

Project: Furthering the Makah Tribe’s response to oil spills and other threats to coastal and marine resources

Host Organization

Makah Tribe Office of Marine Affairs, 1321 Bay View Avenue, Neah Bay, WA

Mentors

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Other Key Staff

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Location: The Makah Tribe is located in Neah Bay, WA. The Fellowship location is flexible between Neah Bay, Port Angeles, and Seattle. Previous Seattle-based Fellows 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. There may be opportunities for office space through Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (Port Angeles) or The Nature Conservancy (Seattle).

Level of Financial Support: The Makah Tribe will contribute \$70,000 for a Hershman Fellow. This includes \$65,000 for the Fellow’s stipend (base and benefits) and \$5,000 to support Neah Bay travel, an estimate based on travel costs of recent fellows located in the Seattle area.

Position Description Overview: The Makah Tribal Council is a trustee of coastal and marine resources that are critically important to Makah culture, economy, and the well-being of Makah people. Primary threats to coastal and marine resources include climate change and increasing vessel traffic and oil spill risk. These risks challenge the Tribal Council’s ability to uphold its shared trust responsibilities with the federal government. In response, the Makah Tribal Council has developed an Ocean Policy to facilitate coordination between natural resource managers as they work to deal with ocean management issues.

The 2024-2025 Makah Hershman Fellow will support the Tribe’s ongoing work related to water quality, environmental policy, vessel traffic safety, oil pollution prevention, and climate resilience. The Fellow will take on a flexible water quality-focused primary project and other primary projects as available and interested. Through their work, the Fellow will be exposed to ocean policy, the process of government-to government consultation, and traditional ecological knowledge perspectives.

Water Quality Policy Project

A growing interest for the OMA and the Environmental Division is developing policy capacity on water quality. As such, the Fellow will develop a policy summary on this topic with some flexibility. At a minimum, this summary will identify state and federal water quality regulations and how well

they are enforced, to support future policy statements and grant proposals. Depending on the Fellow's interests, the policy summary may also include analyses of the impacts of the Sackett SCOTUS decision, a gap analysis of the 2024 Washington Non-Point Source Plan, or other elements.

Other primary projects could include but are not limited to

- Identifying trends in oil spill drill outcomes to increase transparency for the spill response community and to support future oil spill policy engagement and development;
- Developing 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;
- Identifying community-based methodologies to incorporate community input into clean-up endpoints for oil spills;
- Needs assessment for data storage, access, analytics, and policy to support the Tribe's natural resource decision-making;
- Support the Tribe's climate resilience portfolio by developing measures for climate resilience and community well-being; and
- Assisting in developing or updating climate resilience plans including the Ocean Acidification Action Plan, Climate Resilience Plan, and Recreation Management Strategy.

To support ongoing work in the Office of Marine Affairs and Environmental Division, the Fellow will

- Attend, track, and report out to staff on relevant regional oil spill, vessel traffic safety, climate resilience, and environmental forums
- Support implementation of the worklist as updated under the Memorandum of Agreement between the Tribe and the US Coast Guard;
- Work with staff across departments to support policy development;
- Track relevant state and federal legislation and rulemaking and participate in developing comment letters, policy briefs, and information to support consultation as appropriate;
- Support engagement in regional marine planning and climate resilience forums; and
- Collaborate with Makah Tribal staff to produce grant proposals, reports, presentations, and outreach efforts that support the above.

Networking and professional development opportunities

The Makah Tribe uniquely prepares our Fellows to lead environmental work at the state, federal, or private sector level because 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 (examples listed below) as they are interested.

- Natural resource and fisheries agencies of tribal and First Nation governments
- Federal and state agencies including EPA, NOAA, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington Department of Ecology, Puget Sound Partnership, Coast Guard
- Maritime industry, including Port of Seattle, spill response contractors, and Maritime Blue
- Regional partnerships that address ocean health and planning including the West Coast Ocean Alliance and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- Non-governmental organizations including The Nature Conservancy
- Academic groups including Climate Impacts Group and Washington Sea Grant

DEI Statement:

The Makah Tribe has the following existing policies:

Discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or the presence of sensory, mental, or physical handicap has no place in the consideration of applicants for employment, consideration to job assignment, promotion, lay-off, demotion, or other employment practices except as warranted by job analysis and bona fide occupational qualification, or reasonable preferences established by applicable law, such as preferences for tribal members and their spouses. The Makah Tribal Council will make reasonable accommodations to the sensory, mental, or physical limitations of employees unless such as accommodation would impose an undue hardship to the Makah Tribe.

The Makah Tribal Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer and actively encourages applications from all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status or ancestry, sexual orientation or sensory, mental, physical, or other non-disqualifying disability. Indian Preference will be applied to hiring of this position as defined in Title 25, U.S. Code, Chapter 14, Subchapter V, Sections 472 and 473.

In discussing this portion of the application with a Tribal Council representative, they also wanted to add the following: *To us, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion means the formal recognition of Makah Sovereignty and the honoring of our treaty rights and role as resource trustees, co-managers and sovereigns. It means ensuring that the ocean is healthy enough to support the Tribe's treaty fisheries rights, and nutritional, cultural, and spiritual needs.*