



## Gulf Research Program Science Policy Fellowship 2022 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 2022 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.

### 2021 Science Policy Fellowship Host Offices:

1. [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(BOEM\)](#)
2. [Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority](#)
3. [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\) – Region 6](#)
4. [Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#)
5. [Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council](#)
6. [Houston Advanced Research Center \(HARC\)](#)
7. [Mississippi Based RESTORE Art Center of Excellence \(MBRACE\)](#)
8. [NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information \(NCEI\)](#)
9. [NOAA RESTORE Science Program](#)
10. [SafeOCS – US Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics \(BTS\)](#)
11. [Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council](#)
12. [The Data Center](#)
13. [Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., Coastal Fisheries Division](#)
14. [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office](#)
15. [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service / Program for Local Adaptation to Climate Effects: Sea Level Rise](#)

## Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Organization Type	<b>Federal Government Department of Interior</b>
Organization Address:	<b>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</b>
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	<b>Yes</b>
Website	<a href="https://www.boem.gov/">https://www.boem.gov/</a>

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

BOEM's mission is to manage development of US OCS energy and mineral resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way. Office of Environment (OE) is charged with the environment part of BOEM's mission and it the Office that the Fellow would be assigned. OE is responsible for assessing potential environmental impacts from BOEM-managed OCS activities. OE prepares National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents to assess impacts and inform decisions.

OE ensures that all necessary consultation and coordination are completed, develops and applies appropriate mitigation measures to address impacts, and coordinates with the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement to ensure compliance with those mitigations. When information needs are identified, OE develops, funds, and oversees the research to support those needs. The OE-managed studies cover many topics, including physical oceanography, atmospheric sciences, biology, protected species, social sciences and economics, submerged cultural resources, and environmental fates and effects. OE uses this information when making recommendations on how to effectively promote economic development and environmental protection.

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

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

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

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

## Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

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

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

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

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

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

- Lowermost Mississippi River Management Program (LMRMP): Assist with the implementation of this large-scale effort to increase understanding of Mississippi River hydrodynamics and flow, sediment transport and dredging, and landscape condition and change to support holistic management of the Mississippi River's sediment and water resources. The LMRMP will strengthen partnerships, improve and develop scientific and technical tools, and help advance holistic water and sediment management. Please see <https://cims.coastal.la.gov/outreach/Projects/LMRMP> for more information.
- Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP): Assist development of a CPRA-led Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan, which will include the identification of projects and river flow operation recommendations that would 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, and an annual commercial harvest of over 20 million pounds of crawfish. Many of the actions taken to modify the basin into a floodway have adversely impacted the basin's natural hydrology and habitat. The purpose of the ABP is to develop, implement, and manage a comprehensive state master plan for the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System.

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, development of requests for proposals, CPRA-Parish Matching Program, and production of factsheets.

## Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Region 6

Organization Type	<b>Federal</b>
Organization Address:	<b>800 N. Loop 288 Denton TX 76209</b>
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	<b>No</b> <b>The fellow will be based at 1500 Main St Baton Rouge LA 70802</b>
Website	<a href="https://www.fema.gov/">https://www.fema.gov/</a>

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

FEMA is an agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security, initially created under President Jimmy Carter in 1978. Our Mission is to reduce the loss of life and property and protect our institutions from all hazards by leading and supporting the nation in a comprehensive, risk-based emergency management program of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Here in the Region 6 Mitigation office, we focus on ways in which we can partner with our stakeholders to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property through planning and risk assessments. Our Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs provide funding for eligible mitigation measures that reduce disaster losses through grant funding opportunities. We coordinate and oversee the National Flood Insurance Program to ensure compliance and resiliencies efforts are made to ensure communities are resilient from flood impacts through insurance. All projects and programs are processed through our Environmental and Historic Preservation office to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations and executive orders to minimize impacts to resources.

