2024 Summer Scholars Program – position descriptions

Project List (note – some projects are in-person, virtual, or could be either)

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1. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Newport, OR

Shellfish and Estuarine Assessment of Coastal Oregon (SEACOR)
all projects are subject to change without notice

IN PERSON ONLY: The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Shellfish Program is responsible for conducting shellfish and habitat assessments for each estuary in Oregon and monitoring shellfisheries for the state. These efforts inform resource management decisions and are also used to track changes in Oregon's estuaries and shellfisheries. The scholar would work on the ODFW Shellfish and Estuarine Assessment of Coastal OR (SEACOR) conducting a study of shellfish populations and estuarine habitats in Tillamook Bay, Oregon's 2nd largest outer coast estuary. Shellfish in Tillamook Bay are an important cultural, economic, and food resource for people in this area. The Scholar will work collaboratively on a team to collect shellfish and estuary habitat data in various intertidal regions of Tillamook Bay. The scholar will also participate in an Uncrewed Aircraft System (UAS, or drone) project with a focus on using UAS imagery to map intertidal eelgrass in Oregon estuaries. The Scholar will work out of the ODFW Marine Resources Program offices in Newport with the rest of the SEACOR team. To learn more about SEACOR and the work we do, view the following video at: Science on the Bay: Clamming Part 2

The primary role and responsibility of the Scholar will be collecting field data as an important member of the SEACOR team. Tasks include participating in team meetings, preparing field gear, traversing intertidal flats, collecting environmental and biological data with a partner, extracting and measuring shellfish, and entering data. The Scholar may also interact with recreational harvesters and engage the public at clamming clinics and outreach events during the summer. Opportunities are also available to meet with other members of the Shellfish Program to better understand how the SEACOR field data is used to manage shellfish and estuaries. Depending on their interests and skills, the Scholar may also conduct an independent data project under the guidance of a mentor. Opportunities include mapping of bivalve populations, analyzing habitat-species associations, or assisting in the spatial analysis of UAS imagery from the eelgrass mapping project.

Fieldwork: 80-85%, Office work: 15-20%, weekly travel to field sites

Minimum Qualifications:
• basic background in biology and ecology
• comfortable working independently and as part of a team
• willingness to work outdoors in all weather conditions (ability to traverse unstable
    substrates and work from small boats)
• strong work ethic, attention to detail, and willingness to learn intertidal field sampling methods

Other Optional Qualifications:
• strong communication skills
• experience with small motorized boats (<25') or other watercraft (e.g. kayak,
    canoe)
• experience with statistics, data entry, R coding, and/or GIS
• able to drive a vehicle

Eligibility: Open to US citizens only

2. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Water Program, Salem, OR

Develop Science Communication Materials to Highlight Conservation and Water Policy
all projects are subject to change without notice

IN PERSON, HYBRID: ODFW Water Quality and Quantity Program is involved with many water issues that can directly or indirectly affect fish and wildlife. The primary project for a Scholar would be to create science communication content highlighting the ODFW Water Program's work to protect freshwater habitats for Oregon's fish and wildlife, including anadromous species, for use and enjoyment by present and future generations. The Scholar may work remotely except for time spent in the field documenting ongoing projects which could include: coldwater refuge study, instream needs habitat surveys, and other studies whose goal is to investigate major limiting factors for anadromous salmonids such as water quantity, habitat complexity, and water quality.

The scholar would work with Water Program policy and science staff to develop compelling science communication materials showing how scientific research is used to inform water policy and management in Oregon. The scholar would work with staff to determine the project focus and scope, and then develop science communication content directed towards general audiences who want to better understand conservation and water policy in Oregon. Final project deliverables may include videos and other interactive content. For example, the Scholar may accompany field staff to document instream flow studies as they are being conducted; the Scholar would then use the media collected to create content illustrating how such studies are a critical step leading to the protection of water instream.

Office hybrid: 70%; Field: 30%. Biweekly staff meetings in person are optional, may attend virtually.

