



2025 STATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Prospective Applicants Informational Webinar

May 15th, 2024
12:00 - 2:00 PM PT

Delanie Medina, Fellowship Programs Coordinator
Science Integration Team
California Sea Grant
sgproposal@ucsd.edu

Housekeeping

Use Q&A feature (no hand raise or chat)

We will try to address questions as we go and at the end

This will be recorded and posted on our website

Hyper specific questions send to sgproposal@uscd.edu

Agenda

Sea Grant History and Overview

California Sea Grant State Fellowship

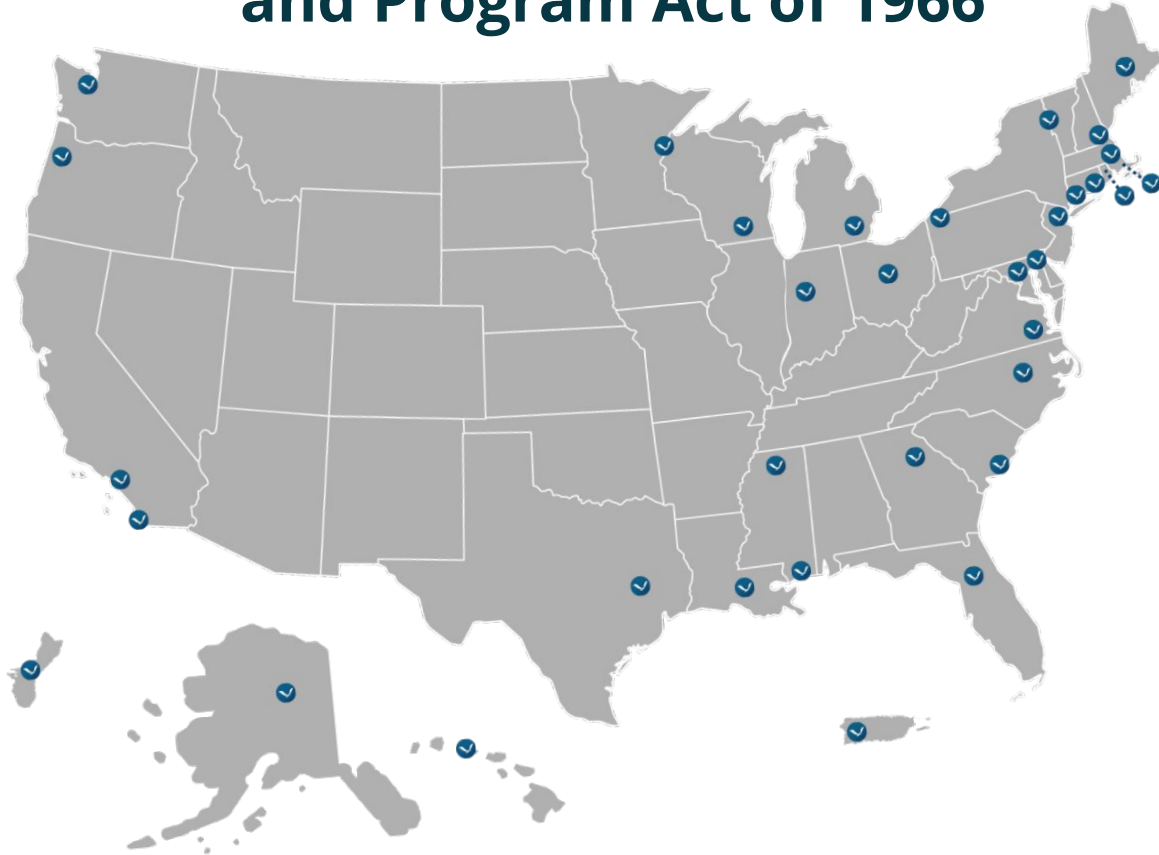
Alumni Q&A

Application Tips and Tricks

Sea Grant History and Overview



National Sea Grant College and Program Act of 1966



What We Do

Mission:

