2020 Gulf Research Program Science Policy Fellow 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 2020 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.
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- Organization Type: Federal Government Dept 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/](https://www.boem.gov/)

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

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) requires examination of environmental sensitivity and marine productivity in potential lease areas for the National OCS Program. Environmental sensitivity and marine productivity are two of the prime considerations in the Secretary of the Interior's decision about size, timing, and location of future lease sales. Per OCSLA, BOEM manages development of the U.S. OCS energy and mineral resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way. The New Orleans Office manages activities related to oil and gas exploration and production on lease, geological and geophysical surveys of the OCS, marine mineral extraction as well as supports the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) with management of pipeline placement and decommissioning and structure decommissioning. The Office of Environment (OE) provides support by analyzing the impacts of OCS activities on the coastal, marine, physical, and human environment as mandated under OCSLA and other pertinent laws and regulations. OE does this through science-based analyses for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related documents; recommendations on proposed actions; and mitigations. OE is also the lead on environment related consultations (e.g. Endangered Species Act, Government to Government, etc.) and coordination (e.g. Marine Mammal Protection Act, Clean Water Act, etc.) with multiple agencies. Based on OCSLA Section 20 requirements BOEM’s Environmental Studies Program develops and manages rigorous scientific research specifically to inform policy decisions on the development of energy and mineral resources on the OCS. Research can cover physical oceanography, water and air quality, biology, protected species and habitats, social sciences and economics, submerged cultural resources, mitigation implementation, and environmental fates and effects. The ESP has provided over $1.2 billion nationally for research to this end since its inception in 1973.

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

The GRP Fellow will assist in developing and reviewing environmental assessments that are done through the NEPA process on plan/permit applications. The NEPA work could include attending public outreach meetings. Depending on discipline and interest, the GRP Fellow can follow an activity-specific review through the entire process that would include working with the other Offices in the Region (Leasing and Plans and Resource Evaluation). The GRP Fellow could assist in various consultation efforts which may include working with BSEE. The fellow may work with BOEM staff to brainstorm study ideas, create study profiles, follow a study through the ESP process. There will be opportunities for the fellow to provide technical expertise on all questions or problems pertaining to the Fellow's area of expertise and provide recommendations and technical guidance. There may also be opportunities to represent BOEM at professional meetings, and on task forces or committees involving Federal, State, or private agencies and individuals.
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

- Organization Type: State Government
- Organization Address: 400 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399
- Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work? Yes, with additional offices throughout the state and can be flexible where the Fellow can work.
- Website: www.fdacs.gov

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

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services offers an outstanding opportunity for a Science Policy Fellow, as its mission is broad: to safeguard the public and support Florida's agricultural economy by:

- Ensuring the safety and wholesomeness of food and other consumer products through inspection and testing programs;
- Protecting consumers from unfair and deceptive business practices and providing consumer information;
- Assisting Florida's farmers and agricultural industries with the production and promotion of agricultural products; and
- Conserving and protecting the state's agricultural and natural resources by reducing wildfires, promoting environmentally safe agricultural practices, and managing public lands.

The Commissioner is one of only six statewide elected officials and one of three of the Governor's Cabinet Members. Therefore, the Fellow has a unique opportunity to inform and apply science policy to a myriad of issues of interest to them.

The Fellow will be a critical member of our Science Advisory team that works across the Department to foster cutting edge, interdisciplinary studies under the guidance of the Department's Director of Strategic Initiatives and Chief Science Officer. With a home office in the state's Capitol building in beautiful north central Florida (or other Florida sites as requested), the Fellow will have an opportunity to engage in the policy and legislative process first hand. With a large and diverse Department, a Fellow will also have a wide selection of hands-on projects located throughout the state, traveling as little or as much as their interests dictate, and a vast array of opportunities for professional development and networking. A Fellow can also expect to work with staff at partner state and Federal agencies on a range of projects.

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

The Department works in the One Health arena – the intersection of human, animal and environmental health, finding solutions to wicked problems. The experience for the Fellow will be customized to their interests and can span multiple disciplines. A sampling of projects include participating in:

- the Departments' nascent hemp program
- preparedness vulnerability analyses
- understanding technology and innovation challenges and potential solutions for farmers throughout the state
• the Division of Aquaculture’s development of aquaculture use zones in the Gulf of Mexico for off-shore aquaculture
• the Division of Agriculture Environmental Services' assessment of fertilizer usage
• implementation of pollinator protection plans or citrus greening control work by the Division of Plant Industry staff in central Florida
• the Division of Animal Industry’s laboratory innovation implementation
• execution of the new FDA Food Safety Modernization Act through the Division of Food Safety

