NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine

GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

Gulf Research Program Science Policy Fellowship 2023 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.

2022 Science Policy Fellowship Host Offices:

1. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
2. Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
3. Environmental Protection Agency – Gulf of Mexico Division
4. Florida Department of Environmental Protection - Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection
5. Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council
6. Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)
7. Mississippi Based RESTORE Art Center of Excellence (MBRACE)
8. Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
9. NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)
10. NOAA RESTORE Science Program
11. SafeOCS – US Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)
12. Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
13. The Water Institute
14. Texas Parks and Wildlife - Dept., Coastal Fisheries Division
15. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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:

- 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.
- Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP): Assist development of a CPRA-led Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan, including the identification of projects and river flow operation recommendations 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, and an annual commercial harvest of over 20 million pounds of crawfish. The purpose of the ABP is to develop, implement, and manage a comprehensive state master plan for the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System.
- Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion: Work on monitoring and adaptive management and fisheries mitigation for CPRA’s sediment diversion program. The existing, planned, and proposed diversions represent some of the largest and most innovative coastal restoration efforts ever undertaken not just in Louisiana, but nationally and globally. The projects are designed to mimic the natural land building processes of the Mississippi River to sustainably restore and nourish thousands of acres of marsh in the Barataria Basin.

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.

Environmental Protection Agency – Gulf of Mexico Division

Organization Type	**Federal**
Organization Address:	**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Gulf of Mexico Division (GMD), 22150 14th Street, Suite 1212, Gulfport, MS 39501**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**No. The fellow will be based in Houston, TX.**
Website	**https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-gulf-mexico-division-gmd**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 coastal resilience issues. The Fellow will primarily work on the Statewide Ecosystem Assessment of Coastal and Aquatic Resources (SEACAR) project team, to translate ecological data 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 program stakeholders from a variety of agencies, universities, and NGOs who are 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 Coastal Training Program 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, through a variety of platforms including presentations, websites, social media posts, articles, and guidance documents to communicate complex topics in clear and engaging ways and bring accurate science stories to the public. Through their day-to-day work, Fellows will develop and exercise diverse work skills, such as project and meeting planning, facilitation and management; communication and public engagement; technical skills and data analysis; and grant writing.

In addition to the primary projects within FCMP, 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. Fellows are encouraged to participate in outreach and collaborative activities and to network with statewide RCP staff and partners (e.g., other state, local and federal agencies, universities and nongovernmental organizations), and additional fellowship activities depend on each Fellow's individual interests, but have included reviewing grant proposals for funding competitions, assisting with monitoring or site visit activities and attending leadership meetings or 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, where the fellow would be located, we have staff that telework from Tampa, FL, Mobile, AL, Biloxi, MS, Baton Rouge, LA and Galveston, TX. This distributed workforce model means that we rely on technology to allow us to coordinate and collaborate across the Gulf.

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

A GRP Science Policy Fellow with the Council would be working in the Programs staff with the Science Advisor and other staff to support the Council as it allocates funding to approved restoration projects. Activities may include helping ensure that restoration projects are being implemented based on the best available science (including supporting/writing policy updates to the science review process); assisting Council staff in continuing to improve monitoring and adaptive management processes and policies; reviewing and providing feedback on grant applications for restoration projects, including plans for data collection and management; and aiding in programmatic assessment of the impacts of restoration work across the Gulf. There will also be opportunities to facilitate coordination among state and federal Gulf agencies and non-profit organizations, serve on multi-agency committees or teams and attend RESTORE Council meetings across the Gulf. Fellows are encouraged to develop and pursue ideas for novel or timely projects relevant to the Council's work, especially those which pertain to the Fellow's area of expertise. Previous fellows have helped organize workshops among Gulf of Mexico scientists, supported quantitative assessments of ecosystem restoration program activities, assisted with coordination of adaptive management across agencies/projects, collaborated on grant proposals, and presented on Council activities at National conferences. Through their work with the RESTORE Council fellow stand to develop or enhance a variety of key skills including communicating science through written, oral and

visual means; being responsive to diverse perspectives and stakeholder priorities; tailoring communication for different audiences, including decision-makers; practical application of scientific knowledge through science policies; knowledge and application of adaptive management as a restoration tool; understanding of federal grants processes and policies; team building and facilitation; and coordination with a diverse array of stakeholders. A small Council staff means no task is too big or small for anyone, so the opportunities for a GRP fellow to dive head first into a world where science meets policy abound!