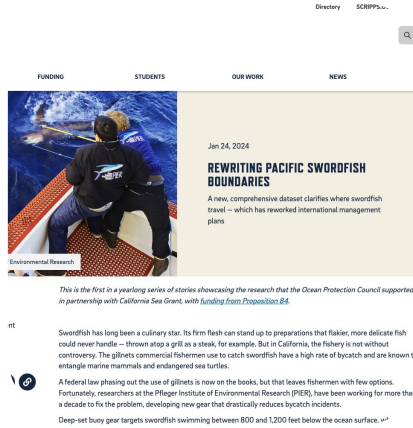
To provide the information, tools, training, and relationships needed to help California conserve and sustainably prosper from our coastal and marine environments.



Grants & Funding



Fellowships



Communications



Extension

UC San Diego





SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF
OCEANOGRAPHY



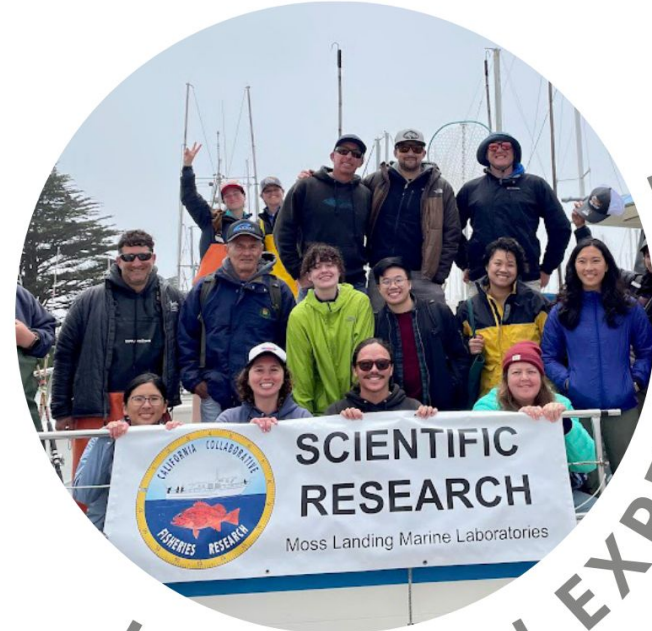

Sea Grant
CALIFORNIA

California Sea Grant State Fellowship



What is Our Goal?

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



HANDS ON EXPERIENCE

What is a Fellow?

Recent graduate students with PhDs, Masters, or JDs in relevant coastal or marine related fields

Ability to provide substantial professional contributions to a host office

Capable of working alongside state and federal partners, and excited to learn about and help with the process of policy-making and resource management



CASG Fellowships



GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Supports student academic expenses and professional development opportunities

TYPICALLY OFFERED EVERY 2 YEARS
DURATION: 1-2 YEARS



NMFS-SEA GRANT JOINT FELLOWSHIP

Provides funding to doctorate students interested in population and ecosystem dynamics and ecosystem dynamics and marine resources

OFFERED ANNUALLY
DURATION: 1-2 YEARS



STATE FELLOWSHIP

Gain on-the-job training in marine policy and coastal resource management with hosts in municipal, state, and federal agencies in California.

OFFERED ANNUALLY
DURATION: 1 YEAR



NOAA DIGITAL COAST & COASTAL MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP

Gain on-the-job education and training opportunities in coastal resource management and policy; provide project assistance to state coastal zone management programs.

TYPICALLY EVERY 2 YEARS
DURATION: 2 YEARS

BEGINNING GRADUATE SCHOOL

GRADUATION

POST-GRADUATE



DELTA SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP

Provides support to work collaboratively with agency scientists and senior research mentors on collaborative data analysis and research projects applicable to the California Bay-Delta system

TYPICALLY OFFERED EVERY 2 YEARS
DURATION: 2 YEARS



JOHN A. KNAUSS FELLOWSHIP

Gain on-the-job training in marine policy and coastal resource management with hosts in the legislative or executive branch of the federal government in Washington, D.C.

OFFERED ANNUALLY
DURATION: 1 YEAR



EXTENSION FELLOWSHIP

Engage with the dynamic team of California Sea Grant extension specialist who work with diverse partners to identify emerging marine resource problems and opportunities, conduct applied scientific research, and share findings with stakeholder groups.

