2023 Georgia Sea Grant State Fellowship Opportunity

Host Agency: Georgia Coastal Management Program, Coastal Resources Division

Project: Georgia Coastal Management Program’s Resiliency through Community Restoration

The Fellow will be immersed in a project that cuts across several areas of the GCMP: Coastal Restoration and Monitoring, Living Shorelines, Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development, Coastal Hazards and GIS/Data/Coastal mapping. The Fellow will also work collaboratively with the GCMP Grants Coordinator to ensure that the administrative power-house of the GCMP is fully understood.

Host Location: The host location is 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 Mentors: Primary mentorship and day- to-day supervision will be provided by Jaynie Gaskin, Biologist. Jan Mackinnon, 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.
The Georgia Sea Grant State Fellowship Program

Position Description
The Georgia Department of Natural 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 non-regulatory components to the Program. Regulatory authorities focus on coastal marshlands and beach habitats and shellfish harvesting. 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 “Resiliency through Community Restoration” 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 knowledge and understanding towards updating projects furthering the mission of the GCMP, 2) Develop GCMP visualizations and other communications pieces to describe designated projects. 3) Participate with project partners on outreach and communication activities to disseminate GCMP information.

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

Objective 1: Conduct culvert/barrier assessments following the SARP/CRD pilot protocol (40%)
The Fellow will conduct culvert/barrier assessments as a follow-up to the pilot project conducted by CRD in 2023. The Fellow will be trained on how to conduct the assessments, how the assessments fit into the GCMP interest, what opportunities exist to restore prioritized culverts and grant writing opportunities to restore designated sites. An assessment continuation strategy will be planned with the GCMP restoration biologist to target specific geographic regions and a strategy will be put in place to complete the assessment. One outcome of this Objective will be writing a grant application with identified sites and partners along with partners roles.

Objective 2: Living Shoreline summary document (30%)
The Fellow will work closely with GCMP staff, project partners and project stakeholders to coordinate an update/rewrite of CRD’s 2013 Living Shoreline Summary Document. This document will serve as a major resource of information on Georgia’s living shorelines, to date, and could include topics like direct and long-term costs, standards, best management practices, and a comparison to hardened structures. Prior to drafting the document, the Fellow will meet with project partners, the Living Shoreline Workgroup members, and regulatory specialists to further define what needs to be included in the document.

Objective 3: Communication and Facilitation for the National Fish and Wildlife Grant (20%)
The Fellow will be responsible for leading the communication and facilitation as it relates to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant with the City of Brunswick. CRD received
a NFWF grant in 2023 to design nature-based and hybrid practices to mitigate for combined salt and freshwater flooding impacts in Brunswick, along Lanier Boulevard and the adjacent wetlands, as well as the Glynn Middle School and Habersham neighborhood. The project will protect coastal salt marsh habitat from runoff and sedimentation and adjacent communities and critical infrastructure from current and future flooding impacts.

The Fellow will work closely with GCMP staff, City of Brunswick staff, the Board of Education, and the community to gather input on Nature Based Infrastructure solutions that community members would support. This Objective will involve scheduling and facilitating stakeholder meetings, summarizing meetings, engaging stakeholders, and creating outreach materials such as educational materials for the Glynn County school system.

**Objective 4: Conduct Outreach, Education, and Communication for other GCMP priorities (10%)**

The Fellow will work with staff to administer the Georgia Clean and Resilient Marina Program. This task will involve working with partners (University of Georgia and the Georgia Marine Business Association) to contact marinas, schedule site visits, discuss progress/achievements, and document results.

The Fellow will also be engaged in the GCMP’s Enhancement strategy which involves both policy and active community engagement regarding Nature Based Solutions/Infrastructure.

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 the Coastal Advisory Council quarterly meetings and other local outreach events targeting general stakeholders.

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 alongside specialists focusing on a number of coastal management issues, including coastal hazards, low impact development, resource data, grants management, 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 in 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.
Statement of commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion
The State of Georgia provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regards to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or genetics. In addition to federal law requirements, the State of Georgia complies with applicable state laws governing nondiscrimination in employment in every location in which the State of Georgia has facilities. This applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation, and 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.

Financial commitment
GA DNR Coastal Resources Division is committed to providing $17,500 in federal CZM funds towards this Fellowship.