

California Sea Grant Fellowship 2022
Host Office Application and Position Description
NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Host Location: Santa Barbara, California
NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
University of California Santa Barbara, Ocean Science
Education Building 514,
Santa Barbara, California 93106



Fellowship Supervisors

- Michael Murray, Deputy Superintendent for Programs; michael.murray@noaa.gov, 805-893-6418
- Julie Bursek, Team Lead Education and Outreach; julie.bursek@noaa.gov, 805-893-6422

About the Sanctuary

[Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary](#) (the sanctuary) is a federally-designated marine protected area that is administered by the [Office of National Marine Sanctuaries](#), part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It is located approximately 23 miles off the coast of Santa Barbara and encompasses 1,470 square miles of state and federal ocean waters surrounding the islands of Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, Santa Rosa, and San Miguel. A fertile combination of warm and cool currents creates a highly productive marine ecosystem supporting many habitats, a wide diversity of fish and invertebrates, twenty-seven species of whales and dolphins, five species of pinnipeds, and over sixty species of seabirds. The islands and surrounding sanctuary waters are sacred to the indigenous Chumash people. The sanctuary's primary objective is to conserve, protect, and enhance the biodiversity, ecological integrity, and cultural legacy of marine resources surrounding islands for current and future generations. Enabling federal legislation is the [National Marine Sanctuaries Act](#).

Position Description

We are seeking a 2022 California Sea Grant Fellow to join our hard-working and supportive team. We offer a working environment that is welcoming, innovative, positive, fun, and growth-oriented. We have enjoyed mentoring fellows for the past ten years.

The 2022 California Sea Grant Fellow will play a key role in advancing several policy, planning and education projects and programs, working closely with the sanctuary's deputy superintendent for programs, and the team lead for education & outreach. Former sanctuary fellows have become permanent or contract NOAA employees, received Knauss and Presidential Management Fellowships, or taken research and leadership positions in the private and non-profit sectors. Several former fellows work at the sanctuary office, serving as a built-in support network for incoming fellows.

Education & Outreach (approx. 30% time)

Public education and outreach is a vital sanctuary conservation tool. The fellow will assist the sanctuary's Education & Outreach Team with community science monitoring projects, including:

1. engaging with a biosecurity working group as part of the 2022 California Islands Symposium;
2. a community science initiative with local recreational diving interests focused on identifying living endangered white abalone in the Northern Channel Islands region to support restoration efforts;
3. updating the sanctuary's [website](#) and posting weekly to sanctuary [social media](#) accounts,
4. assisting with implementation of an intertidal monitoring student education program, [LiMPETS](#).

The 2022 fellow will also be encouraged to pursue a variety of short-duration education and outreach projects. This will often involve serving as an informal educator speaking to various audiences (students, stakeholder groups, agency partners), and participating in educational field cruises within the sanctuary.

Sanctuary Advisory Council (approx. 30% time)

The [sanctuary advisory council](#) is essential to successful management of the sanctuary, and comprised of ten government agency seats and eleven community stakeholder seats in addition to several [working groups](#). The fellow will play a leadership role in council meeting agenda preparation, consultation with the council's Executive Committee, preparing and delivering presentations, corresponding with council members and the public, assisting with member recruitment, and more. **For mentorship, networking and job prospecting, it cannot be overstated how important the advisory council has been to every fellow that has worked at the sanctuary.**

Management Plan Revision (approx. 20% time)

A comprehensive management plan guides operation of the sanctuary. The [current management plan](#) was last updated in 2009, and a public process began in October 2019 to support [development of the next updated plan](#). The fellow will assist with final completion of the NEPA-compliant management plan revision process. This will include responding to public comments, helping to prepare final documents, and assisting with implementation of a communications strategy for public roll-out of the completed plan.

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) (approx. 10% time)

Across all of the primary duties described above, we seek a fellow that is interested in supporting efforts to improve justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion among sanctuary programs and activities. Projects to improve JEDI initiatives may include: 1) improving our diversity recruitment efforts for the sanctuary advisory council, 2) improved JEDI in education & outreach programming, and 3) supporting enhanced access to a diversity of audiences. Other opportunities available depending upon the fellows' interests.

Additional Opportunities (approx. 10% time)

- Engage in personal career development planning with the active support and mentorship of staff.
- Participate in internal office meetings, including providing progress reports and/or presentations.
- Contribute to superintendent reports and weekly activity reports, including compilation, information gathering, and document editing/formatting.
- Represent the sanctuary at select meetings, to speak/present, and assist with follow-up.
- Occasionally participate in sanctuary research and monitoring activities, or other projects of interest.

The fellow will get the most out of this opportunity if they bring these skills, experiences and interests:

- a natural self-starter approach to work;
- strong organizational, communication and writing skills;
- a personable approach and comfort working with a variety of constituencies in public and occasionally contentious settings;
- a proven ability to work with diverse groups to achieve results;
- a strong ability to effectively manage multiple projects, deadlines, and prioritize tasks
- an ability to adapt to interruptions and a fluctuating workload;
- function effectively under deadline pressure to fulfill assignments on schedule;
- an enthusiasm for ocean stewardship and conservation!