

### **Host organization**

The Nature Conservancy of Washington  
74 Wall St., Seattle, WA  
(206) 343-4344

### **Fellowship mentor/supervisor(s)**

#### **Molly Bogeberg (Supervisor)**

Marine Conservation Manager, TNC Washington

#### **Tiffany Waters (Mentor)**

Global Aquaculture Manager, TNC Global Aquaculture Program

### **Position description**

#### **Name and title of the fellowship mentors:**

Molly Bogeberg (Supervisor)- Marine Conservation Manager, TNC Washington

Tiffany Waters (Mentor)- Global Aquaculture Manager, TNC Global Aquaculture Program

#### **Other key staff who will work with the fellow:**

Garrett Dalan (Washington Coast Community Relations Manager), Kat Morgan (Associate Director of Puget Sound Conservation), Robert Jones (Aquaculture Strategy Lead)

#### **Project overview:**

The mission of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Since our founding in 1951, the Conservancy has protected more than 117 million acres of land and 5,000 miles of rivers worldwide — and we operate more than 100 marine conservation projects globally. We have more than 1 million members and dedicated staff working in all 50 States and more than 70 countries around the world. We're rooted in our mission and guided by our values, which includes a commitment to diversity and respect for people, communities, and cultures.

In Washington, we aim to make sure people and nature both thrive in the face of climate change and increasing demands on nature. Our programs on land, water, cities and climate leverage science, partnerships and our connections around the world to work at scale and have the biggest impact possible on our state.

TNC Washington is working with TNC's Global Aquaculture Program to implement a "restorative aquaculture" strategy for the benefit of local people and marine environments. Restorative aquaculture occurs when "commercial or subsistence aquaculture provides direct ecological benefits to the environment, with the potential to generate net positive environmental outcomes" ([TNC, 2021](#)). In

Washington, TNC looks to address the growing interest in seaweed aquaculture by assessing the potential for there to be an ecologically restorative seaweed aquaculture industry that provides economic development opportunities for Tribes and coastal communities while benefiting ocean health and contributing to climate mitigation.

The 2022-2023 Sea Grant Hershman Fellow will work with TNC Washington's Marine Conservation Manager and the Global Aquaculture Manager to explore restorative seaweed aquaculture opportunities in Washington State and beyond.

Key Fellow responsibilities will include:

1. Conducting a thorough restorative seaweed aquaculture scoping endeavor, including literature reviews, research, and surveys and/or interviews with: non-profits, Tribes, industry, State, and Federal, partners. The scoping will include producing a situation analysis on the status of Pacific Northwest seaweed research and industry, regulatory landscape, considerations for future development of seaweed aquaculture, current markets and analysis of emerging markets that intersect with conservation interests, key infrastructure gaps, and financial needs.
2. Conducting an assessment and swat analysis of the seaweed aquaculture status in nearby States and Provinces of Oregon, Alaska, California, British Columbia, working with TNC's Emerald Edge and local geography teams, including how TNC and other partners can leverage each other's work and strengths for collaborative conservation, social, and economic gain.
3. Supporting TNC Washington's Marine Conservation and Global Aquaculture Managers on seaweed aquaculture-related research (science and policy), outreach with partners and Tribes, grant activities, reporting to project funders, and communications pieces.

**Key mentorship, professional development, and networking opportunities that will be provided to the fellow**

The Fellow will have the opportunity to work at TNC offices in Seattle, WA (COVID dependent) and be fully integrated across all departments of the Washington Chapter and work in conjunction with the Global Aquaculture Program.

The project listed above will give the Fellow the opportunity to expand their network by working with the following groups:

- Washington and Global operating units of the Conservancy, and other non-governmental organizations;
- Industry groups and members representing shellfish and seaweed farmers, processors, seaweed supply chain actors, and other coastal and marine users;
- Tribal natural resource planning staff and governments;
- State and Federal agency staff;
- University of Washington and Washington Sea Grant.