Under the Justice 40 initiative the federal government is being charged with ensuring we are delivering benefits of Federal funding to climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, clean water, and other investments to disadvantaged communities that have been historically marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. Several of our programs are specifically charged with ensuring 40% of the overall benefits of our programs are directly impacting these populations and with a focus on climate resiliency.

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

Here in Region 6 we are looking to conduct a research study regarding the impacts of climate change within our Region 6 coastal communities and the roles social inequalities plays on disaster resiliency. We are hoping to better understand whether our existing programs are impacting communities most in need, if not what are those program gaps, what policy changes may be necessary to impact resiliency most greatly.

The Fellow will work closely with FEMA Region 6 Mitigation leadership, outreach groups, our grant program, and the insurance team to identify outside agencies and organizations to poll and survey on their experiences with FEMA programs. The Fellow could perform a gap analysis between the communities mitigated and communities most impacted from events. From there, data will be utilized to identify communities most in need of mitigation to be used in identifying barriers of entry to our programs, potential solutions along with drafting and developing position papers to better influence change.

There will be opportunities for the fellow to provide input on questions or problems pertaining to the fellow's area of expertise and provide recommendations and technical guidance. There may also be opportunities to attend professional meetings, and serve on work group involving Federal, State, Tribal or private agencies and individuals.

## Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Organization Type	<b>State Government</b>
Organization Address:	<b>400 S, Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399 (* Note: we have offices throughout the state and can be flexible where the Fellow can work )</b>
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	<b>Yes</b>
Website	<a href="https://www.fdacs.gov/">https://www.fdacs.gov/</a>

### **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. At FDACS, we work to improve the lives of Floridians every day. The goals of FDACS are to:

- Strengthen Florida agriculture to meet the needs of a growing global population;
- Safeguard the well-being of Florida residents and visitors;
- Manage natural resources to support Florida's quality of life;
- Prevent and respond to pests, disease, and disasters; and
- Exceed expectations in service

The Commissioner of Agriculture is one of only six statewide elected officials and one of three members of the Governor's Cabinet. Therefore, the Fellow has a unique opportunity to inform and apply science policy to a myriad of issues of interest to them and the Department. The Fellow will be a critical member of our science team that works across the Department to foster cutting edge, interdisciplinary studies. With a home office in the state's capital in beautiful north central Florida (or other Florida sites as requested), the Fellow will have a selection of a wide variety of hands-on projects throughout the state, traveling as little or as much as their interests dictate.

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

The Department works at the intersection of human, animal and environmental health, finding solutions to wicked problems. The experience for the Fellow will be customized to their interests, with projects and professional development opportunities dictated by their goals. A Fellow with FDACS will be able to pick from a "buffet" of potential projects, or design their own projects as appropriate. Being located in the state's capital also affords a Fellow the unique opportunity to participate in the legislative process up close.

A sampling of projects from past and current fellows includes: participating in the rule making process for the state's hemp program, facilitating the Commissioner's Agriculture Innovation Workgroup, conducting a preparedness vulnerability analysis, researching the potential for a remediation aquaculture program, coordinating and convening workshops and expert panels, researching statewide plastic waste, conducting an assessment of fertilizer usage, and the execution of the new FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. Additional projects could include working with other Departmental divisions and offices such as the Office of Water Policy, Food, Nutrition and Wellness, Policy and Budget or the Florida Forest Service. A Fellow could also work closely with legislative affairs, federal affairs, communications and outreach staff.

## Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

Organization Type	<b>Federal Government</b>
Organization Address:	<b>500 Poydras Street, Suite 1117, New Orleans, LA, 70130</b>
Is the organization address same as the location where the fellow would work?	<b>Yes</b>
Website	<a href="https://www.restorethegulf.gov/">https://www.restorethegulf.gov/</a>

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

In July 2012, the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act) established the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council), which is comprised of governors from the five Gulf States affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the Secretaries from six federal agencies. Over the next 15-20 years, the Council will be overseeing ~\$3.2 billion in restoration activities across the Gulf. Since 2015, the Council has awarded over \$500 million in funding for restoration activities such as hydrologic restoration, land conservation, and planning for large-scale restoration projects.

