



NC Coastal Reserve – NC Sea Grant College Program 2022 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 2022 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 question-based research that addresses coastal management issues in one or more of the following broad focus areas (in no order of importance):

- **Direct and indirect impacts of dredging and spoil management.**
- **Sources and impacts of emerging contaminants, plastics, and marine debris.**
- **Impact of invasive species on coastal ecosystems.**
- **Evaluation of habitat restoration practices and/or shoreline stabilization approaches.**
- **Effects of water quality on Reserve flora, fauna, and/or habitats.**
- **Evaluation of wetland carbon stocks and assessment of soil and flora properties driving spatial variability.**
- **Development and application of innovative technologies to enhance research and monitoring in coastal systems.**

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)
- N.C. Department of Environmental Quality's mission (<https://deq.nc.gov/about/history-of-deq>) and commitment to environmental justice (<https://deq.nc.gov/outreach-education/environmental-justice>)

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).

Deadline: Friday March 4, 2022 at 5pm.



Fellowship Overview:

- One fellowship is anticipated for 2022, subject to sufficient funding and quality of the received applications.
- The fellowship will be issued for 13 months. All work should be completed within the first 12 months. The final month is reserved for preparation of the required final report (see reporting requirements below).
- The fellowship should be planned around an April 1, 2022 start date.
- The fellowship amount is \$10,000.
- The fellowship will be distributed in the form of a student stipend directly to the student.
- 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.
- We expect to issue award decisions on or near March 15, 2022.

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 Requirements:

All applicants must include the following elements.

- A Research proposal (described below), limited to 4 pages.
- A current curriculum vitae (CV) for the student applicant, limited to 2 pages.
- A letter of support from the student's major professor.
- A data management plan (described below), limited to 2 pages.

Research Proposal Format:

The research proposal should be prepared in 12-point, Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins. Proposals must contain items 1-7. The proposal should not exceed 4 pages.

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, **question** being addressed, and alignment with the program interests as noted above of the Coastal Reserve and NC Sea Grant.
3. **Materials and Methods**. Clearly explain what methods you intend to utilize in your project including anticipated statistical analyses if needed.
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 brief explanation for how the stipend money will be used in support of the project.

The proposal can contain a **Literature Cited** section if needed, which does not count toward the 4-page limit. Up to two additional letters of support from end-users and other appropriate parties may be included if they enhance the application. These additional elements are not counted toward the 4-page limit.

Data Management Plan:

In addition to the above application, to comply with NOAA's data and publication sharing directive for grants and contracts, 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 use **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 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.

Submission:

Application materials must be received **by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time Friday, March 4, 2022**. 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 received applications will be assessed by a technical review panel. The review panel will be co-chaired by Dr. Brandon Puckett of the Coastal Reserve and Dr. John Fear of Sea Grant. Additional topical experts will be solicited for the panel as needed. Proposals will be assessed based on their relevance to the identified focus areas (see list above) and strategic priorities of both organizations, quality of the proposed science, thoughtfulness of outreach strategies, and adherence to the instructions provided in this request for proposals.

Reporting Requirements:

A final report is required. The 13th month of the fellowship is reserved for the preparation of this report. The winning student will also have additional opportunities to disseminate their findings through engagement and product development with Coastal Reserve and NC Sea Grant communication experts. The winning student's major professor must agree to ensure all reporting requirements are met.

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).