OFFERED OCCASIONALLY 2 YEARS
DURATION: TYPICALLY 2 YEARS



RESEARCH



POLICY



OUTREACH

State Fellowship Timeline



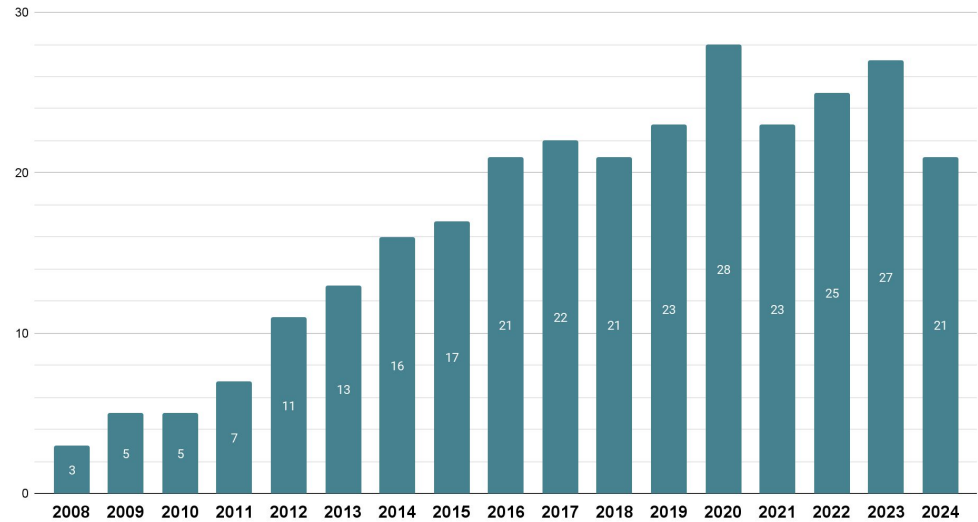
State Fellowship

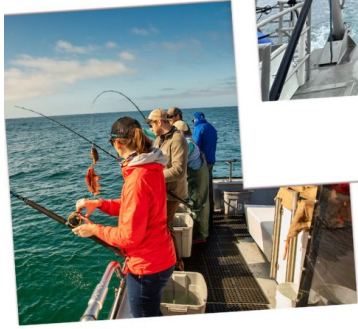
Modeled after the National Sea Grant
Knauss Fellowship

Provides a **one-year** fellowship in a federal, state or municipal agency to learn about and work on implementation of marine policy and management in **California**

329 State Fellows to date

Number of California Sea Grant State Fellows





Where Do Fellows End Up?

ALUMNI have built careers in policy, management, NGOs and the private sector

2000-2020

209

ALUMNI have built careers in policy, management, NGOs and the private sector



8

Municipal



20

Federal



100

State



26

Private Sector



31

Academia



24

NGO/Nonprofit

Current Host Offices



**PORT of
SAN DIEGO**
Waterfront of Opportunity



**Monterey Bay
Aquarium®**



**OCEAN
PROTECTION
COUNCIL**



**Delta
Stewardship
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY



San Francisco
ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP



CALIFORNIA
**COASTAL
COMMISSION**



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
**CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION**



CALIFORNIA
Water Boards
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS



**Coastal
Conservancy**



NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES

State Fellowship Award

Total Award Package	\$63,124	
	Total	Monthly
Stipend	\$56,940	\$4,745
Health Insurance	\$3,684	\$307
Travel <i>Includes professional development trainings and any in-person trainings</i>	\$2,500	

Eligibility

Applications may be submitted by...

a graduate student with a Masters, Ph.D., or J.D

a graduate student from a **California university** who recently completed a degree after **May 1, 2023**

Fellows MUST complete all degree requirements before starting the fellowship



Application Package

(1) Curriculum Vitae (CV)	
(2) Personal Education and Career Goal Statement	Section One: Ice Breaker
	Section Two: Fellowship Goals
	Section Three: DEIJA
(4) 2 Letters of Recommendation	
(5) Transcripts (Undergraduate and Graduate)	

***All sensitive information MUST be redacted before submitting**

Application Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Area	Components	Points
Relevant Experience	Curriculum Vitae (CV)	10
	Personal Education and Career Development Statement	65
Recommendations	Letters of Recommendation	10 (5 each)
Academic Ability	Undergraduate and Graduate Transcripts	10
Overall Application Cohesion	All Components	5

***All applications components submitted through eSG**

Welcome to eSeaGrant

The online proposal and reporting system for California Sea Grant.

