



California Sea Grant  
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## California Sea Grant State Fellowship 2019 Host Description

- **Host Location:** California Sea Grant at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA
- **Fellowship supervisor:** Katherine Leitzell, California Sea Grant Communications Coordinator
- **Contacts:** Katherine Leitzell [kleitzell@ucsd.edu](mailto:kleitzell@ucsd.edu), Caitlin Coomber, [ccoomber@ucsd.edu](mailto:ccoomber@ucsd.edu)
- **Position:** California Sea Grant Science Communication Fellow

### About California Sea Grant

[California Sea Grant](#) is a collaboration of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the State of California and universities across the state to create knowledge, products and services that benefit the economy, the environment and the citizens of California. [Sea Grant](#) is NOAA's primary university-based program to promote environmental stewardship, long-term economic development and responsible use of coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes resources.

California Sea Grant serves the people and resources of the state's diverse coastal environments, which stretch 1100 miles, encompass several distinct marine zones, and include a wide variety of coastal habitats and living marine resources. The program funds coastal and marine-related research at more than 75 public and private institutions throughout California and the nation. Specifically, we offer these services for coastal and marine science and policy issues:

- Grant and fellowship opportunities for scientists and graduate students
- Complete proposal solicitation, review, and grant administration services
- Extension specialists dedicated to impartial research and outreach for coastal stakeholders and communities
- News and library services
- Connection to a nation-wide network of Sea Grant experts and partners

The mission of the California Sea Grant communications department is to provide science-based information to diverse audiences in support of the goals and objectives of the program, the National Sea Grant network, and NOAA. Current focus areas include sustaining healthy coastal and marine ecosystems, strengthening coastal communities and economies, and supporting a sustainable supply of seafood via environmentally responsible fisheries and aquaculture.

The communications team is a small team—two staff members—who handle all communication activities for the program. This includes writing, website content development, multimedia and print design, and working with the California Sea Grant [extension team](#) on various outreach materials to translate complex scientific information into a form readily understood by non-scientists. The communications department



also advises on strategy and messaging, and works closely with others in the program on reporting tasks to the national office.

## Position Description

The California Sea Grant Science Communication Fellow will work as an integral part of the communication team. Daily activities may include a variety of communications-related activities including science writing of different types (news, blogs, press releases, fact sheets, feature articles, research summaries, etc.), digital communications, publications tracking and reporting assistance, social media, editing, design, and video work, and development of communications strategies, depending on the interests and skills of the applicant, and the needs of the program.

The California Sea Grant Science Communication Fellow will be expected to harness the network of the State Fellows program to connect with state agencies, better understand information needs, and develop communications materials aimed at agency and policy audiences. The fellow will be expected to lead at least one project aimed at expanding the reach of California Sea Grant's research and extension activities, likely with a focus on agency and policymaker audiences.

Potential projects may include:

- Developing and curating a regular newsletter highlighting California ocean/coastal policy news
- Organizing and facilitating a webinar series aimed at bringing science to agency/policymaker audiences
- Creating videos, story maps or other creative multimedia

The California Sea Grant Science Communication Fellow will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in science communication, using a variety of modern communications techniques. As a member of a small team, the fellow will have the opportunity to contribute significantly to the capacity of the program, to build a portfolio of science communication products, and to learn from the broad knowledge of our communications team who have over 15 years of combined experience in the field.

To be successful in this position, applicants should have:

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills including writing for non-academic audiences
- Strong personal initiative and a desire to learn
- An ability to comprehend complex topics, grasp the big picture, and boil them down to their essence
- Experience working as part of a team, giving and receiving constructive feedback
- A demonstrated interest in science communication and digital content production