an additional year of support.

How this position specifically relates to policy:
The fellow will help identify and convene Oregon state aquaculture groups, facilitate dialog with west coast partners and members of Sea Grant’s national aquaculture network. One task will be to conduct an Oregon aquaculture needs assessment, with a focus on shellfish and seaweed cultivation to potentially inform Oregon legislation.

Fellow’s anticipated day-to-day activities and how these tasks fit within a larger project scope:
The fellow will work with Oregon state and west coast regional partners, specifically in support of two recent National Sea Grant awards. Primary activities include raising awareness of state and regional needs, supporting ongoing aquaculture outreach and engagement work, identifying current barriers, and researching regulation structure related to aquaculture, with a focus on shellfish and seaweed farming in Oregon. The fellow will also convene new, or support ongoing, state workshops and regional working groups on aquaculture topics. At the end of the first fellowship year, the fellow will determine needs and develop outreach and engagement strategies on aquaculture topics relevant to Oregon. Year two activities include continuation of work from the previous year, and a higher degree of integration with the National Sea Grant aquaculture community. Final products include a white paper and conference presentation.

Approximate breakdown of field/office work:
Primarily office work*. Possible travel in-state and regionally, and attendance at one national conference (year 2).

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

- West coast regional aquaculture collaborative team
- National Seaweed Hub
- National Sea Grant aquaculture network
- Oregon state agencies, including, but not limited to: Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Agriculture, Department of Land Conservation and Development
- Shellfish harvesters and growers
- Seaweed harvesters and growers
Desired products from the fellow:
During year one of the fellowship:
• Raise awareness of state and regional needs, ongoing activities, current barriers, and regulation structure related to aquaculture, with a focus on shellfish and seaweed farming in Oregon. The target audience includes Oregon Legislature, shellfish/seaweed aquaculture operators and industry members, and academic communities.
• Convene new or support ongoing state workshops and regional working groups on aquaculture topics.
• Determine needs and develop outreach and engagement strategies on aquaculture topics relevant to Oregon.
During year two of the fellowship (if applicable):
• Best-practices for west coast shellfish and seaweed aquaculture enterprises are developed with input from other regions, and barriers are identified.
• Aquaculture efforts in Oregon and along the West Coast are integrated with the national Sea Grant aquaculture network, and information is shared among programs.
• A white paper summarizing Oregon’s shellfish and seaweed aquaculture needs, along with outreach and engagement recommendations for the state, is drafted for review by relevant partners.
• Presentation at a national aquaculture conference.

Potential benefits of this position to the fellow:
• Increased knowledge of shellfish and seaweed aquaculture policies and practices
• Exposure to aquaculture regulations, particularly at the state level
• Interaction with regional and national aquaculture professionals
• Development of outreach and engagement skills
• Practical experience with science-informed decision making

Skills required:
• Knowledge of shellfish and seaweed aquaculture practices and policies
• Strong oral and written communication
• Self-motivation and ability to work independently and in a team
• Good organizational skills
• Comfortable working with people from diverse backgrounds

Skills preferred:
• Experience with facilitation, outreach, stakeholder engagement
• Familiarity with legislative processes and regulations

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