

Sea Grant Fellows 2023 Host Application: California Ocean Science Trust

I. Host Location and Contact Information:

Mailing Address:

California Ocean Science Trust
Liz Whiteman, Executive Director
1017 L Street, #293
Sacramento, CA 95814

Office Location:

400 Capitol Mall, 8th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (510) 251-8320

II. Fellowship Supervisor(s)

Hayley Carter, Senior Science Officer

III. Points of Contact for California Sea Grant Prospective Fellows and Finalists

Hayley Carter, Senior Science Officer – Position Inquiries – hayley.carter@oceansciencetrust.org,
(831) 999-0576

Lori Zook, Director of Finance & Administration – Administrative Inquiries –
lori.zook@oceansciencetrust.org; (510) 827-7440

Synopsis for a California Ocean Science Trust Sea Grant Fellow

Ocean Science Trust (OST) is a small nonprofit organization dedicated to accelerating progress towards a healthy and productive ocean future for California. Created by state legislation (CORSAs 2000), we bridge the gap between cutting-edge scientific research and sound ocean management.

www.oceansciencetrust.org

Our strength lies in our nimble response to state priorities and horizon-scanning to foster science solutions to the challenges facing coastal communities and ocean ecosystems in California. On evolving topics as diverse as climate adaptation, plastic pollution, renewable energy, and aquaculture, we leverage public and private funding to forge novel interdisciplinary science partnerships, encourage science co-production with communities, and build research capacity focussed on California's priorities. We bring solution-focused science guidance to executive branch agencies and to California lawmakers and their staff, and support and provide graduate education opportunities at the nexus of science and policy, towards a vision of a more diverse, equitable and inclusive future workforce. We collaborate

closely with many State partners to ensure actions on ocean and coastal issues are informed by the best available science.

Serving one of the most diverse states in the country, we see diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging and access as central values to our organizational philosophy and imperative to our mission. We are committed to cultivating a work environment where staff from all backgrounds and identities feel a sense of belonging and can thrive.

Fellowship location

Ocean Science Trust is headquartered in Sacramento, California but most staff work remotely and are based throughout the state. Our small team values the flexibility of remote work and is dedicated to effective remote team collaboration. Some limited travel within California may be offered through 2023.

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

- **Science Services for the Legislature:** OST provides science advice directly to California Lawmakers through formal and informal briefings, technical feedback on bill ideas, or rapid response requests for information via memo or connections to experts. This program also involves proactive science delivery on issues reflecting the nexus between legislative priorities, emerging science, and actively unfolding executive policy issues, including but not limited to sea level rise adaptation, microplastic pollution, climate-smart fisheries, equity in nature-based adaptation, offshore wind energy, and more. The Fellow may:
 - Prepare science materials or memos on a diverse range of topics for staff in the Legislature and participate in program planning meetings.
 - Assist with briefings including finding appropriate experts, communication materials, advertising, and technical support.
 - Research and distill CA Legislative priorities through bill or budget histories, member profiles, hearings, etc.

- **Delivering Science Advice to Managers & Policymakers):** We provide scientific information and guidance to advance state priorities and decision-making, and cultivate opportunities to encourage alignment of other public and private research investments with state priorities. This includes OST’s stewardship of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC SAT), a team of 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. New OPC SAT subcommittees launched in 2022, convened around the themes of the four OPC strategic plan priorities including blue economy, equity, biodiversity, and climate resilience. The Fellow may:
 - Develop reports and outreach materials
 - Support SAT subcommittee activities and convenings
 - Help research and explore potential future science advice needs aligned with state priorities
- **Supporting The Future Ocean Science-Policy Workforce:** Our founding legislation recognizes the importance of growing capacity at the science-policy interface and includes a mandate to support graduate education in management-relevant ocean sciences. To act on this part of our mission, we actively cultivate opportunities that strengthen the links between ocean science, educational institutions, and decision-making. This includes a focus on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), both internally and in the ocean sciences community. We are deeply committed to supporting pathways to advance these values in science leadership in academia and beyond.

As areas of topical focus in the above roles, we anticipate a deepening focus on blue carbon, aquaculture and fisheries, sea level rise and coastal resilience. 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.

Science Services Skills and Development Opportunities

- **Translational science writing, literature review, and communications:** Translating complex science for diverse audiences to provide a rigorous foundation for policy and management dialogues. This may include developing white papers, translational reports, and meeting summaries on a range of topics, and assisting with science communications and online content development (e.g., blogs, webpages, newsletters, social media).
- **Project management:** Project management tasks related to convening and coordinating groups of technical experts to develop products in support of management. This may include assisting OST staff with project scoping, developing workplans and budgets, scheduling and hosting meetings, development and review of products, and communications.

Facilitation, meeting, and workshop planning: Opportunities to facilitate discussions and assist with planning and logistics for various meetings, conference calls, briefings, webinars and workshops with scientists and decision-makers.