NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine

GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

Gulf Research Program Science Policy Fellowship 2025 - 2026 Host Offices

Host offices are located in each of the five Gulf States and surrounding areas, and may be federal, state, or local government agencies or non-governmental organizations.

The 2025-2026 host offices and placement descriptions are listed in this document and will be updated on an ongoing basis during the application period. Applicants should look over these placement descriptions to get a sense of the range of work they might undertake during a fellowship and the locations of the host offices.

Applicants should not contact host offices during the application period. If selected for a fellowship, applicants will be provided contact information.

2025-2026 Science Policy Fellowship Host Offices:

1. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
2. Environmental Protection Agency – Gulf of America Division
3. Gulf of America Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS)
4. Gulf of America Alliance (Gulf Alliance)
5. Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)
6. Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
7. Mississippi Based RESTORE Art Center of Excellence (MBRACE) and Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium – JOINT-PLACEMENT
8. Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP)
9. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)
10. NOAA Restoration Center, Deepwater Horizon Program
11. Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition
12. Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
13. The Water Institute
14. Texas State Aquarium Institute for Wildlife Conservation
15. Texas Parks and Wildlife - Dept., Coastal Fisheries Division
16. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Organization Type	**Federal Government Department of Interior**
Organization Address:	**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), New Orleans Office, Office of Environment (Mail Stop: GM 678E), 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70123-2394**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://www.boem.gov/**

Briefly describe your organization's mission and focus of your work:

BOEM's mission is to manage development of US OCS energy and mineral resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way. Office of Environment (OE) is charged with the environment part of BOEM's mission and it the Office that the Fellow would be assigned. OE is responsible for assessing potential environmental impacts from BOEM-managed OCS activities. OE prepares National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents to assess impacts and inform decisions. OE ensures that all necessary consultation and coordination are completed and develops and applies appropriate mitigation measures to address impacts, and coordinates with the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement to ensure compliance with those mitigations. When information needs are identified, OE develops, funds, and oversees the research to support those needs. The OE-managed studies cover many topics, including physical oceanography, atmospheric sciences, biology, protected species, social sciences and economics, submerged cultural resources, and environmental fates and effects. OE uses this information when making recommendations on how to effectively promote economic development and environmental protection.

Briefly describe the work a fellow placed in your office could take on:

OE has many disciplines that work on various NEPA needs (Environmental Impact Statements, Environmental Assessments, Categorical Exclusions), oversee studies, and complete consultations (Endangered Species Act, Essential Fish Habitat, Government to Government, Coastal Zone Management Act) and collaboration as needed (Air and Water Quality, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Environmental Justice). Some of the disciplines OE houses are biology, chemistry, economics, marine archaeology, anthropology, and others. These disciplines coincide with the different biological (corals, fish, marine mammals), chemical (water and air quality), and human (cultural, environmental justice) environmental resources that BOEM's managed activities could impact. These Subject Matter Experts analyze proposed actions be it a lease sale and all general actions that could occur from that to a specific planned action (installing a structure or pipeline, a G&G survey, or removing a structure). For their analyses they use the best publicly available science on the resources, potential impact producing factors (ex: bottom disturbance, sound), and current and potential future mitigation effectiveness. They provide information in the NEPA documents, recommend action or no action, and apply necessary mitigations to ensure the least negative impacts to environmental resources. To gather the best publicly available science and gain understanding and answers about BOEM's specific actions, we can procure

studies through the Environmental Studies Program that is a national program for BOEM and receives funds through the annual budget and we also can procure studies through operations funds. OE staff manage the studies but are not the principle investigators. The GRP Fellow may participate in the following tasks:

- Assist in developing, funding, and managing rigorous scientific studies that will inform policy decisions on the development of energy and mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Areas of Research covers physical and chemical oceanography, atmospheric sciences, biology, protected species, social sciences and economics, submerged cultural resources and environmental fates and effects.
- Work closely with staff coordinating federal consultations and preparing NEPA documents to understand the important information that is gleamed through consultation processes and what information is needed for the decision-maker.
- Provide technical expertise on all questions or problems pertaining to the Fellow's area of expertise and provides recommendations and technical guidance. Work with a mentor in the Fellow's field of interest and expertise to see how that field is utilized and promoted throughout BOEM.
- Represent BOEM at professional meetings, and on task forces or committees involving Federal, State, or private agencies and individuals.
- Promote communication and coordination with Federal, State and local, professional, industry, academic, and general public agencies.

Environmental Protection Agency – Gulf of America Division

Organization Type	**Federal**
Organization Address:	**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Gulf of Mexico America (GMD), 2510 14th Street, Suite 1212 Gulfport, MS 39501**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**The Science Policy Fellow would be able to select a host site. The options are Houston, TX, New Orleans, LA, or Gulfport, MS**
Website	**https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-gulf-mexico-division-gmd**

Briefly describe your organization's mission and focus of your work:

EPA's Gulf of America Division serves to protect, maintain, and restore the health and productivity of the Gulf in ways consistent with the economic well-being of the Gulf region. The office's principles include:

- Committing to voluntary, non-regulatory solutions,
- Taking action based on sound scientific and technical information working with partners and the public,
- Identifying priority areas and actions through state and coastal community leadership; and
- Providing federal leadership in research, monitoring, scientific analysis, and financial resources to support state and community action.