Individuals who have applied previously for California Sea Grant funding may already be in the system: To confirm this, please click the "Forgot Password" link at the bottom of the login form, enter your username (email address), and click "Submit."

If you are unable to login, or if you have any other questions with this site, please contact sgproposal@ucsd.edu.



I'm not a robot

reCAPTCHA
Privacy - Terms**Log In**[Forgot Password ?](#)

Application Submission

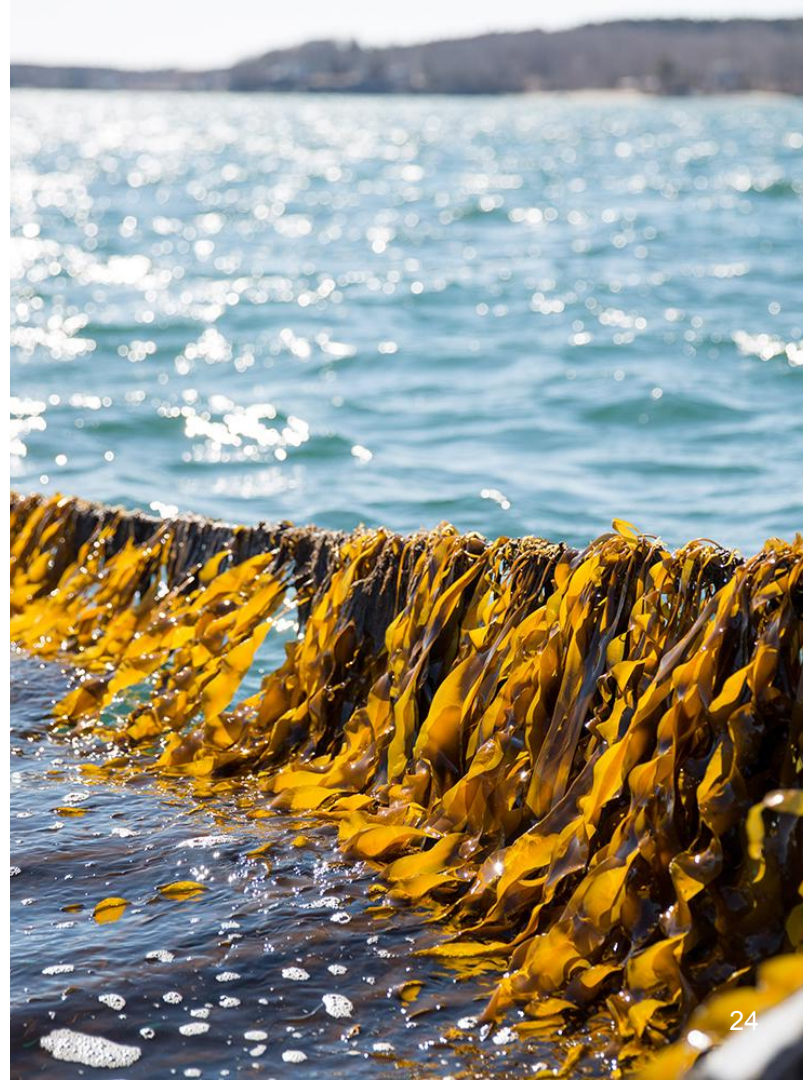
Online submission platform: eSeaGrant

Register an account

Only submit PDFs

Application deadline: June 14, 5:00 PM PT

Portal will close at the date and time stated above, and late applications (even 1 minute late) cannot be accepted.

