NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine

GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

Gulf Research Program Science Policy Fellowship 2024 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 2023 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.

2024 Science Policy Fellowship Host Offices:

1. Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Lands Division, Coastal Section
2. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
3. Florida Department of Environmental Protection - Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection
4. Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council
5. Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS)
6. Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)
7. Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
8. Mississippi Based RESTORE Art Center of Excellence (MBRACE)
9. NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)
10. NOAA RESTORE Science Program
11. Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
12. The Water Institute
13. Texas Parks and Wildlife - Dept., Coastal Fisheries Division
14. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Lands Division, Coastal Section

Organization Type	**State Government**
Organization Address:	**31115 5 Rivers Blvd, Spanish Fort, AL 36527**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://www.outdooralabama.com/coastal-programs/alabama-coastal-area-management-program**

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

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR), State Lands Division (SLD), Coastal Section administers the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program (ACAMP) as part of the National Coastal Zone Management Program to promote sound management of the cultural and natural resources of the state's coastal area and foster efforts to ensure the long-term ecological and economic productivity of coastal Alabama. Through a yearly cooperative agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the ACAMP implements public outreach activities, provides technical assistance to local governments, and supports planning and project implementation to promote a sustainable and resilient Alabama coast. ACAMP staff collaborate with the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (Weeks Bay NERR), also housed within the ADCNR SLD, on outreach, coastal training, education and research efforts to inform resource management.

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

The ACAMP is currently engaged in a multi-year effort to characterize and map overwater structures within Alabama's coastal zone as part of the state's approved Coastal Zone Management Act Section 309 strategy. One of the goals of the effort is to evaluate the impacts of shading caused by man-made structures on productivity in the near shore environment and will be useful in evaluating vulnerability of riparian structures to coastal hazards including flooding and storm surge. The fellow would be involved in collection, curation, and analysis of field-collected and remotely-sensed data using GIS tools and techniques. Additionally, the fellow could be involved in working with ACAMP and Weeks Bay NERR staff to engage stakeholders from local jurisdictions and permitting agencies to assess needs and current practices. The fellow could also be involved in developing applications for funding opportunities, such as the NERRS Science Collaborative, to further the research effort.

In addition to the above activities, the fellow would be involved in outreach efforts of the ACAMP including the Alabama Coastal Cleanup and would gain experience in the administration of grants and subawards, including grant development, communication with subaward recipients, compliance with state and federal regulations, and reporting.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

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

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

BOEM's mission is to manage development of US OCS energy and mineral resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way. Office of Environment (OE) is charged with the environment part of BOEM's mission and it the Office that the Fellow would be assigned. BOEM regulates offshore oil and gas, renewable energy, marine minerals (sulfur, critical minerals, and sediment for coastal restoration projects), carbon sequestration, and green hydrogen. 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 available science and gain understanding and answers about BOEM's specific actions, we can procure studies through the Environmental Studies Program which 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 principal investigators.

The GRP Fellow may participate in the following tasks:

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

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

Organization Type	**State Government**
Organization Address:	**2600 Blair Stone Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32399**
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 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-two 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 resilience and climate preparedness 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 storms, such as coastal flooding and erosion, as well as sea level rise and other impacts of climate change.

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

The Fellow will work with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP), assuming 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. The Fellow will primarily work on the Statewide Ecosystem Assessment of Coastal and Aquatic Resources (SEACAR) project team, to translate ecological data, collected by over 150 programs across five habitats (data.florida-seacar.org), into easy-to-use, publicly available documents capable of informing Florida's diverse population of coastal stakeholders and providing increased awareness to legislators and the public to improve environmental literacy, provide support for scientifically sound programs, and promote policy changes when necessary. Fellows will

have the opportunity to engage stakeholders representing many organizations involved in data collection, resource management, and research, to facilitate productive conversations to increase the utility and stakeholder awareness of SEACAR products. Fellows will also work with the SEACAR team, NERR staff, agency communications staff and others to help close the gap between scientists and the public by developing science communication strategies and content for SEACAR data products. 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 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.

