

California Sea Grant State Fellowship 2019
Host Office 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, 805-893-6418
Julie Bursek, Team Lead Education and Outreach; julie.bursek@noaa.gov, 805-893-6422

Position Description

We are seeking a 2019 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 eight 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 Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, Santa Rosa, and San Miguel Islands. 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 2019 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.

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

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 will commence in early 2019 to support development of the next updated plan. The current 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 2019 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 planning and running public scoping meetings and internal staff meetings focused on identifying focal themes for the management plan, synthesizing public and advisory council input, working closely with staff and advisory council working groups to shape new 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 revised management plan will not be a rehash of past plans, but rather the fellow will work closely with staff to shape something new, creative, and

inspiring. Through this project, the fellow will gain experience in conservation planning and project management, as well as federal policy development guided by the National Environmental Policy Act and Administrative Procedures Act.

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 advisory council has been to every fellow that has worked at the sanctuary.

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 three citizen science monitoring projects: 1) an educational campaign to enlist divers in the search for federally-listed [endangered white abalone](#) (*Haliotis sorenseni*) in the Northern Channel Islands; 2) implementation of an intertidal monitoring student education program, [LiMPETS](#); and 3) handling whale identification and marine mammal sightings data collected by sanctuary volunteers. For the white abalone project, the fellow will work closely with the team lead for education & outreach and researchers with the National Marine Fisheries Service to coordinate a kick off workshop to develop a citizen science campaign focused on the search for white abalone within the sanctuary and adjacent mainland coast. The target audience may include commercial urchin divers, recreational dive boat operators, and local dive clubs. The fellow will develop outreach tools to assist divers with proper species identification and reporting.

Additional Opportunities (approx. 10% time)

- Engage in personal career development planning with the active support and mentorship of the deputy superintendent and other 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 and conferences, to observe, learn, speak/present, and assist with follow-up actions.
- 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 strong ability to effectively manage multiple projects and deadlines; and enthusiasm for ocean stewardship and conservation.