The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Coastal Management Program (GCMP). The office is located at One Conservation Way, Brunswick, GA 31520 at the Coastal Regional Headquarters.

FELLOWSHIP SUPERVISORS/MENTORS: The Fellow will be immersed in a project that cuts across several areas of the GCMP: Coastal Hazards, Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development, Wetlands including living shoreline implementation and GIS/Data/Coastal mapping. The Fellow will also work collaboratively with the GCMP Grants Coordinator to implement consistent project display. Primary mentorship and day-to-day supervision will be provided by Jennifer Kline (Jennifer.Kline@dnr.ga.gov), Coastal Hazards Specialist. Jan Mackinnon (Jan.Mackinnon@dnr.ga.gov), Program Manager for GCMP’s Coastal and Ocean Management Program, will oversee the full Fellowship including communicating to Georgia Sea Grant on hiring and status reporting.

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

The Georgia Department of Resources Coastal Resources Division hosts the Georgia Coastal Management Program (GCMP), a partnership with NOAA’s Office of Coastal Management. The GCMP was approved in 1998 and has strengthened partnerships with the local communities as well as the research/academic community for over two decades. There are both regulatory and nonregulatory components to the Program. Regulatory authorities focus around coastal marshlands and beach habitats. Non-regulatory functions include working in close partnership with the 11-county coastal counties and municipalities as well as funding and implementing the latest cutting-edge science for Georgia. The GCMP accomplishes these tasks by working in multiple program areas: Coastal Hazards, Wetlands, Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development, GIS/Data/Coastal mapping and through the implementation of a very successful Coastal Incentive Grant program.

The Georgia Coastal Management Program Flood Literacy and Climate Inventory project is a one-year full time project that will achieve programmatic goals of the GCMP while providing a Fellow with a comprehensive opportunity to experience coastal management first-hand. The goals of the project are threefold: 1) Engage with partners to gain substantive input and guidance on important measures of coastal flood hazards, 2) Develop and define a list of terms that describe the measures of coastal flood hazards, and 3) Develop visualizations and other communications pieces to describe key terms and contextualize the various aspects of coastal flood terminology.

The following objectives will be used to achieve the above goals.

Objective 1: Conduct flood literacy research

In order to accomplish the above goals, the Fellow will lead the efforts to conduct flood literacy research. This research will include assembling a diverse group of partners including federal, state, local, academic, and non-governmental organizations to engage in discussions regarding important flood hazard/climate terminology. These discussions will result in the development of definitions for terms that are scientifically accurate while also being easy to understand by resource managers and hazards staff. Input will be solicited through both face-to-face meetings as well as phone calls, emails, surveys, etc. The Fellow will solicit input from local governments (cities and counties in the 11 coastal county area), state agencies (other DNR divisions, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Community Affairs), federal agencies (NOAA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Agency), academic partners that conduct flood and hazard research along the Georgia coast, and NGO partners such as The Nature Conservancy, etc. In addition to the affiliations listed above, the Fellow will also seek input from the Coastal Advisory Council, the GCMP’s diverse stakeholder group,
Objective 2: Develop flood literacy materials

Once terminology is defined, the Fellow will be responsible for leading the development of communication materials such as Fact Sheets, website content, newsletter material and a series of social media posts. The Fellow will work closely with the Communications Specialist at CRD to ensure that communications are consistently developed to CRD standards and properly reviewed before publication.

Objective 3: Conduct outreach

Flood literacy materials will be distributed to a variety of audiences. The Fellow will be responsible for sharing the information learned and materials created through giving a Brown Bag presentation, an information sharing forum aimed at reaching a diverse group of stakeholders. Additionally, there will be opportunities to travel locally to give presentations at such conferences as the Emergency Management Association of Georgia, the Association of County Commissions of Georgia/Georgia Municipal Association, the Chatham Hurricane Conference, the Coastal Advisory Council, etc.

Objective 4: CRD Climate Inventory

The GCMP has funded 22 years of science to coastal researchers and local government priority projects. Over $22 million have been spent in the effort to improve science to management and support local community planning efforts. The Fellow will be charged with assessing 22 years’ worth of projects through an inventory of the Coastal Incentive Grant Database and working with the Grants Coordinator and other staff to identify climate-related projects. Climate related projects will be identified using developed categories such as research, planning, construction and/or monitoring.

Objective 5: Inventory dissemination

Once projects have been identified, the Fellow will work with staff to determine the best method to display results. Methods may include the development of website materials, the creation of a storymap/storyboard, or other means by which to publicly display the project goals and results.

Our intention is for the Fellow to experience active coastal management, gain key skills in coastal policy, resource management, stakeholder engagement, and public interaction, while pursuing their own meaningful project. Being seated within the GCMP's Coastal and Ocean Management Program, the Fellow will work along-side specialists focusing on a number of coastal management issues, including coastal hazards, low impact development, resource data, and community assistance. They will function as a part of the team, attending routine staff meetings, outreach and education activities, and various stakeholder groups such as the Coastal Advisory Council. Through the course of their work, the Fellow will interface with researcher partners from the University of Georgia, the Georgia Coastal Research Council, Georgia Southern University, and others. The GCMP is also co-located with Marine Fisheries, Wildlife Resources (game and non-game species such as shore birds, sea turtles and marine mammals), State Parks and Historic Sites and DNR Law Enforcement. The Fellow will be free to engage these entities to learn more about the diversity of activities that goes into coastal management. Professional development opportunities will come in the form of direct participation and training.
training. Through this opportunity, the Fellow will also be able to enhance their learning experience through exposure to new perspectives on cultures, beliefs and practices. This opportunity will be afforded by working with multiple agency types and organizations of diverse backgrounds with an investment in coastal hazards along the coast. Our agency commits to providing public engagement opportunities to facilitate a successful project outcome.