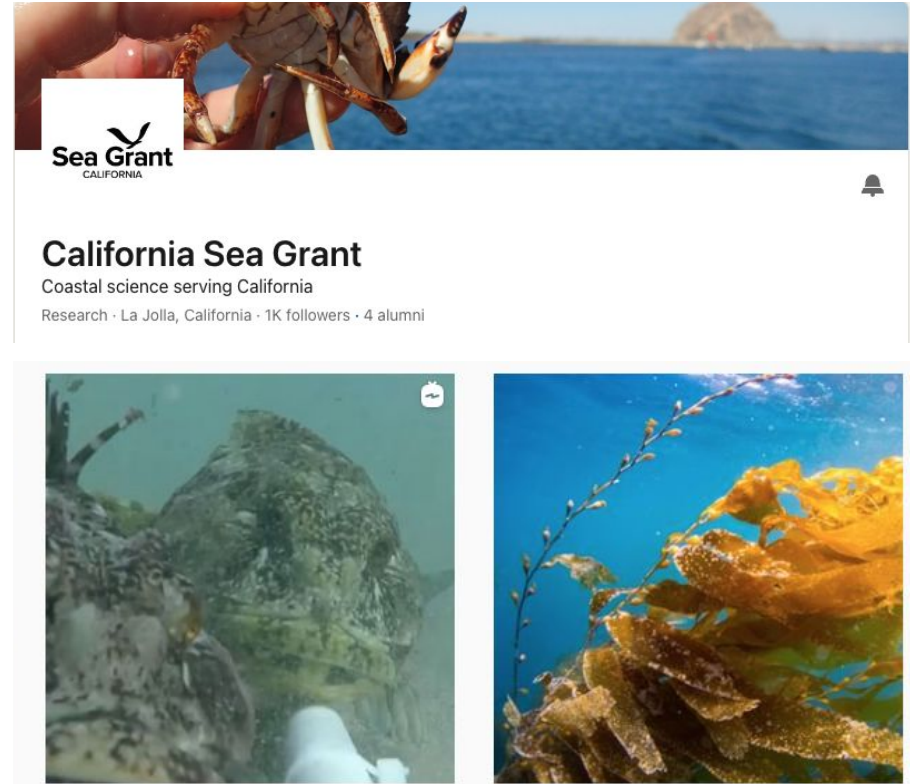


Get Connected!

Follow us on socials **@caseagrant**,
#seagrantfellows on social media

Sign up for our newsletter

Email sgproposal@ucsd.edu if you have questions.



Detailed Timeline

June 10, 2024 (approximate): Final host positions posted on California Sea Grant website

June 14, 2024 5PM: Request for Fellowship applications due

June 20–July 25, 2024 (approximate): California Sea Grant screening of fellowship applications to select finalists

July 26, 2024: Finalists notified and applications distributed to participating hosts

July 29–August 30, 2024: Matching Workshop Prep: Watch Finalists Presentation Recordings; Read Finalists Applications

July 31, 2024 12–2PM: California Sea Grant informational session for invited finalists

August 9, 2024: Finalist presentations due

August 26–30, 2024: Prep Week: Host Office Hours for Finalists, Matching Workshop Social Mixer (virtual)

September 4, 2024 1–5PM: MANDATORY Interview Scheduling Event

September 5–13, 2024: California Sea Grant and Hosts finalize and distribute interview schedule

September 16–23, 2024: MANDATORY Virtual Matching Workshop. [An outline of the schedule can be found here.](#)

- **September 16–18, 2024:** Hosts/Finalists Interviews
- **September 19, 2024 5PM:** Host Follow-Up Lists Due
- **September 20, 2024 5PM:** Hosts send Follow-Up Invites to Finalists
- **September 23, 2024 9AM–1PM:** Follow-Ups
- **September 23, 2024 5PM:** Rankings Due

September 24–October 4: California Sea Grant Matching (as needed)

October 7, 2024: Fellowship matches announced

By Dec 2024: Host offices finalize funding agreements

January–March 2025: Fellowship begins



Meet Our Alumni!