In order to provide a framework for an integrated and coordinated approach for region-wide Gulf Coast restoration, the Council has five main goals: Goal 1: Restore and Conserve Habitat; Goal 2: Restore Water Quality and Quantity; Goal 3: Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources; Goal 4: Enhance Community Resilience; and Goal 5: Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy. To achieve all five goals, the Council supports ecosystem restoration that can enhance local communities by giving people desirable places to live, work, and play, while creating opportunities for new and existing businesses of all sizes, especially those dependent on natural resources. In addition, the Council will support ecosystem restoration that builds local workforce capacity.

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

The Council has a staff of approximately 25 employees, who are divided into Programs, Grants, and Administrative staff. A GRP Science Policy Fellow with the Council would be working in the Programs staff with the Science Advisor and others to support the Council as it allocates funding to approved restoration projects.

A fellow with the Council will engage in a variety of activities, which may change throughout the year in reflection of the Council's calendar as grant cycles progress, reporting periods close, and more. As the Council is committed to implementing projects based on the use of best available science (BAS), the fellow will help support the coordination of BAS reviews of project/program applications and performance reports as part of Council's grants management process. Other activities could include: assisting in developing and implementing an adaptive management policy; reviewing grant applications; reviewing monitoring and data management plans; and aiding in setting up project-specific data monitoring protocols. Additional opportunities include facilitating coordination among Gulf agencies and non-profit organizations, and attending Council meetings across the Gulf. Previous fellows have helped coordinate workshops, assist with coordination of adaptive management across agencies/projects, collaborate on grant proposals, and present on Council activities at conferences. A small Council staff means no task is too big or small for anyone, so the opportunities for a fellow to dive into a world where science meets policy abound!



## Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)

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

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

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

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

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

The Houston region has experienced six federally declared flooding disasters in the last five years and is routinely stressed by poor air and water quality, risk of vector-borne diseases, extreme heat, drought, and water supply issues. The Houston-Galveston region has recognized a critical need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote strategies that prioritize public health, environmental quality, economic development and community equity and resilience. Over the next two years HARC is working to develop new programs in climate risk to improve the ability of different sectors in our region to anticipate and build resilience to future climate impacts. HARC proposes to work with a Science Policy Fellow to support the development of this new climate risk program area, which will include reaching across disciplines, developing data tools and applications, conducting stakeholder engagement, and influencing policy and decision-making at the local, regional, and statewide levels.

A fellow will work across a wide range of projects and teams that seek to understand and mitigate the impacts of climate change on communities, air quality, energy supply, water resources and ecosystems. Examples of project teams the Fellow might participate on, include implementation of the City of Houston Climate Action Plan; air quality assessments and planning; implementation of the Resilient

Houston Plan; climate mitigation strategies; groundwater management: assessment and mitigation of extreme heat and urban heat islands; the Galveston Bay Report Card; green/nature-based infrastructure assessments; HARC's Net Zero Energy HQ; and cross disciplinary research efforts that address issues of equity and environmental justice.

## Mississippi Based RESTORE Art Center of Excellence (MBRACE)

Organization Type	<b>University-based RESTORE Act Center of Excellence Research Grants Program</b>
Organization Address:	<b>703 E. Beach Drive, Ocean Springs, MS 39564</b>
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	<b>Yes. The Fellow would be invited to work at the host office in Ocean Springs, MS, but it will also be possible for the Fellow to work remotely.</b>
Website	<a href="https://mbrace.usm.edu/">https://mbrace.usm.edu/</a>

