

# Oregon Sea Grant Natural Resource Policy Fellowship Project Description 2018-2019

**Office:** Oregon Sea Grant

**Fellow Position Title:** Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Fellow

**Fellow Position Location:** Corvallis, Oregon

## **Program Overview:**

Oregon's governor-appointed [Ocean Policy Advisory Council \(OPAC\)](#) works with the public to make recommendations on issues of ocean policy ranging from ocean-based energy generation plans to developing marine reserves in the territorial sea. The [Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee \(STAC\)](#) provides scientific and technical advice to OPAC.

Per Oregon [Senate Bill 1510](#), the Legislature has called for an evaluation of the Oregon Marine Reserves Program and a report to the Legislature by March 1, 2023. STAC was charged with submitting a report on the "establishment, study, monitoring, evaluation and enforcement of the pilot marine reserves, marine reserves, marine protected areas and seabird protection area." The evaluation marks a point where the state will consider if and how marine reserves will continue to be used as a management tool here in Oregon. The evaluation will begin in 2021, when ODFW will develop comprehensive syntheses reports to inform the evaluation. A university will then be selected by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to review and prepare an evaluation report to send to the Legislature. Our team is beginning coordination and preparations for the evaluation. The Fellow would provide dedicated effort and focus to expedite STAC discussions and facilitate development of the assessment criteria and process.

## **How this position specifically relates to policy:**

The Fellow will facilitate the discussions and engagement of STAC in interpreting legislation focused on assessment of Oregon's marine reserves. Information synthesis for the marine reserves is anticipated to begin in 2021 to allow sufficient time for the assessment and subsequent submission of the draft report by STAC to the interim committees on environment and natural resources of the Legislative Assembly. Thus, there is an immediate need to develop review criteria and inform the process for the marine reserves assessment. The Fellow's work will include understanding the policy realm in which the marine reserves were developed, incorporating, where appropriate, guidance from other states regarding marine reserves assessments, and laying the foundation for the Oregon assessment on a topic that is the subject of significant public attention.

## **Fellow's day-to-day activities and how these tasks fit within a larger project scope:**

The STAC fellow responsibilities will include:

- Managing STAC meeting logistics, including developing agendas in conjunction with STAC Chair and committee members, arranging for guest speakers, managing meeting operation, determining locations, capturing discussions, and providing information to STAC, OPAC, and the public, as needed
- Coordinating small working group meetings on development of assessment criteria, including engaging external contributors as requested by STAC members

- Researching and providing information to STAC on existing marine reserves/marine protected area assessment criteria, policies, and procedures to inform STAC discussions
- Engaging with personnel from existing marine reserves/marine protected areas on assessment policies/procedures and best practices
- Working with STAC Chair on providing updates to OPAC and other interested groups (e.g., Coastal Caucus, etc)

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

- Researchers from Portland State University, University of Oregon, Oregon State University
- Members of the Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council, including representatives from:
  - Commercial fisheries
  - Charter, Sport, or Recreational Fisheries
  - Ports, Marine Transportation or Navigation
  - Coastal Non-Fishing Recreation
  - Coastal Conservation or Environmental Organizations
  - Statewide Conservation or Environmental Organizations
  - Oregon Coastal Indian Tribes
  - County Commissioners
  - Coastal City Elected Officials
  - Coastwide Local Government
  - Public-at-large
  - State agencies-DEQ, ODFW, DOGAMI, DLCD, DSL, ODA, OPRD
  - Federal Liaisons
- State agencies outside of Oregon managing marine reserves
- Interested coastal community members

**Desired products from the fellow:**

Anticipated outcomes from the fellowship include the following:

- A final set of assessment criteria (which could include measurable questions, indicators, etc.) for the Oregon marine reserves assessment
- Two-three (2-3) publicly noticed STAC meetings that have clearly defined agendas, delineated actions items, and meeting notes provided within two (2) weeks of each meeting
- At least five (5), small working group meetings for STAC members that have been publicly noticed (as applicable) and scheduled, with clear agendas and meeting notes provided within two (2) weeks of each meeting
- Descriptive and succinct materials and information, targeted to a non-scientific audience, developed and provided for two-three (2-3) OPAC meetings on the status of STAC meetings and discussion
- Initial draft of request for proposals for selection of the public university to undertake the Oregon marine reserves assessment
- Assessment of best practices and policies from other marine reserves/marine protected areas, documented and provided to STAC Chair
- Participation in the anticipated Marine Reserve Summit (typically held annually)
- Completion of one (1) professional development opportunity, which may include but is not limited to, presentation at the State of the Coast conference (October)

**Potential benefits of this position to the fellow:**

- Experience facilitating and supporting a complex decision-making process
- Increased policy and scientific knowledge and expertise regarding marine reserves
- Outreach and engagement experience with multiple diverse stakeholders
- Interact and develop relationships with academic researchers, marine resource managers, NGOs, fishermen, and policy advisors from Oregon
- Strengthen communications skills - communicating complex policy and science concepts to non-technical audiences
- Develop project management and meeting facilitation skills

**Skills required:**

- Strong organization skills
- Self-motivation and ability to work independently
- Ability to provide adequate communication with members of the team and supervisors, including emerging issues and concerns
- Excellent oral and written communications skills and demonstrated ability to write clearly and persuasively for professional and public audiences
- Analytical thinking skills
- Strong interpersonal skills; ability to interact with a variety of people or organizations
- Familiarity with and interest in Oregon coastal and marine issues

**Skills preferred:**

- Understanding of current policy issues regarding marine reserves
- Strong problem solving and organizational skills
- Experience in public engagement
- General understanding of public processes in Oregon