Gulf Research Program Science Policy Fellowship
2026 - 2027 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 2026-2027 host offices and placement descriptions are listed in this document and will be updated on an ongoing basis during the application period. Please note that this is not the full list and additional host offices will be added as they are finalized. The final, complete list will be made available to applicants selected for interviews.

Applicants are encouraged to review the current placement descriptions to get a sense of the range of work fellows may undertake and the locations of host offices. For examples of additional past host office placements, please refer to the 2025 List.

If a host organization offers a remote or hybrid option, fellows are still required to be physically based in one of the five Gulf States as part of the fellowship program.

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

2026 - 2027 Science Policy Fellowship Host Offices:

1. Alabama Coastal Foundation
2. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
3. City of Mobile – Office of Resilience
4. Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)
5. Florida Department of Environmental Protection - Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection
6. Greater New Orleans Foundation
7. Gulf Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE Council)
8. Gulf of America Alliance (GOAA)
9. Harris County Flood Control District
10. Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)
11. NOAA Restoration Center, Deepwater Horizon Program
12. NOAA RESTORE Science Program
13. Oceans and Wildlife Institute (OWI)
14. Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition
15. Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
16. Texas Parks and Wildlife – Coastal Fisheries Division
17. The Water Institute
18. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office
19. University-based RESTORE Act Center of Excellence Research Grants Program (MBRACE) and Sea Grant (JOINT-PLACEMENT)

Alabama Coastal Foundation

Organization Type	**Non-profit Organization**
Organization Address:	**4000 Dauphin Street, Yancey Hall Room 104, Mobile, AL 36608**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://www.joinACF.org/**

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

The Alabama Coastal Foundation (ACF) is a statewide, mission-centric 501(c)3 organization focused on improving and protecting Alabama's coastal environment through cooperation, education, and participation. ACF works to promote a culture where environmental decisions are based on an accurate understanding of the underlying science. We work with individuals, other nonprofit groups, as well as the public (local, state, and federal) and private (small business through big industry) sectors for the betterment of our local environment.

To address Alabama's core environmental challenges, ACF provides valuable K-12 and adult education throughout the state and then invites people to volunteer their time to support the environment through hands-on projects. In addition to environmental education, ACF leads the Share the Beach sea turtle conservation program, the Alabama Oyster Shell Recycling program, as well as the effort to protect Alabama's Underwater Forest as part of the National Marine Sanctuary System.

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

ACF is open to working with any Science Policy Fellow who is interested in helping implement our mission while also honing their skills and gaining work experience in a small (less than 10 employees) organization. We have been around for 33 years and are a learning organization so we offer a flexible work schedule and adapt as conditions/landscapes change. Depending on your interests, a Fellow could work on any of our major programs including:

- Sea turtle conservation and stranding response
- Oyster shell recycling and reef deployment
- K-12 education and public outreach

Examples of what a fellow at ACF could be involved in, include:

- Playing a lead role in our Inter-Agency Coastal Regulations Program which encourages local, state, and federal dialogue regarding coastal regulatory, permitting, and enforcement policies and actions.
- Providing leadership on our efforts to protect Alabama's Underwater Forest as part of the National Marine Sanctuary System.

Fellows can visit ACF's website to see the breath of our work to determine what would be the best fit/alignment with their professional goals: https://www.joinACF.org

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Organization Type	**Federal Government**
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:

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) manages the development of U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) energy, mineral, and geological resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way. The Office of Environment leads the agency's environmental mission and is supported by more than 40 professionals who contribute to two primary program areas. The Conventional Energy program manages offshore oil and gas activities as well as carbon capture and sequestration efforts. The Marine Minerals program focuses on the use of offshore sediment resources to enhance coastal restoration and resilience and also supports emerging efforts related to critical mineral resource evaluation.

The Office of Environment's subject matter experts bring extensive and diverse expertise, including air and water quality, environmental science, economics, anthropology, environmental justice, marine archaeology, avian and marine biology, and geology. These specialists conduct environmental analyses, including NEPA and related consultations, across all program areas. They also support a comprehensive environmental studies program that ensures BOEM's decisions are informed by the best available science.

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

A Fellow in the Office of Environment at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) supports the environmentally responsible development of ocean energy resources through a variety of tasks. Central to the role is preparing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents, including Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA), which evaluate the environmental impacts of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil, gas, and marine mineral activities. The Fellow may also participate in consultations with federal, state, and local agencies, tribal governments, and stakeholders to ensure compliance with environmental regulations.

Beyond NEPA analysis and environmental consultations, the Fellow may have the opportunity to propose environmental studies when additional data is needed to inform leasing and permitting decisions. This involves identifying research gaps, designing methodologies, and collaborating with scientists. Data analysis and reporting are also key responsibilities, requiring the Fellow to interpret environmental datasets, apply statistical methods, and present findings clearly. Stakeholder engagement is another critical component, with participation

in public meetings, workshops, and briefings to communicate BOEM's environmental initiatives and gather input.