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.

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 $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, 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. Working with MBRACE is an excellent opportunity for a fellow to hone their skills in science communication (updating and expanding the MBRACE website; creating flyers and other informational material; presenting on MBRACE at conferences), stakeholder engagement (coordinating with State natural resource managers and mapping State management needs with research objectives), program coordination (preparing technical reports; organizing and hosting meetings; and 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). A fellow's networking opportunities in the Gulf would be numerous at MBRACE through coordinating and attending meetings with the other Centers of Excellence, working groups throughout the Gulf region, collaborations with Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, and state managers at Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

Organization Type	**Non-profit Organization**
Organization Address:	**118 N Royal St, STE 601, Mobile, AL 36602**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes.**
Website	**http://www.mobilebaynep.com/**

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

The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) was created in 1995. The MBNEP is one of 28 estuaries located along the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts and in Puerto Rico designated as estuaries of national significance. All are administered through and funded by the EPA under provisions of the Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1987. A State-sponsored program through the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, the purpose of the MBNEP is to bring together engaged and diverse communities committed to developing consensus on what our ecosystem priorities are, how to achieve them, and how to facilitate and promote their implementation.

Specifically, the mission of the MBNEP is to promote wise stewardship of the water quality characteristics and living resource base of the Mobile Bay estuarine system. We are a non-regulatory program, so we implement our Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP), a blueprint for conserving the Mobile Bay estuary, by bringing together citizens; local, state, and federal government agencies; businesses and industries; conservation and environmental organizations; and academic institutions. The current CCMP, published in 2013 and updated in 2018, is titled “Respect the Connect”, meant to convey the deep connection that coastal Alabamians have with our living resources through emphasis on six citizen-identified values: fish and wildlife, heritage and culture, resilience, beaches and dunes, water quality, and access. This year, we are rewriting the CCMP after a decade of work under the original document.

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

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

We are seeking a fellow to assist the current Science and Monitoring lead in determining the most cost-effective and efficient metrics for evaluating trends in environmental conditions related to MBNEP watershed management efforts. The fellow will lead efforts to compile and synthesize research data from restoration projects, develop primary goals and objectives (including community-based values) of a coastal environmental monitoring program, and augment the implementation of a volunteer water quality monitoring network across the two coastal counties of Alabama. A fellow will also gain valuable firsthand experience in translating science to policy and community action by contributing to the rewrite process for CCMP – the document which will guide the next decade of work at MBNEP.

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

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 and restoration data collection agencies to support the data management workflow from collection activities through management parties and ultimately to the appropriate archives, 2. Working with the NOAA 'Omics project to implement their Strategic Plan. The GRP Fellow will likely work across NOAA Line Offices including NOAA's Offices of Response and Restoration (ORR) and their DIVER system, and Habitat Conservation (OHC) planning the data stewardship needs for the Mesophotic and Deep Benthic Communities Open Ocean Restoration Group. For either project, the fellow could assist in developing and reviewing intra- and inter-agency agreements (IAAs or MOUs) for stewardship of DWH restoration data or Omics data. The GRP Fellow could also assist in various consultation efforts which will likely include working with external data stakeholder such as other federal or state agencies, academics or non-governmental organizations.

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	**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 an applied ecosystem science program. 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 the research and natural resource 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, or individuals who can benefit from information gained from projects. 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) use this understanding to guide the management of the ecosystem, including restoration.

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;

a) the design of funding competitions,
b) the review of funding applications, and
c) 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 natural 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	**Statistical Agency**
Organization Address:	**1200 New Jersey Ave, SE - Washington, D.C. 20590**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**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.**
Website	**https://safeocs.gov/**

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

Development of the SafeOCS program was initiated and is supported by the Department of Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). The program itself was designed and developed by and the Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) working closely with a group of oil and gas companies working in the Gulf of Mexico. SafeOCS facilitates the capture of essential information about accident precursors and potential hazards associated with offshore operations, including risks related to pipeline safety and offshore transport.

