

Sea Grant Fellows 2021 Host Application: California Ocean Science Trust

I. Host Location and Contact Information:

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Synopsis for a California Ocean Science Trust Sea Grant Fellow

[Ocean Science Trust](#) (OST) is a nonprofit organization established pursuant to the California Ocean Resources Stewardship Act (CORSA) of 2000. OST was created to encourage coordinated multi-agency, multi-institution approaches to ocean resource science and advance science initiatives to meet current and future California ocean resource management needs. OST is staffed by a small team of science-to-policy experts based jointly in Sacramento and Oakland. We work statewide and collaborate with scientists and policy leaders across the West Coast and nationally. Our strength lies in nimble response to state priorities, creating scientific partnerships and collaborations to foster innovative yet pragmatic approaches to difficult problems. Leveraging state, federal, and philanthropic funding, we bring resources together and coordinate efforts to maximize impact and amplify return on investments.

OST also serves as Science Advisor to the Ocean Protection Council and Secretariat to the legislatively mandated OPC Science Advisory Team and Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Task Force. In this role, we work to build novel science partnerships, to synthesize cutting-edge science into pragmatic roadmaps, to inform strategic science investments and grow science capacity.

Our [projects](#) span a breadth of topics, from ocean acidification, sea-level rise, and marine protected areas, all through the lens of a changing climate. We collaborate closely with many State partners, including the California Ocean Protection Council and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, among others, to ensure State actions on ocean and coastal issues are informed by the best available science. Together, we accelerate progress toward California's bold vision of a resilient coast and ocean.

OST values an equitable, multicultural workplace. We are an equal opportunity employer with a commitment to engaging the skills, perspectives, and leadership of people of color, LGBTQ people, and other individuals from marginalized backgrounds.

Sea Grant Fellow Opportunities

The Fellow will gain diverse educational and career experience. Our Fellows engage in a variety of projects, based on a balance between our organizational needs and the Fellow's background and interests. The Fellow will work closely with the Senior Science Officer, but will collaborate to varying degrees with the full [Ocean Science Trust team](#). OST staff create a collaborative, team-oriented atmosphere, welcoming the ideas and contributions of all staff to shaping projects and our organization as a whole.

The Fellow will be treated as a full member of our team and have the opportunity to contribute to, and possibly lead, on a range of projects. Through these activities, the Fellow will have numerous opportunities to interact with leading scientists, managers, policymakers, and other partners in the NGO and stakeholder communities, as well as participate in meetings and workshops on a range of topics.

Programmatic Opportunities

Potential programmatic opportunities include:

- **Working with the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC SAT).** OST serves as the Secretariat of the [OPC SAT](#), a team of 30 interdisciplinary scientists from California and

beyond that provide scientific and technical advice to the State, and act as a conduit to the broader scientific community on behalf of decision-makers. Working with the OPC SAT will provide the Fellow with concrete experience of what it means to work at the science-policy nexus, engage in SAT governance (e.g., conducting membership election and renewal processes, and upholding SAT policies and procedures), and expand their professional network among the academic community. We engage the SAT to develop timely scientific information to advance progress towards OPC strategic goals and alert the State to emerging issues and challenges. Potential opportunities for the Fellow include leading or supporting new topic-based initiatives (e.g., Expert Task Forces and Panels), developing topic-based science summaries and syntheses, supporting dialogue between universities and OPC on research for state-relevant priorities in ocean and climate, and planning for an annual in-person workshops of the OPC SAT where we discuss how the team is addressing state priorities.

- **Advancing State Action on Climate Change and Ocean Acidification.** OST is actively engaged across a range of climate change issues. Below are a few opportunities for the Fellow to engage.
 - **California OA and Hypoxia Science Task Force:** California has in place a 10-year [vision](#) for addressing ocean acidification and a series of pragmatic actions to work towards that vision. OST serves as Secretariat to the [California Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Task Force](#) (Task Force) in response to Assembly Bill 2139 (Williams, 2016). The Fellow may support efforts of the Task Force, including convening an annual workshop, supporting the development of science guidance on priority topics, and managing Task Force communication and outreach efforts.
 - **Climate resilience & adaptation for California fisheries.** OST is facilitating the exploration of tools for responding to climate-driven range shifts and unexpected fisheries closures, providing California managers and decision-makers with concrete, specific information aimed at maximizing the effectiveness for local fishing communities. OST is serving as a coordinator and connector between scientists, fisheries decision-making bodies, and fishing community stakeholders along the California coast to ensure research continues to be aligned with evolving state policy needs.
- **Engaging the California State Legislature on priority topics.** OST seeks to raise the profile of ocean and coastal issues within the legislature to accelerate progress on healthy oceans. OST is poised to fulfill a critical need for relevant, timely, and accessible science expertise within the California Legislature as lawmakers draft legislation, respond to constituents, and set budgets. Working closely with OST staff and leadership, the Fellow may have the opportunity to participate in legislative engagement activities such as briefings on relevant topics (e.g. microplastics, ocean acidification, and climate resilience).

In addition to the above opportunities, we also anticipate a deepening focus on blue carbon, aquaculture, sea level rise and coastal resilience, and renewable energy. We greatly value professional development, and will mentor the Fellow by drafting and pursuing professional goals, offering assistance in resume building, and ensuring the Fellow is provided networking and leadership opportunities.