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

The Mississippi Based RESTORE Act Center of Excellence (MBRACE) is Mississippi's Center of Excellence under the RESTORE Act's Center of Excellence Research Grants Program. MBRACE is a consortium of Mississippi's four research universities (Jackson State University [JSU], Mississippi State University [MSU], The University of Mississippi [UM], and The University of Southern Mississippi [USM]), with USM serving as the lead institution. The mission of MBRACE is to seek sound comprehensive science-and technology-based understanding of the chronic and acute stressors on the dynamic and productive waters and ecosystems of the northern Gulf of Mexico, and to facilitate sustainable use of the Gulf's resources. Since its designation in 2016, MBRACE has dedicated more than \$7M to support oyster reef sustainability and water quality in Mississippi coastal waters, prioritizing research and modeling to inform management and restoration activities led by Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, which is the Center of Excellence Research Grants Program pass-through entity in Mississippi, and Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. The close partnership between MBRACE and state resource managers enables the Center to support research that both increases the state of knowledge and addresses critical management needs.

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

The fellow will be integrated into the administrative framework of MBRACE and will work closely with the Director, Deputy Director, and Chief Scientist, who have a diversity of expertise in the natural sciences, social sciences, and grants administration, oversight and financial management, to help administer the research grants program and engage with State natural resource managers to ensure research addresses critical management needs. Depending on the fellow's interests, this may involve coordinating with State natural resource managers and mapping State management needs with research objectives; updating and expanding the MBRACE website; preparing technical reports; organizing and hosting meetings; coordinating with the MBRACE Executive Steering Committee, funding agencies from other Gulf States, and researchers at universities such as MSU, UM, USM, and JSU, which is the sixth largest Historically Black College and University in the U.S.; and communicating science to a variety of audiences.

## NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)

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

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

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) hosts and provides access to one of the most significant environmental data archives on earth, preserving comprehensive collections of oceanic, atmospheric, and geophysical data. Society's demand for high-value environmental data and information has dramatically increased in recent years. NCEI improves NOAA's ability to meet that demand by developing information products and services that span the scientific disciplines and enable better understanding and reuse of the data. NCEI data holdings and information products help meet NOAA strategic objectives to: provide authoritative climate data; meet the Nation's economic development needs through activities such as the knowledge-based blue economy; and to provide equitable services.

NCEI is home to two significant NOAA programs: Coastal Data Development (CDD) - focused on Gulf of Mexico ecosystem restoration and related activities; and Regional Climate Services (RCS), focused on providing access to climate information, products, and other resources for six US regions. Together, these services provide tailored, comprehensive support to help communities understand and address the unique challenges and vulnerabilities created by changing environmental conditions. NCEI data stewardship and scientific assessment practices maximize NOAA's investment in environmental research, converting scientific insights into dynamic, usable information that informs strategy and decision making in government, academia, and the private sector. We offer transparency to our users and commitment to continuing to provide the geophysical, oceans, coastal, weather and climate data to meet societal needs.

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

The GRP Fellow will work primarily with the NCEI's RCS in the Southern Region, with some overlap with the CDD program due to the regional proximity. Activities could include:

- 1) Assist in various coordination efforts with stakeholders about climate information needs, and help build and strengthen active partner networks with public and private constituents;
- 2) Support regional Blue Economy activities, with a particular focus on the knowledge-based economy to support the sectors identified in the NOAA Blue Economy Strategic Plan; and
- 3) Participate in specific communities of practice on coastal - climate interests (i.e. the drought-flood continuum, heat health, harmful algal blooms, socio-economic impacts, etc.) depending upon alignment of the Fellows background, interests, and NCEI needs.

There will be opportunities for the fellow to provide input on questions or problems pertaining to the Fellow's area of expertise and provide recommendations and technical guidance. There may also be opportunities to attend professional meetings, and serve on task forces or committees involving Federal, State, or private agencies and individuals.