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

Organization Type	**Federal Government**
Organization Address:	**500 Poydras Street, Suite 1117, 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 (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 its lifetime, the Council will oversee over $6B in restoration activities across the Gulf. To date the Council has awarded over ~$647 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 approximately 24 employees. Staff are divided among several functional areas, including Programs, Grants, Administration, and Finance. Program activities are overseen by the Deputy Executive Director, and supported by three Senior Advisors, three Program Specialists, the Director of Policy and Environmental Compliance, and the Director of Public and Tribal Affairs. 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 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 fellow with the RESTORE Council would work with the Science Advisor, Senior Advisor, and other Program staff to support the Council as it allocates funding to approved restoration projects, primarily by helping to ensure that the agency's mission is being carried out using the best available science. Of the wide variety of activities a fellow might choose to take on, examples include conducting science and data reviews for restoration project applications, drafting policy updates to support the review process, helping organize and facilitate lessons-learned seminars for grantees and restoration practitioners, providing guidance on the development of monitoring plans, collaboratively supporting consistency and compatibility between Gulf monitoring datasets, building-out data systems and dashboards, and helping to evaluate and communicate the cumulative benefits of the Council's work. Our fellows are very involved in working with our science advisory workgroup, made up of technical staff of our state and federal members, allowing them to build and diversify their professional network. There will also be opportunities to facilitate coordination among other Gulf agencies and non-profit organizations, and attend RESTORE Council meetings across the Gulf. Previous fellows have helped organize workshops among Gulf of Mexico scientists, supported quantitative assessments of program activities, assisted with coordination of adaptive management across agencies/projects, collaborated on grant proposals, 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 head first into a world where science meets policy abound!

Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS)

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

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

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

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

GCOOS and the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) have embarked on a mission to assess the societal benefits of our ocean observation enterprise. That is, we're interested in identifying and assessing the specific benefits of our operation for different type of users that support coastal resiliency for communities to a blue economy for the region. This project will consist in mapping GCOOS users, developing a conceptual model of benefits, assessing their value in monetary and non-monetary basis, gathering input from real stakeholders, and synthesizing the findings in a white paper (or a full scientific paper) that will be discussed with IOOS benefits catalog team and other NOAA groups. The Fellow will have the opportunity to work with GCOOS staff, IOOS Program Office managers, NOAA staff, and partners and stakeholders of our work around the Gulf of Mexico (including internationally).The successful fellow will learn how Regional Associations of IOOS, such as GCOOS, use emerging technologies to collect data, and how it is processed, distributed, and archived in support of real-world decision-making process in managing ocean uses. The Fellow will gain skills in data science, data management, technology development, stakeholder – scientist communities of practice, and overall in ocean observing systems.

Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)

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

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

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

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

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

HARC is expanding its work in climate risk and community resilience collaboration. 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 working with the City of Houston to implement their Climate Action Plan; air quality assessments and planning; implementation of the Resilient Houston Plan; working with communities to develop climate mitigation strategies; 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.

Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

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

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

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

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

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

- Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP): Assist development of a CPRA-led Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan, including the identification of projects to benefit the basin and Louisiana's coastal program. The Atchafalaya Basin is the nation's largest river floodplain swamp, a highly productive system that supports diverse wildlife and aquatic species. The purpose of the ABP is to develop, implement, and manage a comprehensive state master plan for the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System.
- Carbon Sequestration Science/Application: Assist with the development and application of the science of carbon dynamics in south Louisiana ecosystems and associated with land loss and restoration actions, to assist CPRA management in determining the appropriate actions to undertake in support of the state's Climate Action Plan
- Lowermost Mississippi River Management Program (LMRMP): Assist with the implementation of a large-scale effort in partnership with numerous local, state, and federal-level stakeholders to increase understanding of Mississippi River hydrodynamics and flow, sediment transport and dredging, and landscape condition and change to support holistic management of the Mississippi River's sediment and water resources.
- Monitoring Data Interpretation: Assist agency staff in collating and analyzing the wide range of monitoring data (e.g., Coastwide Reference Monitoring System) being collected in support of project- and program-level effects determinations.

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

Mississippi Based RESTORE Art Center of Excellence (MBRACE)

Organization Type	**University-based RESTORE Act Center of Excellence Research Grants Program**
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/**

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

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

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, Program Manager, and Chief Scientist, who have a diversity of expertise in the natural sciences, social sciences, and grants administration, oversight and financial management, to help administer the research grants program and engage with State natural resource managers to ensure research addresses critical management needs. 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	**Federal Government**
Organization Address:	**NCEI, 1021 Balch Blvd., Suite 1003, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/**

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

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

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

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

The GRP Fellow will work with either or both of two primary projects: 1) Deep Water Horizon Mesophotic and Deep Benthic Communities Open Ocean Restoration Group (DWH MDBC) where the Fellow would work with restoration data collection agencies to identify the data management workflow from collection activities through management parties and ultimately to the appropriate archives, and 2) the NOAA 'Omics project, where the Fellow would help to implement their Strategic Plan including coordination with the Smithsonian Institution to improve the utility and impact of genomics data throughout NOAA. For the DWH MDBC project, there is collaboration with NOAA's Offices of Habitat Conservation (OHC), Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), National Centers for Coast and Ocean Science (NCCOS), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to support the data stewardship needs for the project. For either project, the fellow could assist in the hands-on data collection, management, and research development with opportunities for the fellow to provide input on questions or problems pertaining to the Fellow's area of expertise. There will also be opportunities to attend professional meetings, and serve on task forces or committees involving Federal, State, or private agencies and individuals.

