

**Makah Tribe Office of Marine Affairs**  
**Washington Sea Grant Hershman Fellowship 2021-2022**

**Host Organization**

Makah Tribe Office of Marine Affairs

**Fellowship Location**

The Makah Tribe is located in Neah Bay, WA. The Fellowship location is flexible between Neah Bay and Port Angeles. Note that the Makah Reservation remains closed to non-resident/non-employees due to the COVID-19 pandemic and staff are not yet fully back to in-person work. The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, which could potentially provide office space to the Fellow in Port Angeles, is also not yet fully back to in-person work. Previous fellows who were based outside of Neah Bay typically traveled to Neah Bay at least once a month to work with staff, leadership, and community in person – a vital component of the Fellowship with the Tribe. We would work with the fellow to develop a COVID-19-safe plan for work if this remains a concern by October, 2021.

**Fellowship Mentors/Supervisors**

Carol Reamer, Manager, Office of Marine Affairs ([carol.reamer@makah.com](mailto:carol.reamer@makah.com), 360-640-2289)

Haley Kennard, Natural Resource Policy Analyst ([haley.kennard@makah.com](mailto:haley.kennard@makah.com), 360-640-2491)

**Position Description**

The Makah Tribal Council is a trustee of coastal and marine resources that are critically important to our culture, economy, and the well-being of the Makah people. The changes in the environment due to climate change and increasing vessel traffic and oil spill risk present a threat to those resources and a challenge for the Tribal Council's ability to uphold its shared trust responsibilities with the federal government. The Makah Tribal Council has developed an ocean policy to facilitate coordination between natural resource managers as they work to deal with climate change and other ocean management issues.

The 2021-2022 Makah Hershman Fellow will support the Office of Marine Affairs' ongoing vessel traffic safety and oil pollution prevention efforts as well as climate resilience and environmental policy work, key pillars of Makah Ocean Policy. The Fellow will: 1) track the implementation of maritime infrastructure projects; 2) follow and analyze vessel traffic and climate change policy affecting our transboundary waters and treaty resources; 3) develop research, mapping, and community engagement tools to support our oil prevention, preparedness, and response capacity as identified by the Makah Oil Spill Work Group; and 4) support our ongoing climate resilience and treaty resource protection planning efforts. This work will require a wide breadth of engagement in the areas of oil spills, vessel traffic, climate change, marine planning, community education and outreach and partnership building. The Fellow will be exposed to ocean policy, the process of government-to government consultation, traditional ecological knowledge perspectives as part of climate change adaptation and marine planning.

*Specific Tasks and Major Project Components*

The Fellow will support the Makah Tribe's oil spill response and climate resilience efforts through major project areas and by engaging in the Tribe's ongoing efforts. We have some flexibility within this scope and are open to collaboratively defining the Fellow's main projects with the eventual fellow based on their interests and strengths.

*Primary Projects Include:*

- Development of a white paper and/or mapping tool on the overlap between oil pollution risk and climate change impacts focused on identifying key species and habitats at risk.
- Development of a gap analysis of existing baseline data to support oil spill preparedness and supporting the Tribe's Oil Spill Work Group and define future research agenda.
- Supporting our transboundary oil spill and vessel traffic work via the Strait of Juan de Fuca Indigenous Caucus.
- Identification of community-based methodologies to incorporate community input into clean-up endpoints for oil spills.
- Updating our climate resilience plans including finalization of an Ocean Acidification Action Plan, Climate Resilience Plan, First Foods Climate Resilience Plan - including developing implementation strategies. We are also interested in developing a terrestrial policy (similar to our ocean policy but focused on terrestrial/riparian habitats and species) and recreation strategy. The Fellow may assist in the development of groundwork for these plans.

*Ongoing Work and Responsibilities:*

- Assist with ongoing Makah Marina projects, including work related to environmental impact assessments, derelict vessel removal, and navigational channel improvements with the Army Corps of Engineers and other partners.
- Attend, track, and report out to staff on relevant regional oil spill, vessel traffic safety, and environmental forums such as the Regional Response Team/Northwest Area Committee, Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee, Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel and Local Integrating Organization, etc.
- Support the Office of Marine Affairs staff in implementing the worklist as updated under the Memorandum of Agreement between the Tribe and the US Coast Guard.
- Assist staff in coordinating with research partners on the development of marine renewable energy feasibility projects in Neah Bay.
- Participate in the Climate Change Work Group, Ocean Policy Work Group, and Oil Spill Work Group and work with policy and science staff from across tribal departments.
- Track emerging climate legislation at the state and federal level and relevant state and federal rule-making, and participate in developing comment letters, policy briefs, and information to support consultation as appropriate.
- Support the Makah Tribe's engagement in state and regional marine planning and climate adaptation forums, such as MRAC, the West Coast Ocean Alliance, and others.
- Collaborate with Makah Tribal staff to produce grant proposals, reports, presentations, and outreach efforts that support the above.

*Networking and Professional Development Opportunities*

We believe that working for the Makah Tribe uniquely prepares our fellows to lead environmental work at the state, federal, or private sector level as we provide a foundational understanding of treaty rights and how to engage with tribal sovereigns and co-managers. We support our Fellows in pursuing professional development opportunities that support their career goals and are happy to assist the Fellow in networking with our partners as they are interested. The projects listed above will give the Fellow the opportunity to expand their network by working with the following groups:

- Natural resource and fisheries agencies of treaty tribes in Washington State and on the West Coast, as well as potentially First Nations in Canada.

- Federal and State Agencies: US EPA, Bureau of Indian Affairs, NOAA (including Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary), USDA, Washington Department of Ecology, Puget Sound Partnership, Regional Response Team/Northwest Area Committee, Coast Guard.
- Maritime Industry: Foss, Marine Exchange, Port of Seattle, spill response contractors, Maritime Blue, industry participants in the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee.
- Non-Governmental Organizations such as The Nature Conservancy.
- Regional partnerships, federal and state forums that address ocean health and planning potentially including the West Coast Ocean Alliance, the Marine Resources Advisory Committee, Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, and federal climate and ocean policy entities.
- Academic groups focused on climate change and ocean acidification such as the Climate Impacts Group, Washington Sea Grant, and marine renewable energy researchers.