



NC Coastal Reserve – NC Sea Grant College Program 2015 Coastal Research Fellowship Program

Purpose The North Carolina Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve (NCCR) and North Carolina Sea Grant are accepting applications for the 2015 Coastal Research Fellowship. The fellowship provides North Carolina-based graduate students with an opportunity to conduct research within the 10 sites of the North Carolina Coastal Reserve. Fellows must conduct research that addresses coastal management issues in one or more of the following focus areas:

- 1. Linkages between coastal ecology and eutrophication.**
- 2. Resilience of coastal communities and habitats to coastal hazards.**
- 3. Susceptibility of coastal ecosystems to invasive species.**
- 4. Socioeconomic analysis of coastal ecosystem services, and sustainable seafood.**
- 5. Conservation, management and restoration of coastal habitats.**

NCCR is a program of the N.C. Division of Coastal Management in the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (www.nccoastalreserve.net). North Carolina Sea Grant is an interinstitutional program within the University of North Carolina system and is part of the national Sea Grant Network (www.ncseagrant.org).

Fellowship Amount \$10,000/fellowship

Number of Fellowships Two fellowships are anticipated for 2015, subject to sufficient funding and quality of the received applications.

Duration 2015 calendar year. All work must be completed by Dec. 31, 2015.

Eligibility Only graduate students in good academic standing, attending an accredited North Carolina university or college are eligible to apply. Proposed work must be conducted within the boundaries of at least one of the 10 sites that make up the NCCR (Currituck Banks, Kitty Hawk Woods, Buxton Woods, Emily and Richardson Preyer Buckridge, Rachel Carson, Permuda Island, Masonboro Island, Bald Head Woods, Zeke’s Island and Bird Island).

Application To apply, candidates must send a three-page (maximum) proposal, a current CV, and letter of support from their major professor. The proposal should be in 12-point, Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins. Proposals must contain the following sections: **Title** (including student and major professor



contact information); **Description** of the project including rationale and relevance of the project to the coastal management focal area(s) listed above; **Methods**; clearly defined **Tasks** and a **Timeline** to complete the tasks; declaration of **Other Sponsored Support to be Received** for the overall project; and a detailed **Budget**. Funds may be used for any purpose related to the project, including stipends. University overhead charges are not permitted. The CV and letter of support do not count toward the page limit.

- Deadline** Application materials must be received **by 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 9, 2015**. Applications should be sent via email as an M.S. Word or Adobe pdf document to Brandon Puckett (brandon.puckett@ncdenr.gov) at NCCR. Incomplete and late applications will not be accepted.
- Review Process** The review panel will be co-chaired by Dr. Brandon Puckett of the NCCR and Dr. John Fear of Sea Grant. Additional participants may include other NCCR, Sea Grant and N.C. Division of Coastal Management staff. Proposals will be ranked based on their relevance to the identified focus areas (see list above), quality of the proposed science, and adherence to the instructions provided in this request for proposals.
- Award Funding** The successful applicant will be notified by Jan. 31, 2015. A research permit must be obtained from NCCR before research can begin. Fellowship funds will be channeled through the fellow's major professor, who must agree to serve as principal investigator on the project.
- Final Report** Within 60 days of fellowship completion, the fellow is required to submit a final report to Puckett and Fear. The fellow must also agree to work with the Sea Grant communications team to translate the findings into an article for *Coastwatch* magazine and/or other products; and with the NCCR on similar outreach activities. The fellow's major professor must agree to submit progress reports, as requested, to Sea Grant via its online reporting system.
- Contact Information** **Brandon Puckett**, North Carolina Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve, N.C. Division of Coastal Management (brandon.puckett@ncdenr.gov).
John Fear, North Carolina Sea Grant (jmfear@ncsu.edu).