



2020 Gulf Research Program Science Policy Fellow Host Offices

Host offices are located in each of the five Gulf States and may be federal, state, or local government agencies or non-governmental organizations.

The 2020 host offices and placement descriptions are listed below. **Please note, THIS IS A TENTATIVE LIST and will be updated on an ongoing basis during the application period.** Applicants should look over these placement descriptions to get a sense of the range of work they might undertake during a fellowship.

Applicants should not contact host offices during the application period. If selected for a fellowship, applicants will be provided contact information and finalized placement descriptions for all of the 2020 host offices.

1) The Data Center

New Orleans, LA

Website: <https://www.datacenterresearch.org/>

The Data Center—an independent research organization and product of Nonprofit Knowledge Works (NKW)—has been effectively disseminating reliable, trusted and impactful data analysis since 1998 and has a track record of informing key regional decisions by effectively communicating this data analysis to decision makers in southeast Louisiana. One of The Data Center’s most influential recent publications, The Coastal Index, quantifies much of the public and private investment already at work in Southeast Louisiana’s coastal restoration and water management industry and has formed the backbone of our research and analysis on the economic and human effects of coastal land loss, and adaptation efforts. Many private organizations and governmental entities rely on The Data Center’s information to guide their research and decision-making.

2) Department of the Interior/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Lafayette, LA

Website: <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/gulf-restoration/>

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a science-based management agency. The science emanating from the Service – both directly by Service scientists and indirectly through collaboration with researchers in other federal agencies and academia – affects decisions, not only by the agency itself, but also by many

of its partners. However, the process by which this science is “socialized” with partners to ensure it has buy-in and meets shared expectations requires extensive communication and coordination at the nexus of science and policy.

3) Environmental Protection Agency

Gulf of Mexico Program

Gulfport, MS

The fellow will work alongside key leadership and scientists on Gulf restoration planning and policy partnerships, especially with conservation minded landowner groups (e.g. landowner NGOs, farm conservation groups, city/county groups, land trusts, corporate stewardship groups). This fellowship will have the opportunity to work directly with these Gulf of Mexico partners to seek creative strategies to develop and complete Gulf restoration using cooperative and voluntary solutions. This will be a unique opportunity to engage with these important landowner partners on both policy adaptation and making real conservation change that are both so important to the Gulf region.

4) Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Tallahassee, FL

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services offers an outstanding opportunity for a Gulf Research Program Science Policy Fellow. The Fellow will be a critical member of our Science Advisory team, working across the department to foster cutting edge, interdisciplinary studies. With a home office in the state’s Capitol in beautiful north-central Florida (or other Florida sites as requested), the Fellow will be able to build a portfolio of work from a wide variety of hands-on projects throughout the state, traveling as little or as much as their interests dictate. A sampling of projects that a Fellow might engage with include: participating in the Division of Aquaculture’s development of aquaculture use zones and offshore finfish mariculture in the Gulf of Mexico; the Division of Agricultural Environmental Services’ mosquito control activities; implementation of hemp policies by the Division of Plant Industry staff in central Florida; the Division of Animal Industry’s laboratory innovation implementation; or the execution of the new FDA Food Safety Modernization Act through the Division of Food Safety.

5) Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Florida Coastal Office

Tallahassee, FL

Website: <https://floridadep.gov/fco/>

The Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Florida Coastal Office (FCO) manages four million acres of submerged and coastal lands including forty-one Aquatic Preserves and, in coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, three National Estuarine Research Reserves, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and the Coral Reef Conservation Program. FCO also administers the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP) and the Clean Marinas and Vessels Programs as well as reviewing Offshore Projects. FCO's mission is to conserve and restore Florida's coastal, aquatic and offshore resources for the benefit of people and the environment.

6) Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

New Orleans, LA

Website: www.restorethegulf.gov

In July 2012, the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act) established the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council), which is comprised of governors from the five affected Gulf States, and the Secretaries from six federal agencies. Over the next 15-20 years, the Council will be overseeing ~\$3.2 billion in restoration activities across the Gulf. In 2015, the Council approved ~\$156.6 million in funding for restoration activities such as hydrologic restoration, land conservation, and planning for large-scale restoration projects. Each of these approved projects were evaluated with respect to Budget, Science, Environmental Compliance, and consistency with the RESTORE Act and the Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan.

7) Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

Baton Rouge, LA

The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) is the single state entity tasked with authority to articulate a clear statement of priorities and to focus development and implementation efforts to achieve comprehensive coastal protection for Louisiana. CPRA develops and implements the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan, a \$50 billion, 50 year plan to reduce land loss and protect and preserve coastal environments and communities. A Gulf Research Program (GRP) Science Policy Fellow could work on a diverse array of projects in several divisions at CPRA such as Planning and Research, Outreach and Engagement, as well as the Louisiana Governor's Office of Coastal Activities.

8) Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Legal Program

Choice of Oxford, Biloxi, or Ocean Springs, MS, or Mobile, AL

The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium (MASGC), created in 1972, is one of 33 Sea Grant programs. The mission of MASGC is to provide integrated university- and college-based research, communications, education, extension and legal programs to coastal communities that lead to the

responsible use of ocean and coastal resources in Alabama and Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico through informed personal, policy and management decisions.

