

## California Ocean Science Trust 2017 Sea Grant Fellowship Opportunity

---

### I. Host Location and Contact Information:

California Ocean Science Trust  
Thomas Maloney, Executive Director  
2201 Broadway, Suite 101  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Phone: (510) 251-8320

### II. Fellowship Supervisor(s)

Thomas Maloney, Executive Director  
Emily Knight, Senior Program Manager

### III. Points of Contact for California Sea Grant Prospective Fellows and Finalists

Emily Knight, Senior Program Manager – Position Inquiries –  
[Emily.Knight@oceansciencetrust.org](mailto:Emily.Knight@oceansciencetrust.org); (831) 521-9305

## Synopsis for a California Ocean Science Trust Sea Grant Fellow

[California Ocean Science Trust](#) is a boundary organization. We work across traditional boundaries between government, science, and communities to build trust and understanding in ocean and coastal science. Our organization is novel. We are an independent non-profit, but linked directly to the State in that we were established pursuant to the California Ocean Resources Stewardship Act of 2000. Through our innovative approaches, we empower broad participation in policy and management decisions with useful, reliable science.

Our [projects](#) span the gamut of topics, from ocean acidification and sea-level rise, to advancing science in fisheries management, to monitoring marine protected areas (MPAs). Our work is guided by the priorities of California, which through the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC), is committed to healthy, resilient, and productive ocean and coastal ecosystems. We work closely with the OPC to ensure state actions on ocean and coastal issues are informed by the best available science.

### Our Approach

In taking on new projects, we see ourselves as process experts – employing a variety of tools such as interviews, focus groups, and expert judgment among others – to understand the institutions involved, different ways of looking at the issues, and the range of relevant science. We then actively shape projects to bring different communities together around the science so that participants can see a role for themselves and engage constructively. Furthermore, all of Ocean Science Trust’s projects are interrelated – continually contributing to and drawing from each other.

### Sea Grant Fellow Opportunities

The Ocean Science Trust Sea Grant Fellow will gain diverse educational and career experience. Our Fellows engage in a variety of projects, based on a balance between our organizational needs and the Fellow’s background and interests. The Fellow will work closely with the senior program manager, but will collaborate to varying degrees with the full [Ocean Science Trust team](#). Ocean Science Trust is a collaborative, team-oriented atmosphere, welcoming the ideas and contributions of all staff to shaping projects and our organization as a whole.

The Sea Grant Fellow will be treated as a full member of our team, and have the opportunity to contribute to, and possibly lead, any range of projects. Through these activities, the Fellow will have numerous opportunities to interact with high-level scientists, managers, policymakers, and other partners in the NGO and stakeholder communities, as well participate in meetings and workshops.

### Programmatic Focus for 2017 Fellowship: Fisheries

We have a need for capacity in our fisheries program. Over the past several years, Ocean Science Trust has worked closely with the OPC, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Fish and Game Commission to forge new pathways for science in decision-making. This work has led to a range of projects where we have worked with funders and others to align resources with state priorities,

stewarded teams scientists in tailoring their ideas and work to better align with fisheries managers' needs, and designed and implemented scientific review processes that would be credible and legitimate in the eyes of decision-makers and stakeholders alike.

Looking ahead, we are continuing to advance this work, but through the framing of climate change. Our aim is to not just produce isolated pieces of information, but pursue projects that will help the State calibrate fisheries management through the lens of changing ocean conditions; evaluate what that means along ecological, economic, and social dimensions; and identify stronger, more flexible management options. It is also worth noting that our fisheries program is young. Finally, we are still articulating Ocean Science Trust's value proposition in this exciting field, and the Fellow would be a full member helping to determine the direction of our fisheries program.

### **Additional Programmatic Opportunities**

The Fellow will also have the opportunity to work across programs at Ocean Science Trust. As noted, our work is inter-related, and the fisheries program intersects with:

- **Working with the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (SAT):** Ocean Science Trust coordinates all activities of the SAT, a team of 26 interdisciplinary scientists from California and beyond that provide scientific and technical advice to the State, and act as a conduit to the broader scientific community on behalf of decision-makers.
- **Promoting Resilience and Adaptive Capacity:** We are strengthening our work to support the State with the science needed to adapt to a changing climate. Integral to this will be the SAT, particularly as we work with the OPC to explore the potential to raise the profile of ocean ecosystems in the State's final 4<sup>th</sup> Climate Assessment.
- **Implementing the Findings of the [West Coast Ocean Acidification & Hypoxia Science Panel \(the Panel\)](#):** With the release of the Panel's "*Major Findings, Recommendations, and Actions*" in April of 2016, a major focus is working with decision-makers at the state, regional and federal levels to integrate the Panel's findings into management and policy across management jurisdictions.

Past Ocean Science Trust Sea Grant Fellows have had the opportunity to participate in a wide range of topics depending on their expertise and interests, and have often assumed leadership roles. We also greatly value professional development at Ocean Science Trust, and will mentor the Fellow by drafting and pursuing professional goals, offering assistance in resume building, and ensuring the Fellow is provided networking opportunities.