NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine

GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

Gulf Research Program Science Policy Fellowship
2026 - 2027 Host Offices

Host offices are located in each of the five Gulf States and surrounding areas and may be federal, state, or local government agencies or non-governmental organizations.

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

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

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

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

2026 - 2027 Science Policy Fellowship Host Offices:

1. Alabama Coastal Foundation
2. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
3. City of Mobile – Office of Resilience
4. Florida Department of Environmental Protection - Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection
5. Gulf Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE Council)
6. Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)
7. University-based RESTORE Act Center of Excellence Research Grants Program and Sea Grant (JOINT-PLACEMENT)
8. NOAA RESTORE Science Program
9. Oceans and Wildlife Institute (OWI)
10. Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition
11. Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
12. The Water Institute
13. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office

Alabama Coastal Foundation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

engagement is another critical component, with participation in public meetings, workshops, and briefings to communicate BOEM's environmental initiatives and gather input.

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

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

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

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

City of Mobile – Office of Resilience

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

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

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

region. The city is connected to New Orleans and Mississippi via the new Amtrak Mardi Gras line and is located less than an hour from Florida via Interstate-10.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

available science into community resilience. Examples of opportunities the Fellow may participate in include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gulf Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE Council)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Projects may include developing policy briefs, white papers, issue memos, and presentations; synthesizing legislative and regulatory developments; and contributing to public comments or stakeholder briefings. The Fellow will help identify policy and regulatory barriers—such as permitting,

interconnection, or financing—that affect the adoption of best practices and propose data-informed strategies to address them.

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

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

Organization Type	**University-Based RESTORE Act Center of Excellence Research Grants Program and Sea Grant**
Organization Address:	**703 E. Beach Drive, Ocean Springs, MS 39564**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes. The Fellow would be invited to work at the host office in Ocean Springs, MS. Alternatively, they may work remotely from any of the Gulf of Mexico states.**
Website	**https://mbrace.usm.edu/** and **https://masgc.org**

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

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

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

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

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

The Fellow would support the administration of the MBRACE research grants program, working with the Director, Program Manager, Chief Scientist, and MASGC leadership to coordinate research activities and engage with state natural resource managers to help ensure funded research addresses priority management needs. This may include assisting with research coordination meetings, preparing summaries and technical materials, and supporting communication between researchers and agency partners. Depending on the Fellow's interests, activities may also include coordinating with state agencies to map management needs to research objectives; assisting with organizing and hosting meetings, workshops, or webinars; updating and maintaining web-based content; and preparing reports or briefing materials for a variety of audiences. The Fellow may also interact with the MBRACE Executive Steering Committee, funding partners from other Gulf States, and researchers from Mississippi universities.

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

NOAA RESTORE Science Program

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

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

The NOAA RESTORE Science Program is an applied ecosystem science program. Our mission is to support research, observation, and monitoring that promotes the long-term sustainability of the Gulf ecosystem. We accomplish our mission by working with research and management communities to design and run funding competitions. Once we make awards, we work closely with the project teams, especially on the transfer of their research findings and products to users. We also explore ways to promote the use of science to inform management decisions, especially the co-production of science, through workshops, conferences, and engagement with researchers, resource managers, and others. Researchers, resource managers, and others coproduce science when they collaborate through all phases of a research project from its scoping and design to the application of its results to inform a

specific natural resource management decision. In the long-term, the Science Program aims to accomplish two outcomes: 1) understand the Gulf ecosystem in an integrative, holistic manner and 2) have the management of the ecosystem, including restoration, be guided by this understanding.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Oceans and Wildlife Institute (OWI)

Organization Type	**Non-profit Organization**
Organization Address:	**2710 N. Shoreline Blvd, Corpus Christi, Texas 78402**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://www.owi.org/**

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

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

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

- STEMM Workforce Development Center
- Wildlife Rescue Center
- Wildlife Recovery Training Center
- Office of Emergency Management

- Texas State Aquarium
- Wildlife Resiliency Research Center

The goal is for these centers to operate independently while also collaborating tangentially and in partnership to execute goals and objectives that support the vision and mission.

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

A Fellow at the OWI would work at the intersection of science, policy, and communication to support the organization's vision of conserving the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. Fellows may assist in developing science literacy programs that integrate wildlife conservation and community resiliency while contributing to policies for wildlife response and endangered species recovery. They will also collaborate on STEMM workforce, Office of Emergency Management, and Training Center initiatives, including expanding course offerings and leadership development programs, to foster career progression in STEMM fields. Projects may involve working with multiple departments to align conservation and educational objectives. Fellows will play an active role in communication efforts by creating content to engage diverse audiences, supporting outreach initiatives, and promoting the mission through public presentations. Additionally, they may assist in multidepartmental projects to ensure alignment with organizational goals, emphasizing sustainability and growth. This fellowship offers hands-on experience blending research, policy application, content development, and public engagement, with a focus on advancing conservation, wildlife and community resiliency, and education initiatives.

Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition

Organization Type	**Non-profit Organization**
Organization Address:	**3801 Canal Street, Suite 400, New Orleans, LA 70119**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**Yes**
Website	**https://mississippiriverdelta.org/**

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

We are a coalition made up of the Environmental Defense Fund, National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, and Pontchartrain Conservancy. Together, we are working to rebuild coastal Louisiana's nationally significant landscape to protect people, wildlife, and jobs. Our mission is to advance an equitable, safer, and flourishing coast for Louisiana's communities, ecosystems, and economy. The focus of our work is on policy, advocacy, education, science, and where they intersect. While based in New Orleans, much of our work is focused on coast-wide programs like Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (and coastal master plan) and the USACE's projects like the Lower Mississippi River Comprehensive Management Study. We also interact closely with a variety of

community-based organizations, economic development interests, universities, the State Legislature and executive branch, and the general public.