Finally, the Fellow may work with BOEM's sister agency, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), which oversees compliance monitoring and oil spill preparedness during OCS activities, ensuring mitigation measures are implemented and regulations upheld. Through these efforts—spanning NEPA documentation, research, analysis, engagement, and oversight—the Fellow plays an essential role in promoting sustainable ocean energy development and safeguarding marine resources.

During the fellowship, the Fellow will gain substantial exposure to science-policy processes within BOEM.

- The Fellow will collaborate with managers, subject matter experts, interagency partners, and stakeholders to understand environmental and socioeconomic resources in and surrounding the Gulf's Outer Continental Shelf and evaluate potential impacts of proposed activities under BOEM's jurisdiction. This role provides hands-on experience with policy formulation and implementation through participation in environmental analyses that inform regulatory decisions.
- The Fellow may contribute to policy briefings, assist in preparing documentation for regulatory compliance, and engage in stakeholder outreach to ensure transparency and scientific integrity in decision-making.
- Additionally, the Fellow will apply their academic training to support specific technical analyses and may help design or refine studies that address emerging environmental and policy needs.

Through these activities, the fellow will observe and participate in how science informs regulatory frameworks, interagency coordination, and stakeholder engagement—key components of federal policy development and evaluation. This experience will offer a comprehensive view of the intersection between science and policy in managing offshore energy and mineral resources responsibly.

City of Mobile – Office of Resilience

Organization Type	**Local Government**
Organization Address:	**205 Government Street, Mobile, AL 36602**
Is the organization address same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://www.cityofmobile.org/**

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

The City of Mobile is Alabama's second-largest city and one of the most dynamic metro areas on the Gulf Coast. Positioned at the gateway to the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta and less than an hour from Alabama's famous beaches, Mobile offers a variety of recreational and outdoor attractions. Centrally located on the Gulf Coast, Mobile is widely recognized as the cultural capital of the Gulf South, and the birthplace of the North American Mardi Gras. For over 300 years, Mobile has connected the Gulf Coast region. The city is connected to New Orleans and Mississippi via the new Amtrak Mardi Gras line and is located less than an hour from Florida via Interstate-10.

As an organization, the City of Mobile employs more than 2,200 people across a wide range of departments and disciplines. The City is committed to enhancing quality of life and expanding economic opportunities for its more than 200,000 residents. It does so by ensuring that Mobile remains clean, safe, economically strong, forward-looking, and responsive to evolving community needs.

The City of Mobile's Office of Resilience is the first resilience office in the State of Alabama. Since its establishment in 2021, the Office of Resilience continues to be a local and regional leader in innovative resilience policy solutions. The Office of Resilience collaborates across City departments and with local agencies, nonprofits, universities, businesses, and community partners to help Mobile adapt and thrive in the face of climate, manmade, and economic challenges. Its primary responsibility is maintaining the City's emergency planning program while integrating forward-thinking, resilience-focused decision-making into municipal services and operations.

In addition, the Office of Resilience leads initiatives that enhance quality of life and strengthen the City's ability to respond to shocks and stressors. Current and recent efforts include public outreach and guidance on household green infrastructure, derelict vessel removal, citywide energy audits and efficiency upgrades, living shoreline development, and facilitating cross-sector collaboration on resilience planning.

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

The Office of Resilience organizes its work across five thematic areas: Infrastructure, Economy, Health and Wellbeing, Community, and Natural Resources. Fellows may contribute to projects aligned with any of these focus areas.

The Office will collaborate with the Fellow to identify a project or initiative that reflects both organizational priorities and the Fellow's long-term professional goals. Examples of potential projects and initiatives include:

- Infrastructure: Identify and prioritize green infrastructure projects that reduce flood risk in the City's most physically and socially vulnerable neighborhoods.
- Economy: Develop place-based education programs that strengthen reading and mathematics skills while introducing local K-12 and college students to environmental stewardship and regional career pathways.
- Health and Wellbeing: Strategically expand the City's hazardous waste recycling program and explore opportunities to implement additional circular economy initiatives.
- Community: Support the development and implementation of sustainable urban planning initiatives that reflect neighborhood priorities and reduce residential exposure to hazards.
- Natural Resources: Identify, prioritize, and implement projects that balance recreational access and flood risk reduction along local waterways.

In addition to project work, the Fellow will be integrated into the Office of Resilience and the City of Mobile. The Fellow will have the opportunity to participate in City-provided training and education sessions and networking opportunities. The Fellow will attend all relevant Office of Resilience meetings with universities, federal agencies, research institutions, and other partners to integrate the best available science into community resilience. Examples of opportunities the Fellow may participate in include:

- Resilience Partners Working Group: A coalition of local non-profits, government agencies, and community partners who collaborate to implement cross-sector resilience solutions.
- Annual Table-Top: Annual exercise with city officials and local partners to simulate a hazard's impact on the community and identify opportunities for adaptation and recovery.
- Research Collaboratives: Meetings with various research institutions and universities conducting research within the City of Mobile's jurisdiction to identify how best to apply research results to local policy.

Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

Organization Type	**State Government**
Organization Address:	**150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70802**
Is the organization address 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:

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority develops the best available science and engineering, providing a robust technical basis for decision makers guiding policy. The fellow will have direct exposure to the applied science processes at CPRA, including the Coastal Master Plan, feasibility studies, monitoring, and assessment, which provide the technical framework for coastal policy and projects.

Projects that a GRP Science Policy Fellow could work on include:

- 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.
- 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.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection - Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection

Organization Type	**State Government**
Organization Address:	**2600 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, FL 32399**
Is the organization address same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://floridadep.gov/rcp**

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

The Department of Environmental Protection protects, conserves, and manages Florida's natural resources and enforces its environmental laws to advance our state's position as a world leader in protecting natural resources while also growing the economy. The Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (RCP) manages over five million acres of submerged and coastal lands, including forty-three aquatic preserves and, in coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, three National Estuarine Research Reserves, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and the Coral Reef Conservation Program. RCP also administers the Florida Coastal Management Program, Clean Boating Programs and Clean Vessel Act Grant Program, Resilient Florida Program, Outer Continental Shelf Program, Beach Field Services Program, Coastal Engineering and Geology Group, the Coastal Construction Control Line Program, the Beach Management Funding Assistance Program, and the Beaches, Inlets and Ports Program. RCP staff in these diverse programs include experts in scientific research and monitoring, coastal engineering, data management, natural resource management, education and outreach, administration, and policy. As the primary division responsible for promoting environmental resilience in Florida, RCP approaches the wide portfolio of issues it manages with adaptation for the future in mind, including coral reef protection, preservation of coastal and aquatic managed areas, beach and inlet management, and the implementation of ecosystem restoration projects. Together, these efforts aim to prepare Florida's coastal communities and state-managed lands for the effects of future environmental conditions, such as coastal flooding and erosion, as well as sea level rise.

The Fellow will work with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP), including leadership, to assume a lead role in organizing and facilitating meetings to broaden awareness of the Program's activities around the state, expand partnerships and collaborations within the coastal management community, and discuss local coastal management and resilience issues.

Fellows will learn more broadly about coastal policy and management at the state level, while embedded within one of the largest and most dynamic divisions of the Florida DEP. Additional fellowship activities depend on each Fellow's individual interests but have included reviewing grant proposals, assisting with field activities, and shadowing members of leadership or staff in other areas of the division.

The ideal candidate would be proficient in organizing, scheduling, convening, and facilitating workshops and meetings. They will have the ability to bring together diverse stakeholders, gather information and data, synthesize information and data into reports or presentations, and communicate summary findings to various audiences.

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

Florida's Statewide Ecosystem Assessment of Coastal and Aquatic Resources (SEACAR):
The goal of this effort is to translate and synthesize data from Florida's SEACAR database (data.florida-seacar.org). The SEACAR database provides a centralized infrastructure for habitat management information bringing together data from 60 organizations and 160 monitoring programs collecting data focused on five priority marine and estuarine habitats. This effort will require leading and facilitating meetings between data providers, managers, and policy makers to interpret, outline, and draft meta-analysis reports. Automated workflows will be developed to improve data sharing and streamline report updates which will provide timely information to stakeholders.

Geographic Location Descriptions (GLDs):
The goal of this effort is to examine and analyze the need for GLDs to improve federal consistency review for all or portions of the offshore waters in the Gulf of America and Atlantic Coast beyond Florida's territorial waters. Currently, the state's coastal program boundaries are defined by the entire state and all territorial waters offshore three miles along the Atlantic Coast and nine nautical miles along the Gulf of America coast. A GLD analysis would include a review of potential impacts to the coastal resources in areas outside the currently defined coastal zone that would fall under a federal consistency review if GLDs were approved. The GLD review should also include a review of the potential effects upon network state agencies and adjacent Atlantic or Gulf States.

This effort would focus on an examination of the potential improvements or costs to redefining program boundaries through approved GLDs. Education for and coordination with the FCMP network agencies would be critical to the assessment to fully understand the changes that GLDs would bring to the current process. In addition, this project would examine GLDs that are in other states to review the cost and benefits and to review if the intended result has occurred. The FCMP would then determine if the proposal of GLDs is the most efficient manner to address the impacts to Florida's coastal resources that receive federal consistency review outside the state's current boundaries. Creation of proposed GLDs would require legislative changes and approval of those changes by NOAA.