Additional projects could include working with other divisions and offices within the Department such as the Office of Agricultural Water Policy, Policy and Budget or the Florida Forest Service.
Department of Environmental Protection Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection

- Organization Type: State Government
- Organization Address: 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS #235, Tallahassee, FL
- Is the organization address the 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 the state's natural resources and enforces its environmental laws. The Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (RCP) manages 4.9 million acres of submerged and coastal lands including forty-one 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; Florida Resilient Coastlines Program; Outer Continental Shelf Program; Beach Field Services Program; Beach Management Funding Assistance Program; Beaches, Inlets and Ports Program; Coastal Construction Control Line Program; and the Coastal Engineering and Geology Group.

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

A Fellow will have the opportunity to:

Establish a Statewide ecological assessment report. The Fellow will coordinate with RCP staff, scientists, land managers and planners as well as elected officials to present the best available science to inform management and policy decisions. The duties may include: compilation and evaluation of protocols and data for incorporation in the database and report; technical writing, integration of stakeholders’ feedback into reports to ensure applicability of information; development of strategies to utilize reports and products beyond RCP boundaries.

Organize the Annual Florida Coastal Management Program Meeting. The FCMP meeting brings together federal, state and local stakeholders to broaden awareness of the Program's activities, expand partnerships and collaborations within the coastal management community and discuss local coastal management issues. The Fellow will work with FCMP staff to assist with organizing, negotiating and preparing for the FCMP Annual Meeting. The duties may include: coordinate and facilitate planning meetings; develop information and registration webpages; develop an agenda and list of potential presenters; provide onsite logistical management prior to and during the meeting.

A GRP Fellow will have the opportunity to learn about coastal policy and management at the state level, to participate in RCP outreach and collaborative activities and to network with statewide RCP staff and partners (e.g., other state, local and federal agencies, universities and non-governmental organizations). The projects will allow a Fellow to develop and exercise diverse work-skills including project and meeting planning and management, communication and technical skills, grant writing and data analysis.
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

- **Organization Type:** Federal Government
- **Organization Address:** 500 Poydras Street, Suite 1117, New Orleans, LA, 70130
- Is the organization address the 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 (Council) was established by the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act). 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 the next 15-20 years, will be overseeing ~$3.2 billion in restoration activities across the Gulf. To date the Council has awarded ~$255 million in funding for restoration activities such as hydrologic restoration, land conservation, and planning for large-scale restoration projects. The Council itself is an independent Federal entity and has a staff composed of less than 25 employees. The staff is divided into Programs, Grants, Finance, and Administrative Staff. The Programs side of the Council staff includes a Program Director, a Director of Policy and Environmental Compliance, a Science Advisor and Coordinator, a Director of Public and Tribal Affairs, and three Ecosystem Restoration Specialists. This team works collaboratively to implement the programmatic goals and commitments of the Council. The Council staff are geographically distributed across the Gulf. While our primary office is in New Orleans, where the fellow would be located, we have staff that telework from Tampa, 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.

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

A GRP Science Policy Fellow with the Council would be working in the Programs staff with the Science Advisor and other staff to support the Council as it allocates funding to approved restoration projects. Activities may include helping ensure that restoration projects are being implemented based on the best available science (including supporting/writing policy updates to the science review process); assisting Council staff in developing and implementing an adaptive management policy; reviewing grant applications for consistency with proposals and Council goals and objectives; assisting Council staff reviewing monitoring and data management plans; and aiding in setting up restoration project-specific data monitoring protocols. There will also be opportunities to support coordination among other Gulf agencies and non-profit organizations, and attend RESTORE Council meetings across the Gulf. Previous fellows have helped coordinate workshops among Gulf of Mexico scientists, assisted with coordination of adaptive management discussions across agencies/projects, collaborated on grant proposals, and presented on Council activities at National conferences. A small Council staff means no task is too big or small for anyone, so the opportunities for a GRP fellow to dive head first into a world where science meets policy abound!
Harris County Public Health

- Organization Type: County Government
- Organization Address: 2223 West Loop South, Houston, TX 77027
- Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work? Yes
- Website: http://publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/Services-Programs/Programs/Built-Environment-Program

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

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) is the health department for Harris County, Texas, the third most populous county in the United States. Harris County is home to Houston, the second fastest growing metropolitan statistical area and is one of the world’s largest economies. Harris County neighborhoods are spread across a vast swath of land comparable in size to the state of Rhode Island. HCPH serves a demographically diverse population of over 4.7 million. HCPH is charged with preventing illness and injury and aims to improve the health and well-being of Harris County residents and the communities in which they live, learn, work, worship, and play.