Minimum Qualifications:
• background and/or interest in ecology and/or natural resources
• experience/coursework with communications, digital photography, and videography
• able to work independently or as part of a team
• willingness to work outdoors in all weather conditions
• ability to participate in remote fieldwork locations and possible difficult conditions instream or in moving water
• Scholar must be able to drive a vehicle from remote work location to Salem for field work trips (and occasional in-person meetings)

Other Optional Qualifications:
• experience using Storymaps/ other science communication and education materials

Eligibility: Open to US citizens only, must have driver's license

3. Oregon Coastal and Ocean Information Network (OCOIN) - remote

Enhance an Oregon Coastal and Ocean information-policy network
all projects are subject to change without notice

VIRTUAL ONLY: The Oregon Coastal and Ocean Information Network (OCOIN) is a policy-science network established to support informed decision-making for Oregon ocean and coastal management. This year, OCOIN seeks to foster supportive and non-duplicative relationships with other information networks and strengthen its role in the information network landscape through the creation of a mind map of information networks within Oregon's coastal and ocean domain, strengthening its research platform (Coastal Research Explorer), supporting indigenous data sovereignty, and launching an OCOIN website that consolidates these resources and makes them easily accessible. The scholar will work across tasks ranging from technical ArcGIS skills, creative web design, communication with diverse ocean and coastal actors, and learning about data-sharing practices. The scholar will have experience growing the footprint of a transdisciplinarity organization through partnerships and original ideas.

As a direct report of OCOIN and member of the Steering Committee for the summer, the Scholar would work to further the mission of facilitating long-term collaboration among policymakers, managers, and researchers working on coastal and marine projects to promote the use of relevant information in decision-making. This year, OSG Summer Scholars will play a pivotal role in providing technological and network support to this mission. Their specific responsibilities comprise helping create the OCOIN website, updating/supporting the technical infrastructure of OCOIN's ArcGIS research platform (CRE), outreach to researchers to update their postings, assisting with content development for the summer/fall OCOIN newsletter, assisting with the creation of an agenda for the Annual Webinar, and assist with updating outreach materials. While OCOIN does have determined year projects and goals, this is a building year that encourages fresh ideas and the scholar would be encouraged to collaborate on new initiatives. The Scholar will have the opportunity to participate in a tech-support cohort with others working on aligned projects to network, share ideas, and practice online collaboration.

Remote work: 100% (50% web design and network tech support, 20% virtual meeting and coordination, 20% outreach, 10% learning and networking opportunities)

Minimum Qualifications:
• background and/or interest in web design, web maintenance, and graphics
• creativity and care
• ability and interest to meet via Zoom, work with people remotely, and grow virtual interpersonal skills
• interest in coastal management and/or information and data sharing

Other optional qualifications
• experience and/or interest in ArcGIS
• experience using Notion
• experience and/or interest in promoting data sovereignty principles

Eligibility: International students are eligible to apply

4. International Coastal Atlas Network (ICAN) - remote

Grow a directory of projects worldwide, participate in global outreach
all projects are subject to change without notice

VIRTUAL ONLY: The International Coastal Atlas Network (ICAN)is a community of practice originally co-founded in 2006 by Dr. Dawn Wright, then of Oregon State University. In 2013 ICAN became a project of UNESCO IOC´s International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IOC/IODE) Programme. The long-term strategic aim of ICAN is to encourage and help facilitate the development of digital atlases of the global coast based on the principle of distributed high-quality data and information. These atlases can be local, regional, national and international in scale. The network focuses on sharing knowledge and experience among atlas developers in order to find common solutions whilst ensuring maximum relevance and added value for users. ICAN members seek to play a leadership role in forging international collaborations of value to the participating nations, thereby optimizing regional governance in coastal zone management and marine spatial planning. A major goal is to help build a functioning digital atlas of the worldwide coast based on the principle of shared distributed information. This goal aligns with one of the 10 Challenges of the UN Decade for Ocean Science. In 2024, a Sea Grant scholar would contribute to ICAN's efforts by helping to grow the network of connected projects and assisting with connecting new projects to relevant global initiatives.