Briefly describe the work a fellow placed in your office could take on:

At the EPA Gulf of America Division, NAS GRP Science Policy Fellows would have the opportunity to experience a wide range of activities. Prior NAS GRP Science Policy Fellows have worked with or in many of the Gulf states developing online educational materials for non-English speaking communities, restoring sand dunes along the Mississippi Gulf coast, working with local Indian reservations on pollinator restoration, and creating story maps to highlight the EPA activities through the 5 gulf states. This short list provides a snapshot of prior outcomes from past fellows, but we hope it emphasizes the flexibility future policy fellows could have by coming to EPA Gulf of America Division for their NAS GRP Science Policy Fellowship. Our office has 4 priority areas are which we try to develop projects around:

- Improving and/or restoring water and habitat quality to meet water quality standards in watersheds throughout the five Gulf States and the Mississippi River Basin.
- Promoting and supporting environmental education and outreach to the inhabitants of the Gulf of America watershed.
- Strengthening community resilience by promoting and supporting environmental education and outreach to the general public and vulnerable communities.
- Protecting, enhancing or restoring coastal and upland habitats within the Gulf of America watershed.

Gulf of America Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS)

[Formerly Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System]

Organization Type	**Non-profit organization**
Organization Address:	**GCOOS, Department of Oceanography, 3146 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77043**
Is the organization address same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://gcoos.org/**

Briefly describe your organization's mission and focus of your work:

The Gulf of America Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS) is the Gulf regional component of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) of NOAA and is part of the Department of Oceanography with Texas A&M University. Our mission is to provide on-demand information about the Gulf's coastal and open ocean waters that is accurate, reliable and benefits people, ecosystems and the economy.

Briefly describe the work a fellow placed in your office could take on:

GCOOS and IOOS have embarked on a mission to assess the societal benefits of our ocean observation enterprise. That is, we're interested in identifying and assessing the specific benefits of our operation for different type of users that support coastal resiliency for communities to a blue economy for the region. This project will consist in mapping GCOOS users, developing a conceptual model of benefits, assessing their value in monetary and non-monetary basis, gathering input from real stakeholders, and synthesizing the findings in a white paper (or a full scientific paper) that will be discussed with IOOS benefits catalog team and other NOAA groups. The Fellow will have the opportunity to work with GCOOS staff, IOOS Program Office managers, NOAA staff, and partners and stakeholders of our work around the Gulf of America (including internationally).

A successful fellow will learn how Regional Associations of IOOS, such as GCOOS, use emerging technologies to collect data, and how it is processed, distributed, and archived in support of real-world decision-making process in managing ocean uses. The Fellow will gain skills in data science, data management, technology development, stakeholder – scientist communities of practice, and overall in ocean observing systems.

Gulf of America Alliance (Gulf Alliance)

Organization Type	**Non-profit organization**
Organization Address:	**1151 Robinson Street, Ocean Springs, MS 39564**
Is the organization address same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://gulfofmexicoalliance.org/**

Briefly describe your organization's mission and focus of your work:

The Gulf of America Alliance (Gulf Alliance) is the Regional Ocean Partnership for the Gulf of America. We focus on enhancing the environmental and economic health of the region through increased collaboration. Led by the five Gulf states, our network includes over 165 participating organizations from state and federal agencies, communities, academia, non-governmental organizations, and industry. Our actions support commitments to strengthening community resilience, increasing regional data sharing, and improving management of coastal habitats and wildlife species.

Over the last 20 years, the Alliance has built a reputation for fostering collaborative relationships that lead to positive change. Within the Gulf Alliance, our large network of partners works together to address issues in ways that a single entity cannot. The Alliance has grown into a trusted source of scientific information and best management practices for coastal communities and ecosystems across the region.

The Alliance also hosts two key regional forums for collaboration: the Gulf of America Alliance All Hands Meeting and the Gulf Conference (or Gulf Con). The All-Hands Meeting brings together approximately 500 members of our network to plan projects that improve the Gulf Coast and implement our Governors' Action Plan. The bi-annual Gulf Con is the premier event for Gulf-focused ecosystem science, coastal management, and collaboration.

Briefly describe the work a fellow placed in your office could take on:

A Science Policy Fellow working with the Gulf of America Alliance will work closely with our headquarters staff on a variety of efforts to support implementation of projects that improve the health and resilience of the Gulf of America.

The fellow will take a lead role on the 2026 Gulf Con's Program Committee, working to identify relevant topics, organize sessions, and schedule presentations for the nation's largest conference dedicated to Gulf of America science, management, and policy.

The fellow will co-develop, organize, and facilitate meetings to expand partnerships and accomplish actions related to the Gulf Alliance's Priority Issue Teams. This may include coastal community resilience, education and engagement, natural resource management, or marine debris. They will also engage in committees, working groups, and connect with stakeholders across the region by participating in various committees.

In addition, the fellow will gain experience in grant writing, management, and reporting; serve on grant proposal review and selection committees; and gain experience in the scientific review process for proposed restoration projects.

The fellow will also have the opportunity to complete a project based on their interests and needs identified by Priority Issue Teams. Potential work could include:

- webinar series on emerging issues in coastal community resilience
- white paper or other communication product on the science of tropicalization and management implications for Gulf Coast habitats and species
- Co-developing an educational framework for Gulf environmental literacy
- Co-developing GIS data products that improve data discovery, access, and use through the Gulf Alliance Open Data Platform.

Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)

Organization Type	**Non-profit**
Organization Address:	**8801 Gosling Rd., The Woodlands, TX 77381**
Is the organization address same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://www.harcresearch.org/**

Briefly describe your organization's mission and focus of your work:

Founded in 1982, the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit research hub located in The Woodlands, Texas with a mission to provide independent analysis on energy, air, water, and climate issues to all stakeholders – including local government agencies, nonprofits, the private sector, and the general public – seeking to build a sustainable future. Through our focus on sustainability and multi-disciplinary collaboration, we strive to integrate research-based evidence into the policies, response strategies, and decisions of communities, governments, and businesses. HARC is a boundary organization that uses scientific knowledge and data analytics expertise to create a sustainable world in which the stewardship of energy, air, and water resources is managed wisely and equitably. Our vision of sustainable stewardship seeks to advance human health, quality of life, equity, and economic growth for future generations in Texas and along the Gulf Coast.

HARC's research is driven by the importance of problem solving with a systems approach. We bring together air, energy, and water expertise in a way that provides practical, science-based solutions to communities to identify and mitigate risk. Our work in air quality research and management includes air quality modeling, emission reduction technologies, emissions monitoring technology, and policy. HARC's energy research guides policymakers and industry leaders towards improvements in areas such as electric power resilience, energy efficiency, distributed energy resources, and methane emissions reduction. HARC's water research emphasizes water quality and quantity, watershed management, biodiversity and ecological function, and ecosystem informatics.

Briefly describe the work a fellow placed in your office could take on:

HARC is seeking a Science Policy Fellow to conduct interdisciplinary sustainability-focused research at the nexus of air quality, climate change, and energy systems. This role involves supporting the development and deployment of innovative solutions to environmental challenges through data collection, advanced modeling, community engagement, policy analysis, and collaboration across scientific disciplines. Key responsibilities include energy system impacts, studying pollutant behavior, and climate interactions, alongside publishing findings, securing funding, and engaging stakeholders. The successful candidate will play a vital role in bridging research and practice to successfully address complex environmental issues and evidence-based recommendations to help advance sustainability.

Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

Organization Type	**State Government**
Organization Address:	**150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70802**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://coastal.la.gov/**

Briefly describe your organization's mission and focus of your work:

The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) is the single state entity tasked with authority to articulate a clear statement of priorities and to focus development and implementation efforts to achieve comprehensive coastal protection for Louisiana. CPRA develops and implements the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan, a 50-year plan to reduce land loss and protect and preserve coastal environments and communities. The mission of CPRA is to achieve comprehensive coastal protection and restoration for Louisiana through the articulation of a clear statement of priorities and focused development of implementation efforts. This includes working closely with other entities on coastal issues, including the federal, state and local entities, the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Conservation, and levee districts. The CPRA is working to establish a safe and sustainable coast that will protect our communities, the nation’s critical energy infrastructure and our bountiful natural resources for generations to come.

Briefly describe the work a fellow placed in your office could take on:

Projects that a GRP Science Policy Fellow could work on include, but are not limited to:

- Coastal Master Plan: Explore how the Coastal Master Plan could consider/recommend policies, building codes, or land use planning to enhance achievement of the plan’s goals and objectives.
- Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP): Assist development of a CPRA-led Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan, including the identification of projects to benefit the basin and Louisiana’s coastal program. The Atchafalaya Basin is the nation’s largest river floodplain swamp, a highly productive system that supports diverse wildlife and aquatic species. The purpose of the ABP is to develop, implement, and manage a comprehensive state master plan for the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System.
- Carbon Sequestration Science/Application: Assist with the development and application of the science of carbon dynamics in south Louisiana ecosystems and associated with land loss and restoration actions, to assist CPRA management in determining the appropriate actions to undertake in support of the state’s Climate Action Plan.
- Lowermost Mississippi River Management Program (LMRMP): Assist with the implementation of a large-scale effort in partnership with numerous local, state, and federal-level stakeholders to increase understanding of Mississippi River hydrodynamics and flow, sediment transport and

dredging, and landscape condition and change to support holistic management of the Mississippi River's sediment and water resources.

- Monitoring Data Interpretation: Assist agency staff in collating and analyzing the wide range of monitoring data (e.g., Coastwide Reference Monitoring System) being collected in support of project- and program-level effects determinations.

Previous fellows at CPRA have participated in a variety of additional activities such as grant writing, data assessment and synthesis, restoration project teams, grant proposal review and selection, community engagement, feasibility studies, development of requests for proposals, CPRA-Parish Matching Program, and production of outreach materials.