The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Legal Program (MASGLP), housed at the University of Mississippi School of Law, is seeking a NASEM Gulf Research Program Science Policy Fellow to coordinate the development of an outreach initiative for policy-makers and other professionals on *K. brevis* blooms in the northern Gulf of Mexico.

9) NOAA Office of Response and Restoration

Mobile, AL

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) is a center of expertise in preparing for, evaluating, and responding to threats to coastal environments, including oil and chemical spills, releases from hazardous waste sites, and marine debris. To fulfill its mission of protecting and restoring NOAA trust resources, the Office of Response and Restoration: Provides scientific and technical support to prepare for and respond to oil and chemical releases; Determines damage to natural resources from these releases; Protects and restores marine and coastal ecosystems, including coral reefs; and Works with communities to address critical local and regional coastal challenges.

OR&R is comprised of four divisions: [Emergency Response](#), [Assessment and Restoration](#), [Marine Debris](#), and the [Disaster Preparedness Program](#). Collectively, the Office of Response and Restoration provides comprehensive solutions to marine pollution.

10) NOAA Restore Science Program

Stennis Space Center, MS

The [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's \(NOAA's\) RESTORE Science Program](#) is seeking a science policy fellow from the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicines' Gulf Research Program to assist with 1) execution of funding competitions, which includes selection of research priorities, review of applications, and granting of awards; 2) technical monitoring of funded projects; 3) engagement with scientists and resource managers in the Gulf of Mexico region to learn their needs and raise awareness of the findings and tools developed by projects funded by the program; and 4) coordination with other science and restoration initiatives in the Gulf region.

11) Texas General Land Office

Austin, TX

The GLO recently published the first Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan, and will be working on Phase 2 of that Plan over the next two years. There will be an opportunity to work on Phase 2 of the Plan, which will entail continued coordination with coastal experts to refine and enhance Phase 1. This will include modeling studies that identifies storm impacts, and how the identified projects protect coastal

ecosystems and critical infrastructure. Phase 2 will also utilize subsidence, erosion and other data to implement adaptive management into the plan. Phase 2 will also include coordinating other stakeholders and reviewing their research, and continued education of decision makers on the resiliency strategies identified in the plan. The GLO is also the nonfederal sponsor for Coastal Texas Study with the USACE, which is researching the feasibility of constructing environmental restoration and coastal storm risk management structures for the entire Texas Coast. The Tentatively Selected Plan for the Coastal Texas Study will also be during the next two years. Further information on the ongoing GLO coastal studies can be found on the GLO's website here: <http://www.glo.texas.gov/coast/coastal-management/hurricane-preparedness/index.html>

12) Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Coastal Fisheries Office

Austin, TX

Website: www.tpwd.texas.gov

13) Texas Sea Grant

Choice of College Station or Corpus Christi, TX

Texas Sea Grant proposes to host a Science Policy Fellow at Texas A&M University that will focus his/her efforts in one of four focus areas: resilient communities and economies, healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, or STEM Literacy and workforce development. Specific projects and tasks will be developed via a work plan in agreement with Texas Sea Grant, the National Sea Grant Office, and the NASEM Gulf Research Program.

14) U.S. Geological Survey - Wetland and Aquatic Research Center

New Orleans, LA

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) serves as the U.S. Department of the Interior's science bureau, providing impartial scientific information about natural resources. The USGS Wetland and Aquatic Research Center (WARC) spans the southeastern U.S., focuses on producing and disseminating scientific information needed to understand, manage, conserve, and restore wetlands and other aquatic and coastal ecosystems. This research provides critical information to policymakers and aids managers in their stewardship of natural resources and in regulatory functions. USGS WARC scientists are actively involved in restoration activities in the Gulf of Mexico region following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill, including monitoring and assessment, implementing targeted research for restoration planning, and developing predictive models and decision analytical tools to inform science-based management decisions. WARC scientists are also leading and participating in multi-agency collaborations with state and federal agencies to develop monitoring, assessment, and adaptive

management frameworks at multiple spatial scales that advance the use of science in natural resource decisions.

15) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office

Fairhope, AL

The Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office (GRO) was established in 2010 to lead the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) activities for the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) Oil Spill. Since global settlement of the DWH case in 2016, the office has shifted focus from injury assessment to restoration implementation. In addition to the NRDAR activities, the GRO coordinates with restoration implemented under the RESTORE Act and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF) to facilitate the efficient and effective use of funds dedicated to the restoration of the Gulf of Mexico. The GRO includes 21 technical and support staff members, with 11 staff located in the Fairhope Alabama Office. The GRO closely coordinates with other FWS offices, Department of the Interior Bureaus, and State and Federal agencies involved in Gulf Restoration.

16) The Water Institute of the Gulf

Baton Rouge, LA

The Water Institute of the Gulf is a not-for-profit, independent research and technical services resource with a mission to support resilient coasts and sustainable water systems worldwide. Founded in late 2011 through a collaborative effort involving the State of Louisiana, Senator Mary Landrieu, and the Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAAF), the Institute connects academic, public, and private research providers and conducts applied research to serve communities and industry. In all endeavors, the goal is to increase understanding of natural and human aspects of deltaic, coastal, and water systems; to develop tools that apply knowledge to restore coasts and ecosystems; and to reduce risk for people and infrastructure. In 2014, the Institute was selected as the Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourism Opportunities, and Revived Economy of the Gulf Coast (RESTORE) Act Center of Excellence for Louisiana.