Greater New Orleans Foundation

Organization Type	**Non-profit organization**
Organization Address:	**919 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70130**
Is the organization address same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://www.gnof.org/**

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

The Greater New Orleans Foundation connects generous people to causes that spark their passion. One of the most trusted philanthropic organizations in the region, we work every day to drive positive impact by championing charitable giving, strengthening nonprofits, and leading civic projects in our 13-parish region. Beyond grantmaking, we convene people, resources, and ideas to create strategies and solutions to meet our region's greatest challenges. With our partners, we proudly serve as a vocal civic leader to ensure an economically and culturally vibrant, sustainable, and just region for all. Among others, the Foundation leads the following transformative community projects:

- Accelerate equitable implementation of resilient infrastructure, especially nature-based solutions, to manage the region's flooding, subsidence, extreme heat, and other climate risks.
- Support the efforts of winners of the Foundation's Next 100 Years Challenge to secure state and federal grants for resilient infrastructure projects.
- Support the implementation of water management projects in Orleans Parish at Duncan Plaza, Armstrong Park, and Lafitte Greenway.
- Fund community-based organizations, especially those in BIPOC and vulnerable communities, to lead implementation of neighborhood-scale green infrastructure projects that build public awareness and knowledge.
- Conduct research, planning, and communications that build public support and capacity of nonprofits, local governments, and communities to develop resilient infrastructure and nature-based solutions.
- Convene regional partners from nonprofit, business, government, and philanthropy sectors to collectively impact identified climate resiliency priorities. Through impact investing, the Foundation also provides ongoing support to key initiatives including the Community Lighthouse solar-powered resilience hubs initiative and Next 100 Years Challenge.

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

The GRP Fellow will help accelerate equitable implementation of resilient infrastructure and nature-based solutions in Greater New Orleans by working on projects such as:

- Impact Evaluation and Storytelling for Environmental Fund Grantmaking: collecting, organizing, and analyzing data from past grant reports, surveys, and stories; and developing tracking systems for future impact reports.

- Nature-Based Solutions Mapping: create an online, searchable geographic map (and database) of all green stormwater infrastructure projects in the region; develop user-driven collective impact tools for understanding the data; and support development of maintenance and adaptive management policy.
- Southeast Louisiana Adaptation Forum (www.selaaf.org) Data Group Support: working closely with partners, develop a common roadmap for a community-oriented data cyberinfrastructure to share and access water-related data and tools that address community needs and advance resilient water management strategies; integrate Foundation data into the SELAAF tool; and support data collection and analysis with Forum members.
- Community Data Gathering Protocols and Database: develop consistent systems for aggregating, organizing, and collecting data and stories from community-based partners for collective analysis, decision-making, and impact reporting. Specific projects will be developed to align with Fellows' skills and desires. Project(s) will be highly collaborative and contribute to collective learning and efforts such as the Southeast Louisiana Adaptation Forum and Community Foundation Resilience Network.

All potential Fellows projects rest at the intersection of community voice and science-based decision-making, ensuring leadership from vulnerable neighborhoods and data-driven practices effectively combine to drive policy.

Much of the work will focus on stakeholder engagement and formulating approaches to collect and synthesize feedback to inform policy development and implementation. Via Foundation networks and the Southeast Louisiana Adaptation Forum, Fellows will engage with a wide range of stakeholders to determine collective strategies for accelerating equitable implementation of nature-based solutions and resilient infrastructure, then support development of resources to drive implementation. Fellows will likely be exposed to direct policy-development at the local level, both legislative (i.e. stormwater fee implementation) and administrative (i.e. improved procurement and contracting), and work to develop tools that inform policy intent and track policy outcomes.

Fellows will participate in supporting the Southeast Louisiana Adaptation Forum, a regional cross-sector collaborative, and be exposed to organizational policy development for managing a large collaborative entity (i.e. membership structures and rules). Fellows will also enjoy networking and learning activities along with all Forum members that include a wide range of pertinent policy topics that were identified by stakeholders during Urban Water @ 10 (www.gnowater.org).

While not directly responsible, Fellows will also be exposed to federal grant management policies and green infrastructure project development through other federally-funded work of the Foundation's Environment Tea.

Gulf Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE Council)

Organization Type	**Federal Government**
Organization Address:	**500 Poydras Street, Suite1117, New Orleans, LA 70130**
Is the organization address same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://www.restorethegulf.gov/**

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

The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (The Council) was established by the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act). The Council is a federal agency regionally focused on the Gulf of America whose core mission is to restore, protect, and sustain the Gulf Coast's natural resources, communities, and economy using funds from penalties paid by parties responsible for the spill. It's a place where big-picture environmental and economic recovery work gets planned, coordinated, and funded across an entire region.