Mississippi Based RESTORE Art Center of Excellence (MBRACE) and Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium – JOINT-PLACEMENT

Organization Type	**University-based RESTORE Act Center of Excellence Research Grants Program and University-based Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium**
Organization Address:	**703 E. Beach Drive, Ocean Springs, MS 39564**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes. The Fellow would be invited to work at the host office in Ocean Springs, MS. Alternatively, they may work remotely from any of the Gulf of Mexico states.**
Website	**https://mbrace.usm.edu/ and https://masgc.org**

Briefly describe your organization's mission and focus of your work:

The Mississippi Based RESTORE Act Center of Excellence (MBRACE) is Mississippi's Center of Excellence under the RESTORE Act's Center of Excellence Research Grants Program. MBRACE is a consortium of Mississippi's four research universities (Jackson State University [JSU], Mississippi State University [MSU], The University of Mississippi [UM], and The University of Southern Mississippi [USM]), with USM serving as the lead institution. The mission of MBRACE is to seek sound comprehensive science-and technology-based understanding of the chronic and acute stressors on the dynamic and productive waters and ecosystems of the northern Gulf of Mexico, and to facilitate sustainable use of the Gulf's resources. Since its designation in 2016, MBRACE has dedicated more than $13M to support oyster reef sustainability and water quality in Mississippi coastal waters, prioritizing research and modeling to inform management and restoration activities led by Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, which is the Center of Excellence Research Grants Program pass-through entity in Mississippi, and Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. The close partnership between MBRACE and state resource managers enables the Center to support research that both increases the state of knowledge and addresses critical management needs.

The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium (MASGC), created in 1972, is one of 34 Sea Grant programs. Consortium members include Auburn University, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Jackson State University, Mississippi State University, The University of Alabama, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, The University of Mississippi, The University of Southern Mississippi and the University of South Alabama. MASGC provides integrated university- and college-based research, education and engagement (communications, extension and legal) programs to coastal communities that lead to the responsible use of ocean and coastal resources in Alabama and Mississippi through informed personal, policy and management decisions. To fulfill this mission, MASGC commits to interdisciplinary environmental scholarship and community-based natural-resource management. The tools available in support of the MASGC mission are applied interdisciplinary research, outreach, education and legal services using both targeted and cross-cutting approaches. These tools are utilized in local, state, regional, national and international arenas. The bi-state resources include nearly 3,200 square miles of

inland water and 966 miles of estuarine shoreline and support more than 7 million residents. MASGC operates through its strategic plan with guidance from a board of directors and advisory council. MBRACE and MASGC are co-located at the USM Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs, MS.

Briefly describe the work a fellow placed in your office could take on:

This joint placement is a collaboration between MBRACE and the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, offering a unique opportunity to gain diverse experiences across two closely connected programs. The fellow will be supported by a mentor in each program and have access to a wide range of projects, experiences, and professional networks at both organizations. Since MBRACE and MASGC already work in close partnership, this joint placement creates a natural and seamless opportunity to explore and contribute to their collaborative efforts.

The fellow will be integrated into the administrative framework of MBRACE and will work closely with the Director, Program Manager, and Chief Scientist, who have a diversity of expertise in the natural sciences, social sciences, and grants administration, oversight and financial management, to help administer the research grants program and engage with State natural resource managers to ensure research addresses critical management needs. They will also be able to work directly with MASGC's administrative office on program administration and engagement and education team to engage with a wide variety of coastal audiences.

Depending on the fellow's interests, this may involve coordinating with State natural resource managers and mapping State management needs with research objectives; updating and expanding the MBRACE website; preparing technical reports; organizing and hosting meetings; coordinating with the MBRACE Executive Steering Committee, funding agencies from other Gulf States, and researchers at universities such as MSU, UM, USM, and JSU, which is the sixth largest Historically Black College and University in the U.S.; and communicating science to a variety of audiences. MASGC-related activities will complement MBRACE's and could include supporting the administration of a large research and engagement program through working with researchers, NOAA professionals, and engagement and education team members. It may also include assisting with organizing and delivering education and community engagement programs. Specific roles and opportunities can be crafted based on the fellow's preference.

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP)

Organization Type	**Non-profit Organization**
Organization Address:	**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, 118 N Royal Street, Mobile, AL 36602**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes.**
Website	**http://www.mobilebaynep.com/**

Briefly describe your organization's mission and focus of your work:

The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) oversees the watersheds of coastal Alabama and Mobile Bay, one of 28 designated estuaries of national significance along the Atlantic, Gulf, Pacific, and Puerto Rican coasts. All NEPs are administered through and funded by the EPA under provisions of the Clean Water Act of 1987. Founded in 1995, the MBNEP is a State-sponsored program through the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. The MBNEP achieves collective impact by assembling and engaging diverse communities committed to developing consensus on our ecosystem priorities and facilitating effective natural resource management strategies.

Specifically, the mission of the MBNEP is to promote wise stewardship of the water quality characteristics and living resource base of the Mobile Bay estuarine system. We are a non-regulatory program but develop and implement a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) through our management conference. The CCMP is a blueprint for conserving the Mobile Bay estuary, created by bringing together citizens; local, state, and federal government agencies; businesses and industries; conservation and environmental organizations; and academic institutions. The current CCMP is titled “Respect the Connect” and is meant to convey the deep connection that coastal Alabamians have with our living resources through emphasis on six citizen-identified values: fish and wildlife, heritage and culture, resilience, beaches and dunes, water quality, and access. After a decade of work under the original document, the management conference will be writing a new CCMP in 2025, anticipated to be complete in October.

Briefly describe the work a fellow placed in your office could take on:

Work at the MBNEP is primarily focused on execution of actions outlined in the CCMP. The success of these activities is monitored through the regular assessment of environmental status and trends, as well as the environmental response to restoration activities.