The Climate Program is an integral part of the Environmental Public Health Built Environment Unit. The Built Environment Unit addresses health at a population level by taking a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach. The Climate Program aims to protect the health of Harris County residents from the effects of climate change by applying the core functions of public health, emphasizing strategies that affect policy as well as individual behavior change; strategies that apply the principles of health equity; ‘win-win’ strategies that have health and climate co-benefits; and strategies focused externally as well as those focused within HCPH and Harris County organizations. The Climate Program has four focus areas; science, surveillance and monitoring, communication, and policy. The Climate Program strategies are intended to increase climate resilience, emphasize health equity, encourage collaboration, and provide actionable solutions for the Harris County community.

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

The climate program is a unique program working at the intersection of climate science and public health. The program is currently creating climate and health risk profiles for the climate impacts in Harris County. These risk profiles will be used to help guide policy recommendations and adaptation initiatives pursued by the program. The risk profiles consist of a climate and health vulnerability assessment and disease burden projections for the county. The fellow will help create disease burden projections for selected climate impacts. This involves using global climate models and baseline disease burden data to project the health burden in a changed climate. In addition to creating the projections, the fellow will also be able to help determine how to communicate the risk profile information to the community and other organizations. There is also an opportunity to work on the second round of vulnerability assessments. These assessments incorporate indicators of exposure to selected climate stressors, sensitivity to that stressor and adaptive capacity to determine which areas in the county are the most vulnerable to the selected climate and health impacts. As a member of the Built Environment Unit, the fellow will work closely with the climate program coordinator and other staff on ongoing climate and health workgroups and initiatives.
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: http://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 billion, 50-year plan to reduce land loss and protect and preserve coastal environments and communities. A Gulf Research Program (GRP) Science Policy Fellow could work on a diverse array of projects in several divisions at CPRA such as Planning and Research, Outreach and Engagement, as well as the Louisiana Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities.

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

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

- Policy research for natural resource management and/or regulatory efficiencies: Research background information, including laws, policies, and regulations, to create work products that address user-group conflicts or assist CPRA with identifying environmental regulatory efficiencies.

- Flood risk and resilience: Advance effective methods for implementation of nonstructural projects, research funding sources, and assist in developing grant proposals to expedite program implementation. Support the development of a web-based database to facilitate nonstructural application submission by coastal parishes.

- Assessment, synthesis, and adaptive management: Build on past and current CPRA efforts to assess and synthesize socioeconomic and biogeophysical data to evaluate project and program performance. This includes linking project performance to program goals and objectives.

- Science communication: Create story boards for CPRA restoration projects outlining project implementation from planning to engineering and design, operations, maintenance, and monitoring.

- CPRA-Parish Matching Program: Assist with streamlining and implementation of the CPRA’s RESTORE Act Spill Impact Component Parish Matching Program.

Previous fellows at CPRA have participated in a variety of additional activities such as grant writing, assessment, grant proposal review and selection, development of requests for proposals, and production of factsheets.
NOAA RESTORE Science Program

- Organization Type: Federal government
- Organization Address: NOAA / 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, but remote work from another city within the Gulf of Mexico region is a possibility.
- 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, observing, and monitoring that promotes the long-term sustainability of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. We accomplish our mission by working with the 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 end users. We also explore ways to promote the use of science to inform management decisions through workshops and communicating with stakeholders. In the long-run, the Science Program aims to accomplish two outcomes: 1) understand the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem in an integrative, holistic manner and 2) have the management of the ecosystem, including restoration, guided by this understanding.

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

Specifically, a fellow placed in our office would learn how a federal grants program works by assisting in the 1) 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 end users. The Science Program seeks to stay connected to the research and resource management communities in the Gulf of Mexico and the fellow would get the opportunity to build their professional network by meeting with researchers and managers to learn about their needs and the latest science. We are committed to coordinating with other programs in the Gulf of Mexico 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.
The Data Center

- Organization Type: Non-profit
- Organization Address: 1515 Poydras St, Suite 1240, New Orleans, LA 70112
- Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work? Yes
- Website: www.datacenterresearch.org

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

The Data Center (a product of Nonprofit Knowledge Works) is an independent nonprofit data intermediary and research organization. We have been effectively disseminating reliable, trusted, high-impact data and analysis since 1998. Our track record is based on effectively communicating with stakeholders across southeast Louisiana, and many private organizations and governmental entities rely on The Data Center’s information to guide their research, decision making, and collaboration on shared regional issues. One of The Data Center’s most influential publications, The Coastal Index, examines Southeast Louisiana’s coastal restoration and water management economy and has formed the backbone of our research and analysis on the economic and human effects of coastal land loss, and adaptation efforts.