## NOAA RESTORE Science Program

Organization Type	<b>Federal Government</b>
Organization Address:	<b>NOAA / NCEI, 1021 Balch Blvd., Suite 1003, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529</b>
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	<b>Yes - Remote work is available for this office</b>
Website	<a href="https://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/">https://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/</a>

### **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, especially the co-production of science, through workshops and communicating with stakeholders. Co-production is the collaboration of researchers, resource managers, and other stakeholders to inform a specific natural resource management decision. 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:**

As a member of a relatively 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 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 and tracking their performance. As the Science Program continues to strengthen our communication and engagement efforts, the fellow could work on projects related to the implementation of the recently developed Communications Strategy and Plan. The Science Program seeks to stay connected to the research and resource management communities in the Gulf of Mexico, and the fellow would have 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.

## SafeOCS – US Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)

Organization Type	<b>Statistical Agency</b>
Organization Address:	<b>1200 New Jersey Ave, SE - Washington, D.C. 20590</b>
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	<b>No - Field work will be conducted at satellite BTS/SafeOCS office co-located at the existing PHMSA Southwest Regional Office in Houston located at 8701 S. Gessner Road, Houston, TX 77074. Teleworking will be allowed consistent with the office's telework policies.</b>
Website	<a href="https://safeocs.gov/">https://safeocs.gov/</a>

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

The objective of SafeOCS is to build a centralized safety data repository for the oil and gas industry to facilitate the capture of value-added safety data about accident precursors and potential hazards associated with offshore operations, including risks related to pipeline safety and offshore transport. The program is based on voluntary participation by companies working offshore (operators, drilling contractors, service companies), with the focus being on events both with and without consequences (e.g., near misses, significant observations, etc.). There is also a regulatory component of SafeOCS requiring companies to submit failure reports for critical safety equipment.

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

Fellow will work under the mentorship of an experienced Houston-based subject matter expert, who reports directly to a Washington-based BTS federal employee. The Fellow will be supervised by the Director of the Office Safety Data & Analysis for BTS. The position will allow individual to gain experience in data processing and statistical protocols and methodologies, including algorithms, programming, and data structures for large databases. Fellow will also gain knowledge of oil and gas industry standards and processes by working directly with subject matter experts and company representatives in various areas of drilling, production, and support activities in oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico.

Fellow will assist in processing and consolidating information about company-specific safety events submitted to the SafeOCS Program. Once data is aggregated, individual will assist with production of industry-wide statistics, analysis and conceptualization of the results to evaluate trends of potential concern that may warrant further industry attention and discussion, and conduct quality assessments of statistical information products. Fellow may be asked to help with development of data science tools and analytical processes that enhance the effectiveness of the processing protocols, as well as allow stakeholders to draw insights and knowledge from the data with the objective of minimizing operational risks and contribution to a safer work environment. There will be opportunities to assist with engagement with industry and participate in meetings and work groups, as well as gain insights and experience working with federal regulations and statutes that govern offshore activities.

## Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

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

**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.

In October 2018, the TBRPC members formed the Tampa Bay Regional Resilience Coalition which currently includes 31 local governments who are committed to collaborating to increase community resilience. Through the Coalition, elected officials, staff and stakeholders meet regularly to define critical issues, data needs, discuss policy and governance regarding extreme weather and potential impacts of climate change. The TBRPC collaborates with the local governments, universities, agencies and non-profit organizations to conduct technical and economic assessments, policy assessments and develop new tools and resources to support planning and policy making on a diverse range of topics. The TBRPC staff are involved in national and state networks, and numerous local initiatives from environmental resources, hurricane preparedness, transportation, economic development.

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

In 2022-2023, the Fellow will have the opportunity to work on one of the new initiatives in support of the Regional Resilience Action Plan (RRAP) Goal 2: Adaptation and resilience planning strategies are based on rigorous, consistent, scientifically defined vulnerability assessments.

*Advancing Climate and Resilience Data -- Action 2.1.1. "Support the development, availability and use of advanced tools, modeling and data which can enhance local vulnerability analyses."* - The region supports open data and the use of advanced tools and datasets to enhance decision support and policy making. Examples of tools include remote sensing products and applications such as high-resolution impervious surface data, creation of heat maps, emissions and terrestrial LiDAR. Activities would include working with staff to review new/existing tools and methods, develop summaries, coordinate meetings with tool creators, meetings with local governments to define needs/use cases and training needs. Fellows with advanced skills would develop and implement research projects for demonstration, conduct assessments and produce data/maps and reports.

