



NC Coastal Reserve – NC Sea Grant College Program 2021 NC Coastal Research Fellowship Request for Proposals

Purpose

The North Carolina Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve (Coastal Reserve) and North Carolina Sea Grant are accepting applications for the 2021 North Carolina Coastal Research Fellowship. The fellowship provides North Carolina-based graduate students with an opportunity to conduct research within one or more of the 10 sites that constitute the Coastal Reserve. Using the reserve sites as a research platform, fellows must conduct hypothesis-based research that addresses coastal management issues in one or more of the following broad focus areas (in no order of importance):

- **Effects of air quality, water quality, and/or disturbance on coastal habitats and associated flora and fauna**
- **Sources, composition, and impacts of marine debris**
- **Impact of invasive species on coastal ecosystems and human communities**
- **Evaluation of habitat restoration practices and/or shoreline stabilization approaches**
- **Examine link(s) between coastal processes and ecosystem response**
- **Groundwater/surface water connections and implications for habitats and associated flora/fauna**

Proposed work should relate to:

- An identified goal/s in one (or more) of the Coastal Reserve management plans (deq.nc.gov/reserve-management-plans);
- North Carolina Sea Grant's Strategic Plan (go.ncsu.edu/Sea-Grant-Plan)
- Sea Grant's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (go.ncsu.edu/DEI)

We **strongly encourage** proposals from graduate students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority Serving Institutions, and/or from traditionally underserved and underrepresented communities, as well as from graduate students who can demonstrate how their work and related outreach will benefit underserved and underrepresented communities.

The Coastal Reserve is a program of the N.C. Division of Coastal Management in the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (www.nccoastalreserve.net). North Carolina Sea Grant is a multi-campus



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	One fellowship is anticipated for 2021, subject to the availability of funds and the quality of the received applications.
Duration	Jan 11, 2021 through Dec 31, 2021.
Eligibility	Only graduate students in good academic standing, attending an accredited North Carolina university or college are eligible to apply. First year graduate students that have not yet started coursework are not eligible to apply. Undergraduate students may not apply for funding, but research projects that include undergraduate participation are encouraged. Research projects must be conducted within the boundaries of at least one of the 10 sites that make up the Coastal Reserve (https://deq.nc.gov/reserve-sites).
Application	<p>To apply, candidates must send a four-page (maximum) proposal describing the research project. The proposal should be in 12-point, Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins. Proposals must contain the following sections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Title, including student and major professor contact information.2. Description of the project including rationale, relevance of the project to the coastal management focal area(s) listed above, hypothesis being tested, and alignment with the program interests as noted above.3. Materials and Methods.4. Clearly defined Tasks and a Timeline to complete the tasks.5. Declaration of Other Sponsored Support to be Received for the overall project.6. A description of your Outreach/Dissemination Plan. How do you plan to share the results of this work to a broad and diverse set of stakeholders?7. A detailed Budget including institutional signatures. Faculty advisor support is not allowed. The research fellowship will be funded with state dollars which do not carry overhead charges. Match is not required. Budget cannot exceed \$10,000. Budget modifications may be required based on NC Coastal Reserve and NC Sea Grant fiscal review. The budget details do not count toward your four-page limit.

The proposal may contain a **Literature Cited** section as needed, but this section is NOT included in the four-page limit.

Applicants also should include a **current CV**, **their professor's CV** (neither to exceed two pages), as well as a **letter of support** from their major



professor. Up to two additional letters of support from end-users, and other appropriate parties may be included if they enhance the application.

Data Management Plan: In addition to the above application, to comply with NOAA’s data and publication sharing directive for grants and contacts, version 3.0 (<https://nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/PD.DSP.php>), each applicant must develop and submit with their application a data management plan (DMP). The DMP does not count toward your page limit above. Please review the guidance document above and **Attachment A** to assist you in preparing your plan. Plans will be included as part of the proposal evaluation process. Plans should be no more than 2 pages and should include: descriptions of the types of environmental data and information expected to be created during the course of the project; the tentative date by which data will be shared; the standards to be used for data/metadata format and content; methods for providing data access; approximate total volume of data to be collected; and prior experience in making such data accessible. If your project is not expected to develop any environmental data, then your DMP may simply include the declaration: This proposal is not expected to generate environmental data. Therefore, a Data Management Plan is not required.

- Deadline** Application materials must be received **by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time Monday, Dec 7, 2020**. Applications should be sent via email as a Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF document to Coastal Reserve Research Coordinator, Dr. Brandon Puckett (brandon.puckett@ncdenr.gov). Incomplete and late applications will not be accepted.
- Review Process** The review panel will be co-chaired by Dr. Brandon Puckett of the Coastal Reserve and Dr. John Fear of Sea Grant. Additional participants may include other Coastal Reserve, 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 December 22, 2020. A research permit must be obtained from the Coastal Reserve before research can begin. It is incumbent on the applicant to obtain all additional state and federal permits required for conducting the research. Funding will be channeled through the fellow’s major professor, who must agree to serve as principal investigator on the project.
- Products** Within 60 days of fellowship completion, the fellow is required to submit a final report. The fellow must also agree to translate the findings into materials suitable for a general audience, such as a blog post, magazine article or K-12 student curriculum. The fellow is highly encouraged to



contact Katie Mosher from Sea Grant (kmosher@ncsu.edu) and Dr. Michelle Brodeur from the Coastal Reserve (michelle.brodeur@ncdenr.gov) to assist with this process. 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).