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

Ongoing and upcoming projects include:

- Science, Policy, and Communications surrounding the overall status and direction of the state's coastal program and the communication of these findings to the public and policy makers.
- 2029 Coastal Master Plan and Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan--track the development and progress of this planning effort, providing guidance to the coalition as we prepare comments on the projects and the plan itself.
- Blue Carbon--growing emphasis on blue carbon's ability to sequester GHGs and to monetize those benefits to fund additional coastal restoration. Literature reviews, state of the science, and develop recommendations for if and how our organizations should engage.
- Water Quality and Nutrient Reduction Strategy--our organizations are deeply committed to the utilization of the Mississippi River as a restoration tool which makes water quality in that river a concern as well. Fellow could help with actual water quality testing as well as engage with Louisiana's Nutrient Reduction Strategy (just released in draft).

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC)

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Water Institute

Organization Type	**Non-profit Organization**
Organization Address:	**1110 River Road S., Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA, 70802**
Is the organization address the same as the location where the fellow would work?	**No. Fellow will be based in New Orleans, LA**
Website	**https://thewaterinstitute.org/**

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

The Water Institute (The Institute) is an independent, non-profit applied research organization that advances actionable research, technology, and planning to support science-informed decision making. We serve as a collaborative thought partner, bridging across disciplines and organizations. We believe in and strive for more resilient and equitable communities, sustainable environments, and thriving economies. The Institute's applied research is rooted in the lessons born from the challenges facing coastal communities and grows through collaborative partnerships to exchange knowledge and implement innovative approaches and solutions. The Institute connects researchers and practitioners across disciplines to support governmental, private sector, and nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners in planning for an uncertain future. Our integrated and interdisciplinary team's methodology is founded on engaging scientific, engineering, and planning experts to provide the technical rigor and framing necessary to support robust decision making. Our team leads the development and application of leading-edge, problem-specific tools and approaches to inform a range of implementation and policy decisions. The Institute has six areas of impact: 1) Restore the vanishing coast, 2) Supporting plants and

animals at risk, 3) Managing sediment resources, 4) Strengthening resilience in an uncertain future, 5) Understanding evolving flood risks, and 6) Advancing community-led action.

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

The Institute has a staff of approximately 90 employees across Administrative and Research Departments in Coastal Ecology, Applied Geosciences, Coastal and Compound Flooding, Coastal and Deltaic Systems Modeling, and Planning and Policy Research. A Fellow hosted by the Institute would be working as a member of the Applied Research Division, helping to coordinate across research departments to help with the implementation of interdisciplinary science to support policy and decision-making.

Fellows will also have the opportunity to work with the RESTORE Act Center of Excellence for Louisiana (LA-COE), which is a competitive research grant program sponsored by the LA Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority through the U.S. Department of Treasury and is administrated by the Institute. This will provide Fellows the opportunity to interact with state and federal agencies, as well as researchers from across disciplines and Louisiana universities.

In addition to working to support the Applied Research Departments and the LA-COE, Fellows may engage in a variety of activities and research throughout the year, depending on their interests. For example, Fellows interested in climate resilience, may help support the Director Community Resilience Center, housed through the Institute, in implementing resilience activities funded through the center. Given the variety of research areas and projects implemented at The Institute, fellows may utilize their research skills, knowledge, and interests to shape their fellowship experience.

The Institute's applied interdisciplinary science mission means that fellows from all research backgrounds will have opportunities to grow their skills and expertise as a part of our team!

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

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

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

The Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office (GRO) was established in 2011 to lead the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) activities for the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) Oil Spill. Since global settlement of the DWH case in 2016, the office has shifted focus from injury assessment to restoration implementation. In addition to the NRDAR activities, the GRO coordinates with restoration implemented under the RESTORE Act and the National Fish and

Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF) to facilitate the effective use of funds dedicated to the restoration of the Gulf of America. The GRO includes 25 people, with a large percentage of the staff located in the Fairhope, Alabama office. The GRO collaborates with other FWS offices, Department of the Interior (DOI) bureaus, federal and state agencies, and many other partners to advance science-based restoration of the Gulf of America and beyond.

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

The primary role of the Science Policy Fellow in 2026-27 will include working as part of a team to support the connections between our restoration projects and our injured DOI federal trust resources, including sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, migratory birds, and habitats on federal lands. We have developed the Gulf Restoration Project Ledger to characterize the benefits gained in restoring the Gulf through our settlement investments. We have also developed Resource Guides to summarize ongoing progress toward restoring the injury to our DOI trust resources. Both of these tools help us to focus our restoration planning, identify leveraging opportunities, honor our commitment to streamlining regulatory processes, and provide efficiencies in restoration design for all Trustees and partners.

A Fellow in the GRO would work closely with Trust Resource Coordinators and the Branch Chief on a project to evaluate restoration benefits to DOI trust resources. The Fellow will have access to data from completed and in progress restoration projects as well as the resource guides and project ledger. Numerous questions can be addressed using these data and tools. For example, the Fellow can choose a federal trust species, such as brown pelican (the most injured bird species by the oil spill), and tell the story of their restoration process, starting with their injury from the oil spill.