*Food Systems Analysis -- Extreme Weather/Climate Vulnerability, Security and Equity. Action: 2.1.2 "Regional leaders collaborate on defining risks and increasing food systems resilience to hazards (extreme weather, pandemic, etc.) to support communities and local agriculture."* - The Fellow will build

on the initial work in the region and conduct a multi-level hazard and vulnerability assessment of food systems and agricultural production to define potential impacts to communities in the seven-county region. Activities would include: compiling policies, data, conducting analysis, coordinating meetings and a workshop with staff and stakeholder organizations and writing a report.



## The Data Center

Organization Type	<b>Non-profit Organization</b>
Organization Address:	<b>1515 Poydras St, Suite 1240, New Orleans, LA 70112</b>
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	<b>No - The Data Center is currently working remotely, but are in the process of leasing new office space with a hybrid work schedule combining on premise and remote work environments.</b>
Website	<a href="http://www.datacenterresearch.org">www.datacenterresearch.org</a>

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

The Data Center of Southeast Louisiana 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 the economy of Southeast Louisiana's coastal restoration and water management industry 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 who would apply their skills to supporting existing projects, or collaborating to develop a more self-directed project if appropriate. Either way, the fellow will have opportunity to gain on-the-ground experience in the interface between data analysis, policy, and stakeholder-driven communication. We take data communication very seriously. Depending on interest, the fellow could join a team to contributing to the following areas:

- Contribute to a major study of migration in response to coastal hazards like flooding, using an innovative large data set. The study will be completed around August 2023. The study team, which includes external researchers, will be conducting analysis and authoring academic publications and summaries for general audiences during the fellowship year.
- Help to improve and iterate our Coastal Index website as a responsive resource to coastal and economic development stakeholders, e.g., by helping to improve understanding of job and small businesses in coastal adaptation and how to make them more equitable.
- Develop and implement in-depth short-term research projects that provide actionable information relevant to coastal adaptation, the economy of water management, and other topics relevant to the regional future of Southeast and coastal Louisiana.
- Contribute to core data center products and developing new tools and approaches to increase the accessibility of data.
- Contribute to day-to-day activities like grant-writing, stakeholder feedback, quality assurance, information design, and finding and analyzing data.

## 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	<a href="https://tpwd.texas.gov/about/administration-divisions/coastal-fisheries">https://tpwd.texas.gov/about/administration-divisions/coastal-fisheries</a>

### **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, 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 personnel. Some key items for Coastal in the coming year include: opportunities to continue working with an oyster mariculture program that began in 2021; continued effort underway to automate data capture across sampling programs, ongoing R3 (recruitment, retention and reactivation) efforts for anglers, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts and any rulemakings for 2021 legislative session outcomes. 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 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.

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

Organization Type	<b>Federal Government</b>
Organization Address:	<b>341 Greeno Road North, Suite A, Fairhope, AL 36532</b>
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	<b>Yes</b>
Website	<a href="https://www.fws.gov/southeast/gulf-restoration/about-us/">https://www.fws.gov/southeast/gulf-restoration/about-us/</a>

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

The Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office (GRO) was established in 2010 to lead the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) activities for the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) Oil Spill. Since global settlement of the DWH case in 2016, the office has shifted focus from injury assessment to restoration implementation. In addition to the NRDAR activities, the GRO coordinates with restoration implemented under the RESTORE Act and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF) to facilitate the efficient and effective use of funds dedicated to the restoration of the Gulf of Mexico. The GRO includes 36 technical and support staff members, with 18 staff located in the Fairhope Alabama Office. The GRO closely coordinates with other FWS offices, Department of the Interior Bureaus, and State and Federal agencies involved in Gulf Restoration.

