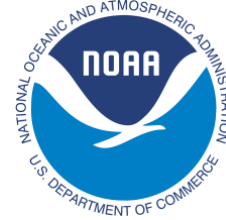


**California Sea Grant State Fellowship 2023  
Host Office Application and Position Description  
NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas Center**

**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



**Fellowship Supervisors and Mentors**

- Lauren Wenzel, Director, Marine Protected Areas Center. [lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov](mailto:lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov), 301-938-1624
- Sean Hastings, Resource Protection Coordinator. [sean.hastings@noaa.gov](mailto:sean.hastings@noaa.gov), 805-203-6475
- Michael Murray, Deputy Superintendent for Programs; [michael.murray@noaa.gov](mailto:michael.murray@noaa.gov), 805-203-6273

**About the National Marine Protected Areas Center**

The [National Marine Protected Areas Center](#) was established in 2000 to strengthen and connect the nation's marine protected areas, as called for in Executive Order 13158. The MPA Center is a partnership between NOAA and the Department of the Interior to serve as a resource to all federal, state, territorial and tribal programs responsible for the health of the nation's oceans. It is located within [NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries](#). The National MPA Center has three goals:

- Improve MPA design, stewardship and effectiveness
- Connect MPA programs
- Advance public understanding and partnerships about MPA programs

The MPA Center is also actively engaged with MPA programs around the world, and serves as the hub for the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' climate, indigenous engagement, and international work.

**Position Description**

The MPA Center is partnering with [Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary](#) to host a 2023 California Sea Grant State Fellow. The Fellow will sit in the CINMS office in Santa Barbara, CA and will be responsible for duties for both the MPA Center (based in Silver Spring, MD) and Channel Islands. Together, we offer a working environment that is welcoming, innovative, positive, fun, and growth-oriented. Channel Islands has enjoyed mentoring fellows for the past 11 years.

The 2023 California Sea Grant State Fellow will play a key role in advancing the implementation of [ONMS' Climate Resilience Plan](#) within California's four national marine sanctuaries, and will focus on resource protection activities for Channel Islands, with the opportunity to work on both national and site-based issues. The Fellow will also engage with other policy, planning, and education projects and programs at Channel Islands. Former NOAA 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.

**Climate Resilience** (approx. 60% time)

The ONMS Climate Resilience Plan was published in 2021 to guide the Office's efforts to assess, understand, mitigate and adapt to climate impacts; educate and communicate with key audiences; and operationalize climate informed strategies throughout sanctuary management. The Fellow will work closely with MPA Center staff in Headquarters, ONMS' Climate Team (across the entire sanctuary system), and key staff at Channel Islands and other California sanctuaries to plan and implement vulnerability assessments for sanctuary resources. The Fellow will:

*NOAA National Marine Protected Areas Program*

- Work with site staff at Channel Islands and Monterey Bay to organize a climate vulnerability workshop at each site and draft workshop reports to help inform future management strategies.
- Support other climate science, education and operational efforts as needed.
- Contribute to the ONMS Climate Team and its subgroups, and the West Coast Region's climate team through participating in regular team meetings.

**Resource Protection** (approx. 30% time)

- Assist with implementation of resource protection strategies and activities within the [CINMS Management Plan](#).
- Help local/regional government agencies and stakeholders learn about and engage with the [Channel Islands Biosphere Reserve](#).
- Assist with the review and development of sanctuary research, education and management permits, including assessment of environmental impacts and liaison with permit applicants.
- Support student groups working on resource protection projects for the sanctuary.
- Support marine debris abatement programs - including coordination of shoreline cleanups and outreach campaigns.
- Contribute to CINMS Resource Protection Department, participating in regular team meetings and helping respond to emerging issues and supporting presentations and discussions with the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and associated working groups.

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

- Engage in personal career development planning with the active support and mentorship of staff.
- Support efforts to improve justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion among sanctuary programs and activities.
- Participate in internal office meetings, including providing progress reports and/or presentations.
- Contribute to ONMS weekly activity reports, including compilation, information gathering, and document editing/formatting.
- Represent the MPA Center or sanctuary at select meetings, to speak/present, and assist with follow-up.
- Occasionally participate in sanctuary research, monitoring or education 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;
- ability to synthesize and organize scientific information
- 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!