A big part of the Council's work is developing and managing strategic restoration planning. That includes creating and updating a Comprehensive Plan with long-term goals — like improving water quality, restoring coastal and marine habitats, strengthening community resilience, and supporting local economies. Projects are selected for funding based on how well they align with these goals and are meant to benefit both ecosystems and the people who live and work in the Gulf Region.

Consisting of the five Gulf Coast States and six federal agencies, the Council's mission is to implement a comprehensive plan for the ecological and economic recovery of the Gulf Coast. Over its lifetime, the Council will oversee over $3B in restoration activities across the Gulf. The Council awards funding for restoration activities such as hydrologic restoration, land conservation, and planning for large-scale restoration projects.

Once projects are selected, the Council oversees multi-agency coordination and ensures effective implementation. This involves working with federal partners, the five Gulf States, tribal entities, local stakeholders, scientists, and nonprofits to make sure projects are technically sound, scientifically grounded, and socially impactful. There's also work tied to monitoring and assessment, tracking project outcomes and broader ecosystem trends to guide future decisions, and measure restoration progress.
Projects under the Council's umbrella can help communities become more resilient, improve fisheries and water quality, expand recreational opportunities, and support jobs connected to natural resources.

The Council itself is an independent federal entity and has a staff composed of approximately 23 employees. Staff are divided among several functional areas, including Programs, Grants, Administration, and Finance. This team works collaboratively to implement the programmatic goals and commitments of the Council. The geographic structure of the Council staff is particularly interesting in that we are spread across the Gulf. While our primary office is in New Orleans, we have staff that telework from Tallahassee, FL; Mobile, AL; Biloxi, MS; Baton Rouge, LA; and Galveston, TX. This distributed workforce model means that we rely on technology to

allow us to coordinate and collaborate across the Gulf. For someone passionate about environmental science and public policy, that means blending technical expertise with meaningful, large-scale collaboration that affects real communities across multiple states.

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

A Fellow with the RESTORE Council would work with the Program staff to support the Council as it allocates funding for restoration projects. Here are some ways NAS Fellows can contribute to the Council's work:

Hands-on science-policy integration: Fellows working at the Council typically help ensure that funded restoration projects are grounded in the best available science. This has included reviewing scientific and technical information for restoration project proposals, helping draft or update science-related policy procedures, and supporting efforts to improve monitoring and adaptive management frameworks for restoration work across the Gulf. These tasks help bridge rigorous science with practical restoration decision-making.

Data, coordination, and collaboration: Many Fellows have supported broader cross-agency coordination by helping organize workshops and meetings of Gulf scientists, contributing to interagency workgroups (like monitoring and data coordination bodies), and facilitating communication between the Council, state partners, federal agencies, and non-profits. This kind of work builds connections across the Gulf restoration community and helps ensure scientific data can be shared and used efficiently. Our Fellows have been very involved in working with our science advisory workgroup—the Council Monitoring and Assessment Working Group (CMAWG), made up of technical staff of each of the five Gulf States (FL, AL, LA, MS, and TX) and four federal agencies (EPA, NOAA, DOI and USDA). By leading and facilitating this group, our NAS Fellow would be able to substantially build and diversify their professional network. Engaging with state agencies, tribal governments, federal partners, and local stakeholders would allow the Fellow to bridge science and governance—translating complex data into actionable strategies that benefit both ecosystems and communities.

Applied program support and outreach: Some Fellows have worked on grant and program support by reviewing monitoring or data-management plans that accompany Council-funded proposals, helping develop protocols or dashboards for tracking restoration outcomes, and even presenting Council activities at regional or national conferences. Because the Council is a relatively small team, Fellows have had opportunities to take on substantial responsibility and visibility in these areas.

Personalized projects tied to expertise: Previous Fellows, once on board, have brought their unique gifts and experience to contribute and influence the Council's work. In the past, Fellows have helped organize workshops among Gulf of America scientists, supported quantitative assessments of program activities, assisted with coordination of adaptive management across agencies/projects, collaborated on the grant proposals, participated in technical review and policy development, and presented on Council activities at national conferences. Our small staff means no task is too big or too small to engage on, so the opportunities to dive headfirst into a world where science meets policy abound. For a scientist interested in leaving a lasting legacy, the Council offers a mission-driven environment where scientific leadership and collaboration with state and federal partners can shape the future of an entire region.

Gulf of America Alliance (GOAA)

Organization Type	**Non-profit**
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://gulfofamericaalliance.org/**

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

The Gulf of America Alliance (GOAA) 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 GOAA, 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. GOAA also hosts two key regional forums for collaboration: the Gulf of America Alliance All Hands Meeting and the Gulf Conference. The All-Hands Meeting brings together approximately 500 members of our GOAA network to plan projects that improve the Gulf Coast and implement our Governors' Action Plan. The bi-annual Gulf Conference 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 2027 All Hands Meeting, working to identify relevant topics, organize sessions, and schedule presentations. The fellow will co-develop, organize, and facilitate meetings to expand partnerships and accomplish actions related to GOAA's Priority Issue Teams. This may include coastal community resilience, education and engagement in 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 GOAA's Priority Issue Teams. Potential work could include:

- Co-developing webinar series on emerging coastal issues
- Co-developing education projects and products
- Developing white paper or other communication products on a science and management topic for Gulf Coast habitats or species
- Co-developing GIS data products that improve data discovery, access, and use through the Gulf Mapping and Open Data Platform.