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 in a confidential manner that encourages companies to share information about events that may not otherwise be shared with the regulator. 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.). Aggregation of that information then allows industry to identify possible trends of concerns that warrant further attention and mitigation by industry to prevent injuries and/or reduce risks.

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 individuals to gain experience in data processing and statistical protocols/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 experienced professionals in various areas of drilling, production, and support activities 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, conduct quality assessments of statistical information products, and assess potential synergies of leveraging related data elements across multiple databases and from multiple sources. Fellow may help with development of data science tools and analytical processes that enhance the effectiveness of the processing protocols (e.g., natural

language processing), as well as allow stakeholders to draw insights and knowledge from the data with the objective of minimizing operational risks and contributing to a safer work environment. There will be opportunities to assist with industry engagement and participate in work group meetings, as well as gain insights and experience working with federal regulations that govern offshore activities.

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

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

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

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

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

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

The Fellow will have the opportunity to conduct science policy research and stakeholder engagement to support the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Environmental Program in implementing activities established in the Tampa Bay Estuary's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), and the Tampa Bay Regional Resilience Action Plan (RRAP), such as:

- 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. (CCMP & RRAP)
- Assist senior staff with regional coordination to develop shoreline design and construction standards and encourage local adoption to support private property owner efforts. (RRAP)
- Conduct research to assist with assessing the impacts of materials such as artificial turf and pavement on stormwater runoff. Develop an artificial turf model ordinance or other policy tool for local government adoption. (Agency on Bay Management priority)
- Support the convening of regional stakeholders to identify innovative stormwater management strategies, design, incentives, and pilot projects which also support habitat resilience and water quality. (RRAP)
- Mapping and research to enhance/expand the connectivity of wildlife corridors. (RRAP)

- Conduct research to assist with assessment of the impacts of rising groundwater levels to the region's vulnerable communities and critical infrastructure.
- Assist in planning and coordination of regional meetings and events including the annual Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Leadership Summit.

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.

The Institute's applied research is rooted in the lessons learned from the challenges facing Louisiana and the Gulf Coast and grows through collaborative partnerships to exchange knowledge and implement innovative approaches and solutions. As a applied research institution, The Institute partners with mission-driven organizations that share our passion for advancing resilient communities and sustainable water management systems and ecosystems based on sound science.

The Water Institute connects researchers across disciplines to support governmental, private sector, and nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners in planning for an uncertain future. Our integrated and interdisciplinary team's methodology is founded on engaging scientific, engineering, and planning experts to provide the technical rigor and framing necessary to support robust decision-making.

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

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

The Institute has a staff of approximately 90 employees across Operations, Administration and Research Departments in Coastal Ecology, Applied Geosciences, Coastal and Deltaic Systems Modeling, and Planning and Policy Research. A Science Policy Fellow hosted by the Institute would be working with the Deputy Director 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), which is a competitive research grant program sponsored by the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, and 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 the LA-COE, fellows may engage in a variety of activities and research throughout the year, depending on their interests. For example, fellows interested in climate resilience, may help support the Director of the newly established 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.

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 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 >30 technical and support staff members, with most of the 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 2023-24 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 Project Ledger will allow us to show movement toward restoration metrics to help guide restoration planning into the next 20 years. With engagement by our Service Programs, it will also show our progress towards Endangered Species Act recovery plan goals and Species Status Assessments for At-Risk species, Refuges acquisition and land management goals, Fisheries habitat status assessments, Migratory Bird status and priorities, and much more conservation that is made possible by our investments of these appropriated funds.

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 and utilizing 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 Compliance Support Branch. Having strong GIS experience

and a keen interest in investigating and capturing the details for each of these unique projects along with quality assurance and control will be important components to the project as well.

The selected fellow will gain experience with the implementation of federal restoration acts, intra- and inter-agency coordination, and federal data management and analysis standards. There will also be opportunities to experience other FWS programs, including Science Applications, Migratory Birds, and Ecological Services, while having the opportunity to learn GRO branch activities associated with restoration planning, implementation, monitoring and adaptive management.