

**California Sea Grant Fellowship 2021**  
**Host Office Application and Position Description**  
**NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary**

**Host Location**

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](mailto:michael.murray@noaa.gov), 805-893-6418  
Julie Bursek, Team Lead Education and Outreach; [julie.bursek@noaa.gov](mailto:julie.bursek@noaa.gov), 805-893-6422

**Position Description**

We are seeking a 2021 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, and we have enjoyed mentoring fellows for the past ten years. [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 sanctuary's primary objective is to conserve, protect, and enhance the biodiversity, ecological integrity, and cultural legacy of marine resources surrounding the Channel Islands for current and future generations. This is supported in enabling federal legislation – the [National Marine Sanctuaries Act](#).

The 2021 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. The fellow will research, write and conduct outreach on a wide array of marine resource management issues, and will help foster productive relationships with state and federal agencies, academic institutions, and stakeholders. In this position, the fellow will gain the diverse skills and professional experience necessary to succeed in a natural resource management career. Former sanctuary fellows have become permanent or contract NOAA employees, received the Knauss and Presidential Management Fellowships, or taken research and leadership positions in the private and non-profit sectors. Several former California Sea Grant fellows work at the sanctuary office, and serve as a built-in support network for incoming fellows. Learn more about former CINMS California Sea Grant Fellows [here](#).

Working in the capacity of a Program Support Specialist, the fellow will support the following:

**Sanctuary Advisory Council** (approx. 30% time)

The [sanctuary advisory council](#) is comprised of ten government agency seats and eleven community stakeholder seats in addition to several [working groups](#). The advisory council is vital to successful management of the sanctuary, providing a forum for community engagement and input through open discussion and collaboration. This group will be of critical importance to help guide development of an updated sanctuary management plan. The fellow will work closely with the deputy superintendent for programs to assure effective operation of the council's system. This will involve participating in and supporting council meetings that are held every other month, as well as numerous meetings of the council's working groups. The work will include agenda preparation 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 council has been to every fellow that has worked at the sanctuary.

**Management Plan Revision** (approx. 30% 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 management plan contains information about the sanctuary's environment and resources, staffing and administration, regulations and boundary, operational and programmatic costs, priority management issues and the actions proposed to address them. The 2021 fellow will be provided a unique opportunity to help shape the future of the sanctuary's planned programs for several years to come. This will involve synthesizing public and advisory council input, and working closely with staff and advisory council members to revise action plans for programs focused on conservation science, education and outreach, resource protection, maritime heritage, and more. The fellow will work with all of the sanctuary's program coordinators, gaining a broad understanding of how the sanctuary functions, including unique and innovative approaches to marine conservation. This project will also feature meaningful community engagement, allowing the fellow to work closely with a variety of stakeholders as well as governmental agencies. The fellow will also gain experience in conservation planning and project management, including policy development guided by the National Environmental Policy Act.

### **Education & Outreach** (approx. 30% time)

One of the sanctuary's most important tools to support marine conservation is public education and outreach. The fellow will assist the sanctuary's Education & Outreach Team with community science monitoring projects, including: 1) helping the sanctuary engage with a biosecurity working group that will form as part of the 2021 California Islands Symposium; 2) helping to carry forward 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) handling social media posting to raise public awareness about the sanctuary; and 4) helping to conduct an intertidal monitoring student education program, [LIMPETS](#). Throughout the year, additional opportunities will arise within the education and outreach department at CINMS, and the 2021 fellow will be encouraged to pursue a variety of short-duration projects. This will often involve serving as an informal educator speaking and presenting to various audiences (students, stakeholder groups, agency partners), and participating in educational field cruises within the sanctuary.

### **Additional Opportunities** (approx. 10% time)

- Engage in personal career development planning with the active support and mentorship of staff.
- Help to update the sanctuary's [website](#) and post weekly to sanctuary [social media](#) accounts.
- 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. This will involve occasional trips aboard sanctuary research vessels, assisting on deck, helping with data acquisition and processing, and summarizing information for presentation/reporting.

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; and a strong ability to effectively manage multiple projects and deadlines. This also includes an ability to adapt to interruptions and a fluctuating workload, organize work and prioritize tasks to meet established and variable deadlines, and function effectively under deadline pressure to fulfill assignments on schedule. Also important is an enthusiasm for ocean stewardship and conservation.