



2018 Sea Grant State Fellowship Host Description

2 Fellowships available at the Ocean Protection Council

1. Host location and contact information

Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

2. Fellowship Supervisor(s)

Deborah Halberstadt
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3. Point of contact for prospective fellows and finalists

Cyndi Dawson, Marine Protected Areas Policy
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4. Position description

The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) was created by state law, the California Ocean Protection Act of 2004, to protect ocean health and we view all of our actions through the lens of climate change. Under changing ocean and coastal conditions that threaten communities, ecosystems and our economy, we have an urgent need to catalyze innovative and bold action to protect ocean and coastal health. The OPC engages with partners inside and outside government to break down silos and ensure coordinated science informed decision making that supports sustainable ocean and coastal health. *How do we know if our management actions are resulting in a healthy ocean and coast? What are concrete actions that agencies and researchers can take to reduce the impacts of climate change? How can we make our fisheries climate ready? How will we know if we are successful with adapting to sea-level rise? How can we use Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as living laboratories to understand changing ocean conditions and to offer refuges from stressors?* OPC was designed to be a convener and problem-solver for difficult questions like these that require bringing together managers, scientists, tribal representatives and other groups to protect, conserve and where possible restore what we love about California's coast and ocean.

Building a shared vision for ocean and coastal health is about strengthening institutional partnerships to span boundaries and leverage resources. In California, we are doing this through initiatives such as the State Coastal Leadership on Sea-level Rise, the Pacific Coast Collaborative, the MPA Collaboratives and the MPA Statewide Leadership Team and the emerging West Coast Ocean Partnership. Unifying around a vision of ocean and coastal health and collective action on climate change is important as we are challenged by complex issues and limited capacity. By bringing groups together, we can identify which agency should take the lead, or whose mandate is best reflected in cross-cutting issues; what scientific information can support decision-making and how our network of MPAs can serve as a tool in service of ocean and coastal health under the challenge of climate change.

To learn more about current initiatives, see a summary of [OPC Program Areas](#) and a [meeting agenda](#). A fellow with the OPC may work on the following emerging themes:

1. Understanding changing ocean and coastal processes (science and policy formulation).
2. Sea level rise and MPA Management by understanding how the state works on the things it directly controls and provides assistance to tribal and local governments (green and grey infrastructure).
3. Protecting our assets, both human and ecosystem, by understanding and reducing controllable stressors (vulnerability assessments and pollution prevention and habitat protections).
4. Doing our work in partnership (refining the application of strategies and engagement of social networks moving toward co-management with other government structures and communities).

The OPC staff is currently involved in developing and managing various large-scale projects and developing innovative policy solutions on marine resource issues, including:

Supporting the functions of the Council. All OPC staff support the functions of the 7-member council, including agenda setting, policy recommendations, and project development. Potential tasks associated with managing projects include: frequent communication with project stakeholders, partners, or grantees; presenting staff recommendations to the council; drafting and amending contracts and grant agreements; managing project-related invoices; organizing, and/or leading related meetings and workshops; participating in site visits; ensuring outcomes of projects are communicated to the public, relevant agencies, and institutions; seeking out additional funding sources or matching funds; encouraging transparency by working with stakeholders; and working to maintain broad project or program support. **Both fellows would support all the functions, above.** <http://www.opc.ca.gov/>

Sea-level Rise (SLR). The incumbent Sea Grant fellow may help manage various Local Coastal Program grants that the OPC has funded to support sea level rise planning and adaptation work in coastal cities and counties. The fellow may also assist in convening the Coastal and Ocean Climate Action Team (CO-CAT) and/or the State Coastal Leadership Group on SLR (SCLG), both composed of many ocean and coastal state agencies to provide input on updates to state guidance documents and processes. OPC is the sector lead for the Oceans and Coastal Resources and Ecosystems Sector Plan for Safeguarding California, and the fellow may be involved in updates to this document. The OPC is also engaged in implementing legislative mandates in AB 2516, regarding the development of an innovative sea level rise planning database for the State.

Pacific Coast Collaborative. The incumbent Sea Grant fellow will be involved with the Pacific Coast Collaborative Subcommittee on Ocean Acidification, which is a subset of the larger Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC). The PCC represents a collaboration among the Governors of Washington, Oregon, California and the Premier of British Columbia to address critical climate and energy issues that affect the health of communities, natural resources and economies along the West Coast. The PCC Subcommittee on Ocean Acidification is leading on implementing the policy recommendations from the West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel's (Panel) executive summary, which was released in April 2016 and funded by the OPC. The fellow will assist the Ocean Acidification Program Manager in OPC's work to implement and advance the Panel recommendations and actions in California.

Resources Agency Sea Grant Advisory Panel (RASGAP). The Resources Agency Sea Grant Advisory Panel (RASGAP) is in charge of evaluating proposals for ocean and coastal research by California's two Sea Grant programs. **One fellow with the OPC will be responsible for all aspects of the RASGAP project including managing the membership of RASGAP, leading meeting logistics, review of pre-proposals and proposals, and participation in technical review panels held in San Diego.**

Legislative Reporting & Bill Analyses. The OPC does not take a stance on any legislation as a state agency; however, the OPC keeps track of relevant bills that may impact the OPC throughout the year. **One fellow with the OPC will be responsible for tracking legislative bills that are relevant to the OPC and updating the tracking list weekly. Both fellows may have the opportunity to contribute to agency bill analyses when requested if an OPC-relevant bill is moving forward in the legislature.**

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The incumbent Sea Grant fellow will help manage an on-going effort among several state agencies and outside partners to collaborate more effectively on the long-term management of MPAs created under the auspices of the Marine Life Protection Act through the work of the [MPA Statewide Leadership Team](#).

Sustainable Fisheries. The incumbent Sea Grant Fellow will work with a host of partners inside and outside government to assist with the ongoing integration and implementation of the broad ecosystem health goals of the Marine Life Management Act and Marine Life Protection Act. The OPC supports science-based approaches to inform fisheries management, and works with partners to advance improved governance of California fisheries.

Thank You Ocean. The Thank You Ocean campaign is a joint partnership between the State of California and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to raise awareness about the importance of the ocean and to engage the public in stewardship. The campaign's website focuses on four specific threats to the ocean and uses social media tools to engage the public in the campaign. Specific activities may include development or review of campaign materials (such as podcasts, web content, and social media), overall project management, and fundraising. **Both fellows with the OPC will be involved in the Thank You Ocean campaign.** <http://www.thankyouocean.org/>

For the past two years, the OPC has hosted two fellows, one of which has been focused on climate impacts and changing ocean conditions, primarily working on ocean acidification and hypoxia (OAH) and sea level rise (SLR), and a fellow focused entirely on the MPA Management Program which includes work in outreach and education, research and monitoring, enforcement and compliance and policy and permitting. With the continued maturity of the MPA Management Program OPC anticipates the MPA focused fellow for 2018 would also be working on fisheries related projects that work to further integrate and leverage work in sustainable fisheries management with MPA management. The other fellow for 2018 would have a focus on Climate Impacts which include a wide range of topics including but not limited to SLR, OA and Harmful Algal Blooms.

Skills or attributes we seek include:

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to lead groups of people, often with divergent views on how to move forward on a particular issue.
- Ability to translate complex scientific information for use by government decision-makers.
- Ability to work well independently under minimal supervision or guidance.
- Ability to manage multiple projects concurrently
- An entrepreneurial spirit and strong personal initiative.