Harris County Flood Control District

Organization Type	**County Government**
Organization Address:	**9900 Northwest Fwy, Houston, TX 77092**
Is the organization address same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://www.hcfcd.org/About/About-the-Flood-Control-District**

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

The Flood Control District's mission is to plan, implement, and maintain flood risk reduction projects guided by community and natural values. We are responsible for 2,500 miles of channels and bayous along with 300+ detention basins. Created by the state legislature in the 1930s, our governing board is the Harris County Commissioners court. We are funded by a dedicated tax rate and often receive partnership dollars from the state and federal government.

Currently, HCFCD's biggest capital focus is executing on the $2.5 billion bond that Harris County voters passed in 2018 to expand our flood mitigation infrastructure. HCFCD ahs leveraged the bond funding to secure an additional $2.7 billion in partnership funding, including $863 million in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. The bond program includes bayou and channel widening projects, new detention basins, and studies.

A recently passed tax-rate increase has significantly increased the funding for our maintenance team, allowing for HCFCD to establish a 67-year maintenance cycle for HCFCD assets. Since the start of the century, HCFCD has doubled the amount of acreage we maintain, stretching the ability of our teams to comprehensively and proactively manage our infrastructure investments. The additional maintenance funding will provide for infrastructure repairs to our channel network, including sediment removal, erosion repairs, and concrete replacements. Over the next few years, the maintenance team will continue the work of building out their teams, facilities, and processes to maximize maintenance capacity.

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

Depending on the knowledge and interests of the fellow, there are two divisions in our organization that could provide an educational experience: resilience and environmental. Our resilience team is working on a watershed-based strategic planning tool, in coordination with the maintenance infrastructure team. This project will have a multidisciplinary working group from all phases of the project cycle and would develop a framework the informs our planning across the district. The goal of the project is to answer why we do what we do when planning projects. Currently in its early stages, the team for this project could use a dedicated team member who coordinates data and provides insights and knowledge on the planning process.

Resilience is also working on a project with Rice University regarding green stormwater infrastructure. The project is researching best practices and existing local policies, with the goal of better leveraging the current legal and jurisdictional framework to promote the construction of more green stormwater solutions. The project scope includes developing tools for the community, meeting with stakeholders, and creating a plan to communicate the available avenues for residents and developers.

Our environmental division is currently working on researching floating wetlands and improved mitigation banks, with a focus on increasing natural features in the work of our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects. A fellow could provide support in analyzing data gathered from existing projects within the HCFCD portfolio, and researching methods used by other organizations and how they would be best incorporated into our work.

Through the projects described above, the fellow will have the opportunity to participate in HCFCD's internal policymaking process, which governs the 23 watersheds and 2,500 miles of channels and bayous HCFCD is responsible for. These projects will the shape the way flood-risk reduction projects are planned and constructed in Harris County for years to come. The projects with our resilience team will specifically include stakeholder outreach, in order to ensure community and organizational buy-in on the developed tools.

Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)

Organization Type	**Non-profit Organization**
Organization Address:	**8801 Gosling Road, The Woodlands, TX 77381**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes. Hybrid with an option to remote work.**
Website	**https://harcresearch.org/**

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

HARC is an independent, nonprofit research organization dedicated to advancing sustainable solutions that improve human and ecosystem well-being. HARC works at the intersection of science, policy, and practice, translating applied research into actionable strategies that inform decision-making at the local, state, and regional levels.

HARC's work focuses on complex, systems-level challenges related to energy, air quality, water resources and community resilience, particularly across Texas and the South-Central United States. Through a combination of applied research, technical assistance, stakeholder engagement, and policy analysis, HARC supports communities, industry, utilities, and policymakers in implementing evidence-based solutions.

A core strength of HARC's approach is its ability to leverage its technical expertise to connect data analysis with policy relevance. Program teams generate and synthesize scientific and technical information, evaluate policy and regulatory frameworks, and communicate findings in ways that support practical implementation and informed policy development. HARC frequently collaborates with state agencies, federal partners, academic institutions, nonprofits, and community stakeholders.

By grounding policy engagement in data, systems analysis, and real-world implementation experience, HARC seeks to ensure that energy and environmental policies are effective, equitable, and responsive to community needs, particularly for underserved and disproportionately impacted populations.