We are seeking a fellow to assist the current Science and Monitoring lead in determining the most cost-effective and efficient metrics for evaluating trends in habitat condition related to MBNEP watershed management efforts. The fellow will lead efforts to compile and synthesize monitoring data from restoration projects, develop primary goals and objectives (including community-based values) of a coastal environmental monitoring program, assist with field work and equipment maintenance, and augment the implementation of a volunteer water quality monitoring network across the two coastal

counties of Alabama. A fellow will also gain valuable firsthand experience in translating science to policy and community action by contributing to the CCMP rewrite process – the document which will guide the next decade of work at MBNEP.

Outside of the Science and Monitoring Program, there will be opportunities to assist with community outreach and engagement projects recommended by Watershed Management Plans, contribute to regulatory reviews, iterate approaches for encouraging community investment in restoration and green infrastructure, collaborate with the business community on sustainable practices and circular economy initiatives, and gain hands-on experience with restoration projects. A fellow will have tremendous capabilities for interdisciplinary collaborations within the NEP, with partners of the MBNEP Management Conference, multiple resource agencies, and with the communities of coastal Alabama.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)

Organization Type	**Federal Government**
Organization Address:	**NCEI, 1021 Balch Blvd., Suite 1003, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/**

Briefly describe your organization's mission and focus of your work:

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) hosts and provides access to one of the most significant environmental data archives on earth, preserving comprehensive collections of oceanic, atmospheric, and geophysical data. Society's demand for high-value environmental data and information has dramatically increased in recent years. NCEI improves NOAA's ability to meet that demand by developing information products and services that span the scientific disciplines and enable better understanding and reuse of the data.

NCEI data stewardship and scientific assessment practices maximize NOAA's investment in environmental research, converting scientific insights into dynamic, usable information that informs strategy and decision making in government, academia, and the private sector. We offer transparency to our users and commitment to continuing to provide the geophysical, oceans, coastal, weather and climate data to meet societal needs.

Briefly describe the work a Fellow placed in your office could take on:

The GRP Fellow will work with either or both of two primary projects:

1. Deep Water Horizon Mesophotic and Deep Benthic Communities Open Ocean Restoration Group (DWH MDBC) where the Fellow would work with restoration data collection agencies to identify the data management workflow from collection activities through management parties and ultimately to the appropriate archives. There is collaboration with NOAA Fisheries, NOAA's National Centers for Coast and Ocean Science (NCCOS), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to support the data stewardship needs for the project.

2. Marine uncrewed systems are vehicles that can operate without a human on board. NCEI has an Uncrewed Systems (UxS) group working with data from these vehicles, and the Fellow would help implement strategic initiatives, collaborate on best practices for UxS data with internal and external partners including NOAA offices (Marine and Aviation, Fisheries and Research Labs), the Navy, and NASA. Specifically, the Fellow may help facilitate collaboration between the UxS group and the DWH MDBC project ensuring integration and alignment across efforts. NCEI is working to improve the data management practices, discoverability, and reusability of UxS data.

For either project, the Fellow could assist in the hands-on data collection, management, and research development with opportunities for the Fellow to provide input on questions or problems pertaining to the Fellow's area of expertise. There will also be opportunities to attend professional meetings, and serve on task forces or committees involving Federal, State, or private agencies and individuals.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center, Deepwater Horizon Program

Organization Type	**Federal Government**
Organization Address:	**1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**No. The preferred site is the NOAA Restoration Center/DWH Program office in Baton Rouge, LA. The DWH Program also has space in our offices in Galveston, TX and Mobile, AL**
Website	**https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/habitat-conservation/deepwater-horizon-moment-time-decades-restoration**

Briefly describe your organization's mission and focus of your work:

The NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation protects and restores habitat to sustain fisheries, recover protected species, and maintain resilient coastal communities and ecosystems. The NOAA Restoration Center works to increase fisheries productivity by restoring coastal habitat and supporting the recovery of protected species that rely on healthy habitat to breed, eat, rest, and grow. Since 1992, we have provided more than $750 million to implement more 3,300 coastal habitat restoration projects. The Restoration Center conducts work with hundreds of partners including non-governmental organization, states, Tribes, local governmental agencies, and other Federal agencies and provides financial assistance and technical expertise needed to restore our coastal and marine environment. The Deepwater Horizon (DWH) Restoration Program is a branch of the NOAA Restoration Center that conducts restoration in the Gulf of America to assist in the recovery of the habitats, living coastal and marine resources, and ecological services injured by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The NOAA DWH Restoration Program currently manages over $550 million in restoration projects where we work with over 100 external partners and staff across 14 different NOAA offices to restore coastal and nearshore habitats, marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and invertebrate species, and mesophotic and deep benthic communities in the Gulf of America region.

The fellow would join the NOAA DWH Program's team of 18 federal staff and two contractors located in offices throughout the Gulf coast region and at NOAA Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD.

Briefly describe the work a fellow placed in your office could take on:

The fellow would support restoration planning and monitoring for coastal habitats, fishery species, marine mammals, and sea turtles, with a focus on our restoration work in coastal Louisiana. They would have the opportunity to engage with high-level natural resource managers and build a broad professional network across the Gulf Coast.