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?	**We have a variety of options for office locations in the Gulf region where the fellow could work.**
Website	**https://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/**

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

The NOAA RESTORE Science Program is a federal funding program focused on applied ecosystem science. Our mission is to support research, observation, and monitoring that promotes the long-term sustainability of the Gulf of Mexico 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 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. We also prioritize communicating research findings to public audiences through feature stories, seminars, and other communications activities. 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, be 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 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.

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

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

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

Established in 1962 by the State of Florida, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is an association of local governments and gubernatorial representatives whose mission is to serve the citizens and member governments of the Tampa Bay Area, consisting of Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties, by providing a forum to foster communication, coordination, and collaboration in identifying and addressing issues and needs regionally. The TBRPC collaborates with 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 policymaking on a diverse range of topics.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, at the Water Institute office on the University of New Orleans campus.**
Website	**https://thewaterinstitute.org/**

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

The Water Institute (The Institute) is an independent, non-profit applied research organization that works across disciplines to advance science and develop integrated methods used to solve complex environmental and societal challenges. We believe in and strive for more resilient 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 three primary goals: 1) Improve our collective understanding of natural and human aspects of coastal, riverine, and urban water management systems; 2) Develop methods, models, and tools to aid in the restoration of communities and ecosystems; and 3) Reduce risk for habitats, people, and infrastructure.

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

The Institute has a staff of approximately 80 employees across Operations, Administration and Research Departments in Coastal Ecology, Applied Geosciences, Coastal and Deltaic Systems Modeling, Coastal and Compound Flood Risk, and Planning and Policy Research. A Science Policy Fellow with The Institute would be working as part of the Office of the Chief Scientist, which coordinates across these research departments to help with the implementation of science to support policy and decision making. Fellows will support interdisciplinary science coordination and will help with ensuring Institute research products meet its science quality and integrity standards.

Fellows will also have the opportunity to work with the RESTORE Act Center of Excellence for Louisiana (LA-COE), a competitive research grant program sponsored by the LA Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority through the U.S. Department of Treasury, that 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 work directly supporting the Office of the Chief Scientist and 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 of the Gulf Center for Equitable Climate Resilience, housed through The Institute, in implementing climate resilience activities funded through the center.

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!

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, 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 2023 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.

Additionally, the Executive Office of TPWD Department is setting forth overlay initiatives across the agency to enhance our science enterprises as well as to enhance our communication strategies across our various agency channels the relevancy of our work and mission. A science and a communication council are being formed up help the agency strengthen and be more pro-active in our TPWD science enterprise working across division lines and to identify ways to better leverage our communications across the channels for both our science, our overall work and our relevancy to Texans and those who enjoy our natural and cultural resources. The Fellow may have an opportunity to participate both in the startup of these groups as their governance is created and to participate within these groups.

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

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

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

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

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

The primary role of the Science Policy Fellow in 2024-25 will include working as part of a team to support the connections between our restoration projects and our injured DOI federal trust resources, including sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, birds, and habitats on federal lands. We have developed the Gulf Restoration Project Ledger to characterize the benefits gained in restoring the Gulf through our settlement investments. We have also developed Resource Guides to summarize ongoing progress toward restoring the injury to our DOI trust resources. Both of these tools help us to focus our restoration planning, identify leveraging opportunities, honor our commitment to streamlining regulatory processes, and provide efficiencies in restoration design for all Trustees and partners.

A fellow in the GRO would work closely with Resource Coordinators and the Branch Chief on a project to evaluate restoration benefits to DOI trust resources. For example, the fellow may coordinate a team that would construct and interpret a database of available data related to reducing sea turtle nesting barriers in the Gulf of Mexico. The team's objective is to identify and develop restoration actions that improve hatchling survival for loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, and green sea turtles. This project will also help establish baseline metrics of key beach parameters that can be compared over time to assess resilience to a changing environment.