



## **2021 South Atlantic Reef Fish Extension/Communication Fellowship**

**All application materials are due by October 15, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern through the eSeaGrant web portal: [eseagrants.ncseagrants.ncsu.edu](http://eseagrants.ncseagrants.ncsu.edu).**

The 2021 South Atlantic Reef Fish Extension/Communication Fellowship provides on-the-job education and training opportunities in reef fish extension and communication for an early-career professional in the southeast region.

For this fellowship, we define reef fish as those species that comprise the Snapper-Grouper Complex under management of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

The fellow, based in the Charleston area, will work under the advisement and supervision of Sea Grant fisheries extension specialists and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council staff. This **two-year** opportunity offers a competitive stipend, work-related travel expense reimbursement, and an opportunity for engagement in extension programming and communication.

In particular, the fellow will work on projects that advance stakeholder understanding of reef fish issues and management, including advances in research as they relate to red snapper, greater amberjack, and other managed reef fish species.

We strongly encourage applications from graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions and/or from traditionally underserved and underrepresented communities.

*Grant money to support this fellow is not yet in hand but is expected by December 1, 2021. If the grant funds are delayed for any reason, the start date for this fellowship may also be delayed.*

### **Minimum Qualifications**

Applicants must have obtained at least a 4-year, undergraduate degree, from an accredited, public, or private institution of higher education in the U.S. at the time of application.

Applicants also must have outreach or communications experience, as well as an interest in marine fisheries and natural resource management.

In addition, applicants must be U.S. citizens and willing to live in or around Charleston, South Carolina. (100% virtual engagement is not feasible for this type of work.)

## **Additional/Preferred Qualifications**

- Undergraduate or advanced degree in fisheries, biology, communication, or a related field.
- Experience as a science writer and communicator, with proficiency using a variety of traditional and/or web-based communication tools and techniques.
- Public speaking experience.
- Demonstrated understanding of current saltwater fisheries research and management issues in the Southeast United States.

## **How to Apply**

Applicants must submit these materials via the **North Carolina eSeaGrant web portal:** [eseagrants.ncseagrants.ncsu.edu](http://eseagrants.ncseagrants.ncsu.edu).

1. Resume (not to exceed two pages using 12-point font and 1-inch margins).
2. A career-goal statement that emphasizes the applicant's expectations for the fellowship experience as it relates to future career endeavors (1,000 words or less, 12-point font, 1-inch margins).
3. Names and contact information from two professional or academic references, including one reference that can attest to applicant's skills as a communicator.
4. Unofficial copies of all undergraduate and graduate student transcripts.

## **Review Process**

The received applications will be assessed by a technical review panel. The review panel will consist of Sea Grant Extension personnel from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida as well as the Outreach Program Manager from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Additional topical experts will be solicited for the panel if needed. Virtual interviews will be conducted with finalists as part of the selection process.

## **Deadline**

All application materials are due by **October 15, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern.**

## **More Information**

Contact Scott Baker at [msbaker@ncsu.edu](mailto:msbaker@ncsu.edu) or 910-962-2492.

## Details

### **Q: What qualifications and previous experience are desired?**

A: Preference will be given to individuals with at least a basic understanding of marine fisheries issues and outreach experience. Multimedia and science communication experience are desirable. The most important prerequisite is a desire to improve stakeholders' understanding of important reef fishery issues. For instance, an applicant with limited science experience but strong communication skills may be preferred over an applicant with strong science skills and weak communication skills. Applicants are expected to have strong organizational skills, be independent and meet work deadlines.

### **Q: What is the length of a fellowship?**

A: The fellowship is intended to be a two-year commitment.

### **Q: What types of things will the fellow do during the fellowship?**

A: The fellowship position is part of a larger research project organized and developed by fisheries extension staff with the southeast U.S. Sea Grant programs and fisheries management councils. As such, the fellow's tasks are to include, but not be limited to:

- Participate in an annual project coordination meeting.
- Assists with South Atlantic media tours targeted towards outdoor science writers and/or social media influencers in the marine fisheries community. The focus of which is to highlight reef fish science being undertaken in the region and how stakeholders can participate in the process and use science in their decision-making.
- Assist or lead with organizing reef fish research symposium-style meetings (webinars, etc.) to highlight relevant research from the region.
- Participate in outreach activities relevant to the Gulf of Mexico/South Atlantic Greater Amberjack and South Atlantic Red Snapper research projects and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) outreach related campaigns
- Engage with recreational fishers, tackle shops, and regional fishing events to promote best fishing practices (barotrauma education, descending device use, etc.)
- Attend regional meetings to discuss/plan pertinent outreach and communications strategies with partners and stakeholder groups.
- Attend quarterly SAFMC meetings as a staff member as time and resources allow.

### **Q: What is the salary for the Reef Fisheries Extension Fellowship?**

A: The stipend is \$45,000 per year.

**Q: How does the fellow get paid?**

A: The fellow will be hired as vendor (not an employee) for North Carolina State University and will be paid monthly. North Carolina State University is the recipient of the grant that is funding the fellowship stipend.

**Q: What is North Carolina State University's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and access?**

A: As the population of the Southeast and the nation continues to grow and diversify, Sea Grant's relevance increasingly will rely on how well we embody diversity, equity, and inclusion. As such, we strongly encourage proposals from graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions and/or from traditionally underserved and/or underrepresented communities, as well as from applicants who can demonstrate how their work and related outreach will benefit underserved and underrepresented communities.

**Q: What other benefits, in addition to salary, are included as part of the fellowship?**

A: No benefits are provided. The stipend amount was set so that the fellow could set aside a portion of the stipend for health insurance (if needed) and taxes. The fellow will receive work-related travel support (see below). While the fellow will not accrue sick and or annual leave, time away from work can be negotiated with the supervisor.

**Q: How much travel reimbursement does the fellow receive?**

A: The fellow is expected to take part in several multi-day trips in the region to conduct extension and outreach programming. Separate funds will be set aside for travel to specific meetings and conferences if required.

**Q: Where will the fellowship be located?**

A: The fellow is required to reside in the Charleston, South Carolina area for the duration of the fellowship. The fellow will work out of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) headquarters in North Charleston, SC. A laptop computer will be provided.

**Q: How much relocation reimbursement do fellows receive?**

A: None.

**Q: Who will supervise the fellow?**

A: The fellow will be supervised on a day-to-day basis by the Outreach Program Manager for the SAFMC. Sea Grant fisheries extension specialists from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida will provide ongoing support and guidance for the fellow.

**Q: How much will the fellow be expected to work?**

A: Fellows are expected to work 40 hours per week.

**Q: How early can the fellowship start?**

A: The fellowship is anticipated to begin as early as December 1, 2021.

Contact Scott Baker at [msbaker@ncsu.edu](mailto:msbaker@ncsu.edu) or 910-962-2492.