



Sea Grant Fellowship 2020 Host Application: California Ocean Science Trust

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California Ocean Science Trust
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Synopsis for a California Ocean Science Trust Sea Grant Fellow

[Ocean Science Trust](#) is a nonprofit organization, created by legislation, and staffed by a 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.

We are an interdisciplinary team built around collaboration. We bridge marine science and policy through creativity, innovation, and diverse partnerships. Our [projects](#) span a breadth of topics, from ocean acidification to sea-level rise to marine protected areas, all through the lens of a changing climate. We collaborate closely with State partners, like 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.

Ocean Science Trust serves as Science Advisor to the Ocean Protection Council. 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. We serve as the Secretariat to the legislatively mandated OPC Science Advisory Team and Ocean Acidification & Hypoxia Science Task Force.

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](#). Ocean Science Trust 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 high-level scientists, managers, policymakers, and other partners in the NGO and stakeholder communities, as well as participate in meetings and workshops.

Programmatic Opportunities

The Fellow will have the opportunity to work across programs at Ocean Science Trust, depending on their expertise and interests. Potential opportunities include:

- **Working with the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC SAT):** Ocean Science Trust 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. We host an annual spring in-person workshop of the OPC SAT where we discuss how the team is addressing state priorities, and launch new initiatives, including Expert Taskforces and Expert Panels.

- **Advancing Action on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (OAH):** With the adoption of the [State of California Ocean Acidification Action Plan](#) in October 2018, California has in place a 10-year vision for addressing ocean acidification and a series of pragmatic actions to work towards that vision. Ocean Science Trust continues to work with the State to prioritize implementation of actions to understand and reduce impacts from OAH. The Fellow may support several efforts, including:
 - **California OAH Science Task Force:** Convening science integration forums (e.g., webinars, meetings), and supporting product development on behalf of the Task Force to advance implementation of the *State of California Ocean Acidification Action Plan*. See more about the Task Force at www.westcoastoah.org
 - **OA vulnerability:** Convening workshop(s) with scientists and decision-makers to explore vulnerability of species, ecosystems, and human communities to OA in order to pursue the most impactful management interventions.
- **Science needs for California's network MPAs:** Ocean Science Trust is convening two OPC SAT working groups focused on MPAs.
 - **2022 MPA Management Review Scientific Guidance working group:** the working group will provide scientific definitions of selected terms in the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) goals and explore appropriate scientific approaches for integrating baseline and long-term monitoring data (as well as other available data sources) into network-wide analyses, in order to better understand how California's MPA network is meeting the goals of the MLPA.
 - **MPAs and Climate Resilience Science Synthesis and Data Needs working group:** the working group will build a road map for exploring the role of the California MPA network through the lens of climate resilience. The working group will focus on addressing the central question: *How would we assess the capacity of the California MPA network to provide ecological and social resilience to climate change, and what further research can deepen our understanding of that function?*
- **Promoting Climate Change Resilience and Adaptive Capacity:** We are strengthening our work to support the State with the science needed to adapt to a changing climate. Two topics, adaptation planning for sea-level rise using a climate "adaptation pathways" approach and climate adaptation financing options, are of great interest to the State. The role for Ocean Science Trust is to better understand and communicate the science underpinning these options,

and whether California's complex regulatory structures would allow for implementation of these options, among other science/policy questions.

In addition to the above opportunities, we also anticipate a deepening focus on aquaculture, microplastics, and renewable energy.

Past Fellows have often assumed leadership roles in programmatic work during their time with Ocean Science Trust. 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.