

2018 CA Sea Grant Fellowship California Ocean Science Trust HOST DESCRIPTION

I. Host Location and Contact Information:

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

II. Fellowship Supervisor(s)

Carrie Blanding, Interim Executive Director
Errin Ramanujam, Senior Scientist
Hayley Carter, Program Scientist

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

Errin Ramanujam, Senior Scientist

Errin.Ramanujam@oceansciencetrust.org, (510) 251-8285

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 Opportunities

The Fellow will also have the opportunity to work across programs at Ocean Science Trust. As noted, our work is inter-related, thus the fellow may engage on a range of projects and program areas, including:

- **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. We host annual public workshops of the OPC-SAT where we discuss how the team is addressing state priorities, and launch new initiatives, including Expert Taskforces and Expert Panels.

- **Advancing Science in California Fisheries Management:** 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 of 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.
- **Promoting Climate Change 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 OPC-SAT, particularly as we work with the OPC to explore the potential to raise the profile of ocean ecosystems in the State's final 4th Climate Assessment. Specifically, we are convening an OPC-SAT Working Group to write a "State of the Science" Ocean and Coastal Report that will articulate in one place the multitude of consequences climate change may have for ocean and coastal ecosystems and communities, and science-based solutions to promote resilience.
- **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.