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

We are open to working with the fellow to develop specific skills while supporting existing projects at The Data Center, or collaborating to develop a more self-directed project if appropriate. Either way, the fellow will have opportunities to gain on-the-ground experience at the interface between data analysis and policy. We take data communication very seriously. Depending on interest, the fellow could join a team to contributing to the following areas:

- Ongoing work to improve and iterate our upcoming Coastal Index website as a responsive resource to coastal and economic development stakeholders.

- Developing and implementing in-depth research projects that provide actionable information relevant to coastal adaptation and the economy of water management.

- Contributing to core data center products and developing new technologies and approaches to increase the accessibility of data.

- Contributing to day-to-day activities like grant-writing, stakeholder feedback, quality assurance, and information design.
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, computerization, summary, analysis, and reporting of routine monitoring and special study data; conducting research and coordinating cooperative projects; 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 and conserve 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 program areas that the fellowship opportunity will afford. Some of these will require interaction with outside interest groups, other TPWD, state and federal agency personnel. Specifically, in the coming year there will be a continued effort to implement an oyster mariculture program, whose regulations will be determined by Sept. 2020, but will then be working with the first applicants as the program gets underway. Coastal Fisheries is well known for the 30+ 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 the data for key species is reviewed to determine whether regulatory or legislative changes may be needed for certain species. Additionally, ongoing activities within the habitat arena, include oyster reef restoration and understanding overall baseline habitats of seagrass, oyster reefs wetlands, water quantity and quality, and other habitats to determine how they are impacting the various aquatic resources. Texas, like other western states, has been facing increasing competition for water resources and thus this has given rise to efforts for longer-term water planning with specific concerns over instream flows and flows to the bays and estuaries. Coastal fisheries is always looking for better ways to communicate to both our teams across the agency and our external partners and stakeholders as well. Participation in helping Coastal to
better communicate our science-based work to various audiences would be part of any role within the Division.
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

- Organization Type: Federal Government
- Organization Address: 1875 Century Boulevard NE, Atlanta, GA 30345
- Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work? Yes, but the fellow will be spending time in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana with the Northern Gulf of Mexico Sentinel Site Cooperative.

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

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a science-based management agency. We work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the benefit of the American people. We meet our mission through administering over 560 National Wildlife Refuges, enforcing federal wildlife laws, protecting endangered species, managing migratory birds, and restoring fisheries.

We also increasingly recognize that people are a fundamental part of conservation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s mission statement is itself the articulation of a human value. Fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats matter to people. The resources entrusted to us to conserve, protect and enhance hold importance and meaning to the American public we serve.

Even the science emanating from the Service – both directly from Service scientists and indirectly through collaboration with researchers in other federal agencies and academia – affects decisions by many of our partners. We must not only be excellent scientists, but also effective communicators and collaborators, comfortable working at the nexus of science and policy.

Social scientists within the Service are helping the agency communicate more effectively and tackle increasingly complex and value-laden conservation issues, such as habitat fragmentation and invasive species. Simultaneously, large-scale socio-economic trends are shifting how Americans relate to wildlife. The social sciences are providing insights into these trends while helping identify broader social benefits of our conservation work.

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

We are seeking a NASEM Gulf Research Program Science Policy Fellow to work alongside social scientists within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and partner organizations to enhance conservation outcomes through effective communication and collaboration.

The Fellow will spend a portion of their time in the Fish and Wildlife Service’s regional headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia working with agency leadership on issues of regional significance. The Fellow will also spend a portion of their time in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana with the Northern Gulf of Mexico Sentinel Site Cooperative working with local natural resource managers to improve on-the-ground conservation outcomes.

While working in these sites, the fellow will gain hands-on science policy experience through a variety of projects including, but not limited to:
1. Assisting the Northern Gulf of Mexico Sentinel Site Cooperative in testing and refining sea level rise communication strategies.

2. Conducting cost-benefit analyses of sea level rise adaptation actions for local, state, and federal agencies.

3. Developing outreach and communication strategies for increasing private landowner participation in the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

By participating on some or all of these projects, the fellow will have a variety of duties, such as:

1. Utilizing social science approaches to ensure that communications practitioners are maximizing their effectiveness.

2. Engaging directly with scientists to identify how to better align their research with needs of decision-makers in local, state and federal agencies.

3. Serving as a key contact in fostering and maintaining conversations that translate science into policy.