The fellowship would involve working directly with the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (TIG) (https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/louisiana), the decision-making body that manages the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) funds for Louisiana. Specific work could include helping draft restoration plans, developing monitoring plans for restoration

projects, attending TIG meetings, and helping manage TIG procedural work. The fellow would also have the opportunity to assist with the implementation of large-scale restoration and monitoring projects, which would provide an opportunity to build relationships with a range of partners from state and federal agencies, non-profits, and academic institutions. Depending on the fellow's background and interests, there could also be opportunities to assist with other aspects of NOAA's Deepwater Horizon restoration work across the Gulf of America region (https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov).

The fellow would be fully integrated into NOAA's Deepwater Horizon Program. Ideally, they will sit in our Baton Rouge office, where they will be co-located with six other NOAA staff working on restoration in coastal Louisiana, including two other members of the DWH Program with whom the fellow will work closely. There will be opportunities to travel to meet with other DWH Program staff and our restoration partners from around the Gulf of America region.

Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition

Organization Type	**Non-profit Organization**
Organization Address:	**3801 Canal Street, Suite 400, New Orleans, LA 70119**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://mississippiriverdelta.org/**

Briefly describe your organization's mission and focus of your work:

We are a coalition made up of the Environmental Defense Fund, National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, and Pontchartrain Conservancy. Together, we are working to rebuild coastal Louisiana's nationallysignificant landscape to protect people, wildlife, and jobs. Our mission is to advance an equitable, safer, and flourishing coast for Louisiana's communities, ecosystems, and economy. The focus of our work is on policy, advocacy, education, science, and where they intersect.

While based in New Orleans, much of our work is focused on coast-wide programs like Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (and coastal master plan) and the USACE's projects like the Lower Mississippi River Comprehensive Management Study. We also interact closely with a variety of community-based organizations, economic development interests, universities, the State Legislature and executive branch, and the general public.

Briefly describe the work a fellow placed in your office could take on:

Current and upcoming projects/ that fellows may engage with during their fellowship include:

- Science, Policy, and Communications surrounding the outcomes, progress, and shortcomings in the years since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (2005) and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (2010) to commemorate the anniversaries of those events. Could include project implementation tracking, ecosystem recovery (evaluation or analysis of existing studies), and the communication of these findings to the public and policy makers.
- Atchafalaya River Basin Master Planning - track the development and progress of this planning effort, providing guidance to the coalition as we prepare comments on the projects and the plan itself.
- Blue Carbon -growing emphasis on blue carbon's ability to sequester GHGs and to monetize those benefits to fund additional coastal restoration. Literature reviews, state of the science, and develop recommendations for if and how our organizations should engage.
- Water Quality and Nutrient Reduction Strategy - Our organizations are deeply committed to the utilization of the Mississippi River as a restoration tool which makes water quality in that river a concern as well. Fellow could help with actual water quality testing as well as engage with Louisiana's Nutrient Reduction Strategy (just released in draft).

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Organization Type	**Regional Government**
Organization Address:	**4000 Gateway Center BLVD, STE 100, Pinellas Park, Florida**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**http://www.tbrpc.org/**

Briefly describe your organization's mission and focus of your work:

Established in 1962 by the State of Florida, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is an association of local governments and gubernatorial representatives whose mission is to serve the citizens and member governments of the Tampa Bay Area, consisting of Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco and Pinellas Counties, by providing a forum to foster communication, coordination, and collaboration in identifying and addressing issues and needs regionally. The TBRPC collaborates with the local governments, universities, agencies and non-profit organizations to conduct technical, policy, and economic assessments, or other research, and develop new tools and resources to support planning and policy-making on a diverse range of topics.

The Environmental Planning program of the TBRPC is charged with developing and implementing programs, in partnership with a variety of stakeholders, to address the environmental needs and concerns of the Tampa Bay region. TBRPC staff works on a range of initiatives, such as convening and providing technical assistance, to support management and protection of the region's natural resources.

Briefly describe the work a fellow placed in your office could take on:

The Fellow will have the opportunity to conduct science policy research and stakeholder engagement to support the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Environmental Program in implementing activities, such as:

- Assist with the development of a Coastal Master Plan for the Tampa Bay region.
- Assist with vulnerability assessments to identify areas that are most at risk from coastal hazards.
- Compile and assess relevant data from different source entities (i.e. TBEP, NOAA, NCRS) covering various spatial extents.
- Assist in developing and delivering information and tools needed to expand Green Infrastructure implementation within the Tampa Bay watershed, such as training workshops, manuals, technical assistance, or recommendations for compatibility changes to appropriate local government codes and plans.
- Develop model ordinances or other policy tools for local government adoption.
- Convene regional stakeholders to identify innovative flood mitigation projects and stormwater management strategies.
- Asses the impacts of rising sea and groundwater levels to the region's vulnerable communities and critical infrastructure.
- Assist in planning and coordination of regional meetings and events including the annual Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Leadership Summit.

- Facilitate and document community engagement and educational meetings.
- Coordinate workshops with partners and collaborators including community members, business owners, scientists, health professionals, resilience experts, local, state, and federal agencies, and other parties.
- Explore ways to communicate technical data to the public and draft a data visualization dashboard.
- Network and exposure to a multi-jurisdictional project with diverse stakeholders.

