

Washington Sea Grant Hershman Fellowship

Host Application 2020- 2021

The Nature Conservancy

1. Host organization

The Nature Conservancy of Washington

74 Wall Street, Seattle, WA 98121

2. Name, title, and contact information for fellowship mentor/ supervisors

Main Mentor/ Supervisor:

Molly Bogeberg

Marine and Coastal Conservation Specialist

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Supporting Supervisor:

Kat Morgan

Associate Director of Puget Sound Conservation

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3. Position Description

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Since our founding in 1951, the Conservancy has protected more than 117 million acres of land and 5,000 miles of rivers worldwide — and we operate more than 100 marine conservation projects globally. We have more than 1 million members and dedicated staff working in all 50 States and more than 70 countries around the world. We are committed to broadening who we work with and how we work, and to creating a welcoming, inclusive and supportive work environment, and are actively working to diversify our workforce.

In Washington we are working to make sure people and nature both thrive in the face of climate change and increasing demands on nature. Our programs on land, water, oceans, cities and climate leverage science, partnerships and our connections around the world to work at scale and have the biggest impact possible on our state.

The 2020-2021 Washington Hershman Fellow will work with TNC's Marine and Coastal Conservation Specialist and Puget Sound Team to participate in one or more of the projects listed below as they align with available funding and the Fellow's interests, knowledge, and skills.

1. The University of Washington and TNC are currently working to understand how changing ocean conditions will impact West Coast fishing communities through social-ecological vulnerability

assessments, interviews, and fisherman surveys to inform the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (PFMC)'s Climate and Communities Initiative. Future work will look to build an information base around how aquaculture communities may be impacted by climate change to more fully represent Washington's coastal communities.

2. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is critical for addressing climate change and building the ability of natural habitats to capture and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as a part of the solution. Better understanding the carbon sequestration potential for blue carbon habitats in Washington (e.g. eelgrass beds, seaweed, and estuaries) will help build momentum for future investments in nature-based solutions to climate change.
3. There is a growing interest in kelp aquaculture in Washington State and there is a need to evaluate the industry's potential ecosystem benefits and impacts to ensure that new techniques are developed sustainably. TNC seeks to understand tribal and non-tribal interests in kelp aquaculture and pursue opportunities to create pilot projects with state, federal, tribal, non-profit, and industry partners.

The Fellow will also be fully integrated across all departments of the Washington chapter, and may work with staff to produce grant proposals, reports, presentations, and outreach and marketing materials that support the projects below and general chapter operations.

The projects listed above will give the Fellow the opportunity to expand their network by working with the following groups:

- Global and North American operating units of the Conservancy, and other non-governmental organizations;
- Industry groups representing fishermen, shellfish growers, and other coastal and marine uses;
- Tribal natural resource planning staff and governments;
- Marine Resource Committees;
- State policy advisory bodies, including the Washington Coast Marine Advisory Council and the Marine Resource Advisory Council;
- University of Washington and Washington Sea Grant.