

California Sea Grant State Fellowship 2023
Host Office Application and Position Description
NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Host Location: Santa Barbara, California

NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
University of California, Santa Barbara
Ocean Science Education Building 514
Santa Barbara, California 93106



CHANNEL ISLANDS
NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARY



Fellowship Supervisors and Mentors

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- Julie Bursek, Team Lead Education and Outreach; julie.bursek@noaa.gov, (805) 475-4583

About the Sanctuary

[Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary](#) (CINMS, or the sanctuary) is a federally-designated marine protected area that is administered by the [Office of National Marine Sanctuaries](#) (ONMS), 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, 27 species of whales and dolphins, five species of pinnipeds, and over 60 species of seabirds. The islands and surrounding sanctuary waters are sacred to the indigenous Chumash people. The sanctuary's primary objective is to conserve, protect, and enhance the biodiversity, ecological integrity, and cultural legacy of marine resources surrounding the islands for current and future generations. Enabling federal legislation is the [National Marine Sanctuaries Act](#).

Position Description

We are seeking a 2023 California Sea Grant State Fellow to join our [hard-working and supportive team](#). We offer a working environment that is welcoming, innovative, positive, fun, and growth-oriented. We have enjoyed mentoring fellows for the past 11 years.

The 2023 California Sea Grant State Fellow will play a key role in advancing several policy, planning, and education projects and programs. They will work closely with the sanctuary's deputy superintendent for programs and team lead for education and outreach. Former sanctuary fellows have become permanent or contract NOAA employees, received Knauss and Presidential Management Fellowships, or taken research and leadership positions in the private and non-profit sectors. Several former fellows work at the sanctuary office, providing a built-in support network for incoming fellows.

Education and Outreach (approx. 40% time)

Public education and outreach is a vital sanctuary conservation tool. The fellow will assist the sanctuary's education and outreach team with community science monitoring projects, including:

1. supporting white abalone restoration efforts in the Northern Channel Islands region through administration and coordination of community science monitoring with local recreational diving interests to identify living endangered white abalone;
2. implementing field activities as part of the intertidal monitoring student education program, [LiMPETS](#);
3. recruiting and mentoring a [COAST summer intern](#);
4. supporting the [Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteer program](#), including annual recognition event and assisting with volunteer training coordination;
5. planning and coordinating an annual [Get Into Your Sanctuary](#) event;
6. managing the sanctuary's [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts; and
7. assist with planning and coordination of the [2023 California Islands Symposium](#).

The fellow will also be encouraged to pursue a variety of short-term education and outreach projects. This will often involve serving as an informal educator speaking to various audiences (students, stakeholder groups, agency partners) and participating in educational field cruises within the sanctuary.

Sanctuary Advisory Council (approx. 30% time)

The [Sanctuary Advisory Council](#) is essential to successful management of the sanctuary, and closely involved in helping to shape policy and management decisions. The council is comprised of 10 government agency seats and 11 community stakeholder seats, in addition to several [working groups](#). The fellow will play a leadership role in Council meeting facilitation and agenda preparation, consultation with the Council's Executive Committee, preparing and delivering presentations, corresponding with Council members and the public, assisting with new member recruitment, and more. **For mentorship, networking, and job prospecting, it cannot be overstated how important the Advisory Council has been to every fellow that has worked at the sanctuary.**

Sanctuary Management Planning and Implementation (approx. 10% time)

A [comprehensive management plan](#) (in draft, final version expected before 2023) guides sanctuary operations. The fellow will assist with documentation of "year 1" efforts to implement the new plan, which will include providing a progress report to the Advisory Council. In addition, the fellow will have opportunities to learn about the management plan development process for [NOAA's proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary](#), with specific activities based upon process status, interest level, and time availability.

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) (approx. 10% time)

Across all of the primary duties described above, we seek a fellow that is interested in supporting efforts to improve justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion among sanctuary programs and activities. Projects to improve JEDI initiatives may include: 1) improved JEDI in education and outreach programming, 2) diversifying recruitment efforts for the Sanctuary Advisory Council, and 3) supporting enhanced access to a diversity of audiences. Other opportunities are available depending upon the fellow's interests, including – but not limited to – participation in the ONMS Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Additional Opportunities (approx. 10% time)

- Engage in personal career development planning with the active support and mentorship of staff.
- 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, or other projects of interest.

The fellow will get the most out of this opportunity if they bring the following 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;
- a strong ability to effectively manage multiple projects, deadlines, and prioritize tasks;
- an ability to adapt to interruptions and a fluctuating workload;
- function effectively under deadline pressure to fulfill assignments on schedule;
- an enthusiasm for ocean stewardship and conservation!