During the fellowship, fellows will have the opportunity to build the skills such as:

- Stakeholder Engagement & Consensus Building: The fellow will build skills in facilitating large meetings and/or workshops, as well as engaging a diverse group of stakeholders ranging from fellow scientists, elected officials, local government staff, and nonprofit leaders. The fellow will develop skills in building consensus among stakeholders with various priorities, geographies, and financial abilities.
- Policy Research: The fellow will work alongside TBRPC staff to research existing policies, best practices, and other solutions to regional problems. The fellow will learn about decision-making processes for local and regional governments.
- Communications: The fellow will develop skills in communicating their research to diverse audiences in accessible and usable formats and learn how to address the unique priorities of each audience.

Texas State Aquarium Institute for Wildlife Conservation

Organization Type	**Non-profit Organization**
Organization Address:	**2710 N. Shoreline Blvd, Corpus Christi, Texas 78402**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://www.texasstateaquarium.org/**

Briefly describe your organization's mission and focus of your work:

The vision is to be a global leader in fostering support for the conservation of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. The mission is to engage people with animals, inspire appreciation for our seas, and support wildlife conservation. The focus of the work is to be a leader in Texas tourism, drive sustainability and growth, and advance the "why" in science literacy, including the incorporation of wildlife and community resiliency through programmatic channels. Furthermore, the Texas State Aquarium Institute for Wildlife Conservation (TSAIWC) is invested in developing the workforce and fostering STEMM progression. This includes enhancing course development plans and leadership growth through our key STEMM programs.

The Institute for Wildlife Conservation encompasses five centers:

- Flint Hills Resources STEMM Workforce Development Center
- Wildlife Response Operations Center
- Port of Corpus Christi Wildlife Rescue Center
- Endangered Species Recovery Training Center
- Conservation Research Center

The goal is for these centers to operate independently while also collaborating tangentially and in partnership to execute goals and objectives that support the vision and mission.

Briefly describe the work a fellow placed in your office could take on:

A fellow at the Texas State Aquarium Institute for Wildlife Conservation (TSAIWC) would work at the intersection of science, policy, and communication to support the organization’s vision of conserving the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. Fellows may assist in developing science literacy programs that integrate wildlife conservation and community resiliency while contributing to policies for wildlife response and endangered species recovery. They will also collaborate on STEMM workforce initiatives, including expanding course offerings and leadership development programs, to foster career progression in STEMM fields. Projects may involve working with the ICWs five centers— such as the Wildlife Rescue Operations Center and the STEMM Workforce Development Center—to align conservation and educational objectives. Fellows will play an active role in communication efforts by creating content to engage diverse audiences, supporting outreach initiatives, and promoting the mission through public presentations. Additionally, they may assist in multi-departmental projects to ensure alignment with organizational goals, emphasizing sustainability and growth. This fellowship offers hands-on experience blending research, policy application, and public engagement, with a focus on advancing conservation and education initiatives.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., Coastal Fisheries Division

Organization Type	**State Government**
Organization Address:	**4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://tpwd.texas.gov/about/administration-divisions/coastal-fisheries**

Briefly describe your organization's mission and focus of your work:

The Coastal Fisheries Division's long-term vision involves ensuring that Texas coastal ecosystems are ecologically healthy and sustaining economic and recreational opportunities for 1.1 million saltwater anglers and outdoor enthusiasts. The CF Division is responsible for making fisheries management, habitat conservation, and water resource recommendations that support a coastal resource-based economy valued at more than $2 billion annually. This mission is being accomplished by: a) managing and conserving the marine environment including ecosystems, resources, and habitats, and providing fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities; b) facilitating the collection, analysis, and reporting of routine monitoring and special study data; c) recommending, implementing, and evaluating fisheries management measures; and, d) maintaining freshwater inflows and instream flows of sufficient quality and quantity to sustain the ecological health of Texas rivers, springs, lakes, and estuaries. In order to accomplish the goals, set out above, long-term data fisheries dependent and independent data monitoring programs are conducted, along with other special studies to ensure that the appropriate data is collected to attempt to manage for the changing landscape of aquatic resource management in Texas. Additionally, programs that enhance, conserve and restore habitats, fisheries enhancement (stocking programs), artificial reefs, and habitat monitoring are all part of the approach to managing the ecosystems in Texas estuarine and gulf waters. Coastal Fisheries also routinely completes surveys of customers to determine their motivations, attitudes and how various regulatory changes may impact them and how that in-turn may impact the individual's behavior.

Briefly describe the work a fellow placed in your office could take on:

The following issues or data programs are areas that the fellowship opportunity will afford in becoming familiar with a natural agency and the approaches used to manage natural resources. Specifically, the fellow will be able to work with high-level teams in determining strategic approaches to management issues, ranging from analytical approaches, data analytics, and delivering information to all levels of decision makers from stakeholders to key decision makers. This will provide knowledge of how both the federal and state systems turn data and information into policy-making. These will require interaction with outside interest groups, other TPWD, state, and federal agency colleagues. Some key items for Coastal in the coming year include: opportunities to continue working with an oyster mariculture program that began in 2021, continued effort underway in automating data capture across sampling programs, ongoing R3 (recruitment, retention and reactivation) efforts for anglers, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts and any rulemakings that may come out of the 2025 legislative session. Coastal Fisheries is well known for the 35+ year program it has for monitoring fish and other aquatic organisms (fishery

independent data) and the long-term angler catch data (fishery dependent) programs. Each year data for key species are reviewed to determine whether regulatory changes are needed. Additionally, activities within the habitat arena include oyster reef restoration, baseline documentation of seagrass, oyster reefs, wetlands, water quantity and quality, and other habitats to determine how they are impacting aquatic resources. Texas, like other western states, has been facing increasing competition for water resources and this has led to longer-term water planning. Participation in helping Coastal to better communicate our science-based work to various audiences would be part of any role within the Division.