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

During the fellowship, the GRP Science Policy Fellow will engage in applied policy work that integrates technical analysis, research, and strategic communication related to energy systems and air quality.

The Fellow will support policy and regulatory analyses associated with distributed energy resources, energy efficiency, microgrids, CHP, energy storage, and grid modernization, with attention to air quality and community impacts. This work will draw on HARC's applied research and technical assistance efforts, translating scientific and engineering insights into policy-relevant guidance.

Projects may include developing policy briefs, white papers, issue memos, and presentations; synthesizing legislative and regulatory developments; and contributing to public comments or stakeholder briefings. The

Fellow will help identify policy and regulatory barriers—such as permitting, interconnection, or financing—that affect the adoption of best practices and propose data-informed strategies to address them.

Communication is a core component of the role. The fellow will work with interdisciplinary teams to distill complex technical information into clear, accessible materials for policymakers, agency staff, industry stakeholders, and community partners. Through this work, the Fellow will gain hands-on experience demonstrating how science informs policy decisions and how policy frameworks, in turn, shape on-the-ground implementation.

NOAA Restoration Center, Deepwater Horizon Program

Organization Type	**Federal Government Agency**
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.**
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 our 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 fellow would support restoration planning and monitoring for coastal habitats, fishery species, marine mammals, and sea turtles, with a focus on 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, helping manage TIG procedural work. The fellow would also have the opportunity to assist with the implementation of large-scale restoration and monitoring projects in coastal Louisiana, 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. They will sit in our Baton Rouge office, where they will be co-located with other NOAA staff working on restoration in coastal Louisiana. There will be opportunities to travel to meet with other DWH Program staff and our restoration partners from around the Gulf of America region.

NOAA RESTORE Science Program

Organization Type	**Federal Government**
Organization Address:	**NOAA / NCEI, 3209 Frederic Street, Pascagoula, MS 39567**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**No. NOAA RESTORE Science Program has space available for the fellow at NOAA facilities throughout the Gulf region.**
Website	**https://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/**

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

The NOAA RESTORE Science Program is an applied ecosystem science program. Our mission is to support research, observation, and monitoring that promotes the long-term sustainability of the Gulf ecosystem. We accomplish our mission by working with research and management communities to design and run funding competitions. Once we make awards, we work closely with the project teams, especially on the transfer of their research findings and products to users. We also explore ways to promote the use of science to inform management decisions, especially the co-production of science, through workshops, conferences, and engagement with researchers, resource managers, and others. Researchers, resource managers, and others coproduce science when they collaborate through all phases of a research project from its scoping and design to the application of its results to inform a specific natural resource management decision. In the long-term, the Science Program aims to accomplish two outcomes: 1) understand the Gulf ecosystem in an integrative, holistic manner and 2) have the management of the ecosystem, including restoration, be guided by this understanding.

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

As a member of a small team, the Fellow is fully engaged in all aspects of the Science Program and performs tasks integral to the Program's operation.

Specifically, a Fellow placed in our office would learn how a federal grants program works by assisting in 1) the design of funding competitions, 2) the review of funding applications, and 3) the management of existing awards including assisting project teams in transferring their findings and products to users and tracking their performance.

As part of the Science Program's engagement and communication activities, the Fellow could learn new skills and write news stories, conduct seminar series, facilitate workshops, and produce web and social media content.

The Science Program seeks to stay connected to the research and resource management communities in the Gulf, and the Fellow would have the opportunity to build their professional network by meeting with researchers and resource managers to learn about their needs and the latest science.

We are committed to coordinating with other programs in the Gulf, and the Fellow would also build their network through helping to maintain strong ties between the Science Program and other funders in the region. Overall, the Fellow will gain new knowledge and experience about the intersection of science, resource management, and policy.

Oceans and Wildlife Institute (OWI)

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.owi.org/**

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

More than the sum of its programs, the OWI represents a unique and synergistic platform for field training, research, policy, and conservation, delivering impact from South Texas to global communities.

OWI combines the cross-sector deliverables from the following centers:

- STEMM Workforce Development Center
- Wildlife Rescue Center
- Wildlife Recovery Training Center
- Office of Emergency Management
- Texas State Aquarium
- Wildlife Resiliency 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 OWI 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, Office of Emergency Management, and Training Center initiatives, including expanding course offerings and leadership development programs, to foster career progression in STEMM fields. Projects may involve working with multiple departments 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 multidepartmental projects to ensure alignment with organizational goals, emphasizing sustainability and growth. This fellowship offers hands-on experience blending research, policy application, content development, and public engagement, with a focus on advancing conservation, wildlife and community resiliency, and education initiatives.

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 nationally significant 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:

Ongoing and upcoming projects include:

- Science, Policy, and Communications surrounding the overall status and direction of the state's coastal program and the communication of these findings to the public and policy makers.
- 2029 Coastal Master Plan and Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan--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 (TBRPC)

Organization Type	**Local 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.