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

The primary role of the Science Policy Fellow in 2022-23 will include working as part of a team to support the development and enhancement of our Gulf Restoration Progress Ledger (Project Ledger). Our Project Ledger houses information on projects that have been funded with the DWH Horizon settlement funding. We have developed the Project Ledger because we must be able to demonstrate the Service benefits gained in restoring the Gulf through our settlement investments. In addition to showing our progress toward Gulf restoration goals and priorities across Service programs, the information in the Project Ledger helps 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.

The NAS Science Policy Fellow in this position will support data identification and association with each restoration project funded with the DWH settlement funds. Primary responsibilities will include identifying spatial data to further describe the projects and allow for reference to habitat descriptions and species occurrence data. The process is expected to include close collaboration with project proponents and the GRO Science and Support Branch. Successful applicants for this position would possess strong GIS experience and have a keen interest in investigating and capturing the details for each of these unique projects. Quality assurance and control will be important components to the project as well. There will also be opportunities to experience other program branch activities in restoration planning and implementation during our time together.

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service / Program for Local Adaptation to Climate Effects: Sea Level Rise

Organization Type	<b>Federal Government / Mississippi State University/ Sea Grant Consortium</b>
Organization Address:	<b>USFWS: 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960. MS-AL Sea Grant: 1815 Popp's Ferry Road, Biloxi, MS 39532</b>
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	<b>No - The fellow will be based at Mississippi State University – Coastal Research and Outreach Center, 1815 Popp's Ferry Road, Biloxi, MS 39532</b>
Website	<b>Southeast Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:</b> <a href="https://www.fws.gov/southeast/">https://www.fws.gov/southeast/</a>  <b>Program for Local Adaptation to Climate Effects: Sea Level Rise:</b> <a href="http://masgc.org/northern-gulf-of-mexico-sentinel-site-co/about">http://masgc.org/northern-gulf-of-mexico-sentinel-site-co/about</a>

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

\*This is a joint host office placement between two offices (U.S Fish and Wildlife Service and PLACE:SLR)

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 administer 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. We must not only be excellent scientists, but also effective communicators and collaborators, comfortable working at the nexus of science and policy.

PLACE:SLR (placeslr.org) fosters a network of individuals and organizations working to enhance resilience to coastal inundation under rising sea levels in a changing climate. The program focuses on resilience issues related to water and a changing climate – specifically sea-level rise, which compounds inundation and extreme rainfall events to generate a plethora of coastal flooding hazards. Hazards include but are not limited to hurricanes, nuisance flooding, erosion, coastal habitat degradation and loss, saltwater intrusion, and storm water flooding. PLACE:SLR increases access to and application of relevant research, stimulates dialogue around vulnerabilities and adaptation strategies, and provides resources that facilitate resilience and mitigation actions. These goals are achieved by working directly with stakeholders across the coastal northern Gulf of Mexico to identify critical gaps and address them by leveraging the resources and expertise of the network.

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

The Fellow will spend their time in Mississippi, Alabama, or Florida with the Program For Local Adaptation to Climate Effects: Sea Level Rise (PLACE:SLR) working with local stewards of the build and natural environments to improve on-the-ground resilience actions.

While working in these sites, the fellow will gain hands-on science policy experience through a variety of projects such as:

- a) Assisting PLACE:SLR in developing, implementing, and refining engagement strategies designed to stimulate sea-level rise resilience action.
- b) Supporting local municipalities and state natural resource managers in understanding and applying sea-level rise information for coastal decision-making.
- c) Conducting cost-benefit analyses of sea level rise adaptation action strategies for local, state, and federal agencies.

The fellow will have a variety of duties, such as:

- a) Utilizing collaborative approaches to ensure that communications practitioners are maximizing their effectiveness.
- b) Engaging directly with scientists to identify how to better align their research with needs of decision makers in local, state and federal agencies.
- c) Serving as a key contact in fostering and maintaining conversations that translate science into policy.