The Water Institute

Organization Type	**Non-profit Organization**
Organization Address:	**1110 River Road S., Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA, 70802**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**No. Fellow will be based in New Orleans, LA**
Website	**https://thewaterinstitute.org/**

Briefly describe your organization's mission and focus of your work:

The Water Institute (The Institute) is an independent, non-profit applied research organization that works across disciplines to advance science and develop integrated methods used to solve complex environmental and societal challenges. We believe in and strive for more resilient communities, sustainable environments, and thriving economies.

The Institute's applied research is rooted in the lessons born from the challenges facing coastal communities and grows through collaborative partnerships to exchange knowledge and implement innovative approaches and solutions. The Institute connects researchers and practitioners across disciplines to support governmental, private sector, and nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners in planning for an uncertain future. Our integrated and interdisciplinary team's methodology is founded on engaging scientific, engineering, and planning experts to provide the technical rigor and framing necessary to support robust decision making.

Our team leads the development and application of leading-edge, problem-specific tools and approaches to inform a range of implementation and policy decisions. The Institute has three primary goals: 1) Improve our collective understanding of natural and human aspects of coastal, riverine, and urban water management systems; 2) Develop methods, models, and tools to aid in the restoration of communities and ecosystems; and, 3) Reduce risk for habitats, people, and infrastructure.

Briefly describe the work a fellow placed in your office could take on:

The Institute has a staff of approximately 90 employees across Administrative and Research Departments in Coastal Ecology, Applied Geosciences, Coastal and Deltaic Systems Modeling, Coastal and Compound Flooding, and Planning and Policy Research. The Institute also administers the RESTORE Act Center of Excellence for Louisiana (LA-COE) and the Community Resilience Center at the Water Institute.

A Fellow hosted by the Institute would be working as part of the Research Operations Department, which coordinates across these research departments and centers to help with the implementation of interdisciplinary science to support policy and decision-making. Fellows will have the opportunity to work closely with the Director of the LA-COE, which is a competitive research grant program sponsored by the LA Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority through the U.S. Department of Treasury and is administrated by the Institute. This will provide fellows the opportunity to interact with state and federal agencies, as well as researchers from across disciplines and Louisiana universities.

In addition to working to support Research Operations and the LA-COE, fellows may engage in a variety of activities and research throughout the year, depending on their interests. For example, fellows

interested in resilience, may help support the Director of the Community Resilience Center at The Water Institute in implementing resilience activities funded through the center. Given the variety of research areas and projects implemented at The Institute fellows will be able to apply their research skills, knowledge, and will be encouraged to help shape their fellowship experience.

The Institute's applied interdisciplinary science mission means that fellows from all research backgrounds will have the opportunity to grow their skills and expertise as a part of our team!

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office

Organization Type	**Federal Government**
Organization Address:	**341 Greeno Road North, Suite A, Fairhope, AL 36532**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**The fellow can choose between the Fairhope office (address above) or the Panama City office (1601 Balboa Ave., Panama City, FL 32405).**
Website	**https://www.fws.gov/southeast/gulf-restoration/about-us/**

Briefly describe your organization's mission and focus of your work:

The Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office (GRO) was established in 2010 to lead the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) activities for the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) Oil Spill. Since global settlement of the DWH case in 2016, the office has shifted focus from injury assessment to restoration implementation. In addition to the NRDAR activities, the GRO coordinates with restoration implemented under the RESTORE Act and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF) to facilitate the effective use of funds dedicated to the restoration of the Gulf of Mexico. The GRO includes more than 30 people, with about half of the staff located in the Fairhope, Alabama Office. The GRO collaborates with other FWS offices, Department of the Interior (DOI) bureaus, federal and state agencies, and many other partners to advance science-based restoration of the Gulf of Mexico and beyond.

Briefly describe the work a fellow placed in your office could take on:

The primary role of the Science Policy Fellow in 2025-26 will include working as part of a team to support the connections between our restoration projects and our injured DOI federal trust resources, including sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, birds, and habitats on federal lands. We have developed the Gulf Restoration Project Ledger to characterize the benefits gained in restoring the Gulf through our settlement investments. We have also developed Resource Guides to summarize ongoing progress toward restoring the injury to our DOI trust resources. Both of these tools help us to focus our restoration planning, identify leveraging opportunities, honor our commitment to streamlining regulatory processes, and provide efficiencies in restoration design for all Trustees and partners.

A fellow in the GRO would work closely with Resource Coordinators and the Branch Chief on a project to evaluate restoration benefits to DOI trust resources. The fellow will have access to data from completed and in progress restoration projects as well as the resource guides and project ledger. Numerous questions can be addressed using these data and tools. For example, the fellow can choose a federal trust species, such as brown pelican (the most injured bird species by the oil spill), and tell the story of their restoration process, starting with their injury from the oil spill.