

Quinault Indian Nation

2025 - 2026 Washington Sea Grant Hershman Fellowship Description

Host Organization

Quinault Indian Nation

1214 Aalis Drive, Taholah, WA 98587

Fellowship Location

Quinault Division of Natural Resources in Taholah, Washington as needed plus some travel to Taholah and other Quinault villages and locations would be required to fulfill other duties.

Fellowship Mentor/Co-mentor information

- Ervin “Joe” Schumacker, Marine Resources Scientist, Quinault Indian Nation
jschumacker@quinault.org 360-276-8215 ext. 7327 (office) 360-590-0162 (work cell).
- Cleve Jackson, Fisheries Policy Spokesperson, Quinault Indian Nation
Cleve.jackson@quinault.org 360-276-8215 ext. 7368

Project Title

Updating the Marine Spatial Plan of the Quinault Indian Nation

Project Description

During the one-year length of this proposed fellowship, the Fellow would be mentored through a process of –

- 1) Reviewing the existing Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) Coastal and Marine Spatial Plan (CMSP), drafted in 2017 and, working with the mentor and co-mentor, determine their level of skill and comfort to edit, update and finalize a 2026 version of the QIN CMSP for Tribal Council review. The QIN CMSP requires updating due to rapidly increasing proposals for ocean uses including renewable energy, aquaculture, fiber optic cables and more. The QIN is a Treaty Tribe with treaty rights and management jurisdiction in over 1,500 square nautical miles of ocean and over 50 miles of coastline. The QIN depends upon its marine habitats and resources to support its membership now and for future generations.
- 2) Conducting interviews with Tribal elders, fishers and leaders to verify existing ocean data and collect new data for use in the QIN CMSP. Oral information to be collected and archived will include historical fishing areas, culturally important areas, kelp coverage,

shoreline gathering locations and other pertinent data to be included in a comprehensive QIN CMSP.

3) Developing skills for collecting, validating and visualizing marine data produced through oral interviews. The Fellow will also be mentored in Quinault principles of data sovereignty and data security to protect QIN culture and heritage.

4) Developing skills in acquiring current marine biogenic, physical and human use data from best available scientific sources including many partners that have worked with the QIN.

5) Developing skills in the use of GIS and other mapping tools to accurately record, visualize and share spatial data layers composed of collected data and built on previous products in the 2017 Plan.

6) Developing skills in concise, readable report writing and layouts.

7) Developing skills in presenting information to a tribal community and leadership to share progress and gain feedback and guidance as work progresses.

8) Developing relationships with Tribal members and gaining understanding of the history, culture and importance of the ocean and its shores to them.

9) Accompanying or virtually attending the many forums where the Quinault Indian Nation works with tribal, federal, state, and local governments. This experience will assist the fellow in understanding the treaty rights of the Quinault Indian Nation while extending their knowledge of ocean governance, co-management, regulatory frameworks and more.

10) Supporting Quinault Natural Resources staff in other marine forums, including, but not limited to, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) and Advisory Council (SAC) meetings, West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) meetings and projects (Ocean Health Dashboard), Olympic Coast Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site meetings, and other local and regional initiatives, as directed. Attendance in these forums will serve to extend the networks and resources available to the fellow.

Additional Details

A prospective Herschman Fellow will not require background checks or clearances if they are in good standing with their current scholastic institution. Travel to the Quinault reservation and other areas takes approximately 3 hours from the Seattle area. Lodging is available in the area at varying levels of comfort and affordability along with many camping options. The Olympic Peninsula is renowned for its beauty and variety of extraordinary biomes including temperate rainforests, wild shorelines and the Olympic mountains. The Quinault reservation is adjacent to the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Olympic National Park.