

**WSG State Fellowship Host Application  
SEATTLE AQUARIUM**

**Host office location and contact information**

Seattle Aquarium  
1483 Alaskan Way, Pier 59  
Seattle, WA 98101  
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**Name and Title for the fellowship mentor/supervisor**

Dr. Erin Meyer  
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**Fellowship Position Description**

The organizations and people involved in ocean policy in Washington, particularly at the Federal level, do not embody the diversity of organizations, perspectives, or residents in our state. Thus, when ocean policy or management issues emerge, there are limited organizations involved in shaping legislation, defining regulations, educating communities, and participating in advocacy campaigns. Most ocean policies and regulations do not consider how interwoven ocean and human health are, and many set the frame as a conflict between extracting resources (e.g., food security, livelihoods) versus protecting the ocean. Bringing diverse voices, perspectives and expertise to the table provides the opportunity to interweave knowledges (e.g., traditional knowledge, fisher's knowledge, Western science), fundamentally change ocean policies and regulations, and develop innovative and enduring solutions.

Changes at this scale will not happen quickly. The Washington Sea Grant Keystone Fellow will support the aquarium's work toward this shift by fostering a diverse network of partners, building capacity for Washington ocean advocates, and supporting the network as they engage in ocean issues. The objectives of this work is to improve ocean health in Washington and build a path for a better future, with a particular focus on advancing climate justice and resilience, ensuring healthy fisheries in service of food security, and reducing plastics pollution. The fellowship is designed in three phases: onboarding and familiarizing oneself with the aquarium's programs (approach, partners, issue areas); partnering with and supporting other team members to move existing projects and emerging activities forward; and leading a project that will take shape throughout the fellowship. The following are the goals and anticipated activities:

**Coordinate the development of a plan to develop and maintain a diverse network of partners engaged and/or interested in ocean conservation issues by**

- Conducting a landscape assessment to understand what coalitions exists within and across environmental issues in Washington; and

- Further developing and updating our Washington Ocean Champion Tracker to ensure its utility to support Seattle Aquarium’s policy work and continue informing our elected official engagement strategy.

**Continue capacity building for Washington ocean advocates by**

- Coordinating our efforts to support and facilitate a network of Washington ocean advocates, building on the work of Adrienne Hampton (2019-2020 WA Sea Grant Keystone Fellow), including providing support through resources, technology, knowledge exchange, etc.;
- Working with interested organizations and community members to co-generate a list of workshops and/or training sessions to deepen understanding of key ocean issues and build critical skills; and
- Planning and implementing a capacity building series, informed by the list generated from conversations with partners, which could include webinars, workshops, and/or trainings to share knowledge, expand the community of ocean advocates, and amplify new voices in ocean conservation.

**Elevate marginalized voices in Washington to change the ocean conservation conversation by**

- Convening an interdisciplinary team and coordinating development of a communications and engagement strategy to leverage the aquarium’s platform and events; and
- Coordinating at least one event around one of the focal issues—climate justice and resilience, healthy fisheries in service of food security, reducing plastics pollution.

**Support and participate in other activities, such as**

- Collaborating with Seattle Aquarium staff and partners to produce reports, presentations, and outreach and marketing materials that support the preceding projects;
- Participating in relevant conferences and events, such as Capitol Hill Ocean Week event, which will focus on *diversity, equity and inclusion in the ocean and Great Lakes community*.

**Who are we looking for**

Ocean conservation work is fun, inspiring, and... hard work! We are looking for someone whose passion for the ocean drives a thirst for knowledge and collaborative action; who has experience organizing meetings or workshops; and who is a strong written and oral communicator. In the virtual environment of today, now more than ever we are looking for someone who is a self-starter and team-player, who is proactive in seeking guidance when needed and who thrives in a collaborative work environment.

*Key competencies:*

- **Event organization and facilitation skills** to plan, coordinate and co-lead webinars, workshops, and other events throughout the year, at least in part in virtual environments;
- **Strong written and oral communications skills**, including an ability to effectively tailor information for diverse audiences (e.g., explaining complex issues in brief, digestible formats) and open communications with team members; and

- **Self-starter and team-player with strong interpersonal and collaboration skills** to ensure work advances efficiently during remote work, while proactively seeking advice and creating teams to generate co-generated, innovative solutions and products.

*Other skills and abilities:*

- Experience with literature reviews and online research;
- Strong organizational skills, an ability to prioritize and consistently meet deadlines; a high degree of professionalism;
- Skilled at using Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and Internet browsers, and comfortable using video conferencing tools (e.g., Teams, Zoom);
- Ability to be productive in a remote work environment and to advance projects without direct, daily supervision; and
- A passion for the Aquarium’s mission and values.

**Networking and mentorship**

The Seattle Aquarium partners with hundreds of organizations and government agencies through the wide-ranging research, field conservation, policy and advocacy, and community, visitor and school engagement programs. The Fellow will have the opportunity to network with non-profits, government agencies, and elected officials through their work. They will also work across our interdisciplinary team at the aquarium to design and implement projects, including marketing and communications, public relations and events, and guest, community and school engagement. The department in which the position sits—Conservation Programs and Partnerships—is itself interdisciplinary, spanning research, field conservation, public policy and advocacy, sustainability, and international relations. There will be no shortage of collaborative opportunities!

**Introduction to the Seattle Aquarium**

Guided by our mission of *Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment*, the [Seattle Aquarium](#) is a respected authority on Puget Sound, the Salish Sea and the world’s one ocean. Our passionate staff increases awareness and drives the change needed to preserve and protect our marine environment through a variety of channels including: a compelling exhibit experience and engaging events; research that advances understanding and conservation of marine ecosystems; policy and advocacy to advance science-informed decisions for our coast and ocean; conservation education programs for people of all ages and backgrounds; community outreach to underserved populations; strong and consistent marketing efforts; and more. Our conservation programs focus on a moving toward a future that embodies climate resilience, sustainable seas, and clean waters.

We’re noted for our collaborative, communicative and team-oriented working environment. Our S.A.L.I.S.H. values, developed in conjunction with our staff, include commitments to adopting and promoting Sustainable practices; creating Awe-inspiring experiences; constantly Learning and improving; fostering an Inclusive community; maintaining Scientific credibility through evidence-based practices; and Honoring our unique place by using our location and history as a lens for larger understanding. The aquarium’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council brings staff at all levels together to define, prioritize, and implement actions that foster a welcoming, inclusive and equitable culture that

reflects the multiple dimensions of diversity within our community because inspiring conservation of our marine environment calls for the hearts, minds, and actions of all people. The DEI Council is working on new, public-facing language that will appear on the [Who we are](#) page on our website by the end of October.

The Conservation Programs and Partnerships team members serve on a variety of coalitions and committees including the Aquarium Conservation Partnership, Earth Day Northwest, IUCN Otter and Shark Specialist Groups, Orca Salmon Alliance, Puget Sound Environmental Caucus, and Washington Environmental Priorities Coalition. If the fellow is interested, there may be opportunities to join meetings and collaborate with these coalitions as part of their work.