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 and resiliency programming in implementing activities, such as:

- Assist with engagement efforts, such as developing newsletters, tabling events, and coordinating workgroup and committee meetings.
- Assist with the development of the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Action Plan.
- 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., NOAA, NCRS) covering various spatial extents.
- Assist in developing and delivering information and tools needed to expand Green Infrastructure implementation, 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.
- Explore ways to communicate technical data to the public, including dashboards and other visuals.
- Network and exposure to a multi-jurisdictional project with diverse stakeholders.

Texas Parks and Wildlife – 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. These will require interaction with outside interest groups, other TPWD, state, and federal agency colleagues. Some key items for the Fellow to assist with in the coming year include:

- assist in the development (expansion) of an oyster lease program in Texas bays,
- assist working with an oyster mariculture program that began in 2021,
- assist in the 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 be needed during the year, as well as
- assisting in bill analysis and any policy issues that may arise in the 2027 Legislative session.

Coastal Fisheries is well known for the near 40 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 advances actionable research, technology, and planning to support science-informed decision making. We serve as a collaborative thought partner, bridging across disciplines and organizations. We believe in and strive for more resilient and equitable 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 six areas of impact: 1) Restore the vanishing coast, 2) Supporting plants and animals at risk, 3) Managing sediment resources, 4) Strengthening resilience in an uncertain future, 5) Understanding evolving flood risks, and 6) Advancing community-led action.

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 Compound Flooding, Coastal and Deltaic Systems Modeling, and Planning and Policy Research. A Fellow hosted by the Institute would be working as a member of the Applied Research Division, helping to coordinate across research departments to help with the implementation of interdisciplinary science to support policy and decision-making.

Fellows will also have the opportunity to work with the RESTORE Act Center of Excellence for Louisiana (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 the Applied Research Departments 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 climate resilience, may help support the Director Community Resilience Center, housed through the Institute, in implementing resilience activities funded through the center. Given the variety of research areas

and projects implemented at The Institute, fellows may utilize their research skills, knowledge, and interests to shape their fellowship experience.

The Institute's applied interdisciplinary science mission means that fellows from all research backgrounds will have opportunities 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/program/deepwater-horizon-gulf-restoration

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

The Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office (GRO) was established in 2011 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 America. The GRO includes 25 people, with a large percentage 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 America and beyond.

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

The primary role of the Science Policy Fellow in 2026-27 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, migratory 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 Trust 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.

University-based RESTORE Act Center of Excellence Research Grants Program and Sea Grant (JOINT-PLACEMENT)

Organization Type	**University-Based RESTORE Act Center of Excellence Research Grants Program and Sea Grant**
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.**
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), which serves as the lead institution. MBRACE's mission is to develop a comprehensive science- and technology-based understanding of the chronic and acute stressors affecting the northern Gulf's waters and ecosystems and to support sustainable use of its resources. Since 2016, MBRACE has invested more than $13 million in research focused on water quality and oyster reef sustainability in Mississippi coastal waters. The Center prioritizes research, monitoring, and modeling to inform management and restoration led by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. Close partnerships with state resource managers ensure that research both advances knowledge and addresses critical management needs.

The Mississippi–Alabama Sea Grant Consortium (MASGC), established in 1972, is one of 34 Sea Grant programs. MASGC provides integrated research, education, extension, communications, and legal programs to support responsible use of ocean and coastal resources in Alabama and Mississippi. MASGC focuses on Healthy Coastal Ecosystems, Resilient Communities and Economies, Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development. MASGC researchers and engagement professionals are located across its nine member institutions. MBRACE and MASGC's administrative offices are co-located at USM's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

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

A Science Policy Fellow placed with MBRACE and MASGC would be integrated into the administrative and programmatic activities of both programs and work closely with leadership and staff involved in research coordination, grants administration, and stakeholder engagement.

The Fellow would support the administration of the MBRACE research grants program, working with the Director, Program Manager, Chief Scientist, and MASGC leadership to coordinate research activities and engage with state natural resource managers to help ensure funded research addresses priority management needs. This may include assisting with research coordination meetings, preparing summaries and technical materials, and supporting communication between researchers and agency partners. Depending on the Fellow's interests, activities may also include coordinating with state agencies to map management needs to research objectives;

assisting with organizing and hosting meetings, workshops, or webinars; updating and maintaining web-based content; and preparing reports or briefing materials for a variety of audiences. The Fellow may also interact with the MBRACE Executive Steering Committee, funding partners from other Gulf States, and researchers from Mississippi universities.

Through MASGC, the Fellow may additionally support research, education, and engagement programs, including assisting with outreach and extension activities and working with researchers, NOAA professionals, and communications and education staff. Specific projects and responsibilities will be tailored to the Fellow's background and interests.