The scholar will learn about a wide range of topics related to international collaboration and data sharing for efforts such as the UN Decade for Ocean Science. Specific topics that the scholar will be exposed to include: i) the range of coastal and marine data and information sharing projects across the globe, including various technological approaches such catalogs, web services, mapping applications, atlases, portals etc. ii) Initiatives for data sharing related to the UN Decade for Ocean Science, particularly The Ocean InfoHub Project, the 10 Challenges - Ocean Decade and various methods of participation, as well as barriers to participation, iii) Communication approaches for information sharing across projects, and research towards a living community inventory of solutions. Most specifically, the scholar would work with the Co-chairs of the ICAN steering group to grow a directory of projects worldwide, accessible via the ICAN website, and will assist with creating linkages between these projects and the various initiatives they can be connected with. We will be also be designing a fall workshop, and the scholar will assist the ICAN Steering Committee with development some of the workshop elements, and development of a web survey and online forms to be used for data collection from participating projects. Scholars with an interest in social media may also assist with contributions to various social media content channels, to enhance outreach and communications.

Remote work: 100% (30% directed research, 40% web page, web directory, web survey and web map building, 10% coordination with ICAN mentors and steering group members, 20% in career enhancement learning opportunities provided by ICAN mentors)

Minimum Qualifications:
• ability to meet via Zoom and work with people remotely
• interests in international collaborations, coastal management, marine spatial planning, OR information/ data sharing
• ability to do independent web research and utilize Google Drive
• ability to meet one early morning per week via Zoom with international collaborators

Other Optional Qualifications:
• familiarity with web editing, maps, and graphics programs

Eligibility: International students are eligible to apply

5. South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (SSNERR) - Charleston, OR

Develop Communication resources for training and outreach

all projects are subject to change without notice

IN PERSON: Oregon's [South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve](#) is made up of 5,900 acres and provides habitats for salmon, great blue herons, bald eagles, migrating ducks, elk, oysters, crabs and many more interesting and important species. The Reserve offers a diverse landscape of open waters, emergent islands, streams, salt marshes, and conifer-forested uplands. Through research, education, and stewardship programs, Reserve staff promote scientific and public knowledge of estuaries and how to manage them. The Scholar will work with Reserve staff to gather video and digital imagery, produce communication products, and help implement outreach and public programming associated with the Reserve's 50th anniversary celebrations and the Wasson Watershed Restoration Project.

The Scholar will assist with developing communication resources through various methods such as by: 1) taking, editing, and organizing photos for the Wasson Watershed Restoration Project and for South Slough Reserve; 2) creating compilation slideshows of images and story maps, and editing videos that communicate about restoration; 3) creating content for social media posts that update the public on restoration progress, in celebration of the Reserve's 50th anniversary, and of summer field and education work; 4) creating infographics on Wasson restoration projects; 5) creating pieces (of any media) to communicate about restoration or interpret restoration data; 6) assisting with fish salvage and elevation surveys during restoration and assisting with summer education and science activities to take photos and/or videos of Reserve activities; 7) taking and edit video recordings of community members sharing their South Slough story at the Farmer's Market and other events; 8) helping facilitate 50th celebration and exhibit opening at the August 13th Land Board Meeting.

Fieldwork: 20%, Virtual and in person meetings: 20%, Office work: 40% Events: 20%

Minimum Qualifications:
• experience or coursework with communication, social media, photography, or videography
• interest in increasing accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives
• basic understanding of social media platforms and digital photography
• ability to drive their own vehicle to and from work

Other Optional Qualifications:
• basic understanding of ecology, biology or natural resources
• comfort driving moderate distances (1-2 hours)

Eligibility: International students are eligible to apply, must have a driver's license and access to a car is highly preferred