

## **Coastal Hazard Resilience | 2020-2021 Washington Sea Grant Fellowship**

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### **Overview**

Washington was the first state in the Nation to earn federal approval for its Coastal Zone Management Program (Coastal Program), established under the authority of the 1972 Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). The Coastal Program, housed within the Department of Ecology, meets the goals of the federal law through a comprehensive approach to coastal resource management. This work requires us to balance the often competing — and occasionally conflicting — demands of coastal resources use, economic development, and conservation. We partner with a range of stakeholders, agencies, local governments, academics, Tribes, and non-profits to achieve this mission.

Depending on the fellow's interests and the program's activities, the fellow's work could involve research and writing, policy analysis, strategic planning and project management, event planning and facilitation, partnership building and coordination, stakeholder engagement, web design and maintenance, and internal and external communications.

While this year's fellowship will focus on community resilience to coastal hazards, we value growth and development of fellows in all areas of coastal management. In addition to having specific outputs, the fellow will have the opportunity to explore and take on creative thinking initiatives.

### **Area of Focus**

For decades, Washington coastal communities have been trying to address the impacts from natural hazards (flooding, erosion, wind and waves, storm surge, landslides, and earthquake and tsunamis). As disaster events become more frequent and severe, the historic approach of reactionary crisis management is no longer a feasible option due to the growing costs.

In addition to addressing the adverse consequences of hazards on communities (e.g., health, safety, welfare, environmental), one of the main priorities of hazards resilience planning is the recognition that some areas and communities will be disproportionately affected by the consequences of chronic and episodic disaster events. Environmental and economic costs tend to disproportionately impact lower income and marginalized groups. A focus of state coastal resilience efforts are on Washington's Pacific Coast, where there are significant capacity constraints at the local level and communities that are most vulnerable.

Working in close partnership with Ecology's Senior Coastal Planner, Washington Sea Grant, and other key partners, this 2020-2021 fellow will continue the work on state coastal hazards resilience initiatives,

including the Washington Coastal Resilience Project (WCRP) and the Resilience Action Demonstration Project (RAD). Specifically, the fellow may gain skills in the following areas:

1. **Outreach and engagement** - This fellow will focus on local needs along the Washington coast. They will work with team members to gather information about coastal hazards needs by attending local meetings, interviewing local and state officials, and developing case studies for current projects.
2. **Project Management** - This fellow will support multiple communities and projects simultaneously. Team members coordinate internally and externally to ensure agency priorities and local projects have the support, resources, and coordination needed to make progress. The fellow will lead management of a coastal hazards network website and will play a supporting role in other projects.
3. **Facilitation and event planning** - This fellow will support initiatives to bring communities and stakeholders together to address coastal hazards needs. They may serve as a facilitator at workshops, meetings, and trainings where attendees have various needs, experiences, perspectives, and priorities.
4. **Written and oral communication to a variety of audiences** - This fellow will focus on making recommendations to communities, local officials, state agencies, and governments regarding best practices for addressing coastal hazards resilience needs. They will regularly create and share documents, presentations, website content, and other materials to a range of internal and external partners.

#### **Project Partners:**

Office of the Governor

Washington Sea Grant

The Nature Conservancy

FEMA Region X

State Emergency Management Division

Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council

State Department of Natural Resources

State Department of Commerce

Pacific Coast Local Governments

Washington Marine Resource Committees

Washington State Parks & Recreation

Tribes

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

#### **Fellow Mentoring and Agency Connections**

The Fellow will work with the Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program at the Department of Ecology in Olympia, WA. The fellow will have a mentor and a supervisor that will oversee activities and guide development.

The fellow will have a tailored Performance and Development Plan that provides a comprehensive and integrated approach to managing the relationship between mentors and fellows, evaluating fellows' progress on tasks and professional growth, and ensuring clear and open discussions about opportunities for improvement - using goal-setting, self-evaluation, and supplemental information. These elements establish the foundation for a successful fellowship and career.

The fellow will be part of a multi-agency team working on hazards resilience, including another Washington Sea Grant Fellow at Ecology. This team is supported by a range of coastal management experts, including ocean policy, shoreline management, coastal geology and engineering, floodplain management, wetlands and critical areas, and legislative engagement professionals.

The Fellow will be encouraged to attend relevant coordination meetings, trainings or other opportunities to gain exposure and understanding of how government and non-governmental organizations work on regional coastal management. When opportunities arise, the Fellow will be encouraged to present work to a variety of regional audiences. This experience will connect the fellow to state, regional, and national partners and encourage coordinated participation in larger resilience conversations centered on fundamental and unified approaches to protecting resources, people, and systems.