

Washington Resilience Action Demonstration Project | 2019-2020 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, Tribes, local governments, academics, and non-profits to achieve this mission. We focus our efforts on five key priorities:

- Protecting and restoring **coastal wetlands**.
- Preventing or reducing threats from **coastal hazards**.
- Attaining increased opportunities for **public access**.
- Partnering to manage the **impacts of growth and development**.
- Planning for the use of **ocean resources**.

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. But, there are also significant capacity constraints at the local level to shift to more proactive risk reduction.

This Fellowship is an exciting opportunity to support and shape the state's "Washington Coast Resilience Action Demonstration (RAD) Project." The RAD Project will initiate a multi-agency "Coastal Hazards Organizational Resilience Team (COHORT)" to support community led efforts in developing resilience projects¹ that achieve benefits to people, place, and environment. Specifically, the Fellow will be working with a team to complete the following tasks:

¹ Resilience projects can be any activity needed to reduce risk to natural hazards while also benefiting habitat, public access, recreation, and tourism (e.g., capital projects, research and analysis, policies and regulations, education and outreach strategies, acquisitions, tax incentive programs, etc.).

1. Study existing grant programs and work with a variety of partners to shape guidelines for eligible resilience project types, activities, characteristics, and intended outcomes.
2. Test the guidelines by working with the COHORT and communities to jointly produce resilience projects.
3. Assess the process, which will inform recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, and state and local agencies on future investments.

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.