Megan Spitzer

*Presidential
Management Fellow*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service



Ian Kelmartin

Environmental Scientist

California Department
of Fish and Wildlife



Anthony Shiao

Environmental Scientist

California Department
of Fish and Wildlife



Pike Spector

*Biodiversity Program
Manager*

Ocean Protection
Council

Application Tips and Tricks



What Our Reviewers Are Looking For (1)

Was the Goal Statement specific, direct, and concise while discussing what the applicant would bring to and gain from the Fellowship?

Was a career or life goal stated?

Did the applicant describe volunteer and/or extracurricular activities?

Did the applicant provide insight into their diverse background including balanced and appropriate coursework?



What Our Reviewers Are Looking For (2)

How has academic achievement been balanced with professional goals?

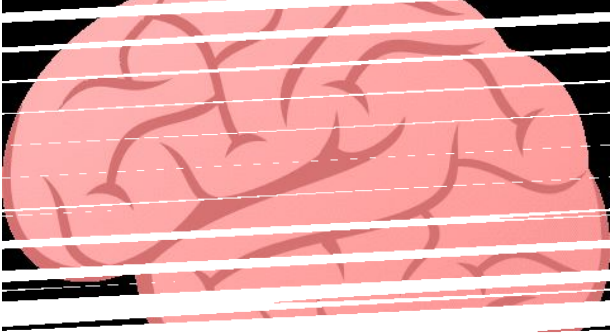
How did the applicant describe their marine and coastal science and/or policy experience?

Are the experiences and skills described clear and transferable to the State Fellowship?

Did the recommendation letters demonstrate knowledge of the applicant and their abilities?



Inside a Reviewers Mind



Assignment

Review fellowship proposals using pre-assigned evaluation criteria

Challenges

Personal experiences and biases
Work & life (time)
Reviewer fatigue

Tip 1

Don't assume;
explain/write for a
scientifically educated
reader

Tip 2

Be explicit; directly
address how you will
benefit from the state
fellowship and what
you will bring

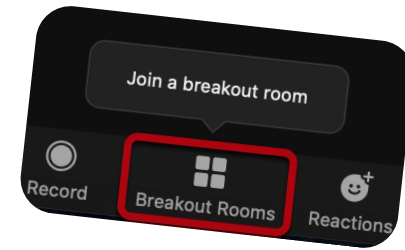
Tip 3

Use space wisely;
tackle weaknesses and
how they will be
addressed

Tip 4

Use the evaluation
criteria when writing
and reviewing

Join A Breakout Room



Breakout Room 1

Megan Spitzer

*Presidential Management
Fellow,
USFWS*



Breakout Room 2

Ian Kelmartin

*Environmental Scientist,
CDFW*



Breakout Room 3

Anthony Shiao

*Environmental Scientist,
CDFW*



Breakout Room 4

Pike Spector

*Biodiversity Program
Manager,
OPC*

Main Room:

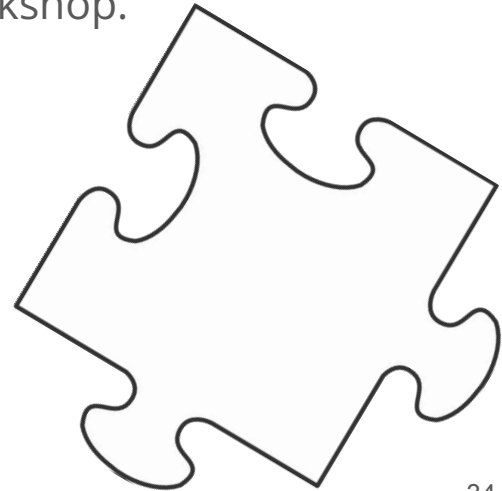
General Application Questions for California Sea Grant

Words of Advice

View the application package as pieces of a jigsaw puzzle that reflect the best and most complete picture of who you are.

The submitted application materials, as well as the interview, will determine if you will be invited as a finalist to the matching workshop.

So every piece of the puzzle counts!





Thank You!